

TRIPLE NICKEL TRIBUNE

"Willing and Able!" - "Always Ready"

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



Spring

Message from the Commander

Colonel Timothy Holman,
"Able 6"

Triple Nickel Team,



Welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter. Inside you will find examples of the hard work being done by our

Willing and Able Soldiers, Families, and leaders.

Our training has continued to reach new levels, with the brigade staff deploying to Camp Atterbury, IN for Warfighter 15-03. The brigade also hosted JBLM's first annual Best Sapper Competition.

We welcomed home the 787th EOD Company from Afghanistan. The 617th Engineer Company inactivated as part of the continuing restructuring of the Brigade.

The brigade's partnership program has never been more successful. We kicked off our STEM program with Pioneer Middle School. In addition we facilitated a Reciprocal Unit Exchange program with the Canadian Army. The Hearts and Heroes Ball was a success and I thank all of you that came out to enjoy the evening.

As this year continues, these opportunities and challenges will only become more frequent. Look to the future with the same dedication you have shown. Outstanding job this winter Triple Nickel!

Willing & Able!

- Col. Holman, 'Able 6'



Detonation of MCLIC fired at Yakima Training Center as part of joint training between 864th EN BN and Canadian Army Sappers

A new year brings new partnerships and opportunities to Triple Nickel

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

JBLM — With a new year comes new challenges and opportunities for the 555th Engineer Brigade. The brigade has continued to reestablish traditions and create new ones.

Working with international partners has become a key part of the brigade, working with the Canadian Army both at Warfighter 15-03 and in reestablishing the Reciprocal Unit Exchange.

Warfighter 15-03 was the culminating exercise and validated the brigade staff. The exercises was conducted at Camp Atterbury, IN, involving units from the National Guard, Reserves, Active Duty, and Canadian Army. Soldiers from the Canadian 4th Engineer Support Regiment worked as liaison officers on the brigade staff and both organizations gained a better understanding of each other.

In addition to the Warfighter Exercise, the brigade executed a Reciprocal Unit Exchange. Last year a platoon of Soldiers from the 571st Sapper Company traveled to Canada to train with the Canadian 1st

Combat Engineer Regiment. This year a platoon of Soldiers from the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment came to JBLM to train with the 571st Sapper Company, culminating in exercises at Yakima Training Center, with a live MCLIC fired.

The brigade also hosted a delegation of senior engineer officers from the Indian Army, giving them the opportunity to learn from our tactics and share their techniques with the U.S. Army.

As the new year continues, more opportunities and challenges remain.

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



Demolition training conducted by 571st Sapper at YTC with Canadian Soldiers

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At A Glance...

- ◆ 555TH PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL ALLIES
- ◆ FULLY IMMERSSED IN TRAINING TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE MISSIONS WITH PARTNERS
- ◆ UNITS PREPARE FOR REDUCTIONS AND OTHER CHANGES AS BRIGADE TRANSFORMS AND DOWNSIZES
- ◆ 555TH ENGINEER BRIGADE ORGANIZATIONAL DAY WILL BE ON 4 JUNE
- ◆ 555TH CONSISTS OF 3 BATTALIONS AND OTHER DETACHMENTS AT JBLM

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

Triple Nickel Family,

This winter presented many challenges to this brigade. The headquarters deployed to Indiana for War-fighter 15-03 while the 864th Engineer Battalion prepared for a rotation to NTC. Despite these challenges, our Soldiers continued to keep standards as the top priority.

This is not the end of the brigade's challenges, as the year progresses they will become more frequent.

Whatever task is given to our Soldiers, they set the bar high. The 864th continues to be at the forefront, training with Soldiers from the Canadian 1st Combat Engineer Regiment. We have two outstanding Soldiers—SGT Polk and SPC Hill—who were recently selected as the brigade's NCO and Soldier of the Quarter. Excellent Job!

