

TRIPLE NICKEL TRIBUNE

"Willing and Able!"

NEWSLETTER OF THE 555TH ENGINEER BRIGADE
JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, WASHINGTON



Winter 2014

Message from the Commander

Colonel Timothy Holman,
"Able 6"

Triple Nickel Team,

Welcome to the winter edition of our Brigade newsletter, where we honor the wonderful accomplishments of our Soldiers and Families in the 555th Engineer Brigade.



My wife BJ and I are glad to be part of the team. In the three months since taking command, I have been impressed with the outstanding quality of our Soldiers and Families. BJ and I look forward to meeting Spouses and Families at future FRG meetings.

The Triple Nickel also looks forward to a busy year ahead, as we work to reset units and prepare to deploy elements of the 14th Engineers to Afghanistan and elements of the 110th Chemical and 3rd EOD Battalions to the National Training Center.

This year will be a time of many changes, as we prepare to transform the Brigade. We will transfer the 14th Eng. Bn. to the 2nd Stryker Brigade. Still other units will be transferred or eventually inactivated as the Army restructures and resizes.

Our priority is keeping you informed throughout this time, so stay tuned for more information and a town hall meeting to discuss these transitions and field any questions you may have.

Thank you Soldiers and Families for all you do.

Willing & Able!

- Col. Holman, 'Able 6'



Changing of the Guard

555th Eng. Bde. Commander Col. Timothy Holman (left) returns a salute Nov. 25 as the brigade headquarters company marches past.

555th welcomes new leaders, reflects on accomplishments

Story by Jake Dorsey
Northwest Guardian

JBLM — Command authority and senior enlisted advisory responsibility for the 555th Engineer Brigade changed hands during a Nov. 25 ceremony here.

Colonel Nicholas W. Katers and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin W. Bryan stepped down as Triple Nickel leaders after a two-year stint that included a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan. Colonel Timothy W. Holman and Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley D. Hood took charge as the new command team.

Major General Stephen R. Lanza, 7th Infantry Division commander, took time before the ceremony to award Katers and Bryan each the Legion of Merit, praising Katers for leading the 555th Engr. Bde. through its January deployment.

Katers will be headed to Fort Bragg to become the next U.S. Army Forces Command engineer. Lanza announced Bryan would stay on at the installation as the new JBLM command sergeant major.

In remarks to the battalions in formation and distinguished guests

(Continued on page 10)

"I've been impressed with this unit since I arrived at JBLM, and the Soldiers continue to show me why they're one of the best engineer brigades in the Army."

-Col. Holman

Need to Know:



Changes coming

Active duty engineer units are being reduced across the Army, and some are being transferred to Stryker Brigades.

How it affects us: Page 2

www.Facebook.com/555enbde



At A Glance...

- ◆ TRIPLE NICKEL HQ AND 864TH ENGINEER BN. RETURNED FROM AFGHANISTAN IN OCTOBER
- ◆ REMOTELY STATIONED BATTALIONS—1ST, 4TH AND 52ND ENGINEERS—NO LONGER ASSIGNED TO 555TH
- ◆ TRIPLE NICKEL NOW FALLS UNDER COMMAND OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION
- ◆ BRIGADE PREPARING FOR MAJOR CHANGES AS ARMY RESTRUCTURES AND REDUCES ENGINEER FORCES
- ◆ BRIGADE COMMANDS FOUR BATTALIONS AND ADDITIONAL ENGINEER DETACHMENTS AT JBLM

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Command Sergeant Major's Corner Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Hood, "Able 7"

Triple Nickel Family,

Eleecia and I are thankful to everyone in the brigade for such a warm welcome. The Triple Nickel team has shown the Hood Family nothing but the best and we are grateful. We are excited about serving with and being a part of the 555 EN BDE Family.

My battle buddy (COL Holman) and I realize the most important and valuable asset to the brigade are the Soldiers and, even more important, their Family members which have served and are still serving in the 555th. Your great support to your Soldier is key to accomplishing our mission and it's too often taken for granted. I thank you for the sacrifices you've already made and for your continued support to your Soldier.

We are an organization in transition, as the Army has made

"I thank you for the sacrifices you've already made and for your continued support to your Soldier."

the conscious decision to restructure the brigade, a process we are working to make as smooth and simple as possible.

Once again, I'm excited to join the 555th team, and I look forward to working with the senior and junior Leaders to better develop and serve our great Soldiers who make this the best Engineer Brigade serving our country.

*Willing and Able,
CSM Hood, 'Able 7'*

2014: A Year of Change for the Triple Nickel

The Army is restructuring and reducing the overall size of the Active Duty force. This means big changes for many brigades, including our 555th Engineers. So what does it mean for our units, and for you?

By U.S. Army Capt. Spencer Garrison
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

JBLM, Wash. — The 555th Engineer Brigade will see substantial changes to its organization during 2014, as the Army adjusts and, in some cases, reduces the size of Active Duty brigades.

Current plans call for a number of changes within the Triple Nickel, including the following.

Construction companies within the 864th Engineer Battalion "Pacemakers" will eventually inactivate, although the process will be gradual. The first Pacemaker company to inactivate will be the 557th Horizontal Construction Company, which will occur over the course of this summer.

The brigade's 506th Fire Fighting Detachment will inactivate during this same period.

