

TRIPLE NICKEL TRIBUNE

"Willing and Able!" - "Always Ready"

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



Fall

Message from the Commander

Colonel Timothy Holman,
"Able 6"

Triple Nickel Team,



Welcome to the fall edition of our newsletter. Inside you will find examples of the hard work being done by our Willing and Able Soldiers, Families, and leaders across the Triple Nickel Brigade.

Our training remains a top priority and the last three months have been no exception. With rotations to Yakima, Satsop, and NTC, our units have maintained a high state of readiness.

We welcomed home the 570th Sapper Company, and wished the 573rd CMT good luck as they deployed to Afghanistan. The 557th Engineer Company deactivated as part of the continuing restructuring of the Brigade.

The brigade continues to expand its successful partnership program, working with USACE, the City of Roy, and the Pioneer Middle School in DuPont. We have some great events coming, most importantly the Hearts and Heroes Ball on 27 February, and I hope to see you there.

With a new year comes new opportunities, and I know you will face them with the determination and skill you have shown in the past three months. I hope you and your Family enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Outstanding job this fall Triple Nickel!

Willing & Able!

- Col. Holman, 'Able 6'



570th Sapper Company salute the flag during their redeployment ceremony on Joint Base Lewis-McCord.

As the year closes, the 555th prepares for new challenges ahead

Story by Cpt. Bryan Perrenod
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

JBLM — The 555th Engineer Brigade has completed another quarter, and closes out another year. We welcomed Soldiers home, and farewelled those leaving.

The restructuring continues, and the brigade saw the casing of the 557th Engineer Company's colors. Looking to the new year, the brigade prepares for additional inactivation's in the 864th.

We welcomed home the 570th Sapper Company from their deployment to Afghanistan. As with every homecoming, we are happy our Soldiers returned safely. Though no major deployments are on the horizon, the brigade continues to prepare for when the nation calls. The 864th Engineer Battalion will conduct a rotation at the National Training Center in March 2015.

Training never stops and the brigade has completed much these last few months—from demolition training at Yakima Training Center, to multiple projects with our partners. The 110th Chemical Battalion participated in a joint exercise, Gry-

phon Longsword, partnering with multiple units on JBLM. 3rd EOD Battalion has seen the same high level of training, completing multiple exercises and platoon certifications.

The brigade's partnership programs will continue to grow in the future, with an education program with DuPont middle school set to begin in late February. Engineer Soldiers will show middle school students how engineering can be applied and what professional opportunities are available. A new year and new opportunities arise.

**See inside for examples of the brigade's tough ongoing training.*



"Demolition training conducted by 571st Sapper at YTC."

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At A Glance...

- ◆ 555TH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO GROW
- ◆ FULLY IMMERSSED IN TRAINING TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE MISSIONS
- ◆ UNITS PREPARE FOR REDUCTIONS AND OTHER CHANGES AS BRIGADE TRANSFORMS AND DOWNSIZES
- ◆ HEARTS AND HEROES BALL WILL BE HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY AT THE AMERICAN LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER
- ◆ 555TH CONSISTS OF 3 BATTALIONS AND OTHER DETACHMENTS AT JBLM

Inside this issue...

COMMAND SGT. MAJ.'S CORNER. HHC TURKEY BOWL	2
SANTA'S CASTLE RUCK MARCH	3
BRIGADE'S FIRST HELOCAST TRAINING	4
MUSEUM FOX PAD PROJECT SOLO POINT TRAIL JOINT PROJECT	5
570TH SAPPER WELCOME HOME	6
864TH ENGINEER BATTALION PAGE	7
3RD EOD BATTALION PAGE	8
110TH CHEM. BATTALION PAGE	9
BRIGADE HHC UPDATE SAPPER DEMOLITIONS AT YAKIMA	10
LEGAL UPDATE	11
MEDICAL NOTES CHAPLAIN'S CLOSING	12-13



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

Triple Nickel Family,

This fall provided many challenges, as the brigade prepares for the future and honors the past. Our Soldiers have met these challenges with professionalism and skill, and I am impressed by the work they are able to achieve.

Our requirements are not going away, in fact they will continue, with Warfighter 15-03, NTC rotations, and projects with our partners.

Whatever task is given to our Soldiers, they set the bar high. The 864th continues to work with our community, with projects on Solo Point trail to building a display pad for the JBLM Museum. We have two outstanding Soldiers—SGT Harrison and PFC Tavani—who were recently selected as the brigade's NCO and Soldier of the Quarter. Excellent Job!