"We must ensure that the knowledge of our successes are not lost and are passed on to our new Triple Nickel leaders"

With a new year, we must prepare for new changes. As we approach the season of transition, where the guard changes, we must ensure that the knowledge of our successes are not lost and are passed on to our new Triple Nickel leaders. Thank you to all who supported the Hearts and Heroes Ball, your efforts made it an outstanding event.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

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

Induction Ceremony Honors Tradition and Service



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

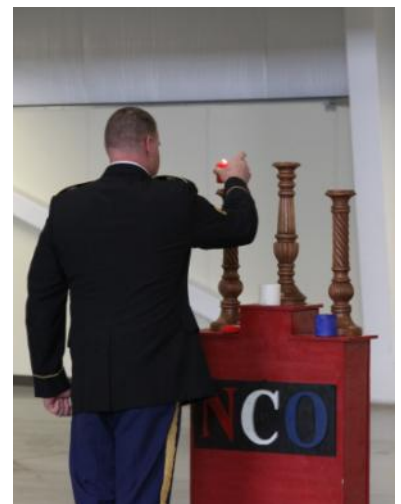
JBLM, Wash — The 555th Engineer Brigade hosted its third NCO Induction Ceremony. The ceremony is meant to mark the newly promoted sergeants' transition from junior enlisted to leadership positions. It symbolizes the need for them to remember they are no longer followers, but leaders and the responsibility that entails.

The brigade has made these ceremonies a priority to reestablish. Induction ceremonies are a


long standing tradition within the NCO Corps, and the rite of passage they symbolize are important to instilling the seriousness of their new rank.

The 7th ID Command Sergeant Major, Csm. Murphy was the guest speaker. He charged the new NCOs to take an active role in mentoring their Soldiers and to always seek improvement of their profession.

The NCO Induction Ceremony is a tradition that the brigade will continue to maintain into the future. While it is only the third ceremony, many more will come and keep the traditions of the NCO Corps alive.



NCO from the 555th Engineer Brigade places the first candle as part of the NCO Induction Ceremony



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



Community Matters: 555th Engineers support STEM Education for Middle School students

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

DuPont, Wash. — The 555th Engineer Brigade and the Pioneer Middle School in DuPont, Wash., partnered together to create a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, or STEM, outreach program for the middle school students. These types of programs have been done with high school students, but this is the brigade's first program to be instituted with a focus on middle school.

On the outreach program, Maj. Kenneth Cook, the brigade plans officer, said "We have developed our outreach program based on the Chief of Engineers guidance of partnering with local educational institutions to advance interest in STEM-Education at all levels."

Maj. Cook was one of the primary officers in charge of planning and organizing the program for the 555th Engineer Brigade. Soldiers with expertise and education in engineering volunteered to be presenters to the students.

For the first event, students were given a presentation on the Corps of Engineers and on the process of construction management. Cpt. Zachary Abrams gave the initial presentation. "I walked them through a hypothetical scenario in which they managed the construction of their favorite restaurant," he said.

Cpt. Abrams wasn't sure how interested the students would be in the presentation but goes on to explain, "They were quick to participate in the scenario and raised legitimate questions that I was not expecting. I

thought I would have to beg for participation, but I was the one who had to end the conversation for the sake of time!"

Following the presentation, the students were formed into teams to complete a practical exercise. Their exercise was to build a bridge frame out of PVC pipes and joints based on a given plan. Each team got the same materials, and chose a team leader to be the project manager.

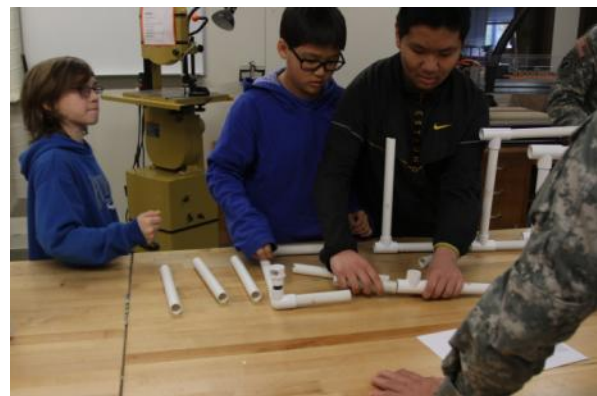
Each team's project manager then assigned roles to their team members, one being a pipe tradesman, another a joint tradesman, and the last the quality controller. Each role was specific, for example the pipe tradesman was the only one that could touch and place the PVC pipes. This was done to represent how projects will have different trades to complete tasks required, like plumbers and electricians.

