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“4th CAB activates remaining 4 battalions: mission ready”



ALSO

CAB mentorship teaches leadership
Boulder recognizes 4th CAB flood efforts
Medics mentor, assist JROTC camp
4th CAB slings big guns

4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office



**Public Affairs Officer/Editor
Maj. Andrew Ruiz**

**Public Affairs NCOIC/Writer
Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault**

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“4th CAB activates re mission



FORT CARSON, COLO. – Soldiers watch as the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, activates its remaining four battalions making it a fully activated CAB, during an activation ceremony on Fort Carson’s Founder’s Field, May 1.



Remaining 4 battalions: "ready"



Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office



Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, unsheathes the battalion colors of 4th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, during an activation ceremony on Fort Carson's Founder's Field.

FORT CARSON, Colo. - 4th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers gave an enormous cheer as they became the newest fully activated combat aviation brigade in the Army, after activating the CAB's four remaining battalions during a ceremony on Founders Field, May 1, 2014.

The battalions activated were: 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment; 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 4th Avn. Reg.; 4th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Avn. Reg.; and 404th Aviation Support Battalion.

"Today marks a significant milestone in the storied lineage of the 4th Infantry Division," said Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th CAB. Ault said the CAB is full of professionals, leading formations that can succeed in any environment and bringing

exponential value to the fight. "Our ranks are filled with America's best from across the globe, all volunteers committed to living the Army Values, fighting for our nation and serving our community," he said. "To our friends and brothers in arms, you will find no greater ally than the 4th CAB."

The commanders of the four battalions said they believe their units are capable of handling any challenges.

"The opportunity to command and lead the 404th ASB is truly tremendous," said Lt. Col. Lucinda Wilson, commander, 404th ASB. "The 'Providers' diligently propel our unit forward by increasing our aviation maintenance capability, developing 'Iron Eagle' Strong Families and Soldiers, and (providing) selfless, comprehensive and timely customer



Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, unsheathes the battalion colors of 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, during an activation ceremony on Fort Carson's Founder's Field.



Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, unsheathes the battalion colors of 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, during an activation ceremony on Fort Carson's Founder's Field.



Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, unsheathes the battalion colors of 4th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, during an activation ceremony on Fort Carson's Founder's Field.



Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, unsheathes the battalion colors of 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th CAB, during an activation ceremony on Fort Carson's Founder's Field.



The Color Guard of 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, render their salutes during an activation ceremony on Fort Carson's Founder's Field, May 1. 4th CAB activated its remaining four battalions making it a fully activated CAB.

service. Our unit is a highly effective, standards-based team of professional Soldiers, delivering exceptional sustainment, service and support.”

The 3rd AHB, 4th Avn. Reg., is the only assault helicopter battalion on Fort Carson, said Lt. Col. Neil Kugler, commander, 3rd AHB.

“The Soldiers of ‘Comanche Assault’ bring a truly unique capability to our brigade and Joint Task Force Carson,” said Kugler. “We will provide unconstrained mobility to the maneuver commander, allowing him to take the fight to the enemy at the time and location of his choosing. We will establish the reputation of our unit as a well-trained, high spirited, supremely disciplined and cohesive warfighting organization, on time and on target in everything we do.”

One of the battalions acts as a powerful force multiplier for the division or any unit they deploy with.

“We provide the ground force commander the

ability to overwhelm the enemy with direct firepower and win tactical engagements,” said Lt. Col. Mark Weathers, commander, 4th ARB. “We will train our aircrews, build a proficient sustainment capacity and train our battalion staff to execute any tasks that come their way.”

Lt. Col. Stephen Gilbertson, commander, 1st ARB, 4th Avn. Reg., said his battalion grows more engaged with executing the Iron Horse mission of building strong Families and professional Soldiers.

“This battalion has an incredible history of selfless combat performance which our colors remind us each day,” said Gilbertson. “This activation has afforded us the opportunity to continue this proud lineage into the unknown future ahead, while safeguarding the most treasured commodity — the selfless sons and daughters of America who volunteered for this formation and the Army.”

COMMUNITY SEC

“4th CAB, CONG recognized for flo

Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, thanks people of the Front Range for holding the Flood Rescue Appreciation ceremony during Airport Day at Boulder Municipal Airport in Boulder, Colo., June 14.



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Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office



Families exploring a UH-60 Blackhawk (Medevac) from the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, during Airport Day at Boulder Municipal Airport.

BOULDER, Colo. – Buzzing planes and emotions were moving hastily through the air as 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and the Colorado National Guard were recognized during an Airport Day Flood Rescue Appreciation ceremony at Boulder Municipal Airport in Boulder, Colo., June 14.

Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Duchatelier Jr., senior enlisted leader, both from 4th CAB, received awards on behalf of Fort Carson and gave thanks for their partnership with CONG.

“We are humbled and honored to be here,” said Ault. “This community is absolutely incredible and it’s amazing to be part of a team such as the Colorado National Guard. You are blessed to live in

a state that has a National Guard that is responsive and capable. It was an honor to work in support of them.”

Maj. Gen. Michael Edwards, Colorado adjutant general and executive director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, received the awards for the CONG and talks about the selfless service of military members.

“It is really humbling to be here with you and our great teammates from Fort Carson, today,” said Edwards. “This is what we put the uniform on for. If you talk to your military members; they serve to serve citizens and this great nation. It is great to see the appreciation coming from the hearts of our great citizens. You hope you’re never called to a disaster but we are always ready and will always be ready.”



Boulder County commissioners awarded plaques of appreciation to the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and Colorado National Guard, command teams during Airport Day at Boulder Municipal Airport.



Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, unsheathes the battalion colors of 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th CAB, during an activation ceremony on Fort Carson's Founder's Field.



A child from Boulder, Colo., tries on an aircrew member's helmet in a CH-47 Chinook during Airport Day at Boulder Municipal Airport in Boulder, Colo.

The heroic efforts of the CAB and CONG during the floods were the largest airlift operation since Hurricane Katrina and the biggest in Colorado history, said Cindy Domenico, Boulder County commissioner.

"We were severely impacted in our mountain canyons," said Domenico. "My staff and I remember seeing the helicopters coming over the mountains and flying throughout the days that followed bringing people in. They brought Families in and Families that were separated that met right here on the tarmac. Without the amazing partnership and help of our friends in the CONG and U.S. Army; it would have been so much more tragic."

Mayor Tara Schoedinger, from Jamestown, Colo., talked about how the military helped them and the

rebuilding of Jamestown.

"We thought it was a simple medevac when the helicopters arrived, but then it became more apparent when more helicopters showed up and helped our community to safety," said Schoedinger. "Thanks to CONG, 4th CAB, and enormous amount of help from others, we have begun rebuilding our community. We are rebuilding homes and our water system."

Mayor John O'Brien, from Lyons, Colo., discussed the damage caused by the floods in Lyons, and how the CONG and 4th CAB helped them.

"Lyons residents were beginning to run out of food and were isolated from six separate islands," said O'Brien. "CONG trucks brought in food, water and blankets to hungry, thirsty, and grateful residents."



Sgt. 1st Class Keith Bart, UH-60 Blackhawk (MedEvac) crew chief, Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, shows some children how the hoist on a Blackhawk works during Airport Day at Boulder Municipal Airport in Boulder, Colo.

After seeing the help for the CONG and 4th CAB, people trapped by the floods started to feel the spirit of service that was evident through the following days.”

Tim Plass, Boulder city council member, recalls his experience of some the rescues.

“It’s amazing to think what happened here and I was lucky enough to be out here when some of the rescues happened,” said Plass. “Seeing the people get off the helicopters with their backpacks and their dogs. It was a very powerful and moving experience.”