"This time of year is as much about preparing for a new year as honoring our past"

This time of year is as much about preparing for a new year as honoring our past. Many thanks goes to all that helped support our brigade wreath laying ceremony at the Triple Nickel Memorial and to those that volunteered for the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at the Evergreen cemetery.

Thank you for your hard work and meet this new year head on!

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

NCOs take the title in the annual Turkey Bowl!



By U.S. Army Cpt. Bryan Perrenod
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs


JBLM, Wash — The 555th Engineer Brigade hosted its annual Turkey Bowl on November 25th, pitting the NCOs and Officers against each other in a time honored tradition.

The field was waterlogged from constant rain, with pools of water littering the field. The coin is tossed and the game begins, NCOs have the ball first.

The first drive sees success, the NCOs scoring an early lead.

The Officers return the favor, marching down the field for a touchdown. The game proceeded in a splash filled slug match, with the NCOs and Officers trading touchdowns and turnovers.

Late in the game, the NCOs succeed in holding their lead by one touchdown. As the time ticked down, the Officers attempted a final push to stave off defeat. They drive down the field, but are stopped short and time is called. The NCOs win the turkey bowl.



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!

[Facebook.com/555enbde](https://www.facebook.com/555enbde)

Cpt. Bryan Perrenod. Reach me by email at
bryan.r.perrenod.mil@mail.mil



SFC Williams slips in one of the
many pools as his flag is stripped



Community Matters: 555th Engineers ruck early, spread Christmas cheer

By U.S. Army Sgt. Cody Quinn
28th Public Affairs Detachment

JBLM, Wash. — Soldiers with the 555th Engineer Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, performed their annual Santa's Castle Ruck March to support service members' families this holiday season.

"Every year, 555th gets together and collects donations and gifts for Santa's Castle to give to needy Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Antoin Moultrie, event coordinator with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 555th Eng. Bde. "It's our favorite time of the year, and we do it every year."

Members of the 555th Eng. Bde. Formed up in a variety of festive outfits—their assault packs loaded with toys—and marched approximately 2.5 miles to trucks waiting to haul the gifts to Santa's Castle.



Santa joins the Triple Nickel on its early morning Santa's Castle ruck march.

"(The brigade) does this annually to bring in a large donation of toys for us, which we in turn give back out to service members who have some sort of financial hardship," said Lisa Bennett, president of Santa's Castle.

Santa's Castle is an organization that collects gifts and donations for service members' children. Last year, Santa's Castle [was] able to give gifts to 2,751 children and collected approximately \$150,000 worth of toys from donations, Bennett said.

"Each person usually brings about two gifts," Moultrie said. "We collect about 500-600 gifts, at a rough guess. It's a way to pay forward to Soldiers."

Donations are targeted to Soldiers—specialist and below—that are experiencing financial hardship, Bennett said.

"They have to be referred through their command: first sergeant, chaplain or commander. We've already closed referrals for this year so already have all our families that we're going to be taking care of," Bennett said.

The Soldiers of the 555th Eng. Bde. were all smiles as they dropped off a variety of toys—from action figures to puzzles and everything in between.

"They love it," Moultrie said with a grin. "They get a light day of PT and get to give gifts to needy Soldiers. I know I love it. It's my fifth time and I love doing it."



The Brigade on the march to drop off the toys for Santa's Castle.



Soldiers of the 555th Engineer Brigade in line to drop off toys headed to Santa's Castle.



Triple Nickel Brigade takes a photo with Santa's Castle following the toy drop



In the News: Triple Nickel engineers engage in helocast training

By SSG Jennifer Spradlin
28th Public Affairs Detachment

JBLM Wash — A crowd gathered along the shoreline at American Lake listening for the distinct whir of the helicopter and then the first glimpse of it over the trees. Agile and power, it hovered briefly over the water, sending spray into the air like mist. Within moments, a Soldier stood at the edge of the Chinook ramp and then dropped off into the cold water below. As he popped back to the surface, another Soldier joined him in the lake and then another. One-by-one they exited the helicopter and made their way to the shore, where other service members and a few spouses greeted them with enthusiasm.

It was the first helocast, inserting troops via helicopter into an [area] by water, conducted by the 555th Engineer Brigade as part of the unit's Sapper Leader Course pre-training. Sapper is an elite course, primarily for combat engineers, which develops Soldiers by challenging their leadership and endurance during 28 days of demolitions, mountaineering, land navigation and a variety of other necessary infantry and job specific skills. Waterborne operations is on aspect of the training.