The teams then competed to build the frame, the winner going to the overall fastest with them being rewarded with jolly ranchers. The practical exercise was used to show how the subjects they learn can be applied in a real project. "Hopefully they'll see the application of Math and Science, in Engineering and Technology. When I see students doing math, my first typical question is "Where will you use that?" Hopefully through STEM they'll be able to make the connection," said Mr. Kurt Bethman, the class's teacher.

On the student's reception to the presentation "Their first statements the next day were 'When are they coming back?'"



Cpt. Zachary Abrams gives a presentation on construction management



A team of students work together to build a bridge frame out of PVC pipe and joints.



Cpt. Jeffery Woerth (left) and Maj. Rachel Honderd (right) explain the rules of the exercise to the student team leaders.



In the News: Powers, Tucker earn title 'Best Sappers'

By U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Hallock
19th Public Affairs Detachment

JBLM Wash — The sapper tab on Sgt. Jeffrey M. Powers' left shoulder remains unscathed, unlike the rest of his sweat-drenched uniform, now soaking into Pfc. Lucas Tucker's back as he's carried down the road. The teammates from the 571st Engineer Company have been awake for roughly 24 hours, competing against other combat engineers in the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Best Sapper competition hosted by the 555th Engineer Brigade, Feb. 18-20.

Leader development, an important investment for [the] future of the Army, was the focus during the three-day gauntlet designed to test Soldiers' mental and physical toughness. Powers and Tucker used their training, knowledge and, most importantly, each other's support to finish the competition in first place and earn the title of JBLM's Best Sappers.

"It builds that bond," said Powers, who recruited Tucker 48 hours prior to the competition. "Not often do you get to go through such a challenging experience."

The contenders began their road to the title of Best Sapper at a four-event physical fitness test that included pushups, situps, pullups, and a run wearing body

armor. With their bodies exhausted, they were given a 25-question examination that tested their demolitions expertise.

"The main thing is the stress level," said Master Sgt. Jeffery Goodman, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the competition. "You want to stress them physically and mentally to see what they're capable of doing."

Goodman looked at his experiences from the Sapper Leader Course and the Army's Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., when designing the challenges, and he said winning a competition like this puts Soldiers at an elite level.

"It sets the standard, especially when it comes to noncommissioned officers," Goodman said. "You put your foot forward to show your Soldiers you can do it."

Day two of the competition upped the stakes. The teams began the day undertaking a series of sapper stations. Stations included counter improvised explosive device techniques, where the contenders used the TALON robot to search for unexploded ordnances, Sapper Lumberjack, where teams used chainsaws to cut logs into several pieces, and the engagement skills trainer qualification and weapons assembly.

After completing the sta-



Pfc. Tucker and Sgt. Powers carry a log as part of the events during the X-mile run on the final day of the Best Sapper Competition

tions, competitors advanced to a land navigation course, followed by a 12-mile road march — all on limited food and sleep.

"You have to focus on the task at hand," said Powers, who considers this competition just as challenging as sapper school. "You have to focus on that 50-meter target; you don't have to worry about the end of it. You just have to worry about keeping moving."

The next morning, teams dug deep to finish the competition with a buddy run, where competitors ran with water jugs, logs, and even ran with gas masks on. Throughout the rigorous competition, Powers and Tucker pushed and motivated each other and leaned on their strengths to finish strong.

"It confirms the knowledge you do have," said Tucker, who is due to get promoted and sent to the Sapper Leader Course now that he's been crowned JBLM Best Sapper.

"He's a private in a 900-Soldier battalion," Goodman said of Tucker. "He stepped up and competed, that puts him above his peers."

With their win at the JBLM Best Sapper competition, Powers and Tucker advance to the Army's Best Sapper competition at Fort Leonard Wood in April.

Goodman, who won the Army's Best Sapper competition in 2006, had some advice for JBLM's best sappers.

"Don't ever quit," he said. "Don't ever let anyone put doubt in you."



555th Engineer Brigade Soldiers take part in the first annual Joint Base Lewis-McChord Best Sapper Competition, completing three days of events not knowing what tasks they would have to complete or how far they would have to go.



