

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 79TH SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT COMMAND

THE FALCON



79th SSC Best Warrior Competition ***page 16***

TRAINED, READY, COHESIVE, WELL-LED
SUSTAINMENT UNITS FOR WORLD-WIDE DEPLOYMENT

Summer 2016

THE FALCON CONTENTS

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79th SSC Public Affairs Chief



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TWO STAR NOTES:

BY MAJ. GEN. MARK W. PALZER
79TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (SUPPORT)
COMMANDING GENERAL

79TH IN TRANSITION:

READY FOR TOMORROW'S MISSIONS, TODAY

The 79th Sustainment Support Command will formally inactivate in September 2017. Subsequently, our proud command will activate as the 79th Theater Sustainment Command.

As the second largest command in the U.S. Army Reserve, the 79th is directly involved in preparing and supporting America's fighting forces for an operational future. The Army Reserve is an integrated and invaluable part of the total force alongside the Active Component Army, National Guard, and the other services to accomplish our National goals. But tomorrow's missions are not the missions of yesterday.

In this evolution of our command, we will regionally align with U.S. Africa Command, and operationally as part of U.S. Army, Africa. Our organization must lead the way as we transform by continually increasing our capability, capacity, and readiness. We must prepare

to operate in various environments under austere conditions. The Army Reserve provides an irreplaceable form of continuity, while the active forces in support of U.S. Army Africa transition Soldiers and leaders every two to four years. Therefore, developing our Soldiers toward long term engagement within the continent of Africa is crucial. Consider that the lieutenants and staff sergeants leading training missions on the continent today will become the company commanders and first sergeants leading relief operations there in the future.

Legacy Leadership

Our sustainment forces provide capabilities that exist primarily in the Army Reserve. Because of this, and with the realignment of our command, we will see career and geographically-aligned relationships, talent, and skill sets being grown from within our ranks.

Our nation remains engaged in



"I need all of you to recognize the critical nature of the sustainment mission in support of all theaters around the globe."

continuous operations overseas. Concurrently, we can expect reduced funding. However, while our finances may be limited, our Soldiers' talent is limitless. We must tap into the strengths of our Citizen-Soldiers more than ever before to support the total force. I need all of you to recognize our critical sustainment mission significance in support of missions around the globe.

This means that all of us must remain focused on readiness as never before. We see continuous engagement opportunities for Soldiers and Annual Training missions in Africa and in Europe. Get ready to support missions across the globe and remain ready. Leaders and noncommissioned officers teach, coach, and mentor, not only your subordinates, but your officer leadership. We all have a responsibility for life-long learning. We must be ready for the missions ahead, and that means lifting each other up and maintaining the Army Team.

In any mission, logistics is one of the single-greatest drivers of operational success. The need for the 79th TSC to own

Regional Partnerships

that logistics requirement is vital. Our recent trips to Africa have enlightened our team about the role of the Army National Guard and the State Partnership Program - with this program, there is an opportunity to develop regional partnership by collaboration with these National Guard units and to leverage their long developed relationships with our allies and to assist individual African nations to develop skill sets within their forces.

Remaining Ready

It remains a great time to serve as "Twice the Citizen" within the Army Reserve and it is an honor to serve with you in the 79th as we expand our mission and focus our readiness toward routine operational missions. Help me to grow the force by focusing on the developing, training, retaining, and sustaining an Army Reserve ready for the missions of tomorrow, today.

***"To Do For Country,
Falcon Strong!"***



STAYING READY

BY COMMAND SGT. MAJ. TED L. COPELAND

I wish every Soldier, Civilian and Family member a safe and happy autumn. As you enjoy this time of year with family and friends keep safety a priority in all you do. Each and every one of you are part of the 79th Sustainment Command (Support) family and the commander and I care for each one of you.

As I have written in the last two Falcon articles, Soldiers have a personal responsibility to manage their careers and meet all requirements expected of them by the Army, with oversight from their first line supervisors. As the Army Reserve continues its efforts as an operational force, commitments and requirements will increase, necessitating units that are fully trained and equipped to deploy for contingency operations. This places even more of a premium on Soldiers to meet all readiness expectations and to be fully qualified in their duty positions. Now as the summer annual training time frame is complete, it is time to refocus ourselves from unit collective training back to individual training, preparing for the next training cycle. What does this mean? Each and every Soldier has an individual training responsibility as we move through the end of this training year and into 2017. It is vital that every Soldier pursue the highest level of indi-



vidual readiness possible, including completing mandatory training and the next level of professional military education. Even training that may seem mundane or repetitive can make a big difference when it comes to staying ready for deployment. The time to prepare for deployment isn't the moment deployment orders are issued; the time is now.

The past eight months have been a busy time for the Soldiers of the 79th SSC and our performance as a command has been stellar. I want to personally thank all of you for your efforts and sacrifice in pushing the 79th to be a better organization. Our work isn't done, but we are moving in the right direction. Keep up the great work; stay ready!

"Falcon Strong!"

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Command Executive Officer Report

Mr. Gregory Hinton

79th SSC Command Executive Officer



As the 79th Sustainment Command (Support) is called upon as a vital part of the Army Reserve for sustainment missions around the globe, we must be agile, innovative, and resilient to adapt. Current operations have reinforced the need to balance the technological focus of modernization of our unit and equipment with an emphasis on the human, cultural, and political continuities of missions. The nature of this strategic environment requires our Soldiers, Civilians, and teams to possess more nuanced and diverse knowledge, skills, and behaviors than ever before. As the 79th Sustainment Command (Support) Headquarters transitions to a Theater Sustainment Command, we will require and acquire enhanced capabilities in the cognitive, physical, and social components of the human dimension and must optimize the performance of each Soldier, Civilian, and team. With our revised structure, we will have minimal manpower increases, and a limited budget to effect the required transformation; generally, the transformation will be idea-based.

We will innovate and deviate from the way we have "always done things" to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing and uncertain future. Going forward, we know the Nation expects Army Professionals to adhere to the highest standards of conduct, ensuring ethical and disciplined application of our efforts. We will live the Army Ethic and be professionals of character who are competent and committed.

The future mission dictates the use of decentralized operations in complex environments. Our professionals have to think broadly about the nature of missions and the larger context in which we operate. We will think critically, developing creative solutions to complex problems. We will fully utilize our Analytic Cost Experts within the 79th SSC to streamline processes and develop cost efficiencies. We will also train our leaders to think globally, leverage cross-cultural expertise to operate among populations, support regional security, and be interoperable with other military services, government agencies, and partner nations as we move closer to becoming a Theater Sustainment Command.

We will continue to empower our adaptive leaders

and cohesive teams, and encourage them to exhibit exceptional resilience. We will optimize the human performance of every Soldier and Civilian in the 79th Sustainment Command (Support), transforming the way we view our force. Going forward, we will not manage "personnel," we will manage "TALENT."

Talent Management is a more holistic approach to recruiting, hiring, developing, employing, and retaining high quality, motivated people. We will identify and catalog the talents of our current force, and analyze our future needs to identify the "gaps" we need to fill through a more focused pipeline. This applies to Soldiers, Civilians, and every Army Reserve Professional. As we build better teams comprised of the right individuals with the right talents, we will continue to improve the organization.

This effort requires an integrated and enterprise approach. With the proper authorities, oversight, and accountability, a Talent Management approach will ensure unity of effort and inform resource allocation and decisions. A coordinated effort will ensure we build cohesive teams of Soldiers and Civilians who can produce solutions to complex human problems that are ethically right, tactically sound, and strategically appropriate.

The path to get there includes implementing enhanced talent management down to the individual team member, so the right person receives the right career assignment (to include training and education) at the right time. Talent Management is not a one-size-fits all concept. We need every member of our team to be ready to step in to fill a gap, to be agile and resilient, and to ensure our efforts are relevant.

Spiritual Fitness

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Bohr
364th ESC Command Chaplain



Spiritual Reflections on Anakonda 16—a Joint Effort

The 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a direct subordinate unit of the 79th Sustainment Command (Support), participated in Anakonda 2016, a multi-component, multi-service, and multi-national military training exercise in Poland throughout May and June 2016. Probably the most significant initiative achieved from a religious support perspective was the integration of Polish and American military clergy. In Sczechien, Poland, the 230th Sustainment Brigade's (a Tennessee National Guard unit) Chaplain coordinated to give a joint Catholic mass with the Polish Chaplain assigned to the military base where the 230th SB had set up its headquarters. Almost 30 Soldiers attended the translated service. In Warsaw, the Polish Army Chaplain offered his Catholic Mass with the 30th Medical Brigade Chaplain. Two generals (Polish and American) attended the service. These jointly-practiced religious services were a profound statement of solidarity between American military forces and our Polish military hosts. With the host nation being 90 percent Catholic in practice, the presence of Army Chaplains who could integrate with the Polish Army Chaplains was a significant enhancement to the successful operation.

For a number of the units, the exercise also coincided with the observance of Memorial Day, a suitable reminder of our legacy as Soldiers. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Bohr and his team initiated a Memorial Day Service that took place in the Polish dining facility and featured musical numbers by Soldiers from the 30th Medical Brigade and a keynote address by the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Staff Judge Advocate, Lt. Col. Robert Webb—almost 50 personnel attended the service.

The 16th Sustainment Brigade Chaplain Team created a hand-made wreath that they placed at the foot of a memorial display as part of the ceremony.

With units spread throughout Poland, the coordination of religious support relied heavily on establishing effective lines of communication with the other Religious Support Teams (RSTs) assigned to the 364th ESC's subordinate units during the exercise. A highlight of the mission was the opportunity for Chaplain Bohr to visit some of the unit locations along with Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas P. Brashears, 364th ESC. The visit provided the necessary situational awareness of the challenges and successes of the RSTs serving in their assigned locations. Chaplains and religious affairs specialists took the initiative to provide creative and meaningful religious support events.



Maj. Patrick Paul Brownell, the Chaplain for the 230th Sustainment Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard Chattanooga, Tenn., preaches to a Polish congregation during NATO training exercise Anakonda 16 on June 6. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. A. Sean Taylor, 649th Regional Support Group)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

PROMOTING DIGNITY AND RESPECT IN AN OPERATIONAL FORCE

Ms. Veronica Martinez
79th SSC EO Program Manager



Respect plays a major role in the Army values. Throughout history the Army values have continued to evolve to address those who face discrimination and harassment. The discrimination and harassment of Soldiers, especially based on race, gender, religion, national origin, and sexual orientation is not tolerated in the Army. The Army strives to produce leaders who will carry out their responsibility to ensure that all Soldiers are treated with dignity and respect.

In recent years there have been two notable changes in the Equal Opportunity (EO) arena: the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and the role of women. Today, women serve in 132 military occupational specialties including combat arms occupational specialties. In 2015, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced that the Pentagon added sexual orientation as a protected class under the military Equal Opportunity Policy and today, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities are allowed to serve in the military freely.

With change comes controversy and nonetheless we are expected to adhere to the values of our organization; loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. By treating each other with dignity and respect, we maintain unit morale, cohesion, trust, and teamwork. Morale impacts a Soldier's commitment to the mission and his or her commitment to the Soldiers with whom they serve. Cohesion and trust

between Soldiers, results in teamwork. Teaching, modeling and imploring Soldiers to treat one another with dignity and respect results in greater mission performance and accomplishment.

The goal of the Army and the EO Program in support of readiness, is to sustain a comprehensive effort to maximize human potential and ensure fair treatment for all persons based solely on merit, fitness, and capability. Strategies for combating discrimination and harassment include awareness, education, and most importantly, leadership. With the help of unit assessment tools such as sensing sessions and command climate surveys, a chain of command can obtain feedback on how its EO Program is working. Units are also mandated to conduct awareness and education sessions on topics like hazing and bullying, and participate in ethnic and special observances. These sessions enhance cross-cultural and cross-gender awareness to promote harmony among all military members, their families, and the civilian work force.

All leaders are obligated to consistently support and commit to the Army EO Program and to educate and train EO awareness to build the very best Army possible. We all have the responsibility to promote dignity and respect regardless of race, gender, religion, national origin, and sexual orientation.