"Based on my own experi-

ence, I wouldn't send anyone to the course without doing pre-training. The training gives the Soldiers an idea of what to expect, increasing their chance to earn the tab," said Master Sgt. Bon Batchan, 555th Engineer Brigade assistant operations noncommissioned officer.

In order to pass the course, the Soldiers must earn 700 out of 1000 points while completing the events. According to statistics from the official Army Sapper website, only 52 percent of Soldiers typically earn enough points. Since the brigade began their pre-training, the success rate for their Soldiers has been 75 percent. The addition of the helocast training is another step towards rounding out the Soldiers, said Batchan.

As someone who has completed prior helocasts and is Sapper qualified, Batchan said his biggest advice to his Soldiers was to set aside their fear.

"The true Soldier within comes out when you are able to face adversity and control your fear. I told them to do things safely, follow the training and have a good time," he said.

The Sapper distinction is similar to be Ranger qualified, he said, and was a sign of distinction within the engineer branch. It should be something all combat engineers strive for, he said, and



555th Engineer Brigade Soldiers jump out of a CH-47 as part of the brigade's Sapper pre-training program.

for that reason, although the course is for Soldiers who are specialists promotable and above, the training included junior enlisted Soldiers.

For Pfc. Andrew Wagner, a combat engineer with the 571st Sapper Company, 864th Engineer Battalion, the helocast was a bit of a blur. It was, he said, his first time on a helicopter to begin with.

"Waiting for the helicopter to come up, the suspense while you hover above the ground before takeoff and then they're calling out two minutes, one minute, and then it's like 'Alright, we're going.' It all happened so fast," Wagner said. "It wasn't tough or scary once I got the jitters out. But the first thing

that went through my mind when I jumped out was, 'Where am I?' I started swimming the wrong way at first!"

Wagner said the helocast training was both a confidence builder and an opportunity for his unit to become proficient so they could train other units.

"We train as we fight. We are constantly doing things to better ourselves as Soldiers, so that when it comes down to it we're ready for any mission," he added. "It's similar to when you go to a range and you shoot 40 out of 40 targets. It builds your confidence so that when you're [called upon], you know you can outdo the enemy."



555th Engineer Brigade Soldiers take part in a Helocast exercise as part of the brigade's pre-Sapper training program. Soldiers jump from a CH-47 into American Lake, and swim to shore with their ruck sack as part of the training.



864th and JBLM Museum's unique partnership

By U.S. Army Cpt. Bryan Perrenod
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

JBLM, Wash — The 864th Engineer Battalion and the Joint Base Lewis McChord Museum joined in a unique partnership to complete a project that benefit the Army and taxpayers. The JBLM Museum had a new vehicle to display, the FOX CBRNE Reconnaissance Vehicle, but the Museum lacked a pad to display the new vehicle. Always up for a new training opportunity, the

864th Engineer Battalion volunteered to help complete the project.

Starting in October, Soldiers from the 864th began working on the site, first surveying and then beginning the hard work of preparing the ground for the eventual concrete pad.

Using their unique skills and equipment, they quickly dug out the ground and leveled what would be the foundation of the pad. The next step in the project was the compaction of the soil.

The reason for this is to ensure that once complete and time goes on, the pad remains level. If the soil is not compacted, irregularities form and what was once a smooth and level concrete slab will turn into an uneven and cracked collection of concrete.

Once the ground was prepared, the next phase began.

Soldiers skilled in placing



Soldiers with the 864th Engineer Battalion work on the foundation of what will be the concrete pad for the vehicle display.

concrete came in, building the wooden frame of the pad to hold the poured concrete. Laying steel rebar to reinforce the structure that would have to hold an armored vehicle, they then added the final piece, the concrete.

It was placed, shoveled, scraped, and smoothed till the final shape was achieved. De-

spite the weather in the Pacific Northwest, the Soldiers of the 864th completed the project on schedule.

Please head over to the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Museum to see the completed work. The FOX vehicle is on display for all to see, thanks to the Soldiers of the Triple Nickel.



Final touches are put on the concrete pad before letting it set to dry.

Solo Point: Joint project between Army and Air Force

By U.S. Army Cpt. Bryan Perrenod
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

JBLM Wash — Solo point trail is a scenic route part of North Fort just outside the cantonment area, and long used by units and Families for running and hiking. Solo point road is part of the JBLM training area and connects with this trail. It has been a muddy and washed out road that is rarely used and was difficult to traverse.

