



# THE CAPABILITY REVIEW

597TH TRANSPORTATION BRIGADE

MILITARY SURFACE DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION COMMAND



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October 24, 2012

## Units receive brigade streamers, awards

By Michelle Montieth  
597th Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va.— On Oct. 4, Col. Charles R. Brown, 597th commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth G. Blasko, 597th command sergeant major, presented unit awards to Soldiers of the 833rd Transportation Battalion.

Eight streamers were awarded for the best performances of the quarter. *Best Administration/SI* to the 690th Rapid Port Opening Element for accuracy and timeliness related to all personnel administrative functions: personnel status reports, awards, monthly reports submission, evaluation reports and fewest kickbacks; *Best Supply* to the 689th RPOE for the arms room, storage and general appearance, supply administration, property accountability, hand receipts, property disposition, inventories and inspections; *Arms Room* to the 688th RPOE for the cleanest weapons, optics, and arms room and all appropriate training manuals on hand, proper lube for each weapon system and missing parts on order; *NCO of the Year* to the 688th RPOE for winner, Sgt. Jeffrey Rouda; *Soldier of the Year* to the 690th RPOE for winner Spc. James Conklin; *Weapons* to the 688th RPOE for the highest weapons qualification average; *Physical Fitness* to the 690th RPOE for the highest overall average of 264; *Maintenance* to the 690th RPOE for scheduled services, Class IX recon rate, Army Materiel Status System and File Transfer Protocol blasts, vehicle inspections and overall full mission capable readiness rate.



Photos by Michelle Montieth

Command Sgt. Maj. Blasko awarded the *Golden Wrench* to the 690th RPOE for the best maintenance program of the quarter—vehicle inspections, operator knowledge, cleanliness of motorpool bays and tools, parts on-hand and records' management.

### INSIDE THE CAPABILITY REVIEW



2 COMMANDER'S CALL  
3 BCSM SENDS



6 COMMUNITY  
10 BRIGADE NEWS



19 SPOTLIGHT  
23 ARMY NEWS



## Caring for Team 5-9-7



Fiscal year 2012 ended on a high note—taking time to reconnect with what is important—our fellow teammates. On Sept. 27, the Army-wide Suicide Prevention Stand-down day focused on awareness, education and understanding. Caring and selfless service are ingrained in our Army culture, and we are much stronger because of it.

- \* Suicide prevention in our Army is a top priority and needs the involvement of all members of our team. There can be no bystanders—reach out, listen and care for one another.
- \* Don't be afraid to reach out with compassion and genuine concern. Everybody needs a battle buddy, someone in the next cubicle or a co-worker to rely on.
- \* Seeking help when needed is a sign of strength. Programs such as Strong Bonds, Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness, Master Resiliency Training, Army Substance Abuse Program and Real Warriors promote resiliency, coping skills and relationship education.
- \* As we continue to focus on mission during this high OPTEMPO time, don't forget to make time for yourselves. Finding balance between work and family can give you the boost to tackle the demands and challenges of life.
- \* Showing that we care exemplifies the very spirit of being part of the Army Family. Thank you for choosing to go the extra mile to make a difference in someone else's life.

Thank you for what you do everyday—your contributions lead to our excellence.

Let's all enjoy what the upcoming holiday season offers, time with friends and families. As we celebrate, let's make sure we are taking care of each other and remember those who are deployed and extend extra support to their families at home.

Rapid Support!

Col. Charles R. Brown  
597th Commander



Photos by Michelle Montieth

### Commanding General and Command Sergeant Major

HQ, 597th— Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Richardson, the commanding general for the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Cedric J. Thomas, the command sergeant major for SDDC, visit the 597th June 20-21. During their visit, they meet with brigade leadership to discuss capabilities and tour the USTRANSCOM alert Rapid Port Opening Element, the 689th, including displays and discussions about readiness, capabilities of a joint assessment team, distribution node, joint operations center and HQ tactical operations center.



## Amidst change, the mission continues

**Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth G. Blasko**  
597th BCSM

Team 5-9-7:

Another fantastic quarter has come to a close—leading us into the holiday season. Over the past several months you have tracked, uploaded, downloaded, prepared for onward movement, data-mined and custom cleared more than 200,000 pieces of equipment. Our RPOEs have participated in JLOTS, Eagle Flag, JOAX, Turbo Challenge and Mid-America exercises. They have improved their overall footprint here on Fort Eustis and are ready to deploy anywhere around the world on a moment’s notice. The 833rd headquarters moved from Seattle to Fort Eustis—providing command and control of the RPOEs and the Pacific Northwest Detachment. We welcomed 23 new Soldiers and civilians and bade farewell to 29. Spc. James Conklin won the SDDC and AMC Soldier of the Year titles and competed for the Department of Army Best Warrior competition. We energized our Streamer, Warrior of the Month and Rock Star programs.