Lt. Col. Mark A. Ned
79th SSC Deputy G1



The Army's Human Resources Professionals

Have you ever had an issue with your pay? Or have you needed assistance updating your Automated Record Brief? What about checking on the status of one of your Soldier's Impact, Permanent Change of Station (PCS), or Retirement awards? If you answered yes to any of these questions, there is a high probability that you walked over to your local personnel office (known as S1/G1) and sought assistance.

The lineage of the Adjutant General's (AG) Corps dates back nearly as far as the Army which it has honorably served for over 200 years. The Adjutant General's Corps is part of the Force Sustainment Division of the Army. The AG Corps provides personnel and administration support to Soldiers and commanders. Our mission is to help build and sustain combat readiness through planning, operating and managing military personnel activities, which include: strength management, personnel management, personnel readiness, postal operations, and band functions. As the Army's customer service representatives, we are here to advise Soldiers on matters regarding their career and to provide personnel support that affects Soldiers' overall welfare and well-being, while assisting commanders by accounting for and keeping Soldiers combat-ready.

Each and every day, whether in garrison or in the operational space, Army human resource personnel are there to support Soldiers and their families. Every piece of correspondence or email that has a Soldier's name on it has some level of impact on that Soldier or his family. Examples include a promotion packet, an assignment order, recognition award, reenlistment, or a retirement packet for those who have served the nation honorably.

When it is time to transition back to civilian life, whether its completing a deployment, Active Duty

for Operational Support- Reserve Component orders, or retirement, it is imperative that you seek out the assistance of your local G1/S1 and out-process according to your unit's established SOP during your transition.

Think of your transition to civilian life as a journey on which you can use your individual transition plan as a road map. Your G1/S1 can help you address the foregoing points, as well as assist in dealing with the stress that can result from life-altering changes, which are a natural part of the transition process.

It is absolutely essential that you ensure that all of your military records are accurate before you separate from military service. This includes your service medical records and your administrative/personnel file (including performance evaluations, service-issued licenses or certifications, DD Form 2586, and any security clearances). Never give out the original copy of any of these documents. Your DD Form 214 is possibly the most important document that you will receive from the military. You cannot obtain Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits without presenting a DD Form 214. Keep your original DD Form 214 (and all service documents) in a safe, fireproof place and make at least 10 certified copies. In most states, you can register or record your DD Form 214 with county or town registrar's office.

Since World War II, Adjutant General's Corps Soldiers have been combat tested on the battlefields in Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, and presently Iraq and Afghanistan. So, the next time you are in need of career advice, have an evaluation question, transition guidance or need to pick-up your unit's mail, stop by the S1/G1 office and I'm sure that you will be greeted and serviced with a smile; the AG way!

POWER OF ATTORNEY BASICS

Col. Phillip N. Foster
79th SSC Staff Judge Advocate (SJA)



Part of making the transition to an operationally-ready Army Reserve is ensuring Soldiers are prepared for worldwide deployment with their legal affairs in order. Procuring a power of attorney is one way Soldiers can prepare for deployment.

A power of attorney is a written document that gives one person the authority to act on another's behalf for any legal or economic issue for a specified period of time. If you are deploying, consider providing your spouse, parent, or a trusted friend with a power of attorney for the expected length of your deployment to ensure that your affairs are taken care of while you are away. The person designated in the power of attorney document should be your spouse, parent or a trusted friend because it gives that person your expressed written permission to act on your behalf. A power of attorney is a distinct document from a last will and testament. The legal rights of a power of attorney cease at the end of the period of time specified in the document or upon your death. In the event of death, the executor named in the last will and testament assumes the responsibilities of your estate.

Powers of attorney are available at all installation legal assistance offices and should be tailored to a given situation. Although a power of attorney can be very useful, it can be abused as well. Be careful choosing whom you grant authority to, "stand in your shoes." Additionally, note that a power of attorney is only as good as a third party's willingness to accept and honor it. Certain third parties, such as businesses or banks, may require a specific form as a power of attorney at their discretion.

When drafting a power of attorney, you may choose a general power of attorney that gives the designated person the power to perform almost any legal act on your behalf for a specified period of time. Or, you can choose a special power of attorney that allows you to give limited and specific powers to the designated person for a specified period of time. If you do not specify whether a general power of attorney is durable, it will automatically end if you become incapacitated in the future. A general or special power of attorney may be made "durable" with appropriate language. Your local legal assistance office can help you determine the power of attorney that is best for your particular situation. You can revoke a power of attorney at any time, as long as you are mentally competent. When drafting the original document, you may consider limiting the length of the power of attorney so that it automatically revokes upon your return from deployment. To revoke a power of attorney before its expiration, you can execute a revocation of power of attorney and give a copy to any person that might deal with the person who has the original document.

For more assistance on establishing or revoking a power of attorney, contact your local legal assistance office. To locate the closest legal assistance at a military installation, use the Armed Forces Legal Assistance Legal Services Locator available at the following link: <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil> or visit <http://www.jagcnet.army.mil>.

INSPECTOR GENERAL

Sgt. 1st Class Martha C. Leone

79th SSC Assistant Inspector General

Serving as an IG Soldier: A Career Opportunity

The 79th Sustainment Command (Support) Inspector General team serves as an extension of the eyes, ears, voice, and the conscience of the Commanding General. The role of the IG is to work closely with commanders at all levels to resolve issues and provide solutions at the lowest level possible while protecting the confidentiality of all concerned. Our core functions include inspections, investigations, assistance, teaching, and training to resolve problems.

Inspections: The IG staff conducts inspections to identify the root cause of an issue and develop recommendations on how to improve the issue and organization. The IG also provides the inspected commander and the staff, with the standard and tools to improve systemic issues. Teaching and training is the main focus of our inspections as we strive to leave every unit that we inspect with recommendations in order to correct identified deficiencies and improve their readiness. IG Inspections are non-attributional and are not used to rate a unit or a commander's performance.

Investigations and Inquiries: The IG investigates fraud, waste and abuse issues, violations of law or Army Regulations, policies and whistleblower reprisals. All investigations and inquiries are handled objectively to ensure compliance with regulations, policies, and laws. IGs are impartial fact-finders and do not serve as an advocate for a complainant. Many investigations result in commanders' better understanding of processes, regulations or laws, help stop rumors or misunderstanding of perceived wrongdoings and clear the good name of Army officials.

Assistance: Any Soldier, Civilian or Family Member can request assistance from the IG. However, they should seek resolution of an issue first through the chain of command. Assistance requests, or complaints, as they are normally referred to, should be filed with their local Inspector General, but due to geographical locations of higher headquarters, it can be filed with any IG. It is the intent of the Inspector General System that an IG closest to the complaint

provide assistance or conduct inquiries into the matters submitted.

Issues that are not IG Appropriate: Before going to the IG, complainants should ensure that there is a problem, not just a misunderstanding with their leadership or the regulation. Complainants must understand that IGs are not policy makers and cannot direct a resolution, and that IGs can only resolve matters based on facts and evidence. Some issues brought to the Inspector General are not IG appropriate because there is another system (redress or appeals) in place to address them, such as Evaluations, Courts-Martial actions, separations, financial liability investigations of property loss, EO or EEO complaints, command directed investigations (AR 15-6), or non-Army related matters.

Do you have what it takes to be an IG? Serving as an IG provides a unique opportunity for Officers and Noncommissioned officers to gain a broad perspective and understanding of the Army not usually available in any other assignment. There are nominative Inspector General vacancies in the 79th SSC and throughout the Army Reserve, for enlisted Soldiers in the ranks of Staff Sergeant (P) through Master Sergeant and Officers in the ranks of Captain thru Colonel. The IG's role demands that only officers and NCOs who are mature, ethical, and morally beyond reproach be nominated for selection as an IG. The vetting process culminates in The Inspector General selecting only those NCOs and Officers who embrace and exemplify a strong commitment to the Army Values and the Warrior Ethos. If you are interested contact your local Inspector General for the packet

79th SSC Inspector General POCs

79th SSC IG (562) 936-7703

311th ESC (310) 235-4224 4th ESC (210) 466-2794
451st ESC (316) 681-1759 x 1260 364th ESC (360) 403-2396



Ms. Maurnike Stevenson

79th SSC SHARP Program Manager

There is a battle that each and every Soldier, regardless of rank, is called upon to fight. The enemy: sexual assault and harassment. Assaults to our personnel cracks the very foundation of Army values and Warrior Ethos. The damage to survivors is often silent, hushed by shame, pressure, and fear. This damage reaches far and wide, impacting so much more than just a solitary victim. Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program victim advocates work with commanders and support victims of sexual harassment and assault. Soldiers and Civilians can come together to intervene in the battle that rages on among the Army ranks.

SHARP provides Soldiers and senior leaders the tools to understand their individual roles and responsibilities regarding response to sexual assault victims, whether in a non-duty or duty status. The Department of the Army SHARP policy promotes sensitive care and confidential reporting for victims of sexual assault and accountability for those who commit these crimes. An educated Army community is essential to establishing an effective climate of prevention. Leaders across the Army are engaging in interactive assessments about sexual assault myths and facts, to foster a preventive culture, ensuring a safe reporting environment and ensuring

appropriate accountability. Soldiers are taught about offender tactics, how to intervene in suspected sexual assault situations, and how to report an incident. Soldiers and DA Civilians are taught how they can influence the safety of the Army Community and the workplace. The Army aggressively teaches and promotes Army values and self-discipline to new recruits and first-term Soldiers to ensure they understand and embrace the Army's efforts to create a climate of prevention and intervention.

In September 2014 the Army's SHARP Program Office requested that the Emergent Leader Immersive Training Environment, also known as ELITE, counseling tool be further developed into a SHARP-specific tool to better prepare command teams for dealing with sexual assault and sexual harassment in the ranks. On April 1, at the start of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, a new Army training video was released; the ELITE Command Team Trainer. The CTT is an interactive video game designed to assist commanders as all levels deal with sexual assault and sexual harassment. The game is available on the Army's MIL-GAMING website at milgaming.army.mil.

NOT IN MY SQUAD.
NOT IN OUR ARMY.
WE ARE TRUSTED
PROFESSIONALS.



THE SOLDIER LEADER RISK REDUCTION TOOL:

New device to get to know your Soldiers

Mr. Peter Dubinin

79th SSC Suicide Prevention Program Manager

Losing a Soldier or Civilian to suicide is tragic, and it is our responsibility as teammates to extend every resource available to our colleagues in crisis. In that vein, the Soldier Leader Risk Reduction Tool is a new tool that has been developed and released for use to help leaders identify the signs of suicidality. According to U.S. Army Reserve Command Operation Order 16-109, suicide prevention efforts will add the Soldier Leader Risk Reduction Tool to the on-going requirement of Ask, Care, Escort-Suicide Intervention training. The SLRRT will provide junior leaders and first line supervisors a tool to directly get to know their Soldiers better and learn more about their lives, including determining if they might be at risk for suicide. This will provide the leader a better awareness of how to assist their Soldier; either to provide resources, or escort them to a care provider.

The U.S. Army Reserve provides world-class training opportunities for suicide prevention and intervention. All Soldiers and Civilians receive Ask, Care, Escort training as an annual recurring requirement. All junior leaders and first line supervisors (E5-E8, O1-O4, WO1-CW4) receive ACE-SI; a four-hour block of instruction to provide basic suicide intervention skills. Many times junior leaders and first line supervisors are called upon to intervene when a Soldier makes a suicide attempt or has suicidal thoughts. In a similar fashion to the Army's combat lifesaver course, Soldiers also receive

useful suicide intervention skills that may save a life. In addition, the U.S. Army Reserve Suicide Action Plan requires units to identify Soldiers within their ranks to serve as "gatekeepers," two per company-sized element. Gatekeepers must complete a two-day workshop in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. The ASIST training program is top-tier and used throughout the world in such places as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom. The capstone of the training is a five-day workshop designed to train trainers in ASIST. Those who complete the five-day training and conduct three, two-day ASIST workshops, will qualify for an Additional Skill Identifier: 1S.