Boulder residents remember their rescue from last year’s floods, and are very glad that the community

is recognizing Fort Carson and the CONG.

“During the floods, we hiked up the mountain to a meeting point” said Steve LeGoff, distribution agent, Boulder resident. “We got a ride from a neighbor to Monument Hill, where we were picked up by a Blackhawk. We didn’t know what to expect when we were evacuated. But we felt relief, because we knew we were put in a better situation.”

It’s wonderful that the military members are getting recognized. They did awesome getting everyone evacuated quickly. I am forever grateful to them. We are here because of them. We don’t know what could have happen otherwise.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Duchatelier, right, brigade command sergeant major, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, presents a certificate of appreciation to a group of Vietnam veterans during their visit to 4th CAB hangars at Butts Army Airfield on Fort Carson, Colo., Aug. 7, 2014.

Avionic Vietnam veterans visit CAB

Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Knowledge shared from past Avionic Soldiers from the Vietnam Era enlightened current Soldiers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, during a visit by Aviation Electrical Veterans at Butts Army Airfield on Fort Carson, Colo., Aug. 7.

Avionic Soldiers from 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion and 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, both from 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Com-

bat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, gave veterans a tour of the hangars.

“We have avionic service members in attendance that served in all regions of Vietnam War,” said Jack McCabe, former avionics communication equipment repairer and AVEL coordinator. “This is our fourth reunion and we change the location every year to suit all of our members. We decided to have it in Colorado Springs and heard about the 4th CAB being stationed there. We thought it would a great stop and the CAB made it happen for us without hesitation. We are very grateful to have this opportunity to meet with these



Division, presents a certificate of appreciation to Aviation

great CAB Soldiers.”

The veterans appreciated the time they spent with the CAB Soldiers and got to see how their old profession has progressed.

“It was great getting to see the advances they made to the aircraft over the years,” said Jack McCabe. “Majority of us worked on Huey helicopters. I don’t think most of us have ever been this close to a Blackhawk helicopter. The Chinook is like an old shoe; models have changed a lot but still have the same functions. The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

Sgt. Sharanbir Mander, avionics mechanic, Company D, 2nd GSAB, enjoyed learning how the veterans fixed electrical problems during Vietnam.

“During one of stories that the vets were telling

me, I figured out that some of the same technical issues they faced a long time ago are some of the same ones we face today,” said Mander. “It means a lot to me that I got to meet with these Vietnam Veterans from my own career field. It was a great experience.”

Spc. Quarterrio Lilly, avionics mechanic, Company D, savors how hard the vets had to work during their time in service and their help in the progression of his profession.

“The Veterans had much harder conditions during their time at war,” said Lilly. “I learned they used to have search for electrical issues by physical looking at all the wiring. Today, we just hook a computer up to run diagnostics to tell us where the faults are. It was great seeing the men and women who helped progress our career field.”

The veterans’ visit ended with the presentation of sentiments from both the CAB Leadership and the AVEL Veterans. AVEL vets presented Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Duchatelier, brigade command sergeant major, 4th CAB, aviation patches from their units that served in Vietnam. Duchatelier presented the vets with a certificate of appreciation and gave them all unit coins.



Sgt. Sharanbir Mander, avionics mechanic, Company D, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, gives a tour of the CAB’s avionics shop to Aviation Electrical Vietnam Veterans during their visit to 4th CAB hangars at Butts Army Airfield.

**“Army child can
helps pilot pro**



A photograph of a log cabin in a forest. In the foreground, a child is holding a bow, and an adult is standing nearby. The cabin is made of logs and has a green roof. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees.

**mp: CAB
gram”**

**Fort Carson children and their
chaperones shoot arrows at an
archery range March 27, 2014 at
Camp Shady Brook in Deckers,
during YMCA Camp Hero.**

Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

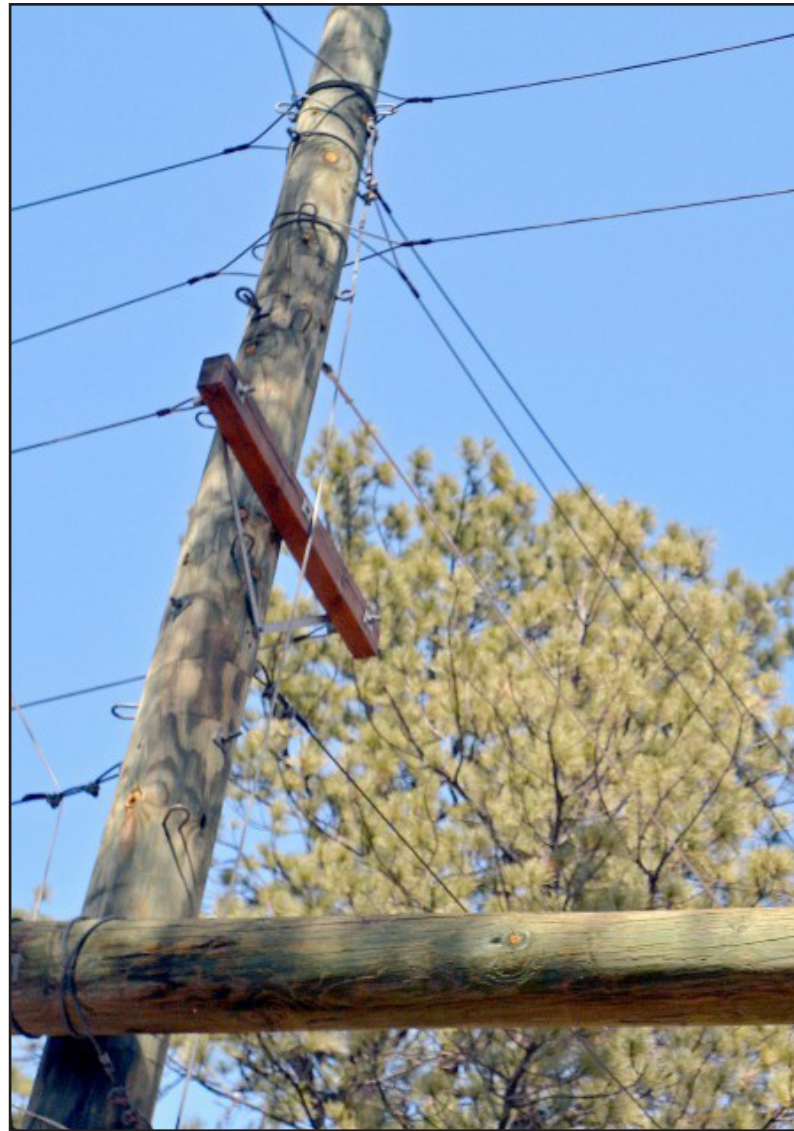


Sgt. Brian Gilbert, Black Hawk crew chief, Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, provides safety watch for Fort Carson children climbing a rock wall while attending YMCA Camp Hero.

DECKERS — Screams of joy and team mottos resonated from more than 38 Fort Carson children, as they traveled to Camp Shady Brook in Deckers, with military volunteers and YMCA staff members, March 27, 2014.

Fourteen Soldiers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, volunteered to be chaperones for the YMCA's first pilot military-child camp held in Colorado.

"This program is the first of its kind in our region," said Drew Aquino, military outreach director, Armed Services YMCA Pikes Peak Region. "It is a camp to teach military kids about resiliency. We teamed up with 4th CAB unit ministry teams to pilot this program, to help military kids dealing with military life stressors caused by deployments, social and emotional issues. It's not a counseling session, it's just a camp experience to allow the



A Fort Carson child walks a balance beam on a confidence building exercise at Camp Shady Brook in Deckers

children to enjoy Colorado and learn something while doing it."