Soldiers of the 864th Engineer Battalion and the U.S. Air Force sought to correct that. The scope of the project was build a new paved road that would provide a safe alternative



617th Soldiers compact the road to prepare for the asphalt.

for Soldiers and Families to use and for units to easily access the training area.

The 617th Engineer Company provided the heavy lifting, clearing the old road, filling the many dips, and leveling the surface. Once complete they began compacting the road to ensure it

had the proper density for the weight of vehicles that might travel over it. Gravel was brought in and what was once a muddy washed out trail began to look more and more like a finished road. Once the gravel had been compacted and the road was cleared, the next stage began.

In partnership with the Air Force, asphalt was brought in and laid on the gravel foundation. Racing against the weather, Army and Air Force continued work, laying asphalt and repairing the road where it needed it.

With this phase of the project complete, the 864th will

return to Solo point early in 2015 to complete the final phase of the project, allowing units and Families access to Solo point safely.



864th Soldiers test the compaction of the road to ensure it is ready for the next step.



570th Sapper Company Comes Home

By Kevin Knodell
The Ranger

JBLM, Wash — On Oct. 18, the 570th Sapper Company of the 555th Engineer Brigade—The Triple Nickel—returned from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. It was an early morning. Friends and Families of the Soldiers sat patiently at Joint Base Lewis-McCord at the 110th Chemical Battalion Readiness Bay. Brigade Commander Col. Timothy Holman casually made his way around the crowd, chatting with them as they waited for their loved ones.

Then, a garage door nearby opened. The 570th was marching in. The crowd cheered. But the door abruptly shut as the sappers tried to enter. The crowd laughed. A Soldier worked hastily to reopen the door.

The 570th wasn't home yet. The door opened again and the engineers marched in to more cheers. Then they stood in formation, waiting to be reunited with their families. Then some brief remarks, an obligatory prayer, and the customary playing of the national anthem. It was kept short.

The Soldiers were promptly

released. Friends and Family rushed to greet them. A large group there to meet PFC Ben Vaivao mobbed the Soldier. Children wrapped their arms around him, squeezing him tightly. Friends and relatives heaped leis around his neck, some made of flowers, other constructed from candy bars.

PFC Robert Flores grinned widely as he held his daughter Beatriz for the first time, holding her close. His wife, Reyna, said their daughter was just 3 weeks old. Flores said he's looking forward to relaxing with his family.

During their deployment, the company mostly conducted route clearance operations—looking for roadside bombs and explosives on Afghan roads and to keep them from hurting anyone—whether that be international troops or local civilians.

PFC David Ferrando was the lead Husky driver. The Husky is a vehicle the engineers use to detect mines and bombs during route clearance operations. It was a lot to take in—this was his first deployment. But he said his training prepared him for it. "You get used to it real fast," he said.

"If anything we had too

much training," said 1st LT Seth Johnson. Triple Nickel has a reputation for intensive training. Johnson said he and his men had trained for the worst-case scenarios, but encountered mostly routine operations during their deployment. He said his Soldiers got restless at times. "Complacency was one of our biggest challenges," he said.

But they always had to be cautious. Ferrando said that as the man driving the Husky, he felt a tremendous amount of pressure to stay vigilant and aware of his surroundings. "If you miss something, and somebody gets hurt, that's your fault," he said. "Thankfully nothing like that happened."

They were stationed in Northern Afghanistan. During their deployment, they worked closely with allied troops. They frequently worked with German, Dutch, Belgian and Swedish troops. "Every mission was multi-national," said Johnson. He said they formed close bonds with their allies—particularly the Germans. He said German infantry regularly provided security for their operations.

During their mission they witnessed the drawdown of NATO troops as they prepared to hand over operations to the Afghans. While they were there, they saw several bases close as more coalition troops packed up to leave and cease operations. Because of the nature of their



PFC Ben Vaivao is greeted with heaps of leis. Photo credit: Kevin Knodell

job, he said they didn't get to interact much with the local troops that will take over. But Johnson said he did have the opportunity to see [some] development projects like women's schools.

Afghanistan's future is uncertain as western troops leave. Last month, Ashraf Ghani became the country's new president after a hotly contested election and accused of fraud. As Afghan troops prepare to take the lead on security many in Afghanistan and the West feel apprehensive about the nation's future.

Some worry that Afghan troops and police aren't ready. Other fear that corruption and mismanagement of development funds by Afghan leaders could threaten reconstruction and reconciliation process. The political situation is complex—as will be any solution to the nation's woes.

But now that Johnson and his men are back safe, his plans are simple.

"Take a shower, get some Starbucks."