Suicide prevention and intervention skills provide tools and a gateway to creating an Army team community centered on genuine concern for all members' well-being. The term 'community' expresses the reality of people engaged in a common purpose who genuinely care for each other. Authentic relationship among members of the community serves as the entrance to effective suicide prevention and intervention, and an authentic relationship establishes the credibility required to gain appropriate access into another person's life. As leaders and team members, I encourage all of you to study the skills provided by the ASIST and ACE programs, implore you to use them when needed, and take extra steps to get to know your Soldiers and battle buddies—your efforts could be their lifeline.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255

ESC Suicide Prevention Program Managers

4th ESC, Mr. Brion Pinkerton, 210-466-2638
364th ESC, SSG Wayne Smith, 360-403-2392

311th ESC, Mr. Ken Gesch, 310-235-4290
451st ESC, Ms. Kelli Pfau, 316-681-1759 x-1450

PROTECTING THE FORCE



Lt. Col. Gary S. Ross

79th SSC Force Protection Officer

What is the 79th SSC doing to protect its troops and their families?

The U.S. Army Reserve Command assigned a highly skilled group of Active Guard and Reserve Military Police Officers at general officer command levels within the 79th SSC. These select MP Officers come with many years of experience, along with specialized training in the area of antiterrorism and force protection. On August 24-25, these antiterrorism officers from all five general officer commands within the 79th SSC, along with members of the USARC Antiterrorism Branch, convened in Los Alamitos, California, for two days of discussions and planning. The goal was simple: do our very best to protect the force.

What you can expect to see from your Force Protection Teams

Working closely with the USARC Antiterrorism Branch, all our ESC antiterrorism officers received an easy to follow road map for a fiscal year's worth of training priorities. As this training tool works its way down to the antiterrorism officers at all levels throughout the 79th SSC, Soldiers will receive robust classroom and situational training exercises on the most current threats. Most importantly, by following this road map of training priorities, the ESCs can expect to be financially funded to execute cutting-edge training that hits home ... keeping our Soldiers and their Families protected.

What policies and procedures are in place?

Antiterrorism is both an art and a science and should be treated as such. Your antiterrorism officers fully understand the guidelines for force protection and the requirements of Army Regula-

tion 525-13, Military Operations Antiterrorism.

However, beyond the eight tasks and 35 specified standards, and the employment of various Threat Condition Measures daily at each of your facilities, comes the artistic side of Antiterrorism. Each of your Antiterrorism Officers, at all levels throughout the 79th SSC, are tasked to establish a close knit relationship with their local, county, and state law enforcement counterparts by sharing information, through local and regional fusion cells, it allows our subject matter experts to understand local threats and challenges down to the zip code level. Your unit Antiterrorism Officers have been equipped with the most current Army Regulations, cutting edge blocks of training and procedures, and personal knowledge of law enforcement information at their Reserve Center location. Armed with these resources, unit Antiterrorism officers are tremendous assets to their Commanders...and together, will strive to keep our Soldiers and their families well protected.

As the antiterrorism officer for the 79th SSC, it is my duty to ensure that those who would do harm never get that opportunity. This is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. Each and every time a member of the 79th SSC family arrives at one of our facilities to work and train, it is important that they feel safe knowing that our team has your back.

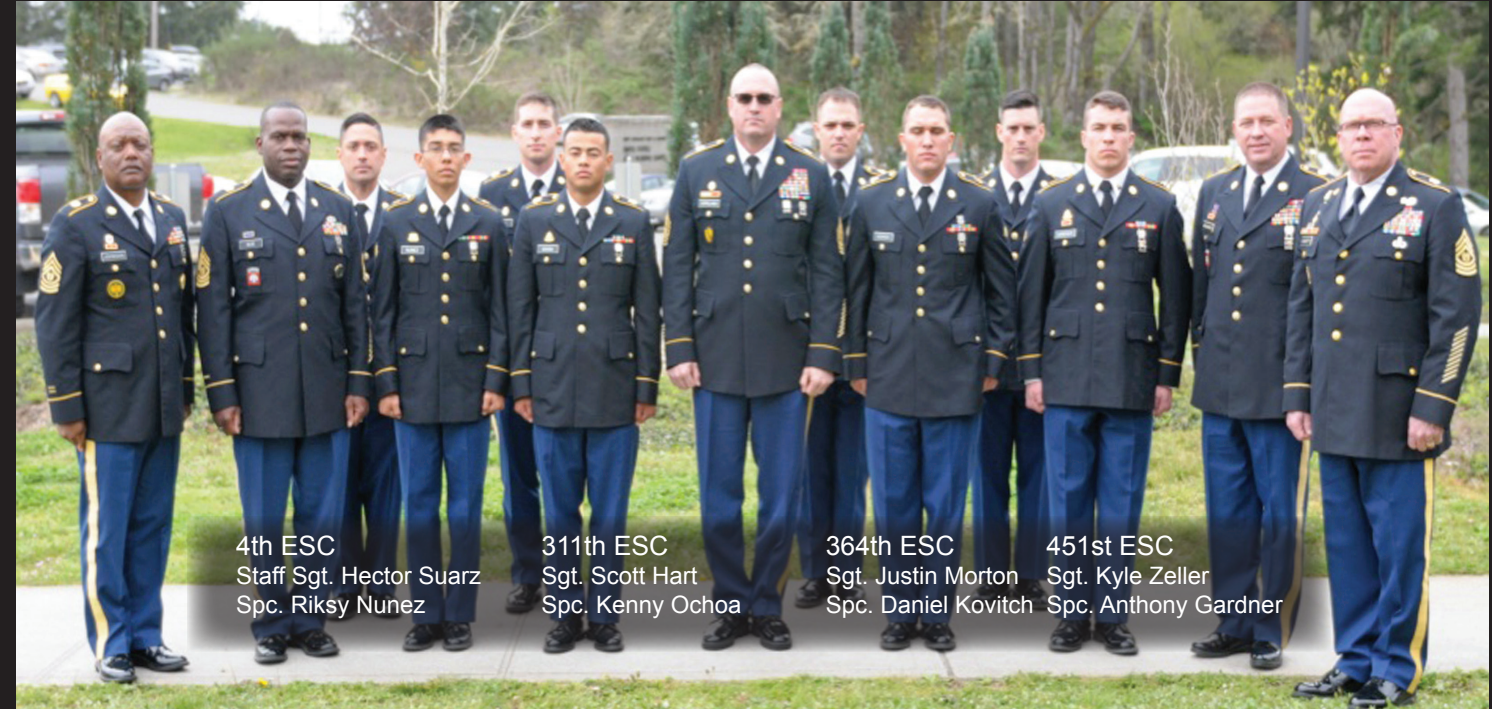
“ASSIST, PROTECT, DEFEND”

79TH SSC BEST WARRIORS

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class James Lilly
79th SSC Public Affairs Chief



Spc. Daniel Kovitch (left) representing the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquartered in Marysville, Wash., and Sgt. Scott Hart, representing the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquartered in Los Angeles, Calif., claim the prizes of best Soldier and best non-commissioned officer in the 79th SSC Best Warrior Competition. The awards ceremony wrapped up after three long days of intense competition where eight competitors pushed themselves to their physical, mental and intellectual limits. These two 79th warriors represented our command at the United States Army Reserve Competition at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. To see a video of the competition please visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/458475/79th-sustainment-support-command-2016-best-warrior-competition>.



4th ESC	311th ESC	364th ESC	451st ESC
Staff Sgt. Hector Suarz	Sgt. Scott Hart	Sgt. Justin Morton	Sgt. Kyle Zeller
Spc. Riksy Nunez	Spc. Kenny Ochoa	Spc. Daniel Kovitch	Spc. Anthony Gardner

4th ESC Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Johnson (left), 311th ESC Command Sgt. Maj. Grady Blue (second to left), 79th SSC Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Copeland (center), 364th ESC Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Brashears (second to right), and 451st ESC Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Langworthy (right) take a group photo with the best warrior competitors.



Sgt. Justin Morton, representing the 364th ESC, takes a moment to catch his breath after completing the 10K foot march during the Best Warrior competition.



Spc. Kenny Ochoa, from the 311th ESC, assembles the M249 light machine gun as part of mystery event during the Best Warrior competition.



Spc. Riksy Nunez, from the 4th ESC, receives some verbal motivation from his sponsor, Sgt. Zamora Abraham, as he crosses the finish line of the 10K foot march.



Spc. Daniel Kovitch, from the 364th ESC, clears a 8-foot wall during the obstacle course portion of the 79th SSC Best Warrior Competition.



Spc. Anthony Gardner, from the 451st ESC, shoots an azimuth before heading to his first point during the land navigation event.



Sgt. Kyle Zeller, from the 451st ESC, demonstrates his upper body strength by crossing the horizontal ladder.



Sgt. Scott Hart, from the 311th ESC, assembles the M249 light machine gun as part of mystery event.



Staff Sgt. Hector Suarez, and his sponsor Staff Sgt. Helen Haby, sprint across the 10K foot march finish line.



Spc. Daniel Kovitch, representing the 364th ESC, performs modified push-ups a part of the physical training event at the Best Warrior Competition.



Spc. Riksy Nunez, from the 4th ESC, stakes his weapon after firing in the marksmanship event.



Spc. Daniel Kovitch, from the 364th ESC, locates his grid coordinates before heading out to the land navigation course.



Sgt. Kyle Zeller, from the 451st ESC, cools down after the grueling 10K foot march.



90th Sustainment Brigade Participates in D-Day Ceremonies

Story by Sgt. 1st Class James Lilly
79th SSC Public Affairs Chief



90th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers along with World War II Veterans from 90th Infantry Division and family members take time for a photo at the 90th ID memorial on Utah Beach June 4, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pamela Johnston)

NORMANDY, France – Twelve Soldiers from the 90th Sustainment Brigade traveled here in early June to take part in the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Maj. Gen. Mark Palzer, Commanding General of the 79th Sustainment Command (Support), gave remarks at two ceremonies honoring the 90th SB.

The first ceremony was held in the town of Picaucville on the evening of June 3. City officials, veterans

of the 90th Infantry Division (ID) and members of the 90th SB along with French and German Soldiers paid their respects at the 90th ID memorial located in the center of town.

The second ceremony was held the morning of June 4 at the 90th ID and 82nd Airborne Division Memorial in Gourbesville.

During World War II on June 9, 1944, the Americans broke through the Ger-

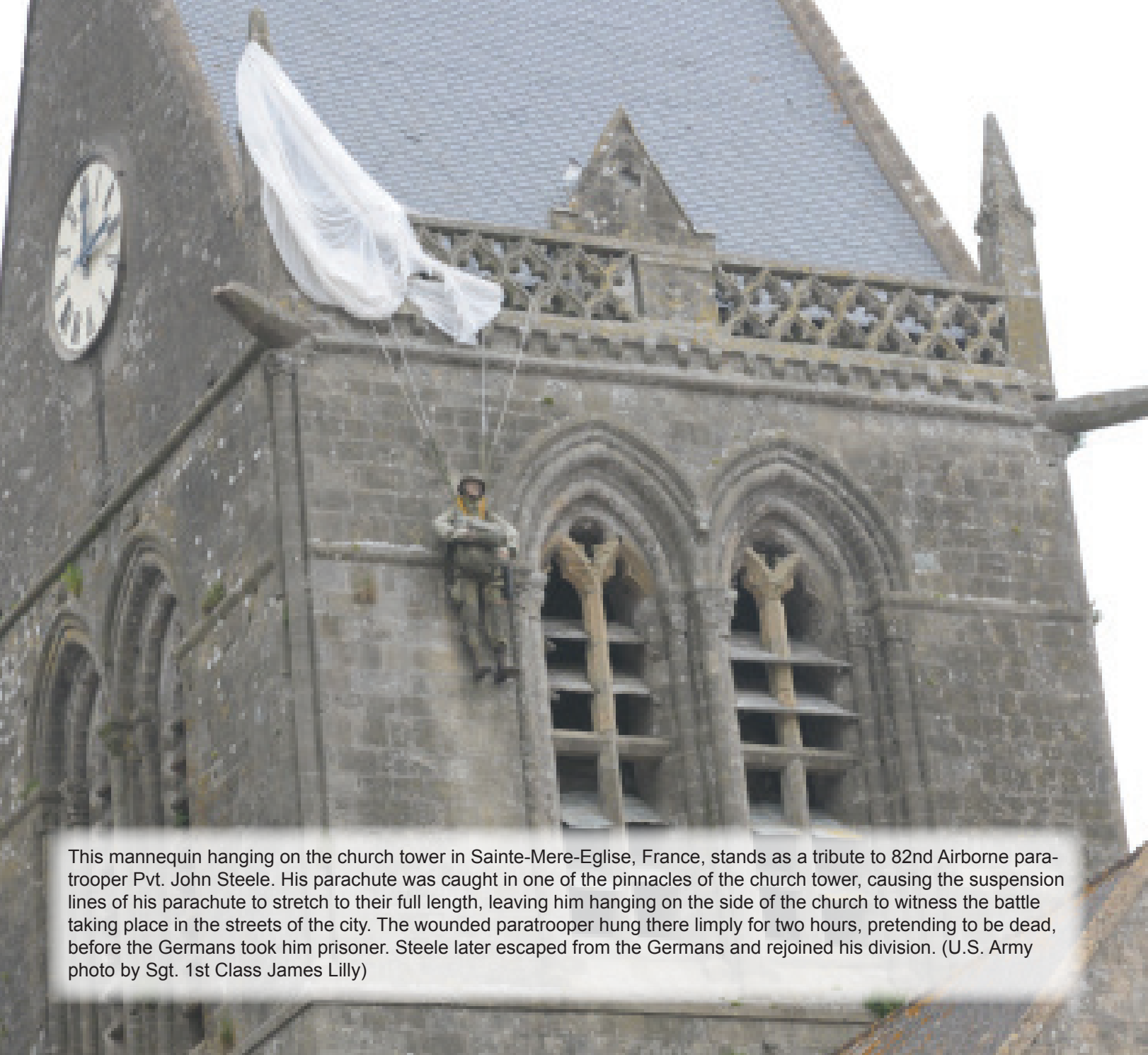
man line at La Fièvre, near the Merderet river, causing the Germans to withdraw to Picaucville. The next day, the 358th Regimental Combat Team of the 90th Infantry Division attacked Picaucville. The 359th Regimental Combat Team also committed to action, in the vicinity of Picaucville. Units of the 359th Regiment received severe shelling during the move to that sector.

