

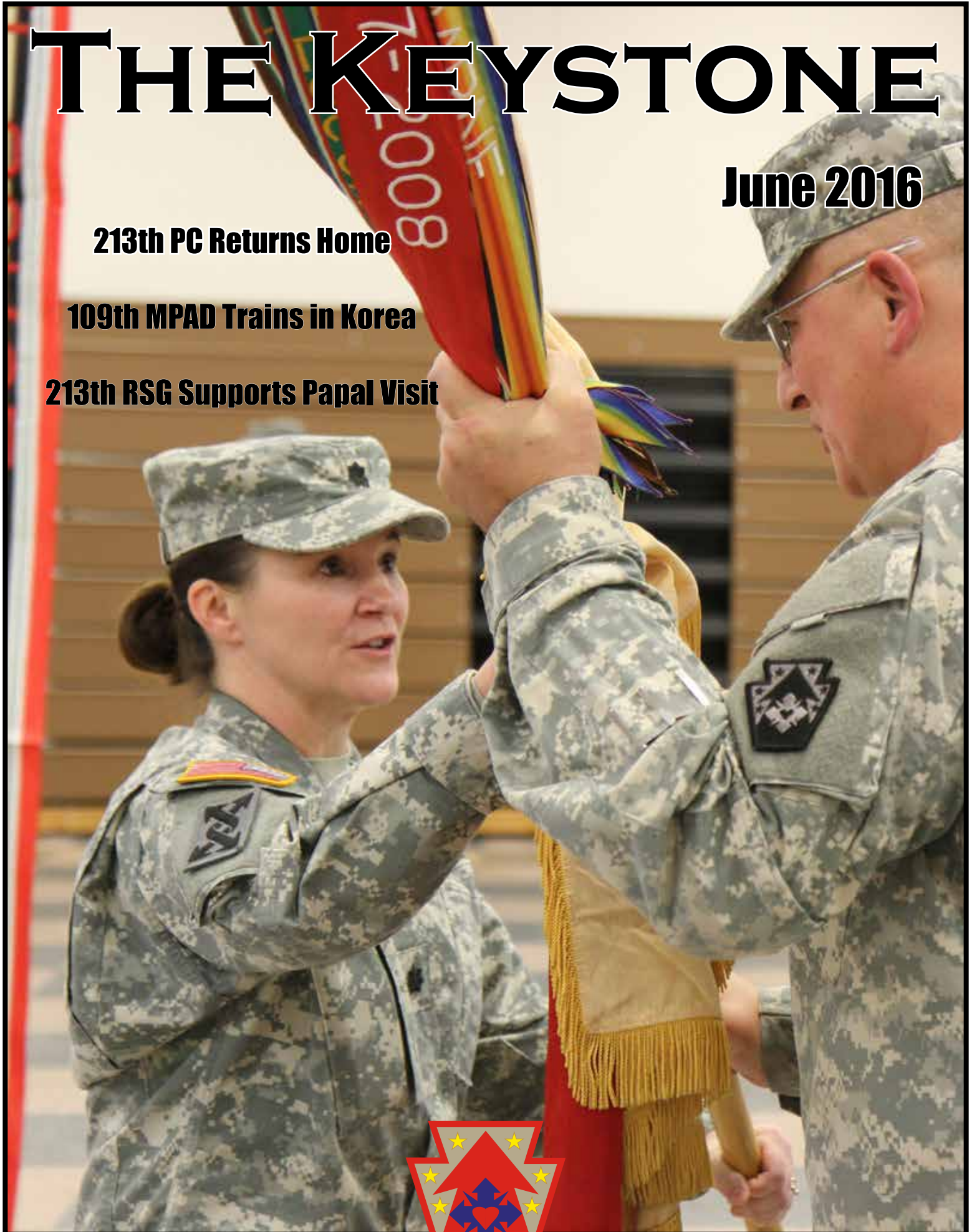
THE KEYSTONE

June 2016

213th PC Returns Home

109th MPAD Trains in Korea

213th RSG Supports Papal Visit



HIGHLIGHT REEL

Sergeant Major of the Army speaks at
Honorary First Defenders' Dining-In

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey displays his honorary membership certificate for the Honorary First Defenders. (Photo courtesy of Honorary First Defenders)

728th Combat Sustainment Support
Battalion Change of Command

Lt. Col. Aaron Keirn, incoming commander of the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, a native of Altoona, Pa., accepts the unit guidon from Lt. Col. Laura McHugh, commander of the 213th Regional Support Group on June 4 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Pfc. Anna Churco)

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The KEYSTONE

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Do you have a story to share? *The Keystone* welcomes submissions from readers. Send to the 109th MPAD at lorene.a.mauro.mil@mail.mil. *The Keystone* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the publication.

PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Adjutant General - Brig. Gen. Tony Carrelli

213th REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

Commander - Lt. Col. Laura McHugh
Command Sgt. Maj. Matt Hensinger

109th MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Commander - Maj. Angela King-Sweigart
1st Sgt. Steve Markowski
The Keystone Editor - Staff Sgt. Coltin Heller
The Keystone Layout and Design -
Pfc. Hannah Baker

213th RSG supports Papal visit to State



U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st. Lt. Amanda Westlund, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Service members receive a brief during Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration Operations Sept. 22, 2015. The 213th Personnel Company and 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 213th Regional Support Group in-processed all service members for the Papal visit.

Sgt. Lorene Mauro 109th MPAD

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – Soldiers from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard’s 213th Regional Support Group joined forces with multiple local, state and federal agencies Sept. 22-29 to support the papal visit and World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015.

The World Meeting of Families is a triennial event sponsored by the Holy See’s Pontifical Council for the Family and is the world’s largest Catholic gathering of families.

Members of the 213th Regional Support Group

Headquarters, the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the 213th Personnel Company and the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment supported the event.

The 213th Personnel Company along with members of the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 213th Regional Support Group Headquarters executed JRSOI, or Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration Operations. They established multiple joint reception centers that conducted more than 50 briefing and accountability sessions for National

Guard, regular Army, Navy and Air Force military and civilian personnel, said Maj. Danielle MacDonnell, 213th Personnel Company commander.

Soldiers from the 131st Transportation Company and 1067th Transportation Company, 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 213th Regional Support Group provided logistical support to the mission by driving more than 7,000 combined miles to distribute supplies throughout the operation.

Soldiers from the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion also operated buses located at

multiple life-support areas to assist troops stationed at traffic control points across the city.

Soldiers from the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment operated a Joint Visitors Bureau and provided public affairs support to the operation.

“Through the diligence and commitment of all the service members and state and federal workers, the mission was able to flow and function successfully,” said Maj. Keith McKeon, 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion executive officer.

Personnel Company returns from Kuwait

Maj. Angela King-Sweigart
109th MPAD

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa.— Soldiers with the 213th Personnel Company, 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, returned home from a nine-month deployment to three nations in December.

About 65 Soldiers from the unit, separated into three platoons spanning nearly half the globe for their deployment. One platoon was stationed in Romania, another in Kuwait and another in Afghanistan.

The Soldiers in Kuwait and Romania accounted for personnel entering and leaving the theater. This function is also known as Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration. The Soldiers in Afghanistan managed U.S. postal operations for the entire country, with a headquarters at Bagram Airfield and remote outposts throughout the country. They also supported postal operations for allied troops.

“These functions are exactly what a personnel company’s mission is,” explained Maj. Danielle MacDonnell, commander of the 213th Personnel Company who while deployed commanded the postal operations in Afghanistan. “A personnel company provides external human resources support, as opposed to a S1 personnel section, which provides internal HR support to an organization. The three missions of a personnel company are: personnel accountability, postal

operations and casualty reporting.”

The Soldiers had a successful mobilization and considered it a good experience. Sgt. 1st Class Alejandra Castillo, noncommissioned officer in-charge of the Kandahar post office said, “The best part of our deployment was knowing that we had a direct impact on morale for those in Afghanistan. Being able to provide quality and efficient postal support was vitally important and I’m so proud of everyone on the team who made that happen.”

The Soldiers returned home in September 2015 and drilled together for the first time in more than a year in December. The drill included holiday activities and encouraged camaraderie amongst the reunited unit members. As the unit moves into the new year the members of the unit are looking forward to begin training together as a company once again.