The Pacemakers' 617th Horizontal Const. Co. will inactivate during this fall and winter, as well as the Brigade's 84th Survey & Design Detachment.

The battalion's 585th Vertical and 28th Concrete Section will inactivate some time later, in the spring and summer of 2015. The 531st Explosive Hazards Team will also inactivate during this time.

Elements of 14th Engineer Battalion will transform this summer into a new Brigade Engineer Battalion for 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, also located on North Fort. This will affect just the 14th's Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) and Forward Support Company (FSC).


The combat engineer companies within the 14th will become part of the 864th.

Brigade leaders will keep Soldiers and Families fully informed in the lead-up to these changes and throughout the process, according to Col. Timothy Holman, the brigade commander.

"Our priority is helping our Soldiers and Families fully understand and navigate these changes, and determine the way forward," Col. Holman said.

To help with this, the Brigade will arrange a town hall meeting in the spring; attendance will be open to all Soldiers and Families affected by these changes.

More information will also be available on the Brigade Facebook page and in the spring newsletter.



The Triple Nickel Tribune is an authorized newsletter for members of the 555th Engineer Brigade, a subordinate unit of 7th Infantry Division, I Corps. Contents are not necessarily endorsed by the Dept. of the Army, DoD, or U.S. Government. Content is reviewed, edited, and approved by the Brigade Public Affairs Officer. For questions, comments, or submissions, please contact the Brigade PAO.

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YOU ARE THE NEWS!

**This newsletter belongs to the
WILLING AND ABLE members of
the 555th Engineer Brigade...**

**Send us photos, stories, and ideas for
future coverage, and see your unit's
accomplishments highlighted on our
Facebook page and in future editions
of the Triple Nickel Tribune!**

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In the Community: Soldiers support science fair

By U.S. Army Spc. Leon Cook
20th Public Affairs Detachment

LAKEWOOD, Wash. — The basis of the scientific method is simply asking the question, "If I do this, what will happen?" Six years ago, when the science department of a local middle school asked themselves, "What will happen if we invite Soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord to judge our science fair?" they began an experiment that has continued ever since.

Soldiers with the 555th Engineer Brigade spent the day judging science fair entries at Mann Middle School in Lakewood, Wash. Jan. 15.

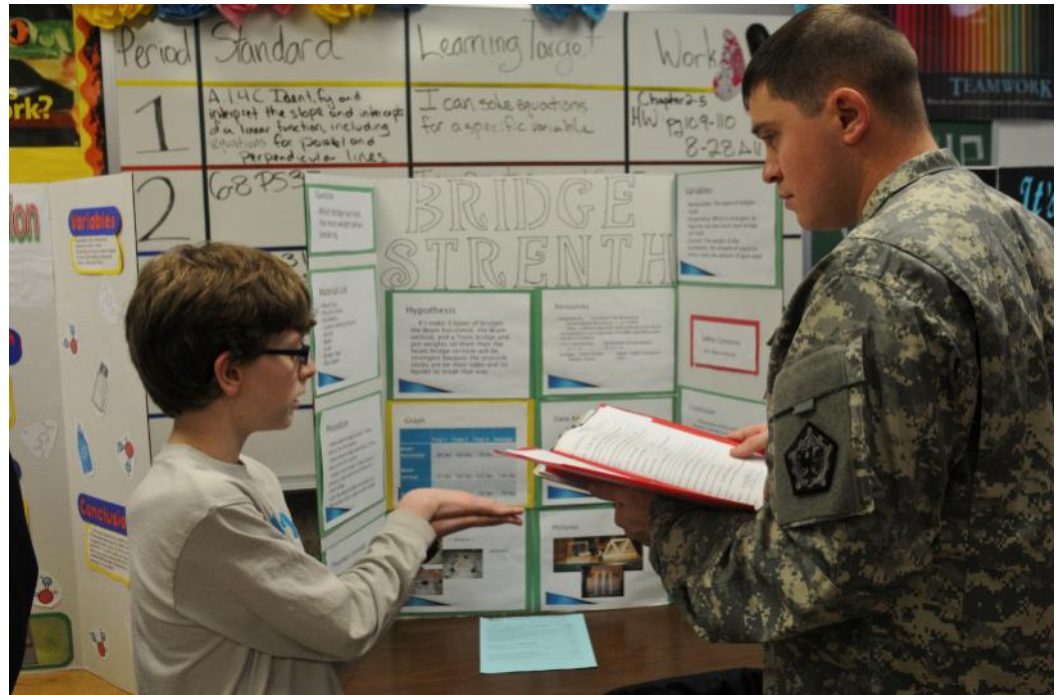
Once a scientist has asked a question, he or she forms a hypothesis which is their best guess about how their experiment will turn out.

"My hypothesis was that if I brought in Soldiers, the kids would feel nervous talking to them, but they'd become comfortable over time and enjoy themselves," said Rhonda Bostick, sixth-grade math and science teacher and head of Mann's science department.

To test her hypothesis, Bostick has been inviting Soldiers to help judge the school's science fair for the past six years. This year, more than 40 Soldiers volunteered to evaluate the projects performed by hundreds of sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students.

The students worked hard the last two months applying the scientific method by asking questions, forming hypotheses, testing and retesting their hypotheses, and analyzing their results. Finally, it was time for them to show what they learned.