Both the Germans and the Americans held this

town several times--the 90th Infantry Division paying a high price for its final release; approximately 300 dead and 2,000 injured.

In the days following the allied invasion, Gourbesville and other towns like it in the surrounding countryside became scenes of intense fighting as the U.S. Army moved eastward deeper into France.

Every year veterans of those battles converge on the crossroads at Gourbesville to pay respects



This mannequin hanging on the church tower in Sainte-Mere-Eglise, France, stands as a tribute to 82nd Airborne paratrooper Pvt. John Steele. His parachute was caught in one of the pinnacles of the church tower, causing the suspension lines of his parachute to stretch to their full length, leaving him hanging on the side of the church to witness the battle taking place in the streets of the city. The wounded paratrooper hung there limply for two hours, pretending to be dead, before the Germans took him prisoner. Steele later escaped from the Germans and rejoined his division. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Lilly)

to their 300 comrades who were killed during the fighting and to lay wreaths at the base of a monument honoring them. The inscription on the monument reads: "To their liberators. The people of Gourbesville in memory of three hundred U.S. Soldiers who died on our soil June 1944."

Soldiers from the 90th SB attended a ceremony at Sainte Marie du Mont, located adjacent to Utah Beach where American troops landed on the morning of D-Day. A large monument there pays tribute

the 90th ID, it reads: "TO THE MEMORY OF THE HEROIC DEAD OF THE 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, US ARMY 6 JUNE 1944 – 9 MAY 1954."

"It was a humbling experience and true honor to share the soil with the French citizens who came to recognize and respect the brave soldiers of the 90th Infantry Division," said 90th SB Commander Lt. Col. Gregory Hinton.

The 90th SB traces its lineage to the 90th Infantry Division which first saw combat action during



79th SSC Commander, Maj. Gen. Mark Palzer, and 90th Sustainment Brigade Commander Lt. Col. Gegory Hinton, lay a wreath at the base of the 90th Infantry Division Memorial in Picauville, France, June 3, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pamela Johnston)



90th Infantry Division and World War II Veteran Carver McGriff and 79th SSC Commander, Maj. Gen. Mark Palzer render salutes at the 90th Infantry Division Memorial Ceremony in Picauville, France, June 3, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pamela Johnston)

WWII on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when some of its elements landed at Utah Beach in Normandy, France.

The 90th ID participated in campaigns in Normandy, Northern Europe, Ardennes, Alsace-Rhineland and Central Europe. Its accomplishments include capturing 83,437 enemy prisoners, capturing or destroying 195 self-propelled guns, 501 tanks and 134 aircraft. The 90th ID casualties included 3,871 killed in action and 21,000 wounded.

The United States shares a great alliance with France, as well as many other nations in Europe,



A city official reads a proclamation as a formation of Soldiers from the 90th Sustainment Brigade and 82nd Airborne Division look on in Gourbesville, France, June 4, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pamela Johnston)



90th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers perform color guard duty the 90th Infantry Division Memorial Ceremony in Picauville, France, June 3, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pamela Johnston)

and has demonstrated its commitment to the Normandy commemoration year after year with hundreds of Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen, color guards, bands, key leaders, aircraft and ships. The U.S. military sent representatives to the 72nd anniversary commemoration events to recognize the service of our own troops and Veterans as well as reassure our partner nations that the U.S. is still present in Europe and dedicated to maintaining strong relationships with our allies.



1st TSC Multiclass Increases Logistical Support

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Diana Anzaldúa
4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The hassle of juggling a wide array of supply and sustainment support can become overwhelming. However, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Aura Sweeney, Senior Supply Systems Technician, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), and her multiclass team remain undaunted when dealing with this mission.

Countless Soldiers in theater do not realize what supply systems are currently in place or how critical the logistics and supply mission is in support of ongoing contingency operations.

“Multiclass deals with different classes of supplies,” said Sweeney. “We deal with Class II - office supplies; Class III - package; Class IV - force protection materials; and

Class IX - ground and aviation parts. In addition to supplies, we also oversee the Central Issue Facilities located in theater.”

The 1st TSC’s multiclass mission is comprised of several ongoing operations. The section executes operational sustainment support, manages the Army Direct Order Program in theater, provides

logistical support to customers with issues at the wholesale level, monitors services throughout the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility, provides effective oversight to the Supply Support Activities and provides logistical assistance to Task Force Sinai.

“I represent the 1st TSC,” said Sweeney. “I’m there to provide guidance and logistical assistance

throughout the CENTCOM AOR.”

The ADO program is one of the many missions that the 1st TSC multiclass section manages. Due to the nature of Soldier’s missions and physical environment, uniforms can become unserviceable.

“I oversee the ADO Program in the CENTCOM AOR except for

Afghanistan,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin S. Clayton, multiclass noncommissioned officer in charge, 1st TSC. “ADO is extremely important in theater because you receive clothing such as uniforms and Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment such as boots, goggles and supplies that go through wear and tear during a deployment. You can’t go



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Chief Warrant Officer 4 Aura I. Sweeney, Senior Supply Systems Technician, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), conducted a site visit to the Forward Retrograde Element, here on March 10. Sweeney opened lines of communication between her team, the FRE and the 518th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade while providing guidance and oversight to the retrograde mission.

through a Central Issue Facility to direct exchange the items, you have to go through ADO.”

In order for a Soldier to self-sustain, it is crucial that a program is in place to receive needed supplies and managed efficiently in order to prevent frivolous and fraudulent spending of funds.

“Units have an account for a certain amount every month per individual Soldier that is on rotation,” Clayton said. “That is how they replace whatever they use.”

The 1st TSC multiclass section works diligently together and conducts crucial site visits to effectively develop seamless operations.

“The 1st TSCs multiclass mission in the AOR is to oversee and provide technical guidance to the 11 SSAs in the CENTCOM AOR,” Sweeney said.

Sweeney and her team traveled to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in support of the 1st TSCs multiclass CIF and SSA mission.

The CIF in theater is a crucial mission and U.S. Army Central Command recently tasked the 1st TSC multiclass section to begin the process of assessing the CIFs in theater to better support deployed Soldiers.

“Once a Soldier arrives in theater, CIF is extremely important because it is a direct exchange operation, not an initial issue facility,” said Sweeney. “We [1st TSC multiclass] manage the CIF at Camp Buehring. I ensure my team gets out there to inspect operations and provide any assistance that the facility might need.”

As the retrograde mission across the CENTCOM AOR progresses, the need for multiclass logistical operations to facilitate the operations also increases.

“My recent visit in Afghanistan was to provide guidance to the SSA accountable officer and look at any Global Combat Support System-Army issues that they may have,” said Sweeney.

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan is the largest SSA in theater which supports over 10,000 line items for aviation and ground, over 1,200 Department of Defense Activity Address Codes and different classes of supplies.

The majority of retrograde items are sent to the BAF and Kandahar Air Field Forward Retrograde

Element yards. Additionally, the SSA supports three forward issue and turn-in points located at KAF, Forward Operating Base Fenty and Kabul.

“The visit was great and informative to our mission going forward,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mario L. Pope, general supply officer in charge, 518th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade. “Chief Sweeney addressed multiple issues that we were having with DODAACs, BAF SSA, BAF CIF and FREs operations. This visit was also helpful with informing the Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and contractors about ongoing future operations.”

In addition to the recent CIF and SSA missions, Sweeney has conducted site visits to Camp Taji, Iraq, and Saudi Arabi in support of the 1st TSC’s multiclass mission.

“The previous site visits were crucial in order to identify issues and concerns with aviation parts for the Task Force Heavy Combat Aviation Battalion unit,” said Sweeney.

On top of identifying issues, Sweeney provided guidance to the SSA accountable officer on ground and her supply expertise to the ongoing Iraq Train and Equip Fund mission supported the 77th Sustainment Brigade.

“I have also been tasked with assessing and providing my logistical knowledge and expertise to United States Military Training Mission Combined Joint 4,” Sweeney said. “I provided recommendations in the area of contracts, finance and a majority of ongoing supply issues.”

The multiclass mission requires long hours by everyone in the multiclass section. Moreover, the extensive travel, ability to multi-task, constant and consistent communication and teamwork plays a major part in their success.

“It has been an overwhelming mission, but because of the team that I have in place, it has allowed me to do additional tasks, such as traveling,” Sweeney said. “I’m very thankful to be able to do what I do, but I’m also thankful for my team. Because of their knowledge and my trust in them, I am able to pick up and go without worry.”

HERE IT COMES

Are you ready to ride?

- Take a safety training course
- Wear personal protective equipment
- Don't ride on paved roads
- Don't operate under the influence of alcohol or drugs

READY ... OR NOT?

Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their "readiness" for what lies ahead—the known as well as the unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?



79th SSC Safety Director
Mr. Jeff Harris
562-936-7664
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4th ESC

Largest Reserve Command in Texas Returns

Courtesy Story

FORT HOOD, Texas
– Families and friends joined the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) May 7 for a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award Program Recognition Ceremony to honor the returning Soldiers and give thanks to the families, friends, and employers who have been supportive throughout the mobilization process.

The 4th ESC Soldiers deployed in support of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), and aligned with U.S. Army Central and III Corps Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. The Soldiers conducted operations in five countries within the CENTCOM area of operations.

The 4th ESC commanding general, Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones, a native of Bryan, Texas, applauded the returning Soldiers and also recognized the supportive family members and employers.

"Today's welcome home ceremony not only represents a change of mission for these Soldiers, it is a transition for families as they welcome home their Warrior-Citizens who answered the call to duty by putting their boots on the ground and making a difference in a distant land," said Jones.

Maj. Gen. Mark Palzer, commanding general of the 79th Sustainment Command (Support) also welcomed the returning Soldiers and highlighted some of the many unit accomplishments, including losing 1,200 pounds of body weight and running a collective total of over 29,000 miles during the month of January.



U.S. Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones, left, commander of the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul C. Swanson, the senior enlisted adviser for the unit, uncased the colors during a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award Program Recognition Ceremony, May 7 at Fort Hood, Texas.

Palzer also pointed out that today's Army Reserve is an integral and essential element of the Total Army which enables meeting high operational demands and the ability to support our nation's worldwide commitments.