Pfc. Robert Flores holds his daughter Beatriz for the first time as he reunites with friends and family. Photo credit: Kevin Knodell



864th Engineer Battalion Quarterly Update



CPT George uncases the color of the 570th Sapper Company during their redeployment ceremony, marking the unit's return to JBLM.

By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Sarah Gorham
864th En. Bn. Public Affairs

Greetings Pacemaker Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

As we look ahead to this Holiday Season and New Year, let us reflect on our accomplishments, growth, and milestones achieved in 2014. This past year has been full of missions, training, challenges and accomplishments; it is only right to reflect back on our achievements with pride while also excitedly anticipating all the missions and training ahead. The Pacemaker Soldiers and Leaders would like to do a roll up of the highlights of 2014 as well as a preview of the exciting opportunities to come!

The Pacemakers started out the year completing RESET and a Campaign on Property Accountability. Training never stopped as the Pacemakers conducted ranges, Sergeant's Time Training, Staff Exercises, and Company Field Exercises. We put our training and readiness to the test with Pacemakers Stakes, a competition of individual Soldiers tasks, and numerous certification

exercises including Live Fire training, trips to the National Training Center and Yakima Training Center. As always, we Set the Pace throughout our construction missions here on JBLM at the airfield, museum, Solo Point and elsewhere as well as joint missions in Malaysia, Canada and New Zealand.

The battalion has changed quite a bit with the additions of 610th Engineer Support Company, 571st Sapper Company, 570th Sapper Company and 22nd Engineer Clearance Company. Concurrently, our construction companies are still set to inactivate in support of our changing mission. We bid farewell to 557th Engineer Company in October. Animals Lead the Way! 617th Engineer Company is set to inactivate in the spring followed by 585th Engineer Company. Though changes and transitions are the nature of the Army, we hope to make the restructure as smooth as possible for our Soldiers and Families. Please utilize our Family Readiness Groups and Social Media network to get

involved and stay informed!

We most recently welcomed the 570th Sapper Company (Fido) back home from their deployment as well as 22nd ECC earlier this year. It is always a pleasure to welcome our Soldiers and Leaders home, even more so in time for the Holidays! Welcome home and good job Fido!

The Staff, Leaders and Soldiers are already gearing up for this coming year. Planning for a certification exercises in California and Yakima is well underway. 617th is working hard towards their fast approaching inactiva-



CPT Larson and 1SG Brown case 557th Engineer Company's colors during the unit's inactivation ceremony.

tion date. 570th has begun reset and will soon be back in the training groove. Ranges and training for all the companies has been reserved and preparation is ongoing. The Pacemakers are ready to hit the ground running



in 2015.

This update would not be complete without reflecting on all the good times we've celebrated. From Company organizational days to sports competitions, the Pacemakers have made it a point to play hard. We celebrated Thanksgiving in the Dining Facility, a hard fought Turkey Bowl, weekly Officers

sports, Halloween Trunk or Treats and much more. However, the highlight is definitely the Battalion Ball. Our immensely successful ball included dancing, grog and 585th Horizontal Company reclaiming the Commander's Cup. Way to go Roughnecks!

The Pacemakers would like to wish you all a Safe and Happy Holidays and New Year!

Thanks again to all who dedicate your personal time in support of the unit; you are essential to our success.



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

Greetings from the Nighthawk Battalion. Winter is here but Soldiers of the 3D Ordnance Battalion (EOD) haven't gone into hibernation. Their response coverage to Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Montana and the War on Terror is plowing ahead smoothly. Whether at home or abroad, a robust training and events calendar follows 3D Ordnance Battalion Soldiers. The December Mission Training Briefing is the latest planning effort between the 71st Ordnance Group, Battalion, and Company Command Team's to keep Soldiers eyes on target. The Group

3d EOD Battalion Quarterly Update

Commander and Command Sergeant Major's attendance and inspections were successfully conducted and training plans were nailed down.

EOD Soldiers showed commendable generosity during the last quarter, making more than \$1300 in donations to the Combined Federal Campaign, EOD Warrior Foundation, and the HHD Mouvement fund raiser for the Family Readiness Group. Chil-

"The Mission Training Briefing kept our Soldiers eyes on target..."

dren's gifts for the Holidays were also gathered for the Santa's Castle Ruck March. The road march benefits Soldiers and Families during the Holiday season.

The 787th EOD Company were present for duty at the Town Hall meeting with Sergeant Major of the



SGT Daniel Ballou & SPC Joshua Gibbons, 710th EOD CO, (not pictured) used robotics to investigate a suspicious object at the Platoon Certification Exercise.