555th Engineer Soldiers showcase counter IED skill sets

By U.S. Army Sgt. Sinthia Rosario
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

JBLM, Wash — Soldiers from the 555th Engineer Brigade showcased their engineer operations and systems skills to counterparts from a delegation of the Indian Army Feb. 19.

During the visit the Indian Army officials discussed and compared route-clearing procedures and received other engineer training classes.

"We showed them tactical on the ground aid, combined arms breaching, just to show them what capabilities we bring to the fight, so they can learn from us and take it back to their country as well," said 1st Lt. Aditya Iyer, with 555th Engineer Brigade, I Corps, liaison officer during the event.

During conversations with the delegation, Iyer learned that the most complicated threat the Indian Army faces is improvised explosive devices.

"They want to know how other countries who have encountered IED's through Iraq and Afghanistan, are trying to fight it and what we've learned throughout our years of counter IED fights," Iyer said.

To show what U.S. Soldiers use to counter IED[s], the engineers used the mine clearing line charge (MICLIC) and hand-held mine detectors in a live fire range simulated minefield.

The Soldiers carefully aimed the MICLIC system at the minefield. They then took to their humvees for cover.

Suddenly, a loud boom shook the ground as the MICLIC fired projecting a rocket over the range during the simulation. Attached to the rocket was a rope that would normally have C4 connected to it. In a real event this would have detonated on the minefield to clear a path.

"It'll blow off and pretty much clear whatever it is to help us maneuver through the area

we're going through," said Sgt. Kevin Barrera, an engineer with the 570th Sapper Company, 864th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade.

The Soldiers followed with hand-held mine detectors as they slowly crossed the field searching for unexploded ordnance. "We're clearing whatever the MICLIC wasn't able to take care of, trying to find what is deep buried," Barrera added.

Throughout the visit, the delegation observed some differences in their procedures. They asked questions regarding the MICLIC and other counter IED training and compared their tactics with that of the engineers.

"They noticed a lot of similarities, we have more mounted capabilities than they have," Iyer said. "They conduct the same operations but mostly dismounted."

The Soldiers performed all tasks as though it were a real-life



1st Lt. Chang gives a briefing on the MICLIC range to the Indian Army delegation

scenario to give the delegation good mine clearing procedures.

"The Indian Army officials truly believe this was a fruitful event," Iyer said. He said they are going to take back and send recommendations hopefully to continue these kinds of training exercises and implement the procedures learned.

Allies pull cords, strengthen relationships

By U.S. Army Sgt. Steven Peterson
28th Public Affairs Detachment

JBLM Wash — Explosions rocked the Yakima Training Center, Washington, the last week of February as sappers from the Canadian military and U.S. Army conducted joint training.

The 571st Sapper Company, 864th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, 7th Infantry Division and the 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, Canadian Army worked together setting up different training events to learn each other's tricks of the trade, so that they would know how each other would function in a joint environment.

"The Canadians sent 40 of their best sappers down to train with us during the exercise," said 1st Lt. Bryan Sekita, operations officer, 571st Sapper Company. "They will be going through our training alongside our Soldiers to see how we conduct training."

The sappers, or elite engineers, tested an M58 Mine Clearing Line Charge, a rocket projected explosive line charge, which provides breaching capability for maneuver forces. It is effective against conventionally fused mines and, when detonated, it provides a lane eight [meters] wide by 100 meters long.

"We love training with

American Soldiers and learning how they operate," said Master Corporal Nicolas Pruneau, sapper, 1 Combat Engineer Regiment. "We had a great chance to brush up on demolition which we don't get to use as often."

During the exercise, Soldiers also trained on medical evacuation procedures, rifle marksmanship, urban breaching, obstacle maneuvering, and vehicle familiarization.

"The purpose of this training is to build the (tactics, techniques, and procedures) and (standard operating procedures) between two forces," adds Sekita. "We learn from them and they learn from us before we

deploy to a NATO mission. This training is very important in providing how the two units work with one another."

The units formed a strong bond during the training and hope to keep the relationships gained.