The ceremony included recognizing Soldiers who completed their first deployment by presenting them with a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen flag and certificate.

The Soldiers were able to spend some time with their loved ones before continuing their out-processing.



Maj. Gen. Mark Palzer, commanding general of the 79th Sustainment Command (Support), welcomes the returning 4th ESC Soldiers and recognized their families.





4th ESC

Nautical Horizon Tests Wartime Reserve Boat Program

Story by Master Sgt. Dave Thompson
4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)



Landing Craft Utility boats sit in dock at the Kuwait Naval Base as part of APS-5 Kuwait, an Army prepositioned wartime stocks program. APS-5 maintains over 30 Army watercraft in ready-for-issue condition as part of Army Central's contingency operations strategy. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Dave Thompson)

KUWAIT – Designed to be executed in seven phases from February until the end of March, Nautical Horizon enhances strategic mobility initiatives and provides an opportunity to exercise various contingency procedures involving the deployment of forces and activation of Army pre-positioned vessels within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Under the U.S. Army Central umbrella, APS-5 Kuwait, an Army pre-positioned stocks storage hub, implemented a system called the Care of Supplies in Storage program designed to maintain stored Army material and machines in ready-for-issue condition and to prevent equipment deterioration.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Theodore “Ted” McGuire, Watercraft Officer with APS-5 Kuwait, oversees the Army boat storage program at Kuwait Naval Base. McGuire, along with his noncommissioned officer, Sgt. 1st Class Scottie Ballew, who

McGuire refers to as ‘his right hand,’ manages the maintenance and readiness of over 30 Army watercraft.

With their 55-person civilian team and over 30 years of experience in Army watercraft maintenance between them, McGuire and Ballew ramped up operations in preparation for Nautical Horizon.

“This exercise validates the issue and draw process and tests the capabilities of the boats we have here,” said McGuire. “Four boats [two Landing Craft Utility (LCU-2000) and two Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM-8)] are being

issued and the crews will run them through a series of operations that’s designed to mirror their wartime mission.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Anthony Wilson is the Support Operations Watercraft Mobility Officer for 1st Theater Sustainment Command. An LCU-2000 boat captain himself, Wilson serves as the liaison between APS-5 and 1st TSC and oversees validation of the exercise.

“My job is to observe the process,” said Wilson. “I interact with all the players which includes the task force commander, the APS team, the harbor master and the boat crews to make sure the boats are issued and seaworthy and the crews are ready to operate within an established 96-hour window.”

The 1st TSC provides logistical and sustainment support for all U.S. and coalition warfighters within the Central Command region. Their leaders have a vested interest in the operational ability of Army

watercrafts as the boats are integral to meeting heavy sustainment lift requirements.

Army watercraft systems are critical enablers in overcoming austere equipment loading and offloading challenges due to their flat bottom design. From the 273-foot Logistic Support Vessel with a 2,000-ton cargo carrying capacity to the 73-foot LCMs, Army vessels are designed to operate in austere to bare beach environments. These unique assets are not dependent upon developed seaports or infrastructure and can operate in shallow draft, littoral and inland waterways, a capability the U.S. Navy does not have with its deep hull designed vessels.

Briefings from McGuire, Ballew and task force commander Capt. Sarah Hundley, 524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, marked the start of the exercise. They discussed the vessel draw process, inventory timeline, the mission and turn-in procedures of the APS-5 vessels. This effectively started the 96-hours to deliver the four fully mission capable boats and equipment to the crews.

“We had some hiccups and problems that are typical when boats sit and don’t get used,” said McGuire. “One had an engine problem, but we were able to issue another boat, and another had a reduction gear [malfunction] which we were able to get repaired within 36 hours.”

Ballew, who has over eight years of sea time experience as an engineer, lends his expertise and impeccable work ethic to maintaining the boats. He once rebuilt one of the two massive LCU marine diesel engines while underway after a piston exploded and narrowly missed hitting him.

“We have a team of top notch contractors who are as passionate as we are about keeping these boats going,” said Ballew. “We find new ways to fix old bridges and facilitate the mission.”

McGuire stated the boats needed to be used and put through the paces in order to function properly and many of his challenges with keeping APS boats mission capable was the low operational budget and existing maintenance procedures that he said did not adequately exercise the boat systems.

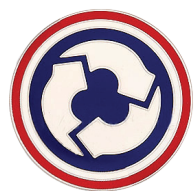
“I’m working to rewrite the maintenance SOP and establish a good foundation and leave it better than I found it,” McGuire said. “The boats are a great and cost-effective mobility asset for the Army, but it takes the proper funding to maintain this program. I’m looking for someone [at the upper decision making level] to champion this effort and keep the Army Watercraft program in the fight.”

Staff Sgt. Harcel Rosado, assigned to the 97th, is the boatswain for one of the issued boats, the number 29 LCU. He is responsible for all the components in the boat’s hull. Rosado, who hails from Puerto Rico, is an experienced mariner who knows the LCU well. He plans and assigns the daily work schedule to the deck crew and maintains order and cleanliness. Having completed the draw process, he goes through his checklist with methodical precision, making sure everything is in place and the boat is ‘shipshape’ to get underway.

“Our baby is ready to go,” quipped Rosado, an energetic man whose bright eyes and youthful exuberance belies his 32 years. “This exercise gives our crew a great opportunity to improve our skills and showcase how important our mission is. We have the best job in the Army and I wouldn’t want to be doing anything else.”

The exercise took the crews underway where they transported equipment from Kuwait to Oman and returned with a back haul of equipment from Oman, all the while gaining valuable training experience, testing the boats and exercising deployment and redeployment procedures.

The 1st TSC anticipates an increase in the use of Army watercraft as a way to alleviate the demand for aircraft use to move Department of Defense cargo throughout the Arabian Peninsula. This not only reduces the demand for the limited aircraft in theater, it also provides movement of cargo at a significantly reduced cost to American taxpayers. Nautical Horizon highlights the critical importance of the APS-5 watercraft mission and serves to validate ongoing planning efforts to support the increased demand for the Army boats.



311th ESC

Big Logistics-Over-The-Shore-West 2016

Story by Staff Sgt. Robert Ham
311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

ALAMEDA, Calif. – The Army Reserve provides more than two-thirds of the Army’s overall logistics support. The 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Los Angeles, California, has a long history of supplying logistics to the warfighter on the front lines from Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to Joint Endeavor, to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom along with dozens of annual peacetime exercises. The 311th trained for any future peacetime or wartime deployment from June 10-24, during the U.S. Army Reserve’s Big Logistics-Over-The-Shore-West 2016.

The 311th led exercise has brought together “thousands of Soldiers from across the Army Reserve,” said Brig. Gen. David E. Elwell, Commanding General, 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). “We train as we fight and this is part of our road to war for our port and watercraft Soldiers,” continued Elwell.

For Big LOTS-West’s third consecutive year in the San Francisco Bay Area, Army Reserve Soldiers practiced harbor and seaport logistics operations such as the loading and unloading of containers from trucks to ships, a Landing Craft Utility vehicle beach landing, and rolling vehicles on and off the massive military transportation ships at Alameda Point. This intensive training is the closest Soldiers will get to a real world situation during a training scenario.

“Whether it’s an earthquake or an environment where ports have been destroyed in some way, the Army could come in and set up an expeditionary port. An Army watercraft could then utilize and offload ships from that degraded port,” said Elwell.

Civilian safety officers and Army Reserve subject matter experts supervise the exercise to make sure military guidelines and safety procedures are maintained. “This is very dangerous work, because we’re operating watercraft and operating very large



The U.S. Army 481st Transportation Company’s Landing Craft Utility 2032, the “Palo Alto,” departs the San Francisco Bay at the completion of Annual Training in Alameda, Calif., June 22, 2016. Big Logistics Over The Shore - West 16 is an annual, Army Reserve, multi-echelon (Company/Detachment to Brigade) functional exercise designed to train transportation units and sustainment commands in Logistics Over-the-Shore (LOTS) operations. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Gregg Moore)

cranes, there’s not much room for error, so safety is paramount out here,” said Elwell.

“This exercise keeps our jobs relevant in our minds. It helps us stay safe and focused and keeps us ready,” said Spc. Brandon Byrd, a crane operator from the 441st Transportation Company (Seaport Operations), New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Soldiers participating in Big LOTS come from all over the country with a wide base of profes-

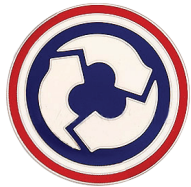
sional and civilian skills that are in high demand. The Army Reserve provides an efficient and cost-effective way to mitigate issues during the current drawdown. For the majority of these Reserve Soldiers, this is their culminating annual exercise and they will go back to their civilian life at its conclusion and continue their two-day a month commitment until next year’s annual training.



The Palo Alto, an Army Landing Craft Utility, returns to the Port of Alameda, Calif. after a maintenance cruise around the San Francisco Bay on June 16, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Timothy Yao)



During Big Logistics Over The Shore West, Soldiers scan the sea floor for obstructions and take depth measurements to ensure ships can safely maneuver in the waters near the port in Alameda, Calif., June 18, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Timothy Yao)



311th ESC

Soldier born in Mexico finds success in Army Reserve

Story by Sgt. Krista Rayford
367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – The sun is rising high above rugged mountains and U.S. Army Reserve Pvt. Manuel Morgan, a 26-year-old petroleum supply specialist, with the 1017th Quartermaster Company, out of Camp Pendleton, California, anxiously prepares for his day at the office. Instead of paperclips and copy machines, his office is comprised of a flat, dirt surface displaying five M969s; 5,000-gallon semi-trailers filled with thousands of gallons of fuel.

Morgan, of San Diego, California, is part of the team responsible for supplying fuel to thousands of U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and their units at Fuel System Supply Point (FSSP) Schoonover during Combat Support Training Exercise 91-16-02, at Fort Hunter Liggett, California. As the largest U.S. Army Reserve training exercise, CSTX 91-16-02 provides Soldiers with unique opportunities to sharpen their technical and tactical skills in combat-like conditions.

“He fuels the trucks, verifies the numbers and provides excellent customer service,” said Sgt. Jiras Carter, team leader, 1017th Quartermaster Company, from Camp Pendleton, California. “He makes my job easy.”

At CSTX 91-16-02, Morgan has also been charged with managing and confirming fuel delivery amounts from commercial fuel companies.

“During one delivery, the numbers weren’t adding up to what was requested,” said Carter. “It was Pvt. Morgan who found the error, allowing us to ensure we had enough fuel to support the day’s missions.”



A 5,000 gallon semi-trailer called an M969 is staged at Tactical Assembly Area Schoonover during Combat Support Training Exercise 91-16-02 at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., June 20, 2016. As the largest U.S. Army Reserve training exercise, CSTX 91-16-02 provides Soldiers with unique opportunities to sharpen their technical and tactical skills in combat-like conditions. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Krista Rayford, 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Morgan was born in Mexico where his father was a doctor. They moved around often, giving Morgan a love for travel. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science he travelled to the U.S. permanently to seek more opportunities.

“I love traveling,” said Morgan. “What I love is seeing new things, learning different languages, eating new and different food and just experience different cultures as a whole.”

He travels so much that when he enlisted in the military just last year and attended Basic Combat Training (BCT), a 10-week course where new Soldiers learn basic warrior tasks and combat skills, his parents thought he was just on another excursion with little to no connectivity. They didn’t believe him until he sent a picture of himself donning his new army combat uniform and shaved head.

After that, and before joining the 1017th, he

became certified in his military occupation specialty of petroleum supply specialist after 11 weeks of on-the-job instruction at Fort Lee, Virginia.

“I wanted to prove that I can do anything that I put my mind to,” said Morgan.

He is also constantly seeking additional leadership and education opportunities. Morgan said that he would like to research other careers in the military to broaden his skill-set, like finance or human resources, and possibly even become a commissioned officer. He had considered becoming an officer as soon as he enlisted because of his degree but wanted to be part of the organization and start working as quickly as possible.

“He is a leader and there is no limit at how far he can go,” said Spc. Eugene Pedriguez. “He’s very smart and has taught me things I didn’t know.”

In his cool, collected manner, Morgan said he knows what has made him a better person and that’s being a Soldier. He credits the U.S. Army Reserve for the traits for which makes him successful in his civilian work.