Camp Hero was designed and piloted at Fort Carson because it is one of the bigger installations in the Army, said Aquino.

"Originally, this program was designed to be an after-school program," he said. "But when kids get out of school, they're tired and most don't have the patience to want to learn how to cope with stressors. This is why we take them out of their norm and into a fun learning environment. If we can assess the success of this program at a large fort like Fort Carson, we can assume that it will be successful nationally."

Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Alvarado, head Camp Hero chaperone and battalion safety noncommissioned officer, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, was in charge of the Fort Carson chaperones.

"I am in charge of the chaperones from 4th



child climbing obstacle, while attending YMCA Camp Hero, at Camp

CAB,” said Alvarado. “Our responsibilities were to keep accountability of all the children and help the YMCA staff with some of the planned activities. We are also responsible for making sure they stay safe and make sure they are taken care of.”

Many confidence-boosting activities were used at camp to bring the children out of their shells and teach them how to approach their personal issues, said Alvarado.

“The teaching basis of all obstacles or ranges is to help the children learn to integrate with other military children and establish a team relationship,” said Alvarado. “Ultimately, we want the children to translate these skills into overcoming life obstacles that affect them physically, emotionally and mentally.”

Activities included rock-wall climbs, balance beams and archery ranges.

Sgt. Brian Gilbert, UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief, Company C, 2nd GSAB, 4th Avn. Reg., and



Fort Carson children play kickball while attending YMCA Camp Hero at Camp Shady Brook.

his wife, Jenn Gilbert, chaperoned the camp two of their children attended.

“It is awesome to see the children having fun with large smiles on their face,” said Brian Gilbert. “My children love this camp atmosphere. They are mingling with the other children and are enjoying nature with other military children. This is something that Jenn and I support because it teaches us, as military parents, just as much as it teaches our children.”

Chap. (Capt.) Don Fulton, 52nd Engineer Battalion, taught the children classes on resiliency.

“The classes are centered on overcoming life’s obstacles,” said Fulton. “We set obstacles on a set path in which the children could walk down easily. But then we blindfolded them and had their teammates guide them through. This exercise teaches them that life’s events can change the way they maneuver in life, and sometimes we need help to overcome those changes to reach our goals.”

“CAB attends Buckley F

Aircrews from 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, unload their bambi buckets to prepare for the wildfire training during the 2014 Buckley Firefighting Conference at Chadwick Lake in Denver, March 25. Training was conducted with the Colorado Army National Guard and many other state emergency agencies.

'Firefighting Conference'



Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office



Aircrews from 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, unload their bambi buckets to prepare for the wildfire training.

DENVER — Cascading water flowed over pinpointed targets from bright orange buckets that dangled from helicopters as a multitude of military and emergency agencies participated in the 2014 Buckley Firefighting Training Conference in Denver, March 25, 2014.

Aviation Soldiers from 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, attended the conference for the first time in preparation for the upcoming wildfire season.

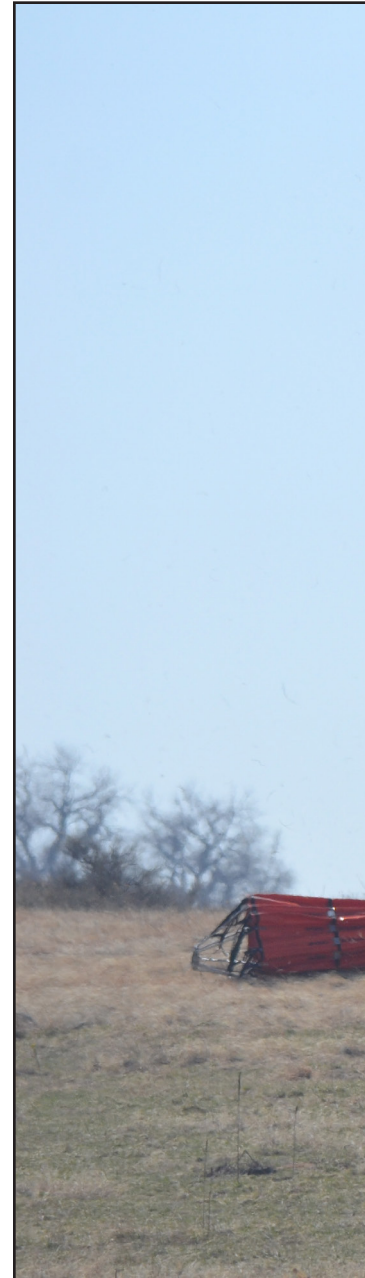
“When there are emergencies, I usually take on the role of task force commander or task force executive officer of the Colorado Army National Guard,” said Maj. Kenneth J. Walsh Jr., commander, COARNG Army Aviation Support Facility. “(4th CAB) is a large force multiplier for us,



and we are happy to have their proven firefighting capabilities on board with us.”

Walsh said that the most important part of the conference was synchronization of all the agencies involved and building relationships beyond affiliations.

“Synchronizing different agencies to talk and effectively communicate with each other is diffi-



A CH-47 Chinook from 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, drops down their bambi bucket before the wildfire training.



General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, safely lays out before landing.

cult, which is why it is the most important aspect to work on,” said Walsh. “Learning each other’s language and combining it into one is the key to our collective success. We add to that success by building personal relationships beyond what agency a person comes from. We don’t know the CAB anymore by 2nd GSAB, 4th Avn. Reg. We know them as Maj. Eric Carlson and so forth. These two

major factors make us all successful.”

The training increased the Colorado Springs Fire Department’s familiarity with 4th CAB’s equipment, prior to an event that may require their assistance, said Kevin Simpson, CSFD firefighter.

“4th CAB is the closest aviation resource to us and can provide a fast aviation response to an incident in the Colorado Springs area,” said Simp-

son. "Potentially, the CAB can help CSFD in many ways by providing bucket drops on wildfires, hoist rescue missions during major flooding, or as an aerial observation platform during an 'all-hazard' event. As witnessed during the Black Forest Fire and the Boulder flood events, 4th CAB played an integral part in the wildfire suppression and rescue missions."

The training during the conference was useful to the CAB because it better prepares it for the upcoming fire season.

"During the Black Forest fires and Boulder floods, we had partial training with the other emergency agencies," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Adam Wagner, battalion Black Hawk standardization officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd GSAB. "We had to learn quickly and form procedures according to the emergency on the spot. This type of training especially helps us because Colorado received less than average rain- fall this year, which heightens likelihood of fires during the wildfire season. We want to be as prepared as much as possible and build relationships with all the emergency entities to better support them and incorporate ourselves to better serve the Front Range."

Wagner said that communication is a major component for 4th CAB to be a strong asset to the Colorado communities and gives valuable resources to the Front Range.

"Communication is the key to everything we do," said Wagner. "If we can't communicate, we can't operate. It's one of the most difficult things we have to do but that is what the conference was built to relieve. The CAB offers a variety of resources to include medical aircraft, heavy lift stuff and multiple types of equipment and people."

The conference leads to a better response time and gives information on the type of manpower that we have access to, said John K. Hamilton, regional aviation safety manager, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

"Knowing the strengths of the CAB and other entities gives us more flexibility in terms of our initial response capabilities," said Hamilton. "This conference allows us to put our regulations together and come up with a common procedure to let us respond with the accurate amount of manpower."

Colorado wildfires are every agency's responsibility, said Jane M. Lopez, deputy chief of Wildland Fire Planning and Preparedness, Department of Public Safety, and Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

"This particular exercise will facilitate and bolster the communication between the agencies," said Lopez. "Wildfires are no longer a single

agency's problem. The more we train together; the better we will be working in emergency conditions."

The conference training was realistically beneficial and is progressive for the CAB.

