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First 13B woman



Photo by Cindy McIntyre
Pfc. Katherine Beatty is the military's first female cannon crewmember and finishes training as distinguished honor graduate. She graduates from advanced individual training March 11 with her battery. (See Page 6A for article, photos.)

Post wins safety awards

TRADOC Mission Safety Office

The Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill swept all three organizational categories as Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC) nominations to compete for the 2015 Department of the Army (DA) Chief of Staff Exceptional Organization Safety awards.

TRADOC nominated the FCoE for the division-level award; the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade for the brigade-level award; and 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery for the battalion-level award. The award recognizes a unit as having the most effective overall safety program in its category.

It was the fifth consecutive year TRADOC nominated the FCoE, and the fourth successive year it nominated the 30th ADA Brigade to compete at the DA level. The nominations are a validation of Fort Sill's safety programs, said the head FCoE safety official.

"The nomination speaks for itself," said John Cordes, FCoE Safety director. "If TRADOC selects the FCoE out of all of their centers of excellence, then we must be doing something right."

Four other Fort Sill units who submitted for the award will receive a TRADOC Certificate of Achievement in Safety, even if not going up to the DA level. They were 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, which won the DA-level award in 2014; 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery; 95th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception); and the Fort Sill Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Submitting units had to provide documented safety data including:

- Accident statistics and experiences;
- Methods used to effect or sustain accident reduction, i.e., safety training or new initiatives;
- Major safety accomplishments;
- Safety objectives for the future;
- Civilian injury and illness reduction program;
- Worker's compensation costs;
- Percentage of commanders who have completed the Commander's Safety Course;
- Seatbelt usage rates;

- Strategies, controls or policies that contributed to mission and operational success;
- Description of total command involvement and support of safety programs; and
- Description of initiatives that are not required, but will enhance the command safety program, such as purchase of ergonomic equipment or work stations, and partnering with the community or other government activities.

Capt. Carrie-Ann Carrier, 1-78th FA safety officer, said the recognition of her battalion's efforts was "awesome. I love it."

She attributed the battalion's success to teamwork because with all the advanced individual training units there are many moving pieces in the battalion. "We're making sure that everybody is safe on all days."

Carrier said the battalion took a hard look at its standard operating procedures to minimize safety risks, and it completely revamped its safety awards program.

She said she was particularly proud that the battalion's three batteries and Ordnance Training Detachment qualified for the Army safety streamer, and the Commanding General's Safety Award for Excellence. To qualify, batteries had to meet numerous and stringent criteria, including seat belt usage, driver's training, alcohol and drug awareness, safety stand-down days, motorcycle mentorship, etc.

The captain said she has received tremendous support from Lt. Col. Michael Anders, 1-78th FA commander.

"Anytime that we're bringing up ideas for commanders, we provide the reasoning, outcomes and risk management about how it is going to make the units better," Carrier said. "We get full (command) support."

FCoE and Fort Sill Commanding General Maj. Gen. John Rossi's No. 1 priority is safety and security of personnel, Cordes said. And, safety is correlated to operational readiness — the Army's No. 1 priority.

Cordes cited examples of the relationship between safety and readiness.

If three Soldiers get into a car accident and suffer major injuries, they can't train, are nondeployable and other Soldiers will have See SAFETY, Page 4A

Hazmat training graduates first class

Story, photos
By Jeff Crawley

Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Bruton, Oklahoma City Military Entrance Processing Station guidance counselor, is set to retire in June with almost 21 years of service.

He wants to stay in OKC and find work there, possibly with a federal agency.

He's looking at the job market and taking advantage of opportunities as he transitions into the civilian sector.

Bruton was one of 20 Soldiers, family members and veterans who attended the first Hazardous Waste Worker Training here Feb. 22 to March 4, at Truman Education Center. The training was free.

"The HAZWOPER (hazardous waste operations and emergency response) program is pretty marketable and it's something I can add to my resumé," said Bruton, who commuted daily from OKC to attend. "It was something that I could do now, get certified and it was free ninety-nine."

The training was provided by faculty from Barton Community College's Grandview Plaza, Kan., campus, which specializes in Occupational

Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), hazardous materials and emergency services. The program was offered through the nonprofit National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE), which received a five-year grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, said Bill Nash, Barton college's Fort Riley (Kan.) dean of technical and military outreach. PETE contracted Barton to provide the training.

The 80-hour program provided students with three certifications, Nash said. The first was the nationally recognized OSHA 10-hour card for industry general safety. The second was the OSHA 2015 Hazardous Materials certification, which covered handling and storage of hazardous materials in the workplace and regulations concerning their use. This certification can only be offered by an OSHA education center. Barton is one of 42 such centers in the United States. The third, the 40-hour HAZWOPER class, an OSHA requirement for people to work with hazardous chemicals or at a waste disposal site.

Kirk Laflin, PETE executive director, came from South



Spc. Bianca Sunga, Fort Sill Garrison Support, gets help securing her breathing mask from Sgt. 1st Class Deb Levine, 77th Army Band, in preparation for a hazardous materials exercise March 4, at Truman Education Center. Both were students in the first Fort Sill Hazardous Waste Worker Training program.

Portland, Maine, to observe the training March 4. He said many service members have a background in safety or environmental services, but don't necessarily have the certifications.

"We wanted to provide this training to give them those extra credentials to give them an edge up when they get out (of the military) and start looking for employment," he said.

James Henderson, Barton college Fort Riley adjunct faculty, taught the OSHA industry safety and hazardous materials courses with classroom and practical exercises. He said he wanted his students to gain confidence from the training.

"The knowledge piece is actually pretty easy. There's a reference they can read for everything they do," he said. "But to believe they can actually do it — that's what I want them to learn."

Final exam

The training culminated with a hazardous-materials exercise March 4, near the education center. Students filled various roles, which they had learned during the two-week training.

Arriving on a waste scene, students David Meyer and Miguel Abisaab wearing encapsulating suits surveyed the site. One of them held a monitor to detect hazards. They gingerly removed rubbish, which in itself was a hazard. Confering with the incident commander by radio, a plan was implemented to move the waste materials.

Meanwhile other students See HAZMAT, Page 2A

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Window Sill: 2nd Lt. Maurice Alvarez

Oklahoma isn't known for ice and snow, which contrasts to 2nd Lt. Maurice Alvarez's enjoyment playing hockey.

"I like the fast pace of hockey," he said. "It keeps me involved and in shape."

However, all is not lost for the West Point graduate, who picked up a new sport and now swings golf clubs. He said he played

growing up, but it wasn't until he was older when friends invited him to play that he adopted the game for himself.

"The swing is similar between hockey and



golf. They have the same swing structure," he said. "It's relaxing, a good outlet for stress and it's especially nice if you get to play on a good course. They have great views."

Is there someone you know who should be highlighted? We want to know! Contact "The Tribune" staff at 580-442-5150.

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