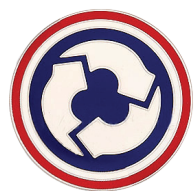
“It made me on time, reliable and organized,” said Morgan. “I can’t thank the Army enough for giving me skills that I can apply to my civilian life. It has made me better.”



U.S. Army Reserve Pvt. Manuel Morgan, 1017th Quartermaster Company, Camp Pendleton, Calif., fills fuel cans at Tactical Assembly Area Schoonover during Combat Support Training Exercise 91-16-02 on June 20, 2016, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Krista L. Rayford, 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



U.S. Army Reserve Pvt. Manuel Morgan, 1017th Quartermaster Company, Camp Pendleton, Calif., gauges the amount of fuel remaining in a M969 at Tactical Assembly Area Schoonover during Combat Support Training Exercise 91-16-02 on June 20, 2016, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Krista L. Rayford, 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



The 729th Transportation Company Drives Nationwide Move

Story by Capt. Fernando Ochoa

311th ESC 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)



Vehicles from the 729th Transportation Company at the Fresno U.S. Army Reserve Center begin their drive in the Nationwide Move exercise that will take them through five states and onto Operation Maple Resolve, which is being conducted at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, east of Edmonton, Canada. The Nationwide Move exercise is an opportunity for transportation units throughout the U.S. Army to use their driving skills.

FRESNO, Calif. – First Lt. Kyle Brown, commander of the 729th Transportation Company, and Master Sgt. Brian Carlin, 729th TC noncommissioned officer in-charge, organized and led their transportation unit through a Nationwide Move exercise, May 8, that took them through five states and to Operation Maple Resolve, which is being conducted at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, east of Edmonton, Canada.

Operation Maple Resolve is the Canadian Forces largest training exercise of the year. The aim of this operation is to not only get the troops working with their international counterparts, but to give them a taste of what life is like during battle.

The Nationwide Move exercise is an opportunity for transportation units throughout the U.S. Army

to give their Soldiers a chance to rehearse their speed, efficiency and tactical effectiveness in a real-world transportation mission. This mission is part of many other Annual Training exercises.

“This is a great mission for us because it gives us a chance to work with our NATO counterparts,” said Brown. “We hope to travel at least 300 miles a day, staying at various Reserve and Army bases along the way.”

The unit staged the operation at the Fresno U.S. Army Reserve Center, where Soldiers and convoys met before the big push, including vehicles and equipment from the 3rd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, who conducted joint operations with the Canadians.

Training to Sustain the Warfighter

Story by Capt. Christina Wright

311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. – Logistics keeps Soldiers in the fight, and whether a deployment to a combat zone or training exercise like the Combat Support Training Exercise 91-16-02, the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) stands ready to bring world class support to the force.

“This is a command and staff training exercise allowing our U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and subordinate commands to work together,” said Capt. Shelly Carey. “We learn how to operate together so we can provide sustainment to supported units throughout the battle space.” Carey, a native of Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the officer in charge of the multi-class section for the Support Operations section. “SPO provides external support to the maneuver elements on the battle space. We work with the sustainment brigades and combat sustainment support battalions who coordinate with the brigade support battalions from the brigade combat teams,” said Carey. “That is how the commodities flow.”

This was the annual training event for the 311th ESC this year. It takes place over the course of three weeks and is a critical training experience, since there is a limited amount of time during U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers’ monthly battle assemblies.

“The unit learns a lot during exercises this. It is one of the only times we can train on our core mission essential task list,” said Carey. “The SPO section is the tip of the spear within the sustainment command at every level. The heavy lifting goes on in our section.”

For Soldiers who work in the SPO section, the exercise presents an opportunity to learn new skills, such as operating the Command Post of the Future. Sgt. Jennifer Osborn, a radar repair technician and Iowa native, said attending the training was a valuable experience. “It was an important thing to learn how to fully use all of our systems that pull data into CPOF so we can prepare briefs,” said Osborn. “Some Soldiers were not able to attend the week-long training, but I



Spc. Kyle Maloney explains the intelligence analysis process to the Honorable Debra S. Wada, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, June 16, 2016, in the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) operations center, Camp Roberts, Calif. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Gregg Moore)

was able to show them what I had learned.”

In order to ensure that supply lines can remain open and transportation assets are kept out of harm’s way, the SPO relies on other staff sections for an accurate picture of the battlefield. The intelligence section is responsible for analyzing intelligence and putting together products that help commanders make informed decisions.

“The trend analysis we perform is important to our subordinate commands,” said Spc. Anthony Ramirez, intelligence analyst. “It helps to determine which routes are safer and what the best time of day is to travel for the convoys.”

For Ramirez, a native of Chino, California, this is his first experience with a large training exercise after completing advanced individual training. This was an opportunity to build upon what he was taught.

“School teaches us the basics of intelligence analysis. They don’t specifically cover sustainment units or working at this echelon of command,” said Ramirez.

“The biggest thing I learned is work as team and help everyone out,” said Osborn. “Empower everyone to do the best job they can.”



364th ESC

Army Reserve Logistics Plays Integral Role for European Exercise Anakonda 16

Story by Maj. Marvin Baker
364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

WARSAW, Poland – Anakonda 16 has been described by many in the Polish and U.S. military as a multi-national exercise that demonstrates an alliance in Europe between Poland and other NATO countries. Furthermore, it tests the ability of approximately 12,000 U.S. troops spread across 15 sites in Poland and Germany, with an additional 12,000 Allied Nation troops ability to deploy to an austere environment to fend off any adversary. But even this all-encompassing description inadequately captures the complete benefits of Anakonda 16.

The scale of the two-week exercise, which started June 7, provided essential training and experience for the Soldiers in the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“This exercise is the first of its kind in 25 years and the size of this exercise challenges an ESC,” said Brig. Gen. Gregory Mosser, 364th ESC commanding general. “The training value of Anakonda 16 is that we are doing a real-world mission. Here, if we fail to deliver our mission, people go without food and without ammunition,” Mosser said.

In order to set the stage for Anakonda 16, logisticians in the 364th ESC deployed to Poland nearly one month before the start of the exercise. The unit’s mission began at its home station where the Soldiers prepared their equipment for shipment by sea and air, carefully scheduling the arrival so that Soldiers would be available in Poland to meet the

equipment and prepare it for onward movement. After ESC Soldiers ensured their own equipment that included work tents, office equipment and tactical vehicles arrived safely; they quickly set up their operations center near Warsaw.

The operations center was the hub for all sustainment activity throughout Poland. The 364th ESC’s primary job during Anakonda 16 was command and control of all sustainment operations. It is a critical element of any military operation to know what, when and where supplies are moving within the area of operations. Maneuver commanders rely on the critical life and combat-sustaining efforts of Army Reserve units like the 364th ESC. In fact, nearly 80 percent of all sustainment and logistics capabilities are held in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

Anakonda 16 was truly a Total Army exercise, especially for sustainment operations. One of the primary benefits included real-world training. When Soldiers are put in realistic situations that force them to think through all the nuances of their job, it can motivate them to remain in the military and increase enthusiasm for their work. Typically, logisticians practice their skills through computer simulations or small-scale exercises at a U.S.-based training center. “We are not just going through the checklist to establish a fuel farm. Our Soldiers are actually setting up a fuel farm,” Mosser said.

During the exercise, the 364th ESC was responsible for more than 35 sustainment units that managed supply yards and rail port operations in Zagan and Drawsko Pomorski, seaport operations in Szczecin and ammunition supply points. The units came from the Army National Guard, active Army, and the Army Reserve and included three of the ESC organic subordinate units; the 483rd Quartermaster Company, the 909th Human Resources Company and the 592nd Ordnance Company.

The 592nd OC, along with ordnance Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division were jointly responsible for receiving and maintaining all the ammunition used in the exercise. Soldiers in the 909th worked their

The 364th ESC supported Anakonda; 16 May 9 through June 17 in Poland. Its mission included theater opening activities such as receiving unit equipment at the Gdansk Airport and preparing the cargo for onward movement.

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Continued from page 37

personnel management skills as they tracked every U.S. service member entering Poland in support of Anakonda 16. The contingent from 483rd Quartermaster

Company kept Soldiers fed and housed as they ensured there was more than enough food available on the life support areas near Drawsko Pomorskie.

Anakonda 16 is a prime example of the U.S. Army's Total Force initiative. The exercise used the unique abilities all three Army components aimed at supporting an overarching goal. It also demonstrated the critical role sustainment operations plays in increasing combat unit's ability to speed across the battlefield without concerns of supply lines keeping up the pace.

"This exercise caused us to do a lot more work than we might do during a simulation, but it also increased our training value and individual Soldiers' readiness more than anything we could have got in the U.S.," Mosser said.



Col. William Stubbs, 30th Medical Brigade Commander, welcomes from left to right: Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, U.S. Army Europe Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Greg Mosser, 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Commanding General, and Maj. Gen. Duane Gamble, 21st Theater Sustainment Command Commanding General, to the 30th MB headquarters in Warsaw, Poland on June 9.

The 364th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Gregory Mosser, conducts an interview with Armed Forces Network and other media outlets to discuss the critical sustainment role the ESC plays during Anakonda 16; June 8.



Sustainment and logistics Soldiers in the 364th ESC's 592nd Ordnance Company and the 483rd Quartermaster Company were responsible for managing supply yards and ammunition supply points for the more than 12,000 U.S. service members participating in Anakonda 16; June 7 through June 17 in Poland.



Sustainment and logistics Soldiers in the 364th ESC's 592nd Ordnance Company and the 483rd Quartermaster Company were responsible for managing supply yards and ammunition supply points for the more than 12,000 U.S. service members participating in Anakonda 16; June 7 through June 17 in Poland.



364th ESC Soldiers take aim at Anakonda 16

Story and photos by Sgt. Daniel Lybeck
364th ESC Public Affairs

364th ESC

WARSAW, Poland – U.S. Army Reserve, and U.S. Army Europe Soldiers competed alongside Polish army Soldiers in a Marksmanship competition at the Warszawsk Brygada Range May 28, 2016.

Eight U.S. Army competitors fired Polish army weapons including the FB Beryl rifle and the WIST-94 handgun against another team of eight Polish soldiers.

The competition was organized as an early celebration of Veteran of Overseas Military Activities' Day, which falls on May 29.

Many veterans and service members were invited to shoot the weapons and test their aiming proficiencies.

"All the guests here today are veterans, and great veterans from missions in Afghanistan and all other missions, and our commander has also invited U.S. Forces to take part in this competition to check your skills," said Pfc. Mircim Jasek, with 1st Warsaw Armored Brigade, who volunteered to come out and translate instructions for the U.S. Army competitors.

"I think the communications are going really well, as you can see, we can speak freely and everything is ok," said Jasek.

"They are giving us really good directions, telling us how to fire the weapons, telling us how many rounds we have, and what the commands actually are on the range, so they've been really helpful," said competitor and Sgt. Ashley Redd, an Information Technology Specialist, with the 324th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, based in Fort Warden, Georgia.

The event was a good break for the U.S. Soldiers who got to get away from the usual work and interact with Polish Forces.

"I hope to get a good experience, have a little bit of competition, and have a little bit of fun since we have been doing nothing but work, so it's nice to be out here on the range and actually be able to shoot," said Redd.

The marksmanship competition was great for getting Soldiers from different forces a chance to try different weapons and see how another army operates on a range.

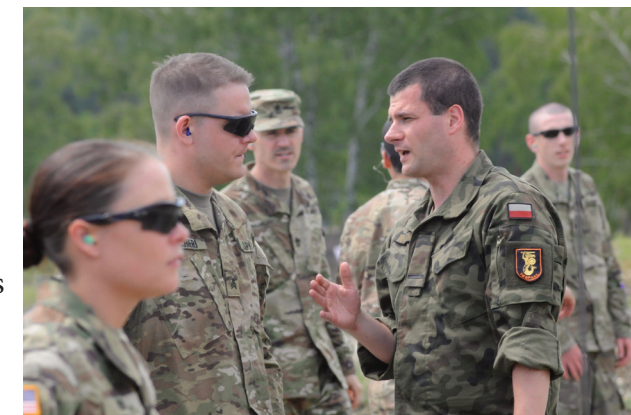
"This training will support our Polish army by letting us know your procedures, taking us closer to your language, and for your Soldiers, so they will know our weapons better," said Jasek.