"The training was excellent," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas McNamara, CH-47 Chinook instructor pilot, Company B, 2nd GSAB. "It might as well (have) been a real scenario, but it didn't have real fires. We look forward to returning next year and hope we are even better than we already are."

CSFD and the other emergency agencies are happy to have 4th CAB in Colorado and look forward to improving their relationship with them.

"I am proud to have the 4th CAB in Colorado Springs," said Simpson. "The men and women of the 4th CAB are true professionals with a 'can-do' attitude that is contagious. It was a great honor to work with them during the Buckley Firefighting Conference. I look forward to strengthening our great relationship. Our working relationship is a great example of the partnership between local and state government and the Department of Defense in using military resources in support of civilian missions during catastrophic events."



A CH-47 Chinook spot drops water from their bambi bucket to prepare for the wildfire training during the 2014 Buckley Firefighting Conference at Chadwick Lake .



Kevin Simpson, firefighter, Colorado Springs Fire Department, receives a briefing from the Colorado Army National Guard during the 2014 Buckley Firefighting Conference at Buckley Air Force Base in Denver.

“I am proud to have the 4th CAB in Colorado Springs. They’re true professionals with a ‘can do’ attitude that is contagious.”

- Kevin Simpson

“4th CAB is a large force multiplier for us, and we are happy to have their proven fire-fighting capabilities on board with us.”

- Maj. Kenneth Walsh



Erin Doyle, wildfire operation specialist, city of Boulder Fire Department, signals a CH-47 Chinook from 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, to a simulated spot fire to prepare for the wildfire training during the 2014 Buckley Firefighting Conference at Chadwick Lake in Denver.



ELBERT, COLO. – Sgt. Jeizel Molina, flight medic, Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, wraps the ankle of an injured high school Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet during a Colorado JROTC Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge Camp at Magness Adventure Camp in Elbert, Colo., June 12.



“Medics assist high school JROTCs”

Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office



High school Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets practice rappelling during their Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge Camp at Magness Adventure Camp in Elbert, Colo., June 11.

ELBERT, COLO. – Insuring the safety and health of cadets was the tasking that medics accomplished while supporting a Colorado high school Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge Camp in at Magness Cub Scout Adventure Camp in Elbert, Colo., June 9 - 13.

4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division's medics were an important part of the operations at the camp.

"The camp wouldn't be operational without the medics from the CAB," Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Patrick Roddy, Montebello High School JROTC instructor. "We have to have medics on site because most of the instructors are not medically qualified. The medics were up at all hours of the night to make sure our cadets were healthy and safe."

The medics provided treatment and preventative care for many Colorado high school cadets.

"There are approximately 21 Colorado high schools and one from New Mexico in attendance of this camp," said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Randy Nielson,

Denver Public Schools director of Army Instruction. "The CAB medics provided medical classes and over watch for more than 200 cadets."

The cadets have learned a lot since they arrived the first day of camp, said Sgt. Jeizel Molina, flight medic, Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB.

"It was nice to see the cadets' progress over the short time that we've been here," said Molina. "They are growing confidence and conquering a lot of their fears during camp. Even though some of the cadets won't join the military; they are still trying to make a difference in their own lives."

Pfc. William Plavetes, healthcare specialist, Headquarters Support Company, 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th CAB, enjoyed teaching basic medical classes to the cadets.

"We modified our combat lifesaver class to teach the cadets," said Plavetes. "We taught skills such as how to apply a tourniquet, check the airway, splinting and preventing infection. I liked teaching the cadets because they soaked up all the knowledge that we



High school Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Cadets practice team building skills by competing in tug-a-war during their Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge Camp in at Magness Adventure Camp in Elbert, Colo.

could offer.”

JROTC cadets enjoyed the leadership camp and found many benefits in attending.

“This camp is fun,” said Cadet Serena Goodsell, Pueblo West High School JROTC. “I get to spend time with friends and make new ones. I believe I’ve learned valuable leadership skills. This camp has helped me want to be a leader whether or not I join the military in the future.”

I look forward to joining the military and strive to excel in the JROTC program, said Cadet Vanessa Casillas, Denver West High School JROTC.

“I feel great being at camp because it helps me improve my speaking skills and how to lead people,” said Casillas. “I believe this camp is great preparation for joining the military. I would like to join the military as nurse.”

4th CAB medics help mentor some of the cadets

but also received some mentoring from the JROTC instructors.

“The cadets were very interactive with the medics and asked them for advice,” said Roddy. “All the JROTC cadre are retired Army veterans. So in our downtime, we gave professional and career advice to the medics. This way, all the young Soldiers and cadets get something out of the camp.”

The instructors hope the lessons that the cadets learn help them for whatever career paths that they choose in the future.

“We want them to use the confidence and skills they learn in camp and use after they graduate,” said Nielson. “These cadets will be way ahead of their competition when they go to interviews or even join the military because of the training that JROTC has provided them.”



Sgt. Megan McInnis, battle systems operator and orderly room noncommissioned officer, Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, helps feed the unfortunate at the Marian House Soup Kitchen in Colorado Springs, Colo., July 30.

BOSS Soldiers help feed the hungry

Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The morning started early for seven Soldiers as they got into their vehicles to go to the Marian House Soup Kitchen. They were then asked what job they would like to do for the day and separated to do their tasks with other volunteers from the Front Range community.

Soldiers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, volunteered at the soup kitchen along with other Soldiers from Fort Carson Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program in Colo-

rado Springs, July 30.

“I chose to serve food on the serving line in the soup kitchen,” said Sgt. Megan McInnis, battle systems operator and orderly room noncommissioned officer, Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th CAB. “I loved interacting with other volunteers and the people coming through the food line. It’s a very humbling experience and I thrive on helping as much I can.”

The BOSS coordinator of the soup kitchen values the time that the Soldiers volunteer and tries to provide many opportunities for them to get involved with the community.

“We try to search for volunteer events and plan them months before they happen which would bet-



Quarters Company, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry



Soldiers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and volunteers from the Front Range help feed the unfortunate at the Marian House Soup Kitchen in Colorado Springs, Colo., July 30. Seven Soldiers from Fort Carson volunteered to help the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program.

ter prepare our volunteers to be able to participate in giving back to the community,” said Spc. Georgina Redman, information technology specialist, 10th Combat Support Hospital. “We try to setup at least three opportunities a month for Soldiers to volunteer through the BOSS program.”

Pfc. Steven Womack, automated logistical specialist, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, felt strong emotions while volunteering at the soup kitchen.

“It felt really good to help out BOSS and the community,” said Womack. “After hearing some of the heart breaking stories from the people coming through and thanking me for their help; I felt an overwhelming rush of emotions and realized that I am making a huge difference by volunteering.”

At the end of the day we helped feed more than

700 people, said McInnis. We then met with the other volunteers whom appreciated our help. All the Soldiers felt an abundant amount of accomplishment and euphoria from volunteering at the end of the day. We helped them clean up the soup kitchen and returned back to Fort Carson to go back to work, said McInnis.

Cooks support Colorado Springs Annual street breakfast



Spc. Herman Reinhold, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Gerber, right, both are food service personnel serving the Colorado Springs Annual Street Breakfast in downtown Colorado Springs, Colo.

Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – At 1 a.m., heat filled the spaces in Fort Carson's mobile kitchens. Within a couple of hours, the aroma of pancakes and eggs filled the air during the Colorado Springs Annual Street Breakfast in downtown Colorado Springs, Colo., June 18.

Fort Carson cooks led by Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Geier, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade's food service advisor, served more than 4500 denizens of Colorado Springs.

"This is my second year being in charge of the

street breakfast," said Geier. "This year, we provided more than 47 Army food service personnel and 30 detail personnel. We set up our mobile kitchen trailers and containerized kitchens in three different areas just after midnight. We served much more people this year than we did last year. It was a very nice turn-out."