U.S. and Canadian Sappers prepare a man portable line clearing charge



At Warfighter, Interoperability key for 555th Engineer Brigade

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

JBLM, Wash — The 555th Engineer Brigade, Triple Nickel, arrived at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, Jan. 27 to participate in Warfighter 15-03, a two week exercise. Warfighter exercises are digital training events using war simulations to allow large formations to exercise combat actions, without the need to deploy whole divisions to the field. The Warfighter exercise is also an opportunity to incorporate different formations and forces that would not normally be able to train together.

In the Warfighter, the 555th Engineer Brigade was attached to 38th Infantry Division, Indiana Army National Guard. The brigade arrived at Camp Atterbury with approximately 100 Soldiers, along with Soldiers from the 35th Engineer Brigade from the Missouri Army National Guard, the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from the U.S. Army Reserve out of Washington, the 4th Canadian Engineer Support Regiment, and three Soldiers from the 1st Combat Engineer

Regiment of the Royal Canadian Engineers.

These Soldiers participated in the exercise as part of the 555th Engineer Brigade subordinate battalions and on the brigade staff, giving their Soldiers an opportunity to train on new systems and operate in a large scale training event.

The exercise presented multiple obstacles, not the least of which was the fact that the Canadian and U.S. systems did not communicate directly. To overcome this challenge, the brigade established liaison officers, with soldiers from the 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group working in the 555th Engineer Brigade operations center, allowing them to access their systems and communicate directly with the brigade, ensuring operations were coordinated.

Maj. Benjamin Lafave, officer commanding 2-4 Field Squadron, 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, served as the liaison officer and was the critical link between the 555th Engineer Brigade and Canadian forces during the operation.

"Liaison officers are the key link for interoperability, computers break and systems don't communicate. Ensuring the person in that position understood their commander's intent and is a knowledgeable expert, as a link between formations was extremely important to us," he said.



Sfc. Mang (right) and Lt. Sinclair (left), discuss the brigade fire support plan using known and templated enemy positions.



Brigade Command Post at Camp Atterbury during Warfighter 15-03

The link Lafave provided showed during the exercise; throughout the planning and execution of the mission objectives, the brigade and Canadian forces coordinated their efforts effectively and with minimal friction.

One of the critical objectives was a river crossing. Triple Nickel Soldiers and Royal Canadian engineers worked closely to develop a crossing plan, worked with the division staff to synchronize the plan, and enabled the division to cross its forces rapidly.

Clearly establishing the forces to be sent across allowed the brigade to allocate the needed assets to ensure the crossing was properly supported and the operation did not falter. With no fires section, officers from the Canadian 4th Engineer Support Regiment were embedded in the brigade's operations and formed the fires coordination cell to support the crossing.

Lt. Neil Sinclair, one of the officers in the fires coordination cell stated, "I learned a lot about the fires coordination piece, MSG Scuesa was a great help in keeping us on track."

The cell was able to coordinate the fires plan for the crossing site, ensuring that the sites

were established with fire support and supporting the crossing as the operation continued.

The coordination for a division level river crossing is critical to ensure its success, if the schedule falls behind units can sit waiting to cross, exposed to enemy fire. The brigade played a significant role in synchronizing the crossing plan, and ensuring units from multiple brigades were able to cross to the other side of the river and continue the operation.

Though the exercise was a simulation, the pressure was real, decisions had to be quickly made and battle plans adjusted to overcome an enemy that was smart and capable. The command and staff of the 555th Engineer Brigade adjusted to the new challenges presented and overcame them.

In the end, the brigade established a total of six crossing sites along the river, which allowed the division to rapidly cross its forces and continue its mission. Lessons were learned and while losses were suffered in the simulation, the training will ensure the same mistakes will not be made during a real deployment.



