

POTOMAC AIR MONTHLY

113th Wing is "ALL GO" at GREEN FLAG

Operations and Maintenance Group goes 120 of 120 for sorties



113th POL provides alternative fuel to Thunderbirds



Members of the 113th DC ANG Civil Engineer Squadron assemble for a group shot at the Navajo Code Talkers Memorial, Window Rock, Ariz, May24, 2011 . Members of the 113th CES are in Window Rock, Az., as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Paula Aragon)

113th Civil Engineers lend a helping Hand to Navajo Nation school

By Tech Sgt. Gareth Buckland
113th Wing Public Affairs

Members of the District of Columbia Air National Guard are providing construction and renovation support for the St. Michaels Association for Special Education at Window Rock, Ariz.

The 113th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed as part of the National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training program. The IRT matches real-world training experience for the National Guard members while providing services for underserved communities in the United States.

"It's definitely an opportunity not only to work in our career field and to get training on the skills we need, but also provide a resource to the school," said Major Eric Swan-

son, 113th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Although this IRT consisted mainly of 113CES members, Navy Seabees from Wisconsin and Red Horse engineers from Florida joined in the program.

The IRT program is keeping with the long military tradition of the armed forces by providing services to the community while gaining mission-essential training for military units and its service members.

"It is a blessing," said Gillis C. Chapela, SMASE executive director. "You can walk around campus and see how old the buildings are, and to have them being worked on and also to have new ones added, it's real heartfelt, as far as what we can look forward to in the future,

and we are very grateful for the effort."

The SMASE provides education and housing for Navajo children and young adults with special needs. More than eighty Navajo youth live on the SMASE Campus and are drawn from all corners for the Navajo Nation and surrounding states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. The campus is the only certified special education school in the entire Navajo Nation

The 113th Civil Engineer Squadron is constructing new buildings and providing repairs to existing buildings. The repairs consist of renovating the bathrooms and culverts, upgrading electrical and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.



Staff Sgt. Mustafaa White, equipment operator, 113th Civil Engineer Squadron, District of Columbia Air National Guard, shows Brig. Gen. Jefferey Johnson, 113th Wing Commander, how to use a 'sheeps foot roller' to compact dirt during a humanitarian project in Window Rock, Ariz., June 2, 2011. Members of the 113th CES are in Window Rock, Az., as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)

“It makes a big difference helping someone in need, it makes your job easy because you can concentrate on your craftsmanship, and to take pride in what you do, providing a service to people who need it, makes me feel good” Said Tech. Sgt Reginald Downey, 113th Civil Engineering Squadron's HVAC shop supervisor.

The work being done is part of a five-year IRT agreement between the National Guard and SMASE. The agreement will include additional renovations on the campus, along with a new nurse's station, additional classrooms, an adult recreation center, a community center, as well as a transportation building for school buses.



Senior Master Sgt. Angel Torres and Tech. Sgt. Rodney Allen, 113th Civil Engineer Squadron structuralists, cut sheet rock for a humanitarian rebuilding effort at Window Rock, Ariz., June 1, 2011. The 113th CES members are in Window Rock as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)



Members of the 113 CES collect cement during a humanitarian rebuilding effort in Window Rock, Ariz., June 1, 2011. The 113 CES members are in Window Rock as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)

Members of the 113 CES pour cement during a humanitarian rebuilding effort in Window Rock, Ariz., June 1, 2011. The 113 CES members are in Window Rock as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)



Members of the 113 CES lay and level cement during a building rebuilding effort in Window Rock, Ariz., June 1, 2011. The 113 CES members are in Window Rock as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)



Staff Sgt. Daniel Ginevan, of the 113th Maintenance Squadron, welds a roof truss support as part of a building rehabilitation project in Window Rock, Ariz., June 1, 2011. The 113 CES members are in Window Rock, Ariz., as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)



Members of the 113 CES pose with Bill Toledo, an original Navajo "Code-Talker" from World War II, following a speech by Toledo in which Toledo relayed his experiences during the war. The 113 CES members are in Window Rock, Ariz., as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)



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Guardsman meet living history

By Tech Sgt. Gareth Buckland

113th Wing Public Affairs

Gallup, New Mexico – (June 2, 2011) Guardsman from the 113th Civil Engineers had the opportunity to meet with living history last week while deployed to Window Rock, Arizona.