The breakfast helps kick-off the city's street rodeo but also helps Fort Carson Families and Soldiers.

"It's great to support Colorado Springs because support us at Fort Carson," said Geier. "It's really amazing to support the surrounding community. The proceeds from this breakfast will be donated



Food service specialists from 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, put pancakes into a serving pan during the event, June 18. Fort Carson food service specialists cooked for the event.

to support Fort Carson Families and Soldiers.”

We enjoyed the event because it shows civilians and Soldiers what we do as Army cooks, said Spc. Herman Reinhold, food service specialist, Headquarters Support Company, 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th CAB.

“The street breakfast allowed our newer Soldiers to experience how to cook on mobile kitchens,” said Reinhold. “It also lets civilian see how we would cook in a tactical environment.”

Although tired from the long day, cooks stayed motivated and loved working with the community and its volunteers, said Spc. Joshua Simanteris, 404th ASB.

“We started pretty early this morning, but Colorado Springs supports us a lot,” said Simanteris. “This is why we love supporting them whenever we can. This is new to me and I think other duty stations should participate in events like this.”

The food service specialists were heart-warmed to receive thanks from locals who ate the event, said Simanteris.

“The ‘thank you’ that stood out the most was from an old Army veteran,” said Simanteris. “The veteran said that he hasn’t eaten Army chow in many years. It’s always a good feeling to hear that from veterans and prior service military.

"SOLDIERS BUILD HOMES"



FOUNTAIN, Colo. – Helping the community is nothing for Soldiers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, who volunteered to build everything from homes for Habitat for Humanity to developing the minds of Pr Heights Elementary children in the surrounding community in the Front Range, April 25.

AMES, DEVELOP MINDS"



Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office



Staff Sgt. Stacy Dubose, supply sergeant, Company B, 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, helps dig holes for fence posts to be built around homes that Habitat for Humanity was building in Fountain, Colo.

FOUNTAIN, Colo. – Helping the community is nothing new for Soldiers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, who volunteered to build everything from homes to building the minds of elementary children in the surrounding communities in the Front Range, April 25.

Ten Soldiers from Company B, 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th CAB, volunteered to help build homes in Fountain, Colo., in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

"I've been doing this for more than 4 years and it's always nice to see our military help out," said Gary Blake, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity construction supervisor. "The CAB Soldiers are always welcome to comeback and they are always a great group. Without them and without volunteers, this would not get done and we appreciate



Prairie Heights Elementary School Faculty give 'thank you' postcard to 404th ASB. Thirty Soldiers from 404th ASB volunteered to help PHES faculty.

them for volunteering."

Some Soldiers have personal reasons for volunteering and appreciate the chance to help out as much as they can.

"I love to volunteer and take every chance I can to get out into the community to help," said Spc. Amber Wood, radio and communications security repairer, 404th ASB. "My love for volunteering grew when I helped out in a soup kitchen in Korea. Helping build homes gave me another chance to continue volunteering and helping those in need."

In addition to building houses, 30 Soldiers volunteered to mentor children and help run the Prairie Heights Elementary School field day in Pueblo, Colo.

"We volunteer to mentor children on a weekly basis," said Spc. Captoria Pointer, avionic and survivability equipment repairer, Company B, 404th ASB, 4th CAB, 4th Inf. Div. "Today, we got to help



Poster to Soldiers from Company B, 404th Aviation Support Battalion during their school field day in Pueblo, Colo., April 25, 2014. Faculty members.

out with their field day. This is our second year doing this and now children know our Soldiers by name.”

The PHES faculty appreciates the help and roles taken on by the 404th Soldiers.

“This is my first year having the Soldiers help,” said Susan Konrad, PHES 2nd grade teacher. “I learned quickly to plan my day around having the Soldiers help. We love them and their family to us.”

PHES’s students look forward to 4th CAB Soldiers visiting for another year and hope to continue building their strong bonds with them.

“The kids have truly connected with the Soldiers and respond them very well,” said Dr. Grant Schmidt, PHES principal. “We need the additional help and the Soldiers are great role models for the children. The comfort levels between the Soldiers, PHES children and the parents have improved



Capt. Jill Seidel, production control officer, Company B, 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, helps build a fence for home that Habitat for Humanity was building in Fountain, Colo.

over the last two years, which has made the mentoring more effective. ”

The CAB’s command supports volunteering and finds as many chances to build better relationships in the communities.

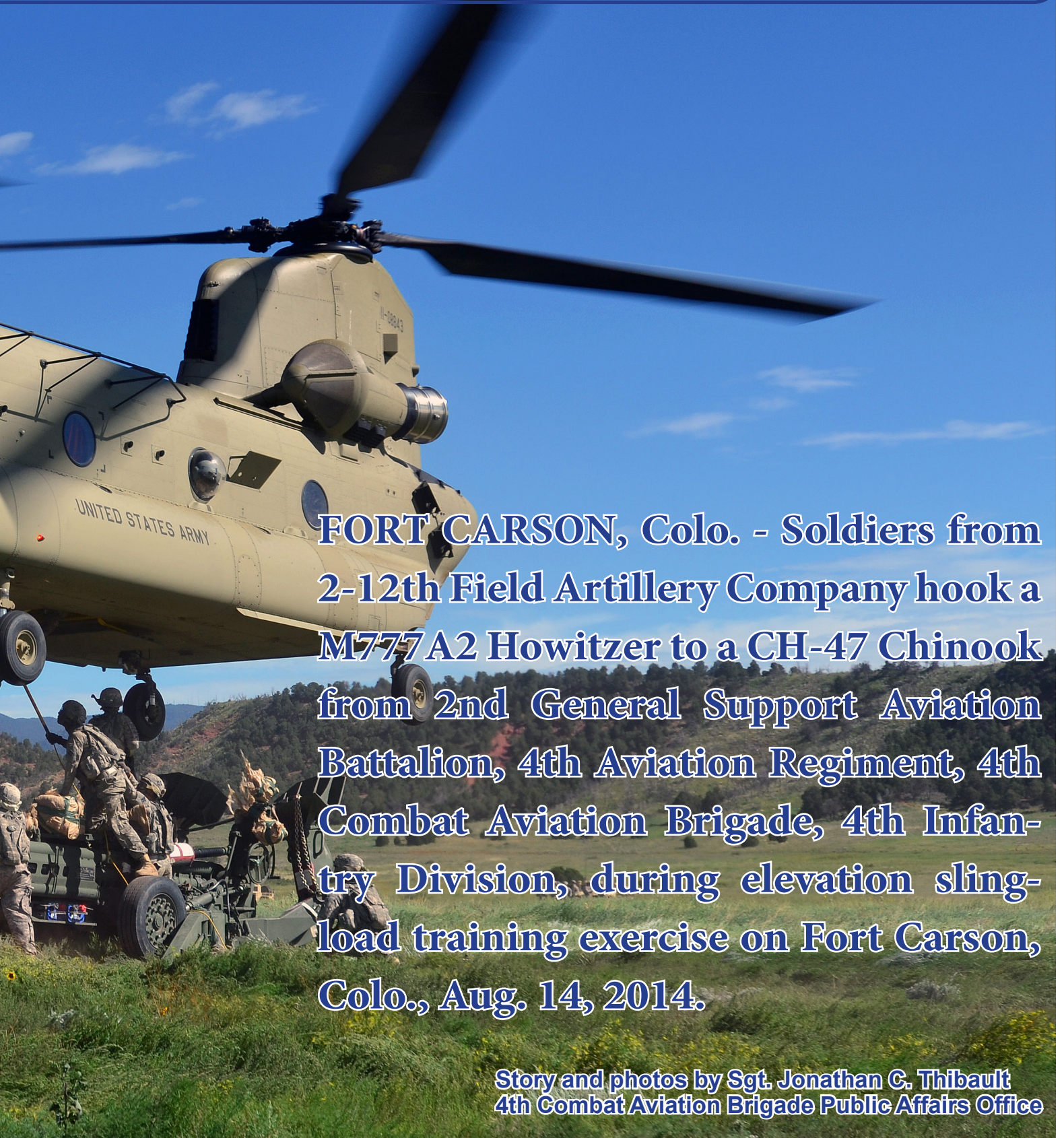
“The 404th ASB command wanted to create an outreach program in support of building the CAB’s culture of selfless service,” said Capt. Jill Seidel, production control officer, Company B, 404th ASB. “I believe this is a great way to get involved with the community. Volunteering inspires Soldiers and lets them know about the opportunities to help out where they can.”