Army Raymond Chandler early December in Afghanistan. They walked away from the discussion with more knowledge on what it means to be a Professional Soldier and how sexual assault erodes standards. 28 of our own got recognized by the Sergeant Major for outstanding performance.

Cooperation between Battalion and Company teams during the Platoon Certification Exercise lead to a successful initial undertaking. The week-long field event tested the grit of our Staff Sergeants and proficiency of Platoon Leaders alike. HHD was in top form during the assembly and disassembly of their tentage and support equipment. The Company's labored tirelessly through a rigorous recovery effort, no truck went unwashed.

Visitors to our Motor Pool also noticed its new grating and reconfiguration. Thanks goes to the 864th Engineer Battalion who brought heavy machinery and got to work.

A Commander's tip of the hat goes to 1LT Christopher Pedi of the 707th EOD Company for finishing first in the AUSA EOD Warrior 5K with a low 16 minute finishing time. Another goes to the participants of the Yakima Training Center 5K, an event that developed esprit de corps and a sense of camaraderie among the Company.

Service, not Glory!

EOD Wildlife Report



1LT Jason Crawford's record setting 22 pound King Salmon catch was finally beaten by MAJ Brandon Wallace. The XO pulled a 35 pound King out of the Cowlitz River and earned the title of Battalion Angler of the Year.



1SG Brad Anderson, 759th EOD CO, also reports that the Mountain Lions and Coyotes who inhabit the National Training Center will eat your EOD Team Gear. Please heed the First Sergeant's warning and continue your disciplined initiatives.



3D EOD Soldiers suited up and faced a stressful challenge during the inaugural AUSA EOD Warrior 5K around Capitol Lake just below the Washington State Capitol Building.



110th Chemical Battalion Quarterly Update



Soldiers from the 110th take part in the Battalion Iron Dragon leadership exercise.

By U.S. Army LTC Brant Hoskins
110th CHEM Bn. Commander

It has been a busy quarter for the Battalion! We have been training hard here at JBLM, Fort Riley Kansas, at various locations across the country, and even a few exotic locations across the globe. Training this past quarter has focused at the individual, team and company levels. This will set us up well for our spring training rotation to Fort Hunter Liggett, CA where we will integrate with a number of maneuver and sustainment forces from across the country

While work has been keeping us busy most of the time, we have been able to take a little time out for some fun over the past three months. At JBLM, several of the FRGs spent an afternoon at Schilter Farms enjoying refreshments, the petting zoo, and pumpkin patch. This was followed up by Turkey Bowl football games at both JBLM and Fort Riley. At Fort Riley the 172d CM Co took top honors against the host 84th OD BN (EOD) pulling out a 12-6 win. The junior Soldiers took the seniors to

school by scratching out a 49-19 victory. December was dedicated to unit holiday parties where all had great fun, food and visits from Santa Claus.

As shown above, the entire Battalion has been busy training but I want to highlight a few of the unique events or contributions of the companies below.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Hydra) – The company has been busy supporting battalion and company operations throughout the quarter, providing personnel or administrative and maintenance support among other things. However, on two occasions over the past three months, CPT Taylor and 1SG Hearn deployed the company into the local training area for field training exercises. These events provided great opportunities to focus on the basics of Soldiering and operating in the field. In addition, the company was recognized as having the fifth best company level maintenance program in the entire Forces Command. This

was a huge feat that involved a lot of work but we are very proud of this accomplishment. We will look to improve on this finish next year.

In November, the 9th Chemical Company welcomed MAJ Amy Wheeler as the new commander. Following the change of command, the company deployed to the local training area for a week long field exercise. CPT Duke had a unique opportunity to lead a team of NCOs on a training exchange with the British Army in both the UK and Cyprus.

This past quarter, the 11th Chemical Company has been busy. Taking part in Operation Gryphon Longsword, with the 2/11 CRT partnering with the 201st BFSB. This was immediately followed by an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise and Certification Exercise for CRTs 2/11 and 3/11. The Company and CRTs performed extremely well in all events.

The 172nd Chemical Company has been extremely busy at Fort Riley. Major events include range week, platoon field training exercises and even a joint field training exercise with the 84th Ordnance Battalion (EOD).

There are also several individual Soldiers that we need to commend for outstanding work in the past quarter and throughout the year. Congratulations to SSG(P) Pena from 172d for winning the 20th CBRNE CMD NCO of Year competition. Congrats also to SSG Sneath and PFC Mendez for winning the Battalion NCO



and Soldier of the Year awards. In addition, SSGs Ward and Calica were also recently recognized by the Commander of 2-1 Infantry for their outstanding support to the Legion Battalion on its three month deployment to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan.