The volunteer judges came to the school shortly before class and received a quick course in how to judge the hundreds of



7th grader Mitchell Sattinger explains how he tested bridge strength for his science project.

entries. Judges learned how to evaluate projects based on how closely they followed the scientific method, oral presentation, and the accuracy of the data in their scientific journal.

"The students should know their stuff, but they'll be nervous," Bostick said to the Soldiers. "Make sure to ask questions and pull their knowledge out."

Once the bell rang, the judges squeezed into crowded classrooms packed with students and presentation boards. Students nervously explained to the towering and imposing judges how they performed their projects, whether their hypothesis was confirmed, and any other thoughts they had about their projects.

"I was a little nervous at first," said Ella Haggard, an 8th grader, "but the Soldiers seemed

really nice. After the first judge, I was more confident."

"All the students were a little nervous," said Spc. Montana Kemmish, a petroleum supply specialist with Forward Support Company, 14th Engineer Battalion. "But after you joked with them a little bit, they

opened up and started to have fun. You could really tell they got a lot out of their projects, and I was very impressed."

The Soldiers were also uneasy as they evaluated their first projects, but both Soldiers and students got over their nerves as time went by.

"It really means a lot to the kids that Soldiers showed up to support them. 47 percent of our students have a mother, a father, or some relative in the military. You look just like the people they look up to," said Rob Banner, the school principal.

"I like how the Soldiers are helping and showing their appreciation for the community," Haggard said. "They had a lot of good advice and I'm excited to work even harder next year."

After the science fair was over, Bostick analyzed the results of her sixth test run in the "Soldiers as science fair judges" experiment.

"This year went really well," Bostick said. "Everything went smoothly and the kids enjoyed it. I even heard some Soldiers in the hallway talking about things they learned. If the kids learned something and the Soldiers learned something, I think we were successful."

In science, no hypothesis is ever confirmed; they are constantly tested until they are disproved or improved. So far, the hypothesis Mann Middle School put forth six years ago has been correct in every test. It will be put to the test once more next year and hopefully for years to come.

"Everything went smoothly and the kids enjoyed it. I even heard some Soldiers in the hallway talking about things they learned."



Giving Back: Brigade marches to donate toys

Story by Julie Smith

Northwest Guardian (nwgardian.com)

Photos by J.M. Simpson

The Ranger (northwestmilitary.com)

JBLM, WA – It was a cold and dark Physical training at 6 a.m. on a bitterly cold, dark November morning is never a welcome thing, unless it's accompanied by "Jingle Bells," candy canes and Soldiers draped in miniature light strings — all for a good cause.

Members of the 555th "Triple Nickel" Engineer Brigade took part Nov. 21 in their annual brigadewide toy march to benefit Santa's Castle, a Joint Base Lewis McChord nonprofit providing holiday gifts to children of military Families in financial crisis.

Santa's Castle President Lisa Bennett said the need this year for toys is even greater than last year since the organization is helping almost twice as many Families.

"We're serving between 1,200 and 1,300 Families, and 3,700 kids," Bennett said. "We had only about 2,000 kids last year."

The 3-mile walk from Able Field behind the 555th Engr. Bde. headquarters wound through Lewis North to the American Lake Conference Center where trucks and troops were stationed to collect the toys. Many Soldiers were dressed in festive attire, including Santa Claus costumes and reindeer hats.

Sapper Company commanders Capt. Nathan Foust and Capt. Jim Perkins wore their ugliest Christmas sweaters.

"The funny thing is we didn't plan this," laughed Foust, who works closely with Perkins.



Col. Nicholas Katers (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Bryan, at the time the command team of the 555th Eng. Bde., lead the brigade's Santa's Castle ruck march here, Nov. 21. Spec. Andrew Cuadrado carries the brigade colors dressed as Santa.

"I also have a sportcoat in Clark Griswold plaid."

Each of the approximately 1,000 Soldiers marching — some experiencing their own financial hardships — had purchased a new toy to donate. Many, like 1st Lt. Laura Oten, bought multiple gifts. She contributed two of her favorite childhood items — a Hungry, Hungry Hippos board game and the Dr. Seuss book, "Green Eggs and Ham."

"Kids should have toys to open on Christmas," Oten said. "Anything helps."

The march marked the 15th year of support for Santa's Castle by Soldiers of the Triple Nickel, said Col. Nicholas Kater, brigade commander.

"We're usually the biggest one day contribution," Katers said. "These are toys for kids of



Attired for the Christmas Season, Soldiers attached to the 555th Engineer Brigade bought and contributed a variety of toys to Santa's Castle.

service members, so we're giving back and paying it forward."

"It is one of the biggest donations we get of the season," Bennett said. "They always come through. We know we can always count on them."

With Triple Nickel opening the march to Family members

and pets, Katers said he was happy with the turnout.

"I love the fact that we've got so many Families and dogs out here," Katers said. "I appreciate everyone's efforts."

In all, the 555th Engr. Bde. donated 1,942 toys worth \$15,286.

The festive march supports Santa's Castle, an organization that provides gifts to military children.



Triple Nickel celebrates holidays with City of Roy

By U.S. Army Sgt. Christopher Prows
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ROY, Wash.— Visit any town in Washington state and chances are you will see a festive sparkling evergreen tree, lit up in all its glory in front of city hall.