GROUND COMMANDER SUP

“CAB
SLINGS
BIG
GUNS”



PORT SECTION



FORT CARSON, Colo. - Soldiers from 2-12th Field Artillery Company hook a M777A2 Howitzer to a CH-47 Chinook from 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, during elevation sling-load training exercise on Fort Carson, Colo., Aug. 14, 2014.

**Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office**



Soldiers from 2-12th Field Artillery Company hook a M777A2 Howitzer to a CH-47 Chinook from 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, during elevation sling-load training exercise on Fort Carson, Colo.

FORT CARSON, Colo. – Toting guns this big should be illegal but this is a normal task for the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade’s CH-47 Chinook Company as they conducted elevation sling-load training for the first time since activating last April.

An aircrew from Company B, ‘Clydesdales’, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, 4th Infantry Division, conducted M777A2 Howitzer sling-load training with Battery C, ‘Chosen’, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment on Fort Carson, Colo., Aug. 14.

“This is the initial phase of starting sling-load and air assault training,” said Capt. Spencer Carriker, commander, Battery C, 2-12 FA Reg. “We

want to establish baseline knowledge of flight procedures for our Soldiers. We want our Soldiers to be fully able to rig and hook our artillery equipment safely and properly.”

CAB aircrews found it helpful for both the field artillery Soldiers and themselves on how to properly rig their equipment and prepare it for flight.

“I’ve flown more than 500 hours in the air and never sling-loaded a M777A2,” said Capt. Walter Thomas, commander, Company B, 2nd GSAB, 4th Avn. Reg. “Sling-loading is a basic task for Chinook pilots because we learned how to do it in flight school. But there are many considerations to take when dealing with equipment like a Howitzer.”



Soldiers from 2-12th FA prep a M777A2 Howitzer to be sling-loaded to a CH-47 Chinook from 2nd GSAB, 4th Avn. Reg., 4th CAB, 4th Inf. Div., during elevation sling-load training exercise on Fort Carson, Colo.

Battery C artillerymen received training that will improve their ability to move around the battlefield to provide better ground force domination during combat, said Carriker.

“We hope to eventually conduct a live-fire artillery raid which consists of sling-load movements of Howitzers,” said Carriker. “This allows us to get closer to our targets, different entrance in to the battlefield, more stealth, and ability to deliver more accurate firing capabilities.”

The ‘Clydesdale’ aircrews hope to provide more elaborate movement support to the 2-12 FA Reg. in the future.

“We hope to conduct a practice run of the artillery raid with 2-12 FA Reg.,” said Thomas. “Afterwards, conduct a live-fire exercise to provide us with realistic training. It would be beneficial for

both of us to learn how to communicate with each other and make us more effective in combat.”

The ‘Chosen’ Battery wants to create a solid relationship with the CAB to improve the combat capabilities and have a better understanding of aviation procedures.

“Most of the Chinook aircrews have sling-loaded howitzers,” said Carriker. “I believe for [CAB] them, it’s more about creating professional relationships and getting to know the ground commanders. The training for us helped improve both our combat skills and communication skills with the aircrews. We would like to continue this great working relationship with the CAB.”

“Protect, serve and med



Soldiers from 2-12th Field Artillery Company hook a M777A2 Howitzer to a CH-47 Chinook from 2nd General Support Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, during elevation sling-load training exercise on Fort Carson, Colo.

levac”



Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- To protect and serve is a job Soldiers from the 759th Military Police Battalion take pride in. They trained with flight medics to add another life-saving skill to their tool bags.

Soldiers from Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, taught Medical Evacuation, known as MedEvac, training to Soldiers during their 759th MP Battalion “Immortal” Challenge Competition, here, Aug. 7, 2014.

“It was good training for the 759th MPs and us,” said Maj. Eric Carlson, executive officer, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment. “It helped us sharpen our skills and helped them learn new ones. Everyone should know what it is like to call in for MedEvac support and how to properly facilitate the moving of the injured, which could possibly save (a) life.”

MedEvac aircrew members taught MPs many life-saving procedures that are useful domestically, as well as in deployed environments.

“After we ruck marched to our motor pool, we received briefings on MedEvac procedures and first aid from flight medics,” said Spc. Mariana Pearce, a military police Soldier, 984th Military Police Company, 759th MP Battalion. “We started with buddy aid training. The medics then told us about lessons-learned medical applications from deployment, as opposed to how a Soldier would do the same application here in the states.”

Second Lt. Noella Taylor, platoon leader, 984th MPs, helped coordinate MedEvac training for the competition, and sees it as a helpful tool for her military police officers.

“This is a big deal with our company’s culture,” said Taylor. “Our Soldiers are going through events such as MedEvac scenarios, room clearing, first aid lanes and learning about the history of Fort Carson. After rucking more than 15 miles, they are given a written test. The winners will receive an Army Achievement Medal.”

Pearce embraced the competition and set aside her fears.