I also want to thank the FRGs and volunteers for their great support to our Soldiers and families over the past quarter. The Fall fests and Holiday parties were superb events enjoyed by all. We appreciate everything that you do and are grateful for the support.

As I draft this article, we are in the midst of the Holiday Season. I trust that everyone will have had a great and restful break and be ready for the New Year. 2015 promises to be a busy year for Iron Dragons and begins with a major exercise in February-March. Other major events include joint training with a British Team, a September deployment to the National Training Center for 172d and several local training exercises. We will also welcome a new Battalion Command team in 2015. LTC Jason LaCroix and CSM Kyle Brinkman will join the team at the end of June.

Iron Dragons...UTMOST! All of the Time!



Brigade Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC) — Command Update



Greetings Families and friends of the Triple Nickel HHC!

Welcome all the new Families and Soldiers to HHC! This quarter HHC conducted key training in support of our overall readiness and mission. More so, I am happy to share that the Holiday party turnout was high and it was great to see the Soldiers and Families of HHC together.

As the holidays' close and HHC Families refocus their energies on a new year, let's continue to build on Families and make them stronger.

The annual Turkey Bowl was

a great opportunity for the Soldiers of HHC to engage in friendly competition.

In the near future HHC will try to provide a list of helpful education resources and agencies for school aged children supporting Soldiers and their Families.

**Willing and Able!
Strength in Numbers!**
**-Capt. Nathan Magee
Commander**
**-1st Sgt. Kerry Wiles
Company 1st Sgt.**



HHC 1SG Kerry Wiles picks up the football after the play during the wet HHC Turkey Bowl.



Senior NCOs of HHC hold turkey's donated by AUSA for Soldiers during Thanksgiving.

571st Sapper keeps demolition skills sharp

By U.S. Army Cpt. Bryan Perrenod
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

YTC, Wash — The 571st Sapper Company traveled across the Cascades to Yakima Training Center in November. Their mission, to conduct demolition and obstacle reduction training.

Armed with C4, bangalores, and an ample supply of concertina wire, the 571st prepared to put to use the skills they had trained on. Rows of Triple

Strand wire were staked, large poles dug into the ground to represent different obstacles.

On the hill overlooking the demolition range, Soldiers prepared their equipment and explosives, awaiting their turn to move down the hill and set the charges.

One squad moved from the cover of a ravine, fire teams providing security as they bounded towards the objective with their bangalores in tow. Reaching the obstacle, the squad took up security positions and prepared to emplace the charges.

Connecting each piece with care, each bangalore was then slid underneath the wire, in the shape of a V. The reason for this is that it best ensures the resulting blast will clear the wire away,



Soldiers of 571st Sapper set the charges to their Bangalore's while the rest of the squad provides security.



Bangalore's are detonated, breaching the obstacle.

creating a path through the obstacle for forces to move through.

With a loud blast, the charges are detonated, the squad having taken cover in the ravine they started in. The

smoke settled and revealed a clear path through the mangled wire. Training like this is important to keep the skills of the Sappers sharp and prepared to meet any obstacle and overcome it.



'Willing and Able Justice'

Public Service Announcements from the Brigade Legal Office

Military Justice News: Recent Courts Martial

A Staff Sergeant from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 864th Engineer Battalion was found guilty at a General Court-Martial of one specification of violating a lawful general regulation. The Soldier was sentenced to be reduced to Specialist (E-4), and to be reprimanded.

A Sergeant from 571st Sapper Company, 864th Engineer Battalion, was found guilty at a Special Court-Martial of two specifications of conspiracy, one specification of larceny of military property, and one specification of receiving stolen property. The Soldier was sentenced to be reduced to Private (E-1), to be confined for 10 months, and to be discharged from military service with a bad-conduct discharge.

A Specialist from 570th Sapper Company, 864th Engineer Battalion, was found guilty at a Special Court-Martial of one specification of conspiracy, one specification of larceny, and two specifications of wrongful disposition of military property. The Soldier was sentenced to be reduced to Private (E-1), to be confined for 9 months, and to be discharged from military service with a bad-conduct discharge.

A Specialist from 571st Sapper Company, 864th Engineer Battalion, was found guilty at a Special Court-Martial of three specifications of conspiracy, one specification of larceny, one specification of arson, and one specification of receipt of stolen property. The Soldier was sentenced to be reduced to Private (E-1), to be confined for 10 months, and to be discharged from military service with a bad-conduct discharge.