For the city of Roy, the tradition of obtaining their holiday tree is slightly different than neighboring communities, they turn to a group of experts.

Soldiers from 555th Engineer Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord joined the townspeople of Roy singing carols in front of the city hall during a tree lighting ceremony, Dec. 6. The Triple Nickel

Engineer Brigade,” said Roy’s Mayor Karen Yates. “This tree is an annual symbol to the city that the unit supports them.”

Four days prior, the mayor met the engineer brigade on JBLM to select a tree from a forested area on post and assist in cutting it down. Yates gave one good swing of an axe to the tree before the engineer brigade finished it off with a chainsaw and delivered it the following morning.

“It is our pleasure to (donate a tree) and continue a partnership with the city,” said Col. Timothy Holman, Triple Nickel’s commander, a native of Marks, Miss. “We want to find ways to expand our partnership to the city of Roy. We would be more than willing to send Soldiers out here to assist the community (in any way possible).”

Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Hood Sr., Triple Nickel’s senior



Mayor Yates takes a swing of the ceremonial axe during the tree-cutting ceremony.



Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Means, combat engineer, 555th Eng. Bde., uses a chainsaw to cut down the tree on base for the City of Roy, Dec. 2.

enlisted adviser, a native of Hampton, Va. said, “This is the season for sharing and giving back to the local communities.”

The community came together in the local library before the lighting ceremony to enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and mingle with the members of the Triple Nickel that came out to attend the event.

“It’s great to interact with the community,” added Hood.

As the lighting ceremony

began, the community gathered around the tree in the brisk air with lit candles in hand to sing holiday carols.

The tree remained lit in the city hall garden until the new year.

Once the holiday season was over, the tree was taken down, chopped into firewood and given back to the community to help heat homes for the winter.



Command Sgt. Maj. Standley Hood, City of Roy Councilman Leon Garrison, Mayor Karen Yates, and Col. Timothy Holman pose at the holiday tree-cutting ceremony on base, Dec. 2.



Soldiers and leaders of the 555th Eng. Bde. join with residents of the City of Roy to mark the annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 6.



14th Engineer Battalion Quarterly Update

Greetings from the Rugged Battalion! This past quarter has been jam packed with all kinds of great training for our Soldiers. Our main event occurred in October, when the battalion traveled down to Yakima Training Center to facilitate platoon certification for the 571st and 570th Sapper Companies before their Mission Re-

A special thanks goes out to all of the Soldiers for their motivation and dedication to training our Sapper Companies before they head out the door.

scalable scenarios put together by our intelligence section, the headquarters and staff battle tracked and challenged the company TOCs for speedy and accurate reporting, and the Forward Support Company provided on time ammunition and fuel, while also providing consistent and delicious meals in the dining facility. A special thanks goes out to all of the Soldiers for their

motivation and dedication to training our Sapper Companies before they head out the door.

After returning from Yakima Training Center, the Sapper Companies did not slow down. The 570th completed a Change of

Command in December, welcoming CPT Chris George and saying farewell to CPT Nate Foust. In the midst of change of command inventories, the 570th sent Soldiers to PUMA training here at JBLM, a vital Unmanned



Soldiers from 14th Eng. Bn. conduct training at McGregor Range in January .

Aerial Vehicle asset that will prove useful in Afghanistan. The 571st also sent Soldiers to PUMA training, as well as validated the C-IED lane for the JBLM based FORSCOM Asymmetric Warfare Counter-IED Cell.

Our 22nd Engineer Clearance Company arrived safely in Afghanistan and are doing great things in support of Regional Command-East. Their unit Face Book page is active and they were recently featured in a USA Today story in December as well as the Chick-Fil-A Bowl.

Other events during the past quarter included a battalion organizational day and the Officer versus NCO Football Game (Rugged Bowl). The organizational day included a great amount of food for our Soldiers and their Families, as well as multiple sporting events for the companies and activities for the children. Taking the Commander's Cup for the second straight year was the 610th Engineer Support Company. Congratulations Ghostriders! The Rugged Officers defeated the NCOs 14-6, handing the Rugged

Bowl Trophy, traditionally presented to the loser, over to the NCOs for the first time in four years. In December, we had our annual holiday party, where Soldiers and Families were able to relax and enjoy time with one another. Santa arrived in fashion on an Interim High-Mobility Engineer Excavator (IHMEE), gave out presents, and talked to children. Overall, it was a fun, enjoyable time.

Next quarter will prove even busier for the battalion. The 570th and 571st will complete the MRX at McGregor Range in January, while 610th will send one platoon to NTC in support of 3-2 SBCT, one platoon to Yakima Training Center for troop construction, and one platoon completing a prairie restoration project in support of the JBLM Fish and Wildlife Department. HHC and FSC will continue to provide support and coordinate all training. The battalion's primary focus will be supporting the sapper companies in completing all remaining pre-deployment training prior to their April departure dates.



"Rugged" Soldiers conduct training during exercises at Yakima Training Center, Wash. in October .



864th Engineer Battalion Quarterly Update

The past Quarter the 864th EN 'Pacemakers' Battalion returned in October from another successful Deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom! After a 9 month deployment to Regional Command - East, the 864th con-

ducted a joint uncasing ceremony of the Battalion Colors along with the 555th EN BDE, followed by a Battalion Change of Command and Responsibility.