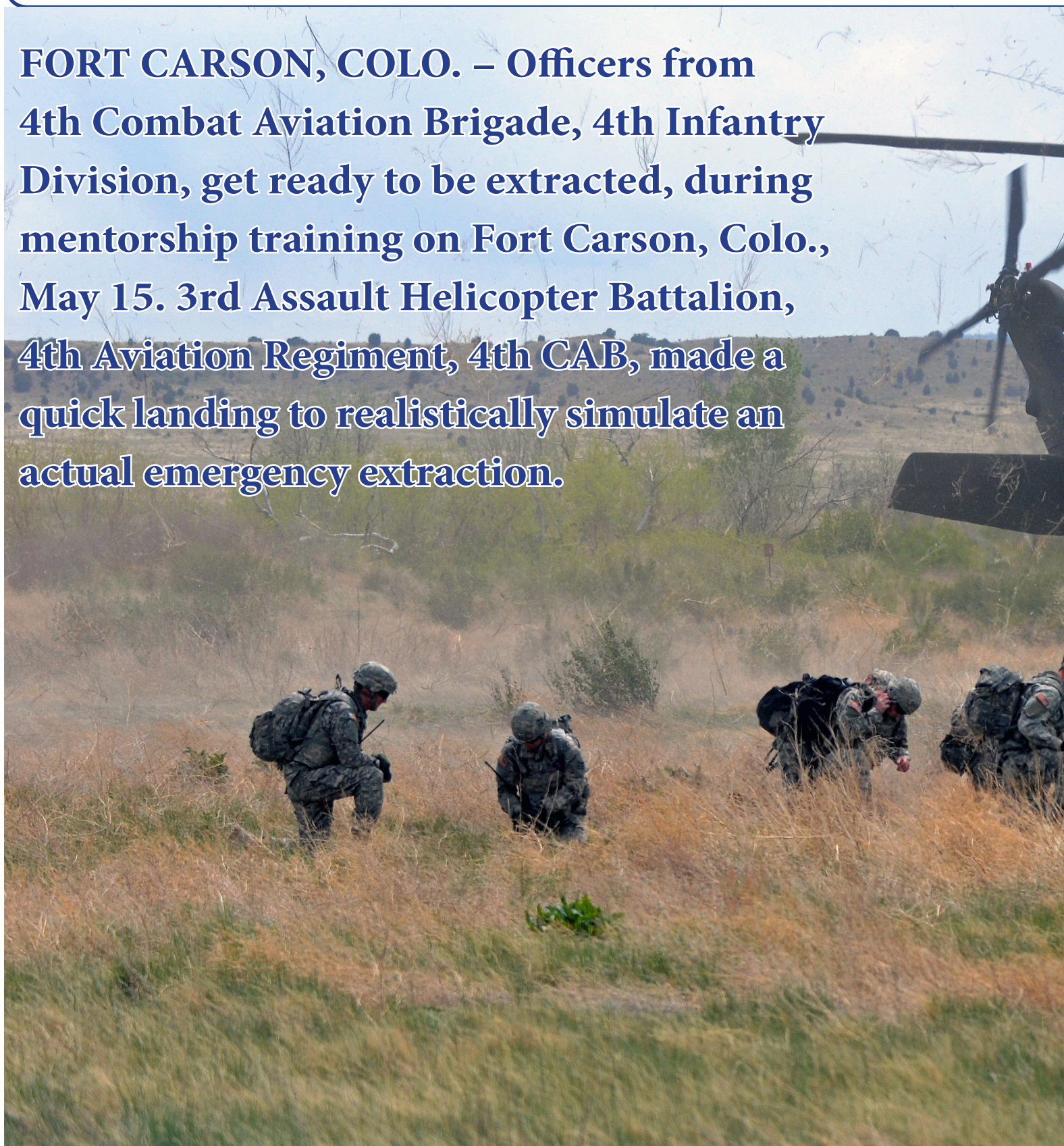
“This will be my first time in a Black Hawk, and I’m terrified of heights,” said Pearce. “I won’t let my fears get in the way of maybe a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fly on a Black Hawk, because who knows if I’ll ever get to do it again.”

The combat aviation brigade Soldiers look forward to bringing realistic and useful training to their fellow Fort Carson ground commanders.

“This is just how we do business,” said Carlson. “It’s a part of our unit’s initiative and culture to supply the best training and support to all ground commanders who need, or want it. We are honored to support them.”

TRAINING SECTION

FORT CARSON, COLO. – Officers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, get ready to be extracted, during mentorship training on Fort Carson, Colo., May 15. 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, made a quick landing to realistically simulate an actual emergency extraction.



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“CAB MENTORSHIP TEACHES LEADERSHIP”

Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office



Officers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, call-in a 9-line to medevac a simulated injured Soldier during mentorship training on Fort Carson, Colo.

FORT CARSON, COLO. – Rigorous, relevant, and realistic training is the training model used to teach Soldiers and Leaders of the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, who conducted leader mentorship training on Fort Carson, Colo., May 15.

Mentorship training was conducted to set positive conditions to help mentor the junior officers of the unit,” said Maj. Eric Megerdoomian, executive officer, 4th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

“The intent is developing trust and sense of value from the mentor,” said Megerdoomian. “We created this by doing hard, important and real training that will challenge the officers.”

4th CAB officers did training that depicted the

worst case scenarios that the leaders might be presented with in their future.

“We want our leaders to be able to react quickly if they get shot down in an unsafe environment,” said Megerdoomian. “We also want them to be able to use the newest radio equipment, conduct self-extraction from hostile areas, and to evacuate an injured Soldier and perform other important medical procedures.”

The officers received important training that will help them lead Soldiers when they return to their units.

“The mentorship taught us to look beyond the tasks at hand, identify why a leader is doing the mission, and what a leader needs to do to complete the objective of the overall mission,” said Lt. Clayton



Staff Sgt. Andrew Quiroz, left, medical noncommissioned officer, 4th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, evaluates Lt. Marc Knutson, top right, assistant operations officer, 4-4 ARB, as he puts a tourniquet on Lt. Jason Hunt, bottom right, distribution platoon leader, Company E, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Avn. Reg., 4th CAB, during mentorship training on Fort Carson, Colo.

Hancock, assistant operations officer, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Avn. Reg., 4th CAB. "This mindset will help leaders give their Soldiers motivation to fight and help them to become more efficient at their warrior tasks."

4-4 ARB medical professionals provided the medical training for the mentorship and believe it is important asset that the officers can take back to their units.

"We provided a medical noncommissioned officer, flight surgeon and a physician assistant to give the best medical training to our officers," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Quiroz, medical noncommissioned officer, 4-4 ARB. "We want them to be confident and

able to perform treatments at a moment's notice. The training allows them to face adverse medical scenarios to know what right is and be able to properly train their Soldiers."

The junior officers look forward teaching their Soldiers about the philosophies of leadership they learned from the mentorship.

"I plan on taking the things I've learned from the mentorship and implement some small group tactical training for my Soldiers," said Hancock. "This type of training is the framework for teamwork. This is the best mentorship training I've had which teaches both strategy and tactics."



Soldiers from Task Force Aviation, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, participate in Vibrant Response 14 at

CAB tests medevac, decon response

Story by Sgt. Sgt. Melissa C. Parrish
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — The sounds of helicopters hovering over Camp Atterbury, Ind., were just one indication that Soldiers from Task Force Aviation, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Carson had arrived for Vibrant

Response 2014.

The major field training exercise, conducted July 21-29, 2014, by U.S. Northern Command, and led by U.S. Army

North, tested about 5,500 service members and civilians from the military and other federal and state agencies throughout the country on responding to a catastrophic domestic incident.



Camp Atterbury, Ind., July 24. (Photo by Maj. Andrew Ruiz)

The 4th CAB Soldiers focused their training on medevacs. Pilots, crew chiefs and flight medics awaited emergency calls from the flight line to evacuate wounded individuals to hospitals or chemical decontamination sites.

The flight crews received their first call and dashed to their Black Hawk to help survivors from a mock vehicle crash. Members of the flight crews said they appreciate the type of training environment.

"This type of training is critical for everyone on the mission," said 1st Lt. Zachariah Bingaman,



Soldiers from Task Force Aviation, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency during Vibrant Response 14 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., July 24, 2014. (Photo by Maj. Andrew Ruiz)

Black Hawk pilot, 4th CAB. "Medical evacuations are constantly changing. This allows us to thoroughly train from start to finish and ensures we are all prepared for anything.

"Everyone did a great job with the mission that we were given," said Bingaman. "We were able to complete the training with sufficient time ... time is important for what we do."

Sgt. David Burson, flight medic, 4th CAB, said putting the pressure on the crew holds serious importance for its training and helps it to be the best at what it does.

"As a flight medic, we are required to have knowledge on many different injuries," said Burson. "In a real-life emergency event there is more than likely going to be more than one person injured. This is an ideal type of training environment.



Soldiers from Task Force Aviation, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, conducting sling-load operations during Vibrant Response 14 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., July 24, 2014. (Photo by Maj. Andrew Ruiz)



A Soldier from Task Force Aviation, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, carries a backboard to transport an injured role player to a helicopter during a medical evacuation training exercise as part of Vibrant Response 14 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., July 24, 2014. (Photo by Sgt. Melissa C. Parrish)



Soldiers from Task Force Aviation, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, work with civilian medical personnel on the ground to transport role players from the simulated vehicle accident scene during Vibrant Response 14 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., July 24, 2014. (Photo by Sgt. Melissa C. Parrish)

“Reading it in a book is one thing, but putting your hands on a patient that can interact with you adds a whole new experience to your medical training,” said Burson.