Bill Toledo, one of the original Navajo Code talkers from World War II spoke about his experiences to a group of around fifty Guardsmen last week during a presentation arranged by the Navajo Nation.

The group listened intently for more than 90 minutes while the 85-year-old former 3rd division Marine Private stood proudly and recalled his experiences during World War II. Toledo served for three years from October 1942 to October 1945, serving in several major engagements in Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima.

Toledo talked about his life growing up on the Navajo Reservation, where he learned the Navajo Language. The code talkers used the secret Navajo Language which was encrypted with military terms to create an unbreakable code. The Navajo Language was never written down and was ideal for code, as was instrumental in the success of the battle of Iwo Jima and other World War II battles.

Initially there were 29 original Navajo code talkers in 1942, who developed the code. The idea to use Navajo for code talking came from a civilian Phillip Johnson who had lived as a boy on a Navajo reservation.

Toledo joined the Marines shortly after the initial "First 29",



Bill Toledo, an original Navajo "Code-Talker" from World War II, discusses an old photo of himself with Tech Sgt. Gareth Buckland, Broadcaster, 113th Wing Public Affairs, District of Columbia Air National Guard, before Toledo's speech to members of the 113th Wing in Gallup, N.M., June 2, 2011. The 113th Wing members are in Gallup and Window Rock, Ariz., as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)

he joined with his cousin Preston and Uncle Frank, they all enlisted together in October 1942.

Toledo talked about how the recruiter came to school and his initial days of service in San Diego at the Marine Corps boot camp

"It was rough," Toledo said. "The first thing was getting a haircut. This barber said, 'Chief, how you like your haircut?' And I just told him to give me a little light trim, you know. The next thing all my hair went off. It was shocking."

While on Bougainville Island, Toledo was mistaken for a Japanese soldier and was taken prisoner by a fellow Marine.

"A rifleman was walking with us and must've thought I looked like a Japanese soldier. He poked me with a rifle in my back and told

me to raise my hands. I did, and he turned me into our commander. The commander was mad. He told him to let me go."

By the end of the war the Navajo Code talkers had developed 600 phrases and could code in 20 seconds what would take machines 30 minutes to do.

Of the approximate 400 original Navajo Codetalkers only about 40 still remain to tell their story. The secret Navajo code wasn't declassified until 1968, when the Code Talkers could begin talking about their exploits, in 2001 many of the code talkers received the Congressional silver and gold medals.

Toledo proudly wore his Navajo Codetalkers uniform adorned with the service medals and patches he earned. His yellow shirt



Bill Toledo, an original Navajo "Code-Talker" from World War II, speaks about his experiences during the war, to members of the 113th Civil Engineer Squadron in Gallup, N.M., June 2, 2011. The 113 CES members are in Gallup and Window Rock, Ariz., as part of the Innovative Readiness Training, a civil-military affairs program linking military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper)

representing corn pollen, used in traditional Navajo prayer ceremonies, and a red cap denoting the U.S. Marine Corps.

When asked what keeps him in such great shape he responded by saying he still does his daily PT exercises he learned in boot camp.

"Native People are very patriotic," Toledo said. "They say 'I want to defend this country because I'm defending my land, my culture, my medicine people, my Navajo Nation'."

At the end of his presentation he sang the Marine Corps prayer in Navajo, which was greeted with a standing ovation and rousing applause from the Guardsmen.

Today Toledo travels the country representing the foundation working to raise the millions needed to build the Navajo Code Talker & Veterans' Center project. To be built on 208 acres of donated land northwest of Gallup, N.M., the museum will honor the contributions of the Code Talkers and other veterans.

"Having two grandfathers, whom I am proud of, that served in WWII was great. Meeting someone who was part of a unique facet of WWII was fascinating," said Senior Airman Mike Kammerer, a utilities shop member from the 113th, "It is hard to tell what could have been, but if not for the code talkers".

The Guardsman were in Window rock Arizona rebuilding a school for Navajo special need children as part of the Innovative Readiness Training program (IRT), a civil military program that links military units with civilian communities for humanitarian projects.