The competition was also an opportunity to build interoperability and friendships, which are important in keeping healthy alliances abroad.

"The interoperability is really the main reason we're doing this, making friends and relationships, and also, reassurance," said Sgt. Maj. James Musnicki, 30th Medical Brigade operations sergeant major who has two of his Soldiers in the competition.



U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Ashley Redd, an Information Technology Specialist, with 324th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, based at Fort Warden, Ga., loads a 5.56 Beryl Rifle during a friendly marksmanship competition with Polish Army Soldiers.



Polish Army Pfc. Mircim Jasek, a translator, with 1st Warsaw Armored Brigade, gives instructions to U.S. Army Sgt. Joseph Pischieri, a medic with the 30th Medical Brigade, located in Wiesbaden, Germany.



364th ESC

USAR Soldiers Leave Lasting Impression on Polish Community

Story by Sgt. Kayla Benson
364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command

WARSAW, Poland – Children lined the windows of the small elementary school in Warsaw, Poland, waving and smiling as five U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers approached the building. As soon as the front door opened, the troops were greeted by a group of students shouting in English, “welcome to our school!”

The 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldiers, training in Poland during the exercise Anakonda 2016, visited the elementary school June 16 to discuss the differences and similarities between the two countries and give the students an opportunity to practice English.

Anakonda 16 is one of Poland and U.S. Army Europe’s premier multinational training events, which features 24 nations and seeks to train, exercise and integrate Polish national command and force structures into an allied, joint, multinational environment.

The five U.S. troops spoke to three groups of children between kindergarten and sixth grade at Tadeusz Kościuszko Elementary School #174. They discussed where each of them lived in the United States, their hobbies, jobs and families. The children then asked the troops questions ranging from their favorite food to combat experience.

“I loved the questions they had because it was funny to think that if I were a kid, I would totally ask the same thing like ‘what food do you eat,’ ‘what do you do for fun,’ ‘what’s your dog’s name?’” said said Sgt. Jennifer Hoeppner, a human resource administrator. “I wish I was able to do that sort thing with other cultures when I was that age.”

“I thought it would be a good idea to have some-



U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers with the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) training in Warsaw, Poland, for Anakonda 2016, meet with Polish students at Tadeusz Kościuszko Elementary School #174, June 16 to discuss the similarities between the two countries and give the children an opportunity to practice English.

one who speaks English come so the children could have some contact with the English language,” said Oscar Mazzotti, the school’s English and Spanish teacher who wrote a letter to the U.S. troops inviting them.

The teacher, a Peru-native, explained the importance of speaking multiple languages.

“My teachers were American teachers, actually, in Peru, and so with my own experience I know what it takes to learn another language,” said Mazzotti. “Even though I thought, ‘oh, I will never learn, and this and that,’ it stays in your mind, and that’s why it was very important for the children to have this contact with [the Soldiers].”

Tadeusz Kościuszko Elementary School #174 has a much smaller class size than traditional Polish schools and specializes in special and behavioral needs, explained Mazzotti. He also commented many of the children’s parents or other family mem-



Polish students at Tadeusz Kościuszko Elementary School #174, Warsaw, Poland, ask questions about life in America during a school visit by U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers.

bers serve in the Polish Army as either active duty or in a reserve component.

Capt. A. Sean Taylor, a medical logistician and public affairs officer, compared the farmland throughout Poland to his hometown of Ames, Iowa. Hoeppner demonstrated some of the Polish phrases she learned while participating in Anakonda 16.

“I had visited a lot of schools and done a lot of work with civil affairs [in Iraq] with donations and dropping off school supplies, that sort of thing, so I had worked with local populations from other countries before,” said Hoeppner. “It’s always exciting to see kids, and it’s fun and challenging at the same time to talk to them.”

The second and third graders presented the Reserve speakers with several drawings depicting Soldiers, tanks, U.S. Flags and other American themes. After the final class, Mazzotti gave a book about Warsaw to the troops and a letter thanking them for their visit. The Soldiers then explained the tradition of trading uniform patches and presented the 364th ESC unit patch, along with rank, nameplates and other insignia, to

Mazzotti on behalf of the unit.

“The reaction was very positive, exciting for them, and I think they are very happy to have you,” Mazzotti said to the Soldiers.

Before the Reserve Soldiers left the school, multiple students approached them and asked for autographs and photographs.

“I know the children will remember you. They will remember your faces also, maybe not your names, but they will remember your faces and the kind way you’ve been speaking to them,” Mazzotti told the troops. “You’re going to leave a very positive impression.”

Whether or not the children could speak English or the Soldiers

speak Polish, it was clear the similarities between the two nations were vast and the partnership built by opportunities like this one, provided by Anakonda 16, would leave a lasting impression on both parties.



Capt. A. Sean Taylor, a medical logistician and public affairs officer with the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) during Anakonda 2016, shows off student art work during a visit with Polish students at Tadeusz Kościuszko Elementary School #174 in Warsaw.



364th ESC

German “PT” Test offers Joint Services Opportunity to Compete

Story by Maj. Marvin Baker
364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command

EVERETT, Washington – Nearly 100 military service members from the Army Reserve, Active Army and U.S. Navy gathered at Naval Station Everett in Washington to compete for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge April 12-14.

The GAFPB is a decoration of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany.

To earn the badge, service members must pass testing in two categories, basic fitness and military training. Fitness tests include short and long distance sprints and a timed flexed-arm hang. Military training is a 100-meter swim in uniform, a Combat Lifesaver written test, a 9mm pistol qualification and a road march up to seven and a half miles with a 35-pound rucksack.

The physical training test differs from the U.S. military test in several ways. However, there are some similarities.

“The main difference between the German event and the U.S. Army Physical Training test is that the German test is done as a team,” said German Armed Forces Command Sgt. Major. Ronald Schiller of the liaison office. “This really is a team-building test,” he added.

The competition occurred over three days. During the first day, the competitors completed three track and field events that included a 1,000-meter sprint, eleven 10-meter sprints and an endurance flexed-arm hang before they headed to the pool to do a few laps.

“The swimming is the hardest part,” Schiller said. “Many people are not fast technical swimmers. You have to be able to swim for four minutes with your



Army Master Sgt. Rosalind Fennell of the 13th Battalion, Army Reserve Careers Division in Salt Lake City, Utah, competed in the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and 7th Bn., ARCD’s second annual German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge event to lead by example and inspire Soldiers to do more.

uniform on,” Schiller added.

Each event is designed to test a Soldier’s fitness during common combat scenarios. Shooting, sprinting, and swimming in open water are all situations a Soldier might face.

“American Soldiers are very fit,” Schiller said. “I oversee this event in all of the U.S. and see firsthand their commitment and fitness.”

Spc. Patrick Welch of the 17th Field Artillery Brigade, who traveled from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, demonstrated his commitment to earn the badge by practicing and preparing for the physically challenging events weeks before the start.

“I wanted to push and challenge myself. The swimming event was especially difficult,” Welch said. “That’s why we practiced and prepared ourselves weeks before the start of the event.”

Welch said he brought six fellow Soldiers from his maintenance section to compete in the event. Sgt. Ian Pelky of the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) came to the event with a battle buddy from the signal section who learned of the



challenge just a few days before the event.

“I did not know about the event until a few days ago from Sgt. Pelky,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Peterson. “It sounded like something I wanted to jump onboard with,” he added.

“It is pretty motivating training to another military’s standards,” Pelky added.

Both Soldiers said the swimming was the most challenging event, but would eagerly trade it for the Army PT test sit-ups. Both expected the ruck march would be the easiest event for them. Peterson said he earned the silver medal, but would try again for the gold next year.

Twenty-two service members earned the gold, 30 the silver badge and 16 earned bronze badges, which were presented during a closing ceremony at Naval Station Everett.

Soldiers can sign up for the event each year and try for a higher medal or to increase their results. This is the second year that the 364th ESC and the 7th Battalion, Army Reserve Careers Division



Nearly 100 military service members from the Army Reserve, Active Army and U.S. Navy gather at Naval Station Everett to compete for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge April 12-14.

conducted the event in Snohomish County, Washington.

“The GAFPB brings people together from the Navy, Active Duty and Army Reserve to compete at the same level,” Master Shaun Sgt. Collins, a career counselor with the 364th ESC said.

Collins participated in the event last year and earned a silver medal. “I first wanted to compete again this year for the

gold, but the event needed a planner, someone who knew how it all worked and what need to be done,” Collins said.

Leaders in the 364th ESC like Collins encourage all Soldiers to take a look around their units and take advantage of all the physical, educational, and leadership opportunities around them.

“We hope this kind of event is a water cooler activity for Soldiers, something they will talk about for days with their buddies,” Collins said. “This is the kind of event that brought Soldiers into the Army and will keep them in the Army Reserve,” he added.



364th ESC

Warriors Can Call Themselves the “Best” of the 364th ESC

Story by Maj. Marvin Baker
364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command



Brig. Gen. Gregory J. Mosser, left of center, and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas P. Brashears, right of center, pose with six enlisted Soldiers from the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s Best Warrior Competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord March 2-5. The multi-day event tested Soldiers' physical and mental stamina.

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. – The 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), an Army Reserve unit headquartered in Marysville, Washington, held its annual Best Warrior Competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, March 2-5.

The BWC is an endurance event that assesses Soldiers' performance in physically and mentally challenging events related to military knowledge and warrior training. Six Soldiers from the ESC's subordinate units (the 654th Regional Support Group, 652nd Regional Support Group and the 96th Sustainment Brigade) competed in the event along with their sponsors.

After three days of events that pushed their limits both physically and mentally, Army Reserve Soldiers Spc. Daniel Kovitch of the 654th RSG, and Sgt. Justin Morton of the 654th RSG came out as winners in their rank-based categories. Later in April, Kovitch and Morton tested themselves again at the 79th Sustainment Command (Support)'s BWC.

The unit's BWC started with a standard Army Physical Fitness Test followed by a foot patrol mission through a mock urban combat site. Rough terrain, bitter cold, slashing rain, and the noise of simulated gunfire and explosion added to the stress of the first day's events. Additionally, Soldiers had

to help a simulated casualty with first aid and use their field radios to request medical evacuation. The events are based on what a Solider might face during actual combat.

One of the competitors, Spc. Chrisangel Moronta, a 20-year-old culinary specialist from the 96th Sustainment Brigade's 146th Transportation Company in Ogden, Utah, said he'd never previously thought about entering the BWC. "You don't see a lot of cooks going out and doing stuff like this," Moronta said. "It's really cool. It's like going through basic training again - redoing all the tasks you learned with muscle memory."

Moronta said he devoted much of his personal time to prepare for the event. He works in his Reserve unit one weekend per month but now his goal is to re-enter active duty. He entered the competition to prove to himself that he had the physical stamina to maintain an active-duty lifestyle.

"I'm trying to make a good impression here for myself, my peers and my bosses. I'm all in here," said Moronta.

The BWC helps instill in Soldiers personal courage, self-confidence, and self-discipline while promoting physical and mental resilience that carries over to other military pursuits. Moronta takes some of those attributes over to his civilian life as a leader in his community and the Boy Scouts of America.

"I am a Scout Master in my community," he said.



Soldiers in the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) push themselves through a physical event during the unit's Best Warrior Competition held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord March 2-5.

"I get to teach young men things that I learned in my military training. The experience has been very beneficial for me."

During the BWC, Soldiers also build esprit de corps and pride in not only their individual accomplishments, but also in the accomplishments of the unit as a whole.

"This is hugely important. This event is part of the overall spectrum of leadership training," Command Sgt. Major Thomas Brashears of the 364th ESC said. During the event, Soldiers also fired small arms and practiced taking their weapons apart quickly and properly.

At the end of the event, Moronta took runner up in his category.

"I have a passion for this. I love it," he said. "Whether I win or not, I'm just honored to be here."



451st ESC

Soldiers Provide Fuel, Transportation, and Maintenance for QLLEX

Story and photos by 1st. Lt. Valencia Scott
451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. – Known for being the home of the U.S. Army's Intelligence Center and the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM), Fort Huachuca, Arizona, temporarily became home for one of the largest logistics operations for two weeks while Reserve Soldiers conducted annual training.

The Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise (QLLEX), a multifunctional exercise that incorporates real-world training in fuel and water supply, began June 11 at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, with over 400 Reserve Soldiers participating.

More than 200 Soldiers from the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command, both from the 561st Regional Support Group and the 89th Sustainment Brigade, participated in this large annual exercise. Soldiers from the 383rd Quartermaster Company, based out of Weldon Springs, Missouri, had 120 Soldiers attend QLLEX with the primary mission of building a Fuel System Supply Point (FSSP) during the exercise.

An FSSP, also known as a fuel farm, takes an average of two to three days to assemble and at least 50 people. "It's like putting together a big puzzle," said Cpl. Eric Martin, a fuel specialist from Sedalia, Missouri. The hoses come in several sizes have to be at least 50 feet apart for safety reasons and to allow room for trucks to navigate through.



Soldiers from the 383rd Quartermaster Company assembled their Fuel System Supply Point (FSSP) in support of the annual Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise (QLLEX).

The hoses are connected to the trucks carrying the fuel and a pump that drives the fuel into large bags at a rate of 350 gallons per minute. "Once in bags, we will recirculate the fuel and issue to customers," said Spc. Xueqin Lin, a petroleum supply specialist of Weldon Springs, Missouri. However, prior to being pumped and given to customers, the samples of the fuel must be given to a petroleum laboratory specialist who tests for sediments, microorganisms and general quality assurance.

The 383rd Quartermaster Company has the equipment to build an FSSP capable of holding 300,000 gallons of fuel, however for the purposes of the exercise, they assembled a fuel farm that supported 150,000 gallons of fuel. "In a forward environment, this would supply three days' worth of



Soldiers from the 561st Regional Support Group conduct maintenance of tankers during the Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise (QLLEX), June 15, 2016. Pvt. 1st Class Tyler Giammasi, of Wichita, Kan., works to fix a blown tire seal on a tanker.



Cpt. Jacob Wood, commander of the 425th Transportation Company, briefs Col. John Phillips, rear commander of the 451st ESC, on what his unit has accomplished so far during QLLEX.

briefed Col. Phillips and Command Sgt. Maj. Langworthy, on what his unit completed since they began annual training. Despite the harsh desert temperatures of Arizona, the Soldiers maintained motivation and gained valuable logistics training.

fuel for an entire area of operation," said Sgt. Aaron Forrister.

In the same area of operation were approximately 123 combined Soldiers from the 129th, 369th and 425th Transportation Companies also supporting QLLEX. These Soldiers began training as soon as they left Kansas as they drove nearly 1,100 miles to Fort Huachuca, which took nearly three days of travel. "It provides great driver's training," said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Gartin, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 425th Transportation Company based out of Salina, Kansas.

Driving was not the only real-world training the Soldiers conducted while at Fort Huachuca. The long-distance drive and high temperatures during QLLEX took a toll on the vehicles, which allowed the wheeled vehicle mechanics to practice vehicle maintenance. One tanker had a blown seal and several Soldiers worked together to change the seal under the supervision of Gartin.

Col. John Phillips, the rear commander of the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Langworthy, also of the 451st ESC, visited the Soldiers conducting QLLEX on June 16, 2016.

Col. Paul Hettich, the brigade commander of the 561st Regional Support Group also attended to see what Soldiers were accomplishing and to offer support.

Cpt. Jacob Wood, commander of the 425th Transportation Company,



1st Sustainment Command (Theater) Integrates Logistics Automation Systems

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Naurys Marte
451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

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BAHRAIN – The automation management officer with the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) visited rotational units in Bahrain to ensure their readiness, to track and account for parts, vehicles and equipment using the Standard Army Maintenance System- Level 1 Enhanced, May 30 to June 1, 2016.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Francisco Villarreal is the automation management officer with the 1st TSC who is responsible for ensuring the integration of logistics systems within the command. “Envision manually tracking more than 800,000 parts and vehicles, needing repair, from different geographical locations.

“Without a logistics system to track parts, and equipment needing repairs, logisticians and commanders would probably fail critical missions in the battlefield,” said Villarreal.

SAMS-E is one of the systems integrated with the Global Combat Support System – Army. GCSS-Army is becoming the primary tactical logistics system to help achieve the automation goals through integration of various supply chain systems.

“Logistics automation is vital to sustainment operations,” said Villarreal. Tracking every step of the process from preventive maintenance to repairing and dispatching, from a single source, is one of the goals of logistics automation, Villarreal explained.

With SAMS-E, the process begins when the vehicle or equipment operator performs preventive



Soldiers identify a defective part during a vehicle repair task, before submitting a part request through the Standard Army Maintenance System-Level 1 Enhanced or SAMS-1E clerks at a motor pool May 31, 2016, in Bahrain. SAMS-1E is an automated maintenance management system used throughout the U.S. Army components at the unit level to manage vehicles and equipment maintenance actions, workloads and resources.

maintenance checks and services.

“Vehicle, equipment and generators must have PMCS daily. We do not want any of these vehicles to go down,” said Spc. Chrystal Hailey, automated logistics specialist with the 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment. “If the motor sergeant or the Soldiers doing PMCS find something wrong with any equipment, they have to come to the SAMS-E clerks so we can log it in the system.”

Haley has been deployed for two years as the field maintenance team SAMS-E clerk. After her advanced individual training, she attended specific SAMS-E training to specialize in the equipment and software. Through SAMS-E, her unit is able to log and track the vehicles and equipment needing

upkeep, the parts needed to perform the repairs, the man hour utilization, issue drivers licenses and generate historical reports.

The process continues when the wheeled vehicle mechanic receives a repair request, along with a faulty vehicle or equipment.

“I love figuring out what is wrong with the vehicles so I can fix it,” said Spc. Oscar Muniz, wheeled vehicle mechanic, with Bravo Company, 1-62nd ADA. “Some of us specialize in vehicles, others in generators among other equipment that needs to be fixed.”

As the maintenance is taking place, the mechanics identify any parts needed and notify the SAMS-E clerks.

“SAMS-E clerks submit the requests and it all trickles down from there and we get it through GCSS-Army,” said Sgt. 1st Class Caroline M. Colomer, supply support activity noncommissioned officer in charge, with 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

At the supply support activity, or SSA, warehouse the automated logistics specialists receive the request—in real time—and quickly look through their inventory ensuring the parts needed are available and ready for dispatch.

“It’s a time factor to be able to log into a computer and see the parts that are available right away,” said Sgt. 1st Class Cesar Guerra, automated logistics specialist with the 1-62 Air Defense Artillery Battalion.

The SSA in Bahrain is already using the GCSS-Army system and they have seen a difference in the operations of tracking and dispatching parts using the system, said Guerra. The system provides access to improved warehouse management functionality, such as stock look-up capabilities, bin-to-bin moves, and warehouse activity monitoring.

“Eventually all the systems will be going through GCSS-Army,” said Colomer. “Before, we had so



Soldiers work at the supply support activity warehouse inventory equipment and vehicle parts May 31, 2016, in Bahrain. The parts on-hand must match the inventory logged in the GCSS-Army system. GCSS-Army and SAMS-1E are integrated automation maintenance management systems used throughout U.S. Army components at the unit level to manage vehicles and equipment parts, stock look-up, bin-to-bin moves, and warehouse activity monitoring.

many systems to enter data and track information. It is best to have everyone on the same sheet of music, even if we will all need more training.”

SAMS-E is one of three systems in the GCSS-Army’s wave 2 conversion. The other two programs are Property Book Unit and Supply Enhanced and General Fund Enterprise Business System, Villarreal said.



451st ESC

The Special Force Behind the Fuel Lab

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Naurys Marte
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KUWAIT –As the petroleum laboratory specialists and the inspector from the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) walk into the lab (a mobile trailer called the Petroleum Quality Analysis System-Enhanced) they smile at the smell of fuel as if they just entered a coffee shop. The lab holds all the equipment needed to perform quality surveillance testing of bulk fuel allowing petroleum laboratory specialists, or PLSs, to begin testing samples within 120 minutes of arrival to a deployed environment. The inside of the lab is well lit, ventilated, clean and organized to allow the PLSs to reach most fuel testing tools within arm's length.

From the perspective of support operations, fuel, like water and ammunition, is one of the most important supplies needed to sustain the force in the battlefield. And, before supplying the fuel to the force, PLSs perform a variety of testing to ensure the fuel meets the prescribed standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the

MIL-STD-3004: Quality Assurance/Surveillance for Fuels, Lubricants and Related Products.

The 1st TSC ensures the fuel testing laboratory and the PLSs meet these standards. U.S. Army Spc. Christian M. Valencia and Spc. Terek E. Taylor, both petroleum laboratory specialists with Alpha Company, 640th Aviation Sustainment Battalion, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, California Army National Guard, are ready for the task. Their enthusiasm about their job shows from the moment they shake your hand to the way they show and explain the process of their work.

"We have to test for many contaminants in the fuel, such as water, rust, dust and sediments. And also for additives and volatility, as well as thermal properties of the samples we receive," said Valencia. "Rust and sand are the most common contaminants in the fuel we've tested."

While holding a fuel sample container which he grabbed from a corner of the trailer, Valencia said that they've tested an average of 100 sample containers per month since December 2015. "We get fuel

for testing from coalition forces, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and many other places," added Valencia.

Although Valencia speaks about his job with conviction, he ensured his manual was within reach before he started any testing procedure. "We have to go by the book on all we do in this lab," said Valencia, as he referenced the manual to find specific instructions for testing.

Contaminated fuel poses a high risk to personnel and equipment, as it can cause damage to engines, and inadequate operation, which can result in injury, death and overall failure of combat missions.

According to the Army's technical manual on petroleum laboratory operations, the purpose of quality surveillance is to ensure fuel used in military equipment is clean, bright, and suitable for immediate use for its intended purpose. Contaminated or deteriorated fuel can cost lives, especially with aircraft.

"To ensure the lab and technicians are operating to standards, we have to do this inspection and provide a quarterly report," said Sgt. 1st Class Luis A. Cotte, petroleum lab certification noncommissioned officer with the 969th Quartermaster Detachment, 1st TSC, as he watched and took notes of the PLS at work. In order to certify the lab to perform quality surveillance, "we do a thorough inspection once a year," said Cotte. Certification of the petroleum lab operations includes inspection of the facilities, equipment, methods, and personnel qualifications review.

The inspection process is essential to ensure the

safety of personnel and to avoid damage to aircraft and any other ground vehicle that uses the fuel tested. "Aircraft are very sensitive. Contaminated fuel causes [their] fuel lines to clog up; which is dangerous during its operation," said Valencia. "So, we have to test to make sure of the safety of the personnel using it and to avoid damage to the planes. We make sure fuel is not the problem if there is aircraft failure."

Valencia, who is also a chemical engineering student at Mount San Antonio College in California, expressed his decision to choose to be a PLS was because of his interest in chemistry. "I have two years left to finish my degree and I'm planning on going back [to school] as soon as I return from deployment," said Valencia.

PLSs have a critical responsibility in the battlefield, as they also have to decide which tests to perform based on the type of fuel sample and the source of the sample received. And although the lab is the commander's responsibility, it is the PLSs who ensure fuels meet specifications, identify unknown products, detect contamination, verify field tests, and dispose of unacceptable fuel samples, ultimately ensuring the safety of personnel and equipment.

The 1st TSC mission is to execute operational sustainment support, conduct coalition/joint reception, staging, and onward movement (CJRSO), redeployment, retrograde, and re-posture of forces, material, and sustainment infrastructure in order to support ongoing operations throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

U.S. Army Spc. Terek E. Taylor, petroleum laboratory specialist with Alpha Company, 640th Aviation Sustainment Battalion, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, performs quality surveillance of fuel received, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) performs laboratory inspections quarterly and annually.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Luis A. Cotte, petroleum lab certification NCO with the 969th Quartermaster Detachment, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), back, observes Spc. Christian M. Valencia, petroleum laboratory specialist with Alpha Company, 640th Aviation Sustainment Battalion, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, during the fuel laboratory quarterly inspection, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.





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