For Your Information

The JBLM Tax Center will be opening on 21 January 2015. The Tax Center provides free income tax preparation services to ID card holders. They are located in Bldg. T6006 on main post. Call (253) 967-1040 for more information.

Contact Information

The 555th Engineer Brigade legal office is located in Building 12737 in room 213. Our numbers are: Paralegals – (253) 967-4019; Senior Paralegal NCO – Staff Sergeant Goins (253) 966-9362. Submit your comments or suggestions about this content via e-mail to david.i.goins.mil@mail.mil.

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

The 555th 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 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

A public service
announcement from
the Triple Nickel
Medical Team

Fall time Health Tips to keep you safe as it cools down

- ♦ Wear proper rain gear to stay dry, use layers to stay warm
- ♦ Use fireplace, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented to the outside
- ♦ Never use a charcoal or gas grill indoors—the fumes are deadly
- ♦ Never leave lit candles unattended
- ♦ Keep as much heat as possible inside your home
- ♦ Check the temperature in your home often during severely cold weather
- ♦ Eat well-balanced meals to help you stay warmer

Flu Season Is Here Get Vaccinated Today

Who should get the vaccine?

EVERYONE 6 MONTHS AND OLDER

Everyone **6 MONTHS OF AGE AND OLDER** should get the flu vaccine. Seasonal flu vaccines have a very good safety track record.



PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK

It is especially **IMPORTANT TO GET THE VACCINE IF YOU, SOMEONE YOU LIVE WITH, OR SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR IS AT HIGH RISK** of complications from the flu.

- ✓ Children & Infants
- ✓ Pregnant Women
- ✓ Seniors
- ✓ People with Disabilities
- ✓ People with Health Conditions
- ✓ Travelers & People Living Abroad

How should I get the vaccine?

There are **TWO TYPES** of vaccine, the flu shot and the nasal spray. Both protect against the same virus strains.

FLU SHOT



Made with inactivated (killed) flu virus

Given by needle

Approved for use in healthy people older than 6 months and people with chronic health conditions

NASAL SPRAY



Made with weakened live flu virus

Given with a mist sprayed in your nose

Approved for healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49, except pregnant women

Can I get the flu from the vaccine?

NO, YOU CAN'T GET THE FLU

NO, YOU CAN'T GET THE FLU from the flu vaccine. The flu vaccine protects you from the flu, not the common cold. But you may experience some side effects.



MILD REACTIONS

MILD REACTIONS such as soreness, headaches, and fever are common side effects of the flu vaccine.



When should I get the vaccine?



Get your flu shot or spray **TODAY**. Flu season usually peaks in January or February, but it can occur as late as May. **EARLY IMMUNIZATION IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE**, but it is not too late to get the vaccine in December, January or beyond.

Where can I get the vaccine?

Visit FLU.GOV and use the **FLU VACCINE FINDER**.





SGT Harrison Newest Audie Murphy Award Winner!

SGT Harrison, of the 864th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, was the latest Triple Nickel NCO to be inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. SGT Harrison received the award in recognition of his service and leadership of his Soldiers.

Congratulations SGT Harrison for your accomplishment and being the latest to exemplify outstanding leadership!

Chaplain's Closing, Major Kelvin Todd

A new year is upon us. Truly this is a time of new beginnings.



Yes, winter-time also is here, along with questionable weather. Not the setting of ideal beginnings. Yet, we are another year older with another year before us to strive for growth, achieve goals and work for personal development.

Many times in the Old Testament the people of God were blessed with new beginnings. The Exodus led to the Promised Land and a new beginning. Also, in the New Testament, the Church is encouraged to "put off the old and put on the new (Colossians 3:8-10)", to begin anew with the Lord. But so

many of these examples are coupled with failure to reach the fullness of what God had intended. But there were those who were given a new beginning and reached God's full potential for them. The Apostle Paul is one example (I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Timothy 4:7).

What made the difference? Keeping "the main thing" the main thing as we begin anew. If losing weight is your goal for this year, let all life/health decisions center around this goal. If strengthening your walk with the Lord becomes your spiritual focus, then every decision in life pertaining to that goal should pass through the filter of holiness. Remember, the difference is keeping the "main thing" the main thing this year/

Wreaths Across America Memorial Ceremony



The Triple Nickel wishes to thank all who participated and supported this outstanding event and honored our fallen heroes

Photo courtesy of thelightisall.com

TRIPLE NICKEL



Questions or comments? Email
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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.