864th Engineer Battalion Quarterly Update



Soldiers of FSC and HHC working hard at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA

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

Greetings Pacemaker Soldiers, Families, and Friends! Once again, the 864th Engineer Battalion is setting the pace as we start off the New Year and head into spring as busy as ever. Our Leaders and Soldiers have spent the last few months planning, preparing, and executing excellent training. The tempo never wavered as we put our training and readiness to the test by conducting ranges, Sergeant's Time Training, Staff Exercises, and Company Field Exercises. Some of the highlights of the year so far have been exercises with our coalition partners in February. 571st Sapper Company and a few members from 22nd Engineer Clearance Company recently completed a successful training exercise with a Canadian Engineer Regiment, the culminating event for the unit exchange program. 570th Sapper Company was also able to demonstrate their engineer capabilities

such as mine clearing to delegates from the Indian Army. These opportunities for outside cooperation proved essential in enhancing our training and improving our capabilities. It is always great to see our Leaders and Soldiers interact and learn from each other, various units, and foreign countries.

The Pacemakers have successfully completed one of the more anticipated training events this year with Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the Forward Support Company just returning from the National Training Center (NTC) in California. The exercise joined the staff and members of HHC and FSC with other units to train and certify our capabilities. While HHC and FSC were busy at NTC, 22nd Engineer Clearance Company and 571st Sapper Company began training at Yakima Training Center to provide engineer support to other JBLM units to prepare for their own NTC

rotation in early July.

585th Engineer Company and 610th Engineer Support Company are taking on the construction missions that truly contribute to leaving a lasting impact on the community and legacy for the Pacemaker Battalion. This includes a campsite at Mud Mountain Dam, a confined space skills trainer for the fire fighters at McChord, and continued work improving Solo Point.

Through all of our hard



Soldiers of 571st Sapper Company conduct demolition training with members of the Canadian Engineer Regiment at Yakima Training Center

work, it would not be fair to skip on all the good times we've celebrated and the Pacemakers have made it a point to play hard. We celebrated with families at the



Leaders Chinese New Year's Reception, welcomed spring with an epic egg hunt, danced at the Brigade Ball, let off steam with weekly Officers sports, and much more.

We bid farewell to 617th Engineer Company as they

inactivated in March and will soon be followed by 585th Engineer Company in September. Thanks for all your hard work, Trailblazers and great job! 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!

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. Spring has arrived and the battalion is in gear to conduct a variety of outdoor activities.

3d OD BN (EOD) planned an executed the annual Team of the Year Competition from seven to ten April on JBLM. The teams were tested on their EOD and marksmanship skills, as well as their physical fitness levels. SSG Schwartz and SPC Sluneda of the 53d OD CO (EOD) won this years event. A mere 63 points separated them from our 2nd place finishers from the 707th OD CO (EOD). Company Command Teams kept Sol-

diers eyes on target.

There were a total of seventeen events that tested the Soldiers mental and physical endurance during this intense competition. During the three day span of events, participants were engaged in twenty-four hour EOD operations which accounted for eight of the sixteen events. The events included APFT, Obstacle course, Advanced Marksmanship, Capability Brief, land naviga-

"The unit's cohesion keeps the morale high for 3d Soldiers..."

tion, etc.

Special Thanks is given to SPC Zachary J. Onstat and SPC Gregory A. Smith of the 610th ESC Company (864th EN BN) and SPC Brandon Krecklow from the 570th Sapper Company (864th EN BN) for their support during this event.



Soldiers from the 3d OD BN (EOD) compete in the Team of the Year Competition.

3d OD Battalion (EOD) conducted an All Ranks Dining Out to celebrate the 2nd time since 9-11-01 the entire battalion has been stateside. The 2015 EOD Battalion Ball took place on April 10th at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma. The Battalion celebrated the evening by rewarding the the Team of the Year 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Honorable mention was given to all participants and were recognized by LTC Kavanaugh for their hard work and dedication.

"The Team of the Year Competition is a very challenging event that helped me grow mentally and physically..."



LTC Kavanaugh awards 53d members SSG Schwartz, SPC Power, SPC Sluneka the 1st place trophy in the 3d OD BN (EOD) Team of the Year Competition.

Service, not Glory!

LTC Kavanaugh and CSM Miller cut the cake at the EOD Ball with the oldest and newest Soldiers to celebrate the second time the entire battalion has been to-gether since 9-11





110th Chemical Battalion Quarterly Update



Soldiers from the 110th CM BN conduct vehicle DECON training as part of their field exercise training at Fort Hunter Liggett, CA

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

As I draft this article, almost the entire battalion is conducting recovery operations from field training exercises. The BN HQs, HHC and 172nd CM Co just returned from a successful exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, CA and 9th and 11th CM Companies are recovering from local training

exercises. It has been a busy training time but the Soldiers have been doing well and CSM Fields and I are very proud of their efforts and successes.