“It’s been great to have the unit back together again,” said MacDonnell. “Everybody is excited and motivated.”

Organized in 1849, the 213th Regional Support Group has a long history of providing support for both state and active duty operations. The 213th Regional Support Group consists of more than 20 specialized units located throughout the commonwealth. The units that represent the 213th RSG include finance, maintenance, personnel, sustainment, transportation, engineer, military police, contracting, public affairs, and hazardous materials organizations.

Supporters gathered to see the 213th Personnel Company, 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard at their send-off in fall of 2014. Since then, the unit has been training together.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Ed Shank

Fourth Annual March for the Fallen held at FTIG

Story by Sgt. Zane Craig
109th MPAD

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – More than 600 service members and civilians participated in the fourth annual March for the Fallen held here and hosted by the installation's morale, welfare and recreation program, Oct. 10, 2015. The event is held annually to pay tribute to service members who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The March for the Fallen began in April 2012 when a group of Pennsylvania National Guard members, inspired by the 26.2-mile Bataan Death March commemoration event in White Sands, New Mexico, organized a march to honor the fallen in Pennsylvania. The inaugural event took place at Fort Indiantown Gap, near Annville, with a satellite march in Erie.

This year's event featured morning and afternoon ceremonies commemorating Vietnam War veterans on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of that war.

Retired Capt. David Christian, a Vietnam veteran and recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, and Maj. Gen. James Joseph, Pennsylvania Adjutant General, also a Vietnam veteran, spoke at the ceremony.

"They put themselves in harm's way so that we may live in peace, and for this, we are forever indebted to them," said Joseph.

The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Fife and Drum Corps and Continental Color Guard opened the ceremony, while several Vietnam veterans' service



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Hannah Baker, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

The top participants in each category receive awards for their event.

organizations participated.

With the beautiful fall weather and increased turnout from previous years, many civilians participated in the march to remember family and friends who died in combat.

"We're staff members from the Christian School of York, and we're marching in honor of those who have been affiliated with our school in some way who have died in combat," said a community member attending.

While there was a large number of civilian participants and supporters, there were also a large number of military members in attendance showing their support.

Spc. Tiffany Dydak and Officer Candidate School cadets Ian Turner, Bret Barr and William Francis were members of the first team to finish the 14-mile ruck march. The team took a more competitive approach to the march, setting a goal to finish in

under five hours.

Barr said, "I wanted to do something for a good cause and continuous training."

Other participants included members of the nonprofit organization Operation Enduring Warrior (OEW). Earl Granville, previously a staff sergeant in the 109th Infantry Regiment, led teammates Lindsey Riddell, Jeremy Board, Michael Reese and Bruce Fuscaldo.

Granville, a wounded warrior himself, said the purpose of the OEW coming out to the march was to "honor, empower, and motivate veterans to continue to live active lifestyles."

Fort Indiantown Gap's March for the Fallen continues to be an event where service members, families and their supporters can gather to celebrate the memory of veterans who are no longer with us.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lorene Mauro, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Maj. Gen. James Joseph, former adjutant general, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, passes the 213th Regional Support Group colors to incoming commander Lt. Col. Laura McHugh during the change-of-command ceremony at Fort Indiantown Gap Nov. 8. The passing of the colors is an Army tradition symbolizing the passing of his trust and responsibility for the unit and its Soldiers.

Lt. Col. McHugh takes command of 213th RSG

**Sgt. Lorene Mauro
109th MPAD**

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. — The 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, held a change-of-command ceremony, Nov. 8, 2015.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Laura McHugh, a resident of Pine Grove, took charge of the unit from Col. Mark D. McCormack,

of Reinholds.

McCormack, who had commanded the unit since 2013, said about his experience, “The highlight of my time at the 213th RSG has to be working and serving with some of the best Soldiers in the U.S. Army. These soldiers constantly provide superior support and mission success in everything they do. It was an honor to serve with them during the

last few years.”