As we bid farewell to LTC Henderson and CSM Tipton, and welcomed LTC Sattinger and

CSM Russell, the 864th EN BN launched into unit reset. Reset activities include everything from full inventories of all equipment and supplies, to receiving all returning deployed equipment, to a changeover of almost all Battalion and Company leadership. The process has been and continues to be daunting and time consuming.

Both the 585th EN Company (Vertical) and the 617th EN Company (Horizontal) conducted their own Changes of Command and Responsibility. The 557th EN Company (Horizontal) also has had a Change of Responsibility, and our Forward Support Company conducted an Assumption of Responsibility.

Even through all these

Even through all these changes the Pacemakers have adapted and excelled.



changes the Pacemakers have adapted and excelled, quickly reassuming their role on Joint Base Lewis-McCord as the U.S. Army's premier construction engineer battalion. We conducted our Officer vs. NCO 'Turkey Bowl' football game in November, with the NCOs 'Setting the Pace' with their 3rd win in a row. The Pacemakers donned their best clothing to celebrate their return home from their tour in Afghanistan in November as well, gathering at the Emerald Queen Casino to dine and dance the night away. The ceremony consisted of the traditional customs, awards, speeches, and of course a grog bowl!

Following the Battalion's post-deployment and Holiday leave, the Pacemakers began the New Year with the arduous task of preparing for the Battalion's reorganization, scheduled to take place over the next year. The unit started this process by standing down its Rear Detachment, and resumed maintenance of its many pieces of varied equipment. To make this happen, the battalion had to start with a complete inventory of every item and the subsequent turn in of all excess sets and equipment. Long hours of checking and rechecking, scheduled to take through the end of February will undoubtedly see the Pacemakers continue to 'Set the Pace' and 'R.I.S.E. to the Challenge' this year!



Brigade and battalion leaders at the 864th change of command.



Soldiers and leaders of the 864th Eng. Bn. stand on Wilkins Field during the November uncasing ceremony which marked the battalion's full return from its 2013 deployment Afghanistan.



By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Kurt Peterson
3rd EOD Bn. Public Affairs

The 3D Ordnance Battalion (EOD) classroom hosts a special course through January 2014, with an ongoing buzz inside. The subject at hand is IED Electronics, a five day class and mandatory training for units preparing for deployment.

Whole Companies of Bomb Technicians, equipped with their tool kits are packed in, eager to learn. Tests in the IED Electronics course aren't multiple choice and the Soldiers leave pens and pencils

Hands on: 3d EOD Soldiers study IED electronics

at home. Instead they work with precise tools, soldering irons, switch and relay assortments, and spools of multi-color wires.

1LT Greg McClendon explains that "the class focuses on two of the five IED components, power sources and switches." I learn the others also, initiators, enhancements, and the main charge. His unit, the 707TH Ordnance Company, completes their course by the week's end.

Soldering circuitry, trigger building, and studying the complexity of modern bomb making keep the students busy. 1LT McClendon shows me two different triggers the Soldiers created. From his bag, a personnel mobile radio (Walky Talky) and household kitchen timer retrofitted to trigger bombs is revealed. Under further examination it's clear that the Bomb Technician who put them to-



gether is skilled.

The circuitry they build and discuss does appear formidable to an outsider. 1SG Jerod Harding says, "developing a working grasp of IED Electronics takes days, but the Soldiers are enjoying themselves while learning crucial lessons."

He insists that teams familiarize themselves to sophisticated trigger systems, although they are rarely encountered down-range. They know bomb makers typically avoid complex IEDs in favor of less costly, tried-and-true methods. They are also less reliable when triggered, making the effort unattractive to potential builders. Despite the rarity, analyzing all forms of power sources and switches creates capable Bomb Technicians.

In combat operations the IED Electronics course has sharpened the talents of many. Defeating tangled wiring, relays,

and switches occurs often, and EOD Soldiers are in high demand. As a result the modern EOD Soldier hones their problem solving skills relentlessly.

1LT McClendon says, "the classroom training is an above average difficulty level. It gets more difficult in the final days, when we're doing hands on training, wearing our bomb suits."

Civilians instruct the course, all prior EOD service members, experienced veterans turned teachers. They apply extra pressure in their culminating training scenarios. For example,

running a quarter mile inside cumbersome bomb suits is a prerequisite for those attempting to disarm their IED switches.

It shows the IED Electronics course goes beyond academics, stressing their students builds mental discipline and grit. This added value serves the 707TH tremendously as they continue on their road to war.

In combat operations the IED Electronics course has sharpened the talents of many.

The IED Electronics course goes beyond academics, stressing their students builds mental discipline and grit.



Soldiers assigned to 3rd EOD Bn. conduct training on IED electronics as part of deployment preparations.



110th Chemical Battalion Quarterly Update

What an awesome time it is to be a part of the 110th Chemical Battalion (TE). At three months into the new fiscal year the Battalion has been training hard from the individual Soldier to team to Battalion level. I am so proud of our Soldiers, Leaders and Iron Dragon Families for the efforts of the past three months and am looking forward to the next three.

October was a busy month for the Battalion with several events keeping the Soldiers busy. The Battalion HQ deployed to Korea for EXERCISE WARPATH II (along with the 48th CM BDE and the 22d CM BN (TE)). Although this was a tough exercise, the training was great and provided us the opportunities to gel as a team, work closely with the 2-2

IN Brigade Combat Team (BCT), and our Republic of Korea counterparts.