I am excited to report that our team did well during the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, where we joined forces with the 342nd Chemical and the 354th Chemical

Reserves for a myriad of training missions. At one point during our exercise, our battalion's overall strength ballooned to over 600 Soldiers. This exercise also provided the first time that the Battalion Headquarters was able to deploy in its entirety with the 172nd Chemical

Company from Fort Riley, KS.

Immediately after returning from the field, I was also excited to see several new faces. As most military families know, this is the time of year when we go through a large turnover of people. We will lose some to PCS moves but we also get a new crop of new and eager Soldiers, leaders and families to join the Iron Dragon Team. As you see these new team members around the unit, please join me in extending a special welcome.

The next few months will continue to be busy ones for the battalion. We are currently preparing for three big events that will dominate our schedule. The first event is testing a new vehicle platform and equipment that will be used by the battalion for years to come. We have partnered with the Operational Test Command for this effort that will occur March-June on JBLM.

The next major event is the Battalion Field Training Exercise that will occur at multiple locations across the western U.S. during the week of 18-22 May. The third event is the change of command and responsibility ceremony that will occur at 1000 on 24 June 2015 at Able Field (directly across the street from the Battalion Headquarters). CSM Fields and I will be moving on to new duty assignments and the battalion will welcome LTC Jason LaCroix as the new Battalion Commander and CSM Kyle Brinkman as the Command Sergeant Major. Changes of command and responsibility are always special events for the unit and we would welcome having you attend.



It has been a pleasure seeing our team in action over the past three months. Whether at Fort Riley, KS, JBLM, WA, or Fort Hunter Liggett, CA your Soldiers have been working hard and performing very well. Both the CSM and I are humbled to be a part of this team and offer our deepest gratitude for the continuing support of the Iron Dragon Family and Friends.

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



Leadership of the 110th CM BN conduct a Combined Arms Rehearsal as part of their field training exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, CA



Soldiers from the 110th CM BN conduct patient DECON training as part of their field exercise training at Fort Hunter Liggett, CA



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 at Camp Atterbury, IN for Warfighter 15-03. I am happy to share that the Organizational Day was a huge success and it was great to see the Soldiers and Families of HHC together.

As the year moves on, the HHC Command Team will be changing the guard, and the company will welcome a new Family to HHC.

As we approach the summer and the time of transition in the

Army, HHC is prepared to welcome new Families and to help outgoing ones transition easily.

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 Soldiers and Family participate in one of the many games and activities at the 555th EN BDE HHC Organizational Day.



1st Sgt. Kerry Wiles presents the farewell gift to Capt. Nathan Magee in appreciation of his leadership and service to HHC.

671st Construction Company cases it's colors

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

JBLM, Wash — On March 3rd, 2015, the 617th Horizontal Construction Company officially inactivated. Cpt. Baggott, the Company Commander, and 1SG Pelayo, cased the unit's colors as part of the ceremony, marking the unit's inactivation.

The 617th traces its history back to the 517th Engineer Light

Pontoon Company, activated in World War II. Inactivated at the end of the war, later reactivating during the Vietnam War. There it received 12 campaign streamers for the units actions during the war.

Most recently the company has seen multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. These will mark it's last deployments until the unit is reactivated again.

The 617th has accomplished significant milestones and projects. The company was responsible for improving the road at the Mud Mountain Dam complex, as well as improving the Solo Point Trail. It has proven time and again it can be counted on.

Inactivation's are part of unit history, as the Army changes

and restructures. A unit will inactivate, later to be called back into service. The inactivation of the 617th may seem like an end-

ing, but as it's own history has shown, time will see the Army call on the 617th again.



617th salutes the commander at the opening of the ceremony



Cpt. Baggott stands with Lt. Sattinger and Csm. Russell, the commander and sergeant major of the 864th Engineer Battalion during the ceremony



'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*

Spring time Health Seasonal Allergies

What is it ...