Under his leadership the group completed several challenging annual trainings and oversaw deployments, including the 213th Personnel Company’s deployments to Kuwait, Afghanistan and Romania and the 828th Finance Detachment’s deployment to Afghanistan. McCormack is a graduate of Mansfield University.

McHugh, the historic

organization’s incoming commander, is looking ahead. “I feel like I’m home. I’ve spent 19 years of my 30-year career in the 213th Group.” McHugh said she is tremendously happy to be back.

McHugh is a graduate of King’s College and earned her master’s degree from Duquesne University. She works full time for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

The 213th Regional Support Group has a lineage that traces back to the 'Lehigh Fencibles,' organized in August of 1849 in the city of Allentown. The unit was then reorganized less than a year later as the 'Allen Rifles,' who later responded to President Lincoln's call for troops to defend the national Capitol in Washington, D.C., at the outbreak of the Civil War. Since then elements of the 213th have participated in nine major conflicts: the Civil War, War with

Spain, World Wars I & II, Korea, Gulf War, Kosovo, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 213th Regional Support Group consists of more than 20 specialized units located throughout the state. The units that represent the 213th RSG include finance, maintenance, personnel, sustainment, transportation, engineer, military police, contracting, public affairs, and hazardous materials organizations.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lorene Mauro, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Soldiers from the units under the 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, stand in formation during the change-of-command ceremony where Lt. Col. Laura McHugh assumed command of the 213th RSG at Fort Indiantown Gap November 8. McHugh assumed command from Col. Mark D. McCormack, who served as the 213th Regional Support Group commander since 2013.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lorene Mauro, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.



U.S. Army National Guard photos by Pvt. Anna Churco, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

166th
Regt.
(Regional
Training
Institute)
fields new
infantry
physical
tasks



(Top): Staff Sgt Anthony Atiyeh, of 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment, and a native of Waterford, Michigan, completes an obstacle by dragging a fake medical casualty through a lane at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. April 3.

(Bottom): Staff Sgt. Anthony Atiyeh, with 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment, and native of Waterford, Michigan, and Sgt. Eric Abruzese of 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Division, and a native of Westchester, New York, help a fellow Soldier over the first obstacle while conducting a combat PT test, April 3 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.



(above) Sgt. Eric Abruzese, 3rd Battalion 172 Infantry Division, and a native of Westchester, N.Y. drops off sandbags after completing an obstacle at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., April 3.

109th MPAD trains with 8th Army, South Korea

Story by Pfc. Hannah Baker
109th MPAD

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea – Soldiers with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 213th Regional Support Group supported Eighth Army during their annual training here March 4-18.

Eight Soldiers with the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, based in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, trained on media operations and command information with their active duty counterparts from Eighth Army Public Affairs, Korean Augmentation to the United States Army and two Republic of Korea Army public affairs officers.

“On weekend drills we don’t always have enough time in our training calendars to train for missions we would perform in wartime scenarios because we



Notional press conference participants practice their skills by both acting as reporters and hosting other notional media at the 109th MPAD's notional press conference, Yongsan Garrison, March 16.

actually perform our mission regularly at drills,” said 1st Sgt. Steve Markowski, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. “Performing annual training overseas requires preparation similar to being mobilized for a real world missions which adds realism to our training,” Markowski continued.

Training missions like these offer opportunities for Soldiers from different groups to practice their skills and learn from each other.

The unit wrote stories, took photographs and hosted a notional press conference where they both ran the conference and played the role of reporters.

Sgt. Maj. Chris Seaton, is Eighth Army’s senior public affairs noncommissioned officer.