While the Battalion HQ was busy conducting the exercise in Korea, the companies remained busy in the U.S. conducting a variety of training events. The 11th CM CO, sent a team to Dugway Proving Grounds, UT to train with a Sampling and Identification Chemical, Biological and Radiological (SIBCRA) team from the U.K. Royal Airforce. It was a great event with Soldiers and Airmen from each country

partnering and learning together. Upon completion, both teams flew to JBLM, WA and continued the combined training on a variety of different training scenarios; we look forward to continued partnership with the

SIBCRA teams well into the future. The 9th CM CO deployed to the Yakima (WA) Training Center for weapons ranges and team training in support of 3-2 BCT. Their efforts during the range qualification resulted in the Company being awarded the marksmanship streamer on 15 November 2013 for having achieved a 42% Expert rating on individually assigned weapons. At Fort Riley, KS., the 172d CM CO achieved quite a feat of their own by earning the top gun, and distinguished awards on the 1st Brigade Support Battalion, 11D Stryker NBCRV gunnery range as well.

The Battalion continued to roll in November with a variety of events conducted. The first big event was the combined 172d CM CO and 630th OD CO (EOD) field training exercise at Fort Riley, KS. This event provided Soldiers of both units the oppor-



tunity to cross-train and will enable them to work more closely with each other in future. Additional company level training events in November included a number of deployment readiness exercises, driver's training, and combatives training. Immediately following the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Battalion HQs deployed once again to the Republic of Korea for EXERCISE WARPATH III.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all of the Family readiness groups in the Battalion for all that you have done in the past few months in taking care of our Families. While each FRG conducted a number of their own events ranging from routine meetings to an international food night party. The true highlight of the fall was the Battalion's Fall Fest enjoyed at Schilter Farm just a couple of miles from JBLM. Over 200 Soldiers and Family members enjoyed taking time out to visit the petting zoo, pumpkin patch, hay ride and just socializing away from the installation.

This winter, please keep safety in mind. Take the extra time to winterize your vehicles. We absolutely need each member of our team whether Soldier or Family member ready and standing tall in this new year; it is shaping up to be a busy one!

UTMOST! All the Time!
LTC Brant Hoskins
Battalion Commander



A sign points the way to 110th Chem. Bn. headquarters during the unit's recent blood drive.



Brigade Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC)

Greetings Families and friends of the Triple Nickel HHC!



The company is finally settling into a comfortable rhythm here at JBLM. Since the last newsletter, the company has redeployed from Afghanistan, enjoyed the Holidays with friends and Families and embraced and welcomed new members to the company and offered best wishes as members left to do great and new things. The Family Readiness Group is also in transition but we are committed to supporting the

Families of the Company and we had one successful meeting last month. The next one is sure to be great also as it is tied 3rd Annual company chili cook off.

The company is currently in reset but it continues to maintain a furious pace as the Army is transitioning and the company is reemphasizing the garrison systems. Now is the time to make the company even better as we get the chance to utilize all the systems in the Army to make the company great and the Families better, like all the MWR facilities, services of the Army Community Services

"Let's continue to build the team and make this company great."



New HHC 1st Sgt. Kerry Wiles inspects the NCO sword which he received upon assuming his role as 1st Sergeant in November.

(ACS), and Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) programs available. Let's continue to build the team and make this company great. I am looking forward to working with all of you and having a great spring in the Northwest and JBLM. We need

to remain devoted to mission success and committed to Family. Thank you for all the continued support!

Strength in Numbers!
-Capt. Nathan Magee
Commander, BDE HHC

New Triple Nickel leaders arrive

(Continued from page 1)

that included I Corps Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert B. Brown, Lanza said Katers embodied the most inspiring traits associated with the profession of arms.

"Leadership like yours, specifically leadership in combat, reinforces the trust Soldiers have in their leaders, and it strengthens the nation's trust in America's Army," Lanza said.

Katers said one of the proudest moments in his first year of command was the large snowstorm that blanketed the area in January 2012.

"While the rest of JBLM stayed home, the (864th Engineer Battalion) Pacemakers sprang into action," Katers said. "While the snow still fell, 500 Pacemakers hit the streets in heavy engineer equipment and ensured that the

hospital and critical functions remained clear.

"It took the rest of the community on the other side of JBLM a week to do what the Triple Nickel did in 12 hours."

Katers lauded the charity work of the 555th Engr. Bde., including giving thousands of toys to Santa's Castle. He noted with pride the brigade's combined operations with the Afghan military during its 2013 tour, when the Triple Nickel helped field 27 new Afghan army engineer companies and four new battalions.

Katers thanked his officers and commanders, and reserved special thanks for his senior enlisted adviser Bryan, calling him

"the best sapper I ever met."

Lanza called Holman, a recent Army War College graduate, a "proven combat leader" with experience in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Holman made brief remarks, thanking key people and expressing humility at the opportunity to command the brigade.

"I've been impressed with this unit since I arrived at JBLM, and the

Soldiers continue to show me why they're one of the best engineer brigades in the Army," he said.