- Seasonal allergies ("hay fever") are a group of conditions that can cause sneezing, a stuffy nose, or a runny nose. Symptoms occur only at certain times of the year.
- Most seasonal allergies are caused by pollens from trees, grasses, or weeds, or from mold spores, which grow when the weather is humid, wet, or damp.
- Normally, people breathe in these substances without a problem. When a person has a seasonal allergy, his or her immune system acts as if the substance is harmful to the body, and this reaction causes the symptoms.
- Many people first get seasonal allergies when they are children or young adults. Seasonal allergies are lifelong, but symptoms can get better or worse over time. Seasonal allergies sometimes run in families.
- Some people have seasonal allergy symptoms all year. Year-round symptoms are usually caused by Insects, such as dust mites and cockroaches, animals, such as cats and dogs, or mold spores.

What should I look out for

- Stuffy nose, runny nose, or sneezing a lot
- Itchy or red eyes
- Sore throat, or itching of the throat or ears
- Waking up at night or trouble sleeping, which can lead to feeling tired during the day

What can I do

 <p>Avoid outdoor activity when pollen counts are highest.</p>	 <p>They love you not: Avoid daisies, sunflowers, jasmine, and smaller flowers with little color—they're pollen machines.</p>	 <p>Wash pillowcases regularly with hot water to remove pollen—you'll have sweeter dreams.</p>
 <p>Showers don't always mean flowers! After heavy rains, pollen counts are lower.</p>	 <p>Tiptoe through the tulips—they're less likely to cause misery. So are begonias, azaleas, dahlias, gladiolas, crocuses, and roses.</p>	 <p>When pollen is lurking, keep your doors and windows tightly shut.</p>
 <p>Pollen often takes a siesta in the afternoon. Why not enjoy a fiesta of outdoor fun then?</p>	 <p>Get a breath of fresh air: Clean air filters in your home frequently.</p>	 <p>Better to find other ways to save energy! Drying your freshly washed clothing in a household dryer is the best way to rid them of pollen.</p>
 <p>Avoid grasses like Timothy, Johnson, Bermuda, Orchard, Sweet Vernal, and Kentucky bluegrass—they are the greatest pollen offenders.</p>	 <p>Wash that pollen right out of your hair after you have been outdoors, especially if the pollen count is high that day.</p>	 <p>Give pollen the white-glove treatment by cleaning bookshelves, vents, windowsills, and other areas where the little monsters can settle.</p>



Fox Display Pad Award Presentation

2nd Lt. Gonzalez (left) and Sgt. Harrison (right) accept the Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the 555th Engineer Brigade for the hard work of the 864th Engineer Battalion in the construction of the concrete pad where the Fox CBRNE vehicle is now displayed.

The award was presented by I Corps and the JBLM Museum during the unveiling ceremony held on 12 March

Chaplain's Closing, Major Kelvin Todd

"Is Anyone With Me?"



We have all been wronged at one time or another. Sometimes things or entire days don't seem to go in our favor. It is even worse when, to the best of our knowledge, we did nothing in error. If these circumstances are dire enough, or continue long enough, we could begin asking ourselves if anyone really cares about what is happening to me or if anyone would stand with me if I needed a friend, a battle buddy,

Joseph in the Old Testament, Genesis Chapter 39, has all the reason in the world to feel this way and entertain these thoughts. Sold into slavery by his brothers,

wrongly accused by the wife of his boss, he kept "getting a raw deal."

Interestingly, each time something would go wrong, to absolutely no fault of his own, the narrative tells us he was never alone. Three times in this chapter (vs. 2, 21, 23) the writer records, "The Lord was with Joseph."

Think of it as thesis-antithesis; bad occurred—then a reminder the Good God was with Joseph. For you music folks, point—counterpoint. Yet, in the life of Joseph, a life of synthesis was brought about, a beautiful melody of harmony is witnessed in a life wrongly accused, yet profoundly blessed by Almighty God.

HEARTS AND HEROES BALL

The Triple Nickel wishes to thank all who participated and supported this outstanding event and made it possible



Photo courtesy of Images by Brant

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.