We have truly been busy... I thank every Soldier and civilian for his or her hard work and dedication to the mission and unit.

The Army will be undergoing some changes over the next several years: a reduction in forces—560,000 to approximately 490,000; a budget of \$202 billion in fiscal year 2012 to \$184 billion in fiscal year 2013; a reduction in brigade combat teams; regionally aligned brigade combat teams; an overhaul and update of Army doctrine including doctrine publications, doctrine reference publications and 50 standard field manuals; select, train, promote rather than select, promote, train; grade slate reductions and rebalancing; and the introduction of mission command to name a few.

To continue the history lesson, our next Transportation Corps’ Medal of Honor recipient is Spc. 4th Class Larry G. Dahl, 359th Transportation Company, Vietnam...



### Spc. 4th Class Larry G. Dahl 23 Feb 1971, Vietnam

“Spc. 4th Class Dahl distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a machine gunner on a gun truck near An Khe, Binh Dinh Province. The gun truck in which Spc. 4th Class Dahl was riding was sent with two other gun trucks to assist in the defense of a convoy that had been ambushed by an enemy force. The gun trucks entered the battle zone and engaged the attacking enemy troops with a heavy volume of machine gun fire, causing a large number of casualties. After a brief period of intense fighting the attack subsided. As the gun trucks were preparing to return to their normal escort duties, an enemy hand grenade was thrown into the truck in which Spc. 4th Class Dahl was riding. Instantly realizing the great danger, Spc. 4th Class Dahl called a warning to his companions and threw himself directly onto the grenade. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his safety, and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, Spc. 4th Class Dahl saved the lives of the other members of the truck crew while sacrificing his own. Spc. 4th Class Dahl’s conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the cost of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit and the U.S. Army.”

To learn more about the Medal of Honor and the recipients, visit <http://www.cmohs.org/>.

#### THE CAPABILITY REVIEW



This Army-funded newsletter is an authorized publication for the 597th Transportation Brigade, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1. Contents of **THE CAPABILITY REVIEW** are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsement by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or SDDC.

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The editor reserves the right not to publish submissions not in accordance with Army Public Affairs regulations and standard operating procedures.

**Commanding General:** Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Richardson

**Brigade Commander:** Col. Charles R. Brown

**Brigade Deputy Commander:** John A. Hanson

**Brigade CSM:** Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth G. Blasko

**Brigade Public Affairs:** Michelle Montieth

[Facebook.com/597thTransportationBrigade](https://www.facebook.com/597thTransportationBrigade)  
[597TransBrig.smugmug.com](http://597TransBrig.smugmug.com)

## Suicide Prevention: Choose to CARE

CH (Capt.) John Jacobs  
597th Chaplain



About 35,040 people in the United States will take their own lives this year! Every 15 minutes, someone will complete suicide.

The Army is currently averaging one suicide every day. More soldiers are dying from self-inflicted means than are being killed in combat operations. Eighteen veterans will take their lives today. The statistics are staggering.

Unfortunately, suicide touches many. I personally know of a soldier who left Oct. 8 because his father had completed suicide. I have family members who have attempted and completed suicide. I have seen the aftermath—broken lives. But, it doesn't have to be this way!

Choose to be a caregiver for those you come in contact. Choose to step back and listen to each other. When you are unsure of what to do, ask someone for help. **Choose to care**—the life you save might be one of your children, a friend or a team member.

Most suicides and suicide attempts are reactions to intense feelings of:

**Loneliness**- an emotional state in which one experiences powerful feelings of emptiness and isolation. It is more than just the feeling of wanting company. It is a feeling of being cut off, disconnected from the world and alienated from others.

**Worthlessness**- an emotional state in which one feels low and lacks any feeling of being valued by others.

**Hopelessness**- a spiritual or relational issue. It often stems from feeling disconnected from a higher power or other people. Such a connection is key to helping individuals withstand grief, loss or the most severe disappointments of life.

**Helplessness**- a condition or event where one thinks that he or she has no control over the situation and any action is futile.

**Guilt**- a primary emotion experienced by people who believe that they have done something wrong.

Suicidal Risk is highest when:

The person sees **no way out** and fears things may get worse. The predominant emotions are **hopelessness and helplessness**. **Thinking is constricted** with a tendency to perceive his or her situation as all bad.