Another facet of Vibrant Response 14 that the CAB facilitated was the Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response Force.

Capt. Joseph Alvarez, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear officer, 4th CAB, was in charge of organizing decontamination support for the civil authorities.

“We helped coordinate landing zones near decontamination sites as well as providing the commander with guidance on how to remain within low contamination levels,” said Alvarez. “We are in a support role here. The civilian authorities are in the lead in this scenario and we are here to support them and help provide them with all of the

resources we can.”

Lt. Col. Tyler Smith, commander, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th CAB, believes this training has been valuable to everyone participating.

“It is a unique experience to get our Soldiers pushed out of Fort Carson in a rapid deployment mindset and to come into an exercise that resembles an urgent condition,” said Smith. “Vibrant Response is a different situation than we are used to. Civilian authorities are in charge here and we are in the support role.

“Recognizing there are differences that we have to adjust to and work through those friction points are key. The only way you get to practice that is at a training event where everyone involved in an emergency exercise is actively participating and communicating with each other,” said Smith.



Spc. Michael Elizondo, air traffic control specialist, Company F, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, prepares to run simulated aircraft landing approaches during Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System training at Butts Army Airfield, June 27.

ATCs conduct blind approaches

Story and photos by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

Aircrews learned quickly during last year's fire and flood rescues how bad visibility can affect their missions. Air traffic controllers from 4th Combat Aviation Brigade spent the last year perfecting and training hard on a radar system that can help mitigate the risks with missions involving low visibility.

Air traffic control specialists from Company F, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Avia-

tion Regiment, 4th CAB, 4th Infantry Division, conducted training throughout the month of June, 2014, on Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System at Butts Army Airfield on Fort Carson.

"We are going through our readiness level progression stages," said Sgt. 1st Class Erik Wacker, Company F, 2nd GSAB, 4th Avn. Reg. "After a year of training on the equipment, most of our personnel are RLP one certified, which makes our radar team fully functional.

"We are trying to get our controllers rated to RLP



ent, 4th Combat Aviation
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Spc. Kenneth Jones, air traffic controller specialist, Company F, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, runs checks on an Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System during training at Butts Army Airfield.



four, so our ATCs can be extremely efficient and knowledgeable at controlling the airspace,” said Wacker.

“There are four RLP stages,” he said. “To complete stage one, the ATC has to know how to use the radar equipment. Stage two includes directing air traffic efficiently. Stage three involves getting an exam from a certified examiner. Finally, stage four involves the successful completion of guiding blind and emergency approaches.”

The ATNAVIC system is a tactical radar system that provides a rapid air traffic control response for conditions that keep the air traffic control tower from working effectively.

“I remember using this system when I was in

Basra, Iraq,” said Wacker. “There was a big sand-storm with a large amount of rain behind it. This made it very hard for aircrews to see. I had to guide in a 737 aircraft containing more than 200 people. I don’t rate any radar system above another, but this system is really great.”

The ATNAVIC system would work well in domestic emergency missions, said Spc. Kenneth Jones, Company F, 2nd GSAB, 4th Avn. Reg.

“Although we did not get to use the system during last year’s (Black Forest) fires and (Boulder) floods, I believe it could be useful in any emergency that we may be called to in the future,” said Jones. “It would be useful in situations in which aircrews are traveling through smoke, debris and inclement weather.”

We look forward to getting our entire terminal platoon rated on the ATNAVIC system, said Wacker.

“I’ve been training on this system for a year,” said Jones. “I am very confident in our abilities, which makes it easier if we are called to use this equipment. I love working with this system and being able to train (on it) makes us better air traffic controllers.”



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, conduct a hot refuel on an AH-64E Apache during training at Fort Irwin, Calif., May 21. (Photo by Maj. Andrew Ruiz)

1-25 ARB heats up training

Story by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Heat radiating from blazing hot barrels and a furious sun added to the training obstacles aviation Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, faced as they conducted their rotation at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif., May 21, 2014.

Fort Carson pilots from Company C, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Reg., 25th Infantry Division, tested their new AH-64E Apaches and learned about their capabilities.

“We are at NTC to validate our pilots, integrate

with the greater task force and perform aircraft maintenance to get us ready for deployment,” said Capt. Joshua Brown, commander, Company C, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Reg. “We have tested the AH-64E, and it has surpassed a lot of our expectations.”

The battalion is the newest addition to the 25th Inf. Div.’s aviation fleet.

“We have conducted many situational training exercises to show how we improve the 25th Avn. Reg.’s capabilities,” said Brown. “We are proud to work with our unit’s ground forces. We hope to support them and any other units to the best of our abilities.”

The pilots discovered many advantages of the



g their rotation at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin,

new Apache model.

"We have found that the newer model has a more powerful engine, giving pilots better maneuvering abilities," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ryan Brescher, company maintenance test pilot. "It helps us get a better line of sight on our objectives and engage any aggressive entities. We have noted the differences between the delta and echo models of the AH-64 Apache, which lets us (articulate) our capabilities to anyone we support."

Apache pilots found NTC to be a great training area to improve communication with ground assets.

"We had many opportunities to work with ground forces during (the training), which especially helps our new pilots," said Brescher. "Our integration with the ground forces has allowed us



Pilots from 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, conduct training with their new AH-64E Apache during their rotation at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif. (Photo by Barry Smith)

to see how they plan and make us more proficient at accommodating their needs from the air."

Brown said the training at NTC is invaluable and he knows that the Soldiers of his company will be well versed in the operations they must perform when called upon.

"I'm glad to be attending this training because it helps our junior pilots become more proficient," said Brown. "It also allows us to perform and create our own standard operating procedures and fighting techniques."

Soldiers learn improved interagency communications



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, conduct a hot refuel on an AH-64E Apache during their rotation at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif., May 21. (Photo by Maj. Andrew Ruiz)

Story by Sgt. Jonathan C. Thibault
4th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office

FORT CARSON, COLO. – Communication is the most important factor in any emergency situation which is why 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division signal Soldiers conducted ACU 2000 controller training on Fort Carson, Colo., April 23.

The ACU 2000 system joins disparate voice communications systems, allowing them to be flexibly connected together, monitored, and controlled over a network, said Kenneth Willey, satellite communications engineer, Joint Task Force Civil Support.

“This provides different agencies the interoperability to communicate with each other even though they use different voice systems,” said Willey. “If the radio system uses sound and voice; it can connect it.”

The system helps with communication between the civil agencies and military assets.

“Our aircrews experienced some difficulty with communicating with ground crews during the Black Forest fires and Boulder floods,” said Master Sgt. Michael Rogers, brigade signal noncommissioned officer, 4th CAB. “The system will help bridge the communication gap with other civilian emergency agencies that use different radios and

frequencies.”

The system will also help the CAB with their upcoming Defense CBRNE (Chemical, Radiological, Biological, Nuclear, and Explosive) Response Force mission exercise.

“We will predominantly work with civilian first responders and government agencies during the exercise,” said Rogers. “The largest difficulty faced through interagency functionality is communicating because all the different radio systems that are being used. The system will make voice radios of all kinds become compatible and speak a common language which allows for more free flowing communication.”

Some Radio operators have never used the ACU 2000 system, and find the equipment very useful and look forward to using it for missions in the future.

“I’ve been dealing with different radio systems for the last five years,” said Sgt. Dorlis Colon, system support systems specialist, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 4th CAB. “This is the first time I’ve ever used or seen the ACU 2000. I was involved in both the fires and floods last year. The system makes it easier because you can use the system from the ground, which frees up more aircraft to do the mission instead of having to do aerial command and control. It also is very easy to learn and use.”