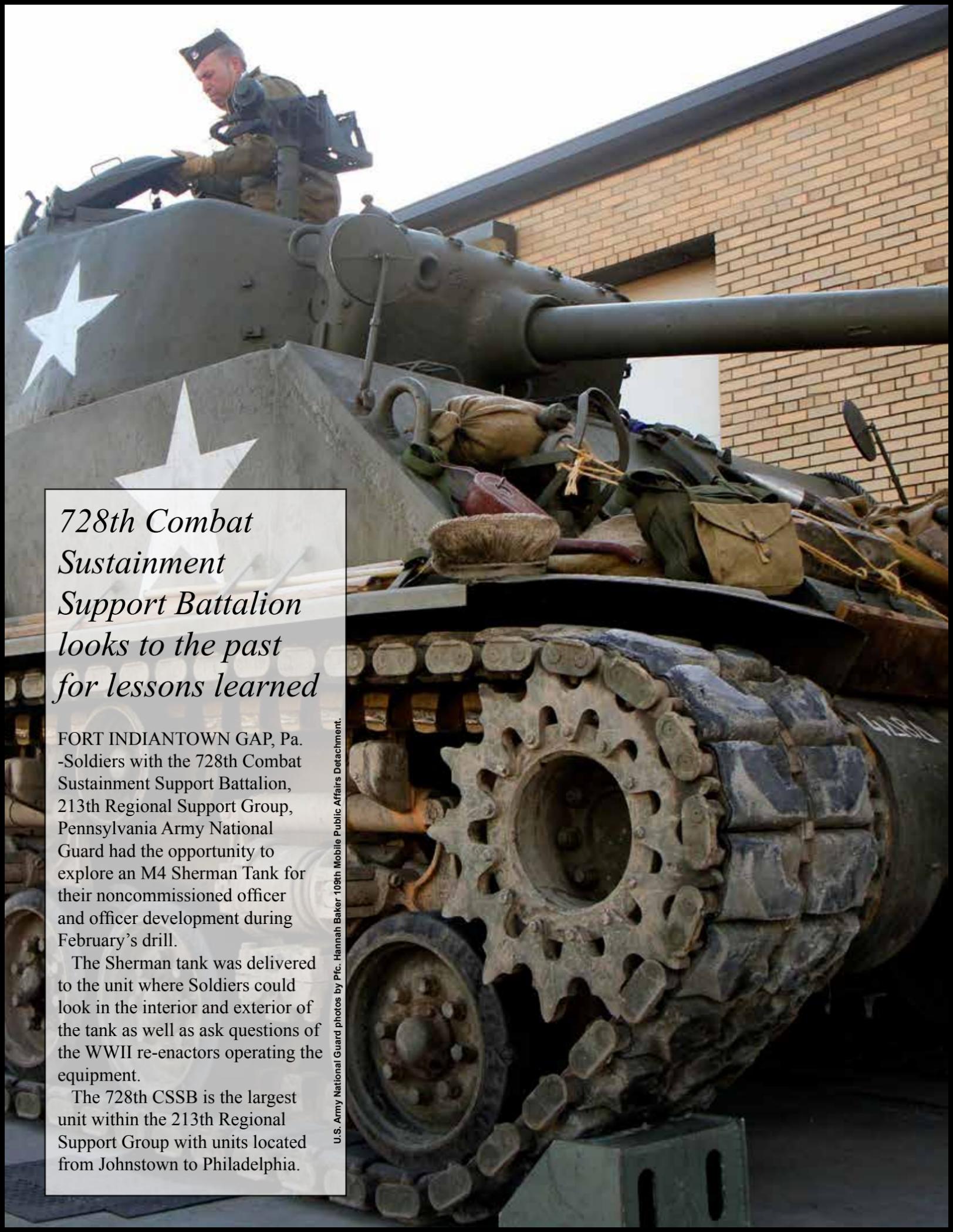
“I’ve been really impressed with the way the unit came in,” said Seaton. “They came in off the plane ready to work. It speaks to the leadership of the unit and the preparedness of the Soldiers,” he added.

This is the second year in a row the unit has done its annual training in South Korea.

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Maj. Angela S. King-Sweigart, commander of the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, welcomes the press and introduces the speakers during the mock press conference here on March 16.



*728th Combat
Sustainment
Support Battalion
looks to the past
for lessons learned*

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. -Soldiers with the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard had the opportunity to explore an M4 Sherman Tank for their noncommissioned officer and officer development during February's drill.

The Sherman tank was delivered to the unit where Soldiers could look in the interior and exterior of the tank as well as ask questions of the WWII re-enactors operating the equipment.

The 728th CSSB is the largest unit within the 213th Regional Support Group with units located from Johnstown to Philadelphia.

U.S. Army National Guard photos by Pfc. Hannah Baker 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.