Holman's previous post was deputy commander of the 18th Engineer Brigade in Germany. He commanded the 54th Engineer Battalion with the brigade from 2009 to 2012 during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and was 130th Engineer Brigade operations officer

Col. Katers thanked his officers and commanders, and reserved special thanks for his senior enlisted adviser, CSM Bryan...

during Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005 to 2007.

His military education includes the Combined Arms Services and Staff School, the Army Command and Staff College, the Airborne School, the Joint and Combined Warfighting School and the Army War College.

Holman has received the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Airborne Badge.

Command Sergeant Major Hood last deployed during Operation New Dawn in 2010-2011. He deployed to Kuwait during Operation Positive Force in 1991, and twice to Operation Iraqi Freedom. His awards include the Bronze Star, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Master-rated Parachutist Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, the Ranger Tab and the Combat Action Badge.



Building something out of nothing: Engineers support Stryker brigade



Heavy equipment operators from 610th ESC build defensive barriers around a tactical assembly area at the National Training Center.

Staff Sgt. Christopher McCullough
3-2 SBCT Public Affairs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Setting up a tactical operations center under harsh conditions versus using fixed facilities seen in Iraq and Afghanistan is a lesson in getting back to the basics.

The 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., is at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., where they are using tents and portable equipment to set up a bustling headquarters in the middle of the desert.

These tents, designed to house command and control personnel on the battlefield, can be set up in even the most barren environments and torn down in a matter of hours. Their construction is the product of coordinated efforts between construction engineers, security personnel, and headquarters assets.

"It all happens simultaneously and it has to because you have to assume control of the battle from the tactical command post — which is the alternate tactical operations center — in only a few hours," said 1st

Sgt. Anthony Lockett, a native of Hinesville, Ga., and the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant.

Lockett added that before they establish the command structures, the first thing they do is establish security so that incoming personnel and equipment are protected. That job falls squarely on the shoulders of the brigade's engineer company.

"One of the most important parts of being in a construction company is the force protection for our stake holders," said Sgt. 1st Class David Jones, a Las Vegas native and a construction project supervisor with the 610th Engineer Support Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, also out of JBLM. "It's very important for us to make sure they have defensibility, survivability, and offensive capabilities."

Lockett added that one of the engineer's chief tasks is to build large dirt mounds, known as berms, around the perimeter of the outpost. This provides the Arrowhead Brigade a level of security and survivability, he said.

"It gets us to the point to

where [headquarters personnel] can do what they can do in the TOC and they don't have to worry about the outside," Lockett said.

Once the engineers have established a secure perimeter, the rest of the personnel come in and take up defensive positions, Lockett said.

They then set about erecting the honeycomb of tents that will house the different sections of the brigade headquarters.

"The process is all-hands on deck to get the first two to three tents up," said Sgt. Maj. Linwood Bailey, of Fayetteville, N.C., the brigade's operations sergeant major. "From there we have a small group of Soldiers that move around and help build the rest of the tents. While they build the outside of it...the people who own that tent are inside setting up the tables, the wires and the generators."

The whole process, from rolling into the selected area, to setting security and establishing a working tactical operations center happens in a matter of hours and enables the brigade's combat forces to be ready for all situations and threats.

Once the engineers have established a secure perimeter, the rest of the personnel come in and take up defensive positions.

Sales of artwork, \$20, benefit the 555 Able Soldier and Family Fund

The 555 Able Soldier & Family Fund helps support our Triple Nickel Soldiers and their Families during their times of greatest need, assisting those deployed and Families of our Fallen troops.

The Able Fund recently commissioned world-renowned combat artist Patrick Haskett to create a **print titled "Clear-Hold-Build."** This print, shown to the right, depicts the 864th Engineer Battalion constructing a combat outpost in Afghanistan.

This print is being offered at \$20, with proceeds going directly to the Able Fund.

More information, including how to order, is available at 555Soldierfund.com.



CLEAR - HOLD - BUILD

ARMY ENGINEERS CONSTRUCT A COMBAT OUTPOST IN AFGHANISTAN IN SUPPORT OF COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS

FROM THE PAINTING BY PATRICK J. HASKETT

UNITED STATES ARMY  ENGINEER REGIMENT



555th Medical Corner

Cold Weather Injuries

“Oh the weather outside is frightful...”

Luckily, the Pacific North West’s encounter with this year’s polar vortex was not as bad compared to the Midwest, East Coast, and even some Southern states! Washington state weather has been getting warmer, but the winter season is still present until mid March. Responsibility lies both with the Command and individual, and prevention is the key!

There are a variety of cold weather-related injuries to include chilblains, immersion foot/trench foot, frostnip, frostbite, and hypothermia. The most common areas of the body affected are the hands, feet, face, and ears. Risk factors include cold temperature, altitude, and prolonged exposure to any wet environment cooler than body temperature. Individual risk factors may include inadequate health, poor

physical condition, dehydration, fatigue, those with poor blood circulation, and a prior history of cold weather injury. If you experience a cold weather –related injury, the first thing to do is to get out of the cold/environment and protect the exposed skin. Immerse the affected area in warm, not hot, water or warm the affected area using body heat. Avoid heating pads, lamps, radiators, or fireplaces. Affected areas are numb and can be easily burned.

Two of the more severe cold weather injuries are frostbite and hypothermia. Frostbite is the freezing of body tissues. The skin freezes around 28 degrees Fahrenheit and the severity of frostbite depends on temperature and duration of cold exposure.

Hypothermia, which is potentially fatal, is when the core body temperature falls below 95 degrees. Signs and symptoms of hypothermia change as the body temperature falls. Initial signs are shivering and a decrease in mental function: confusion, declined decision making ability, irritability, and slurred speech. Severe symptoms are the desire to sleep or lie down, heartbeat and breathing are faint or undetectable, and unconsciousness. Treatment is to prevent further cold exposure, remove wet clothing, rewarm in dry clothing, blankets or a sleeping bag, and evacuate immediately to the closest medical facility.

PREVENTION IS THE KEY!

- Stay hydrated!
- Wear several layers of loose clothing
- Avoid overheating
- Wear gloves & inserts
- Keep moving to exercise major muscles
- Carry an extra pair of socks, use foot powder to absorb moisture
- Wear a hat and cover face and ears
- Change damp or wet clothes immediately

SCMH Sick Call Hours: 0630-0700

- *Soldiers will check in and will be triaged accordingly
- *Sick call hours are for any illnesses and injuries less than 72 hours
- *Ongoing medical issues/concerns are not seen during sick call

Recommendations for Supervisors:

- *Ensure Soldiers are dressed appropriately for the weather/task
- *Limit cold weather exposure with frequent breaks if working outside
- *Provide adequate nutrition and hydration. Have hot meals/beverages available to keep warm
- *Do frequent spot checks of clothes, personal protection, feet, etc.

Watch for skin changes:

- *Pain, tenderness, hot or itchy
- *Numbness or tingling
- *Swollen red or darkened
- *Bleeding or blistered
- *Gray, waxy feeling or “wooden” to the touch



Triple Nickel Soldier represents FORSCOM at Best Warrior Competition

U.S. Army Sgt. Jacob R. Valderrama, assigned to 557th Engineer Company, 864th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, representing the U.S. Army Forces Command, participates in the M9 pistol range event as part of the 2013 Army Best Warrior Competition at Fort Lee, Va., Nov. 20, 2013. Valderrama was one of 24 competitors striving to earn the title of "Best Warrior." (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven Hitchcock)

Chaplain's Closing, Capt. Kenneth May

Our Brigade's Unit Ministry Teams are committed to helping all Willing and Able Soldiers face their personal and professional battles with Readiness and Resiliency. We have several Strong Bonds Events for both married couples and single Soldiers we will be conducting over the coming months. At these events, Army Families and Soldiers can learn and reinforce much needed relationship skills and life skills to stay ready and resilient.

We are also conducting several ASIST training classes to train our leadership in being able to respond proactively when someone experiences suicidal thoughts. ASIST stands for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Participants go through an intense two day course that teaches them the Suicide Intervention Model developed by Canadian company LivingWorks.

This model enables a person to intervene when someone is overcome with suicidal thoughts and help that person shift focus back to thoughts of life. We have been tasked with training all of the leadership in the Brigade. In the next several weeks, 555 will become a safer place.

Finally, remember your personal resiliency. Resiliency comes from the deep, inner reserves each of us carries. Practicing your personal expression of faith fills those reserves like nothing else will. Take time to read the Scriptures or Holy Writings of your faith group. Spend time daily reflecting on the deeper truths you find there. Take time to meet with others of your faith group on a regular basis. Your 555 Unit Ministry Teams are here to help you become more ready and resilient from the inside out.

In Memory of Those we have Recently Lost

SPC Matthew R. Mabrey

PV2 Reymon B. Tolentino

PFC Perry N. Eusebio

***"...Yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored."
- Daniel Webster***

5555



Questions or comments? Email
Capt. Spencer Garrison
Public Affairs Officer
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555th Engineer Brigade

Mission

The 555th Engineer Brigade provides technical and tactical expertise and Mission Command to modular formations. The brigade plans, supervises and coordinates combat, general, and geospatial engineering in support of unified land operations.

Vision

A Disciplined unit, built on Trust,
Committed to team, Family and Fun.
Ready, Willing and Able.

'Willing and Able'

Values

Trust – I will always display impeccable character and tell the truth regardless of the outcome.

Discipline – I consistently do the right, necessary, and sometimes painful tasks in order to accomplish the mission.

Family – I will always be available for my Family to meet their relational, spiritual, and emotional needs.

Commitment – I am committed to doing my mission to the highest possible standards; I will never quit on myself, my family, or my unit

Fun – I will frequently laugh and always make my job and home enjoyable places to work and live.

Imperatives

Leader Development – Utilize engaged leaders to Teach, Coach, and Mentor in order to develop the next generation of adaptive leaders that possess creative and critical thinking skills; Develop leaders, enabled by Mission Command, that are capable of operating in any Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous environments.

Training – Plan tough, realistic, and well resourced training; focus from the "Basics" to Mission Essential Tasks to develop individuals, teams, and leaders to provide World-Class Engineer Support to Unified Land Operations.

Maintenance and Logistics – Treat maintenance and logistics as training by assigning ownership and enforcing accountability of our resources and readiness.

Health of the Force – Provide our Soldiers and their Families the BEST (Medical, Sponsorship, Resources, Protection, Resiliency) the Army has to offer.

Readiness – Resilient Soldiers and Families, Disciplined Soldiers and systems, Superior Training, Personnel Readiness, and Disciplined Supply and Maintenance Programs.