Judgment is impaired by use of **alcohol or other substances**.

A healthy life involves three core components—mind, body and spiritual fitness. By identifying stressors, risk factors, warning signs and coping strategies, you increase resiliency and the chance of getting help before it's too late. Seeking help and talking to others about problems is a sign of strength, not weakness. Don't let stigma prevent you from seeking help or getting help for others.

**Shoulder to Shoulder**

I WILL NEVER QUIT ON LIFE

### Intervention: BE an ACE

#### A: Ask

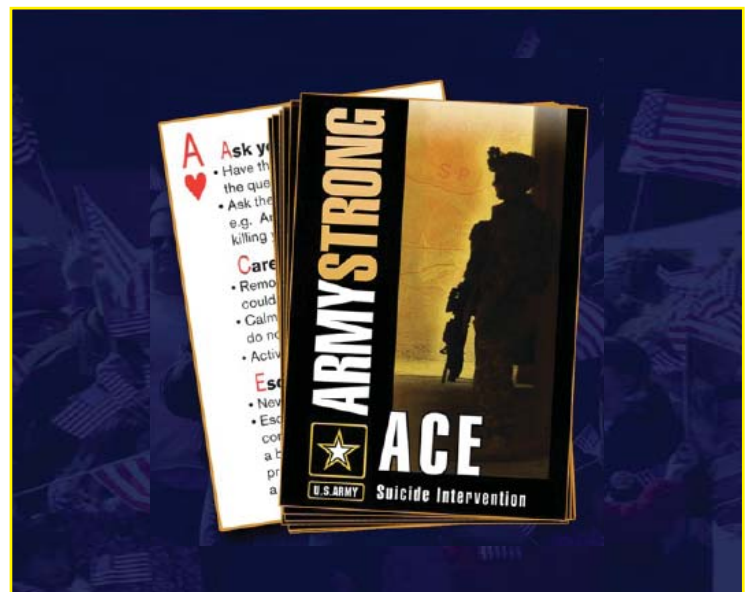
Ask the question directly and stay calm.  
Are you thinking of killing yourself?  
Do you want to die (youth)? Do you wish you were dead?

#### C: Care

Remove any means that could be used for self-injury.  
Calmly control the situation; do not use force.  
Reassure that he or she will be helped.

#### E: Escort

Never leave your Family member or friend alone.  
Escort to the emergency room, primary care provider or behavioral health professional



Whether you are on a military installation, in the community or geographically isolated, many resources and services are available.

- ≈ Military Welfare and Recreation
- ≈ Medical Treatment Facility
- ≈ Community Mental Health Clinic
- ≈ School Counselors
- ≈ Church/Chaplains
- ≈ Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline:  
1-800-984-8523
- ≈ Family Readiness Groups: [www.armyfrg.org](http://www.armyfrg.org)
- ≈ National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:  
1-800-273-TALK
- ≈ Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors:  
[www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)
- ≈ Military OneSource: 1-800-342-9647 or  
[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)
- ≈ National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center  
[www.safeyouth.org](http://www.safeyouth.org)
- ≈ Army Center for Health Promotion & Preventive  
Medicine: [chppm-www.apgea.army.mil](http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil)



## From the 6 Side...Army e-Learning via SkillPort

By Phillip Dixon

597th Information Management Team Lead

The vast majority of Department of Defense computer users utilize Microsoft Office products on a daily basis. Army e-Learning via the SkillPort platform provides individual and organizational access to more than 5,000 information technology, business and interpersonal-skill courses from any location, around the clock (24/7) and free. Active-duty Soldiers, members of the National Guard or Reserves, Department of the Army civilian employees, and U.S. Military Academy and Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets are authorized access to the system at no cost. Many may find the Microsoft Office beginner-to-advanced training classes beneficial—Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Visio, Project and Outlook.

As an associate-faculty member of an online university, I have witnessed firsthand the benefits and advantages of online education.



Some of those benefits include:

- Not wasting time or resources in commuting to a central location for each class
- Flexibility to study in any convenient location with an Internet connection
- Self-paced learning
- Just-in-time learning; more opportunities to study the most current material available
  - Flexibility for those with irregular work schedules
  - Accessibility for those with restricted mobility (e.g., handicapped, injured, elderly)
  - Accessibility for those with family responsibilities (e.g., parents with young children at home)



Also, approximately 40 Army e-Learning courses have been approved for college credit by the American Council on Education.

Take advantage of this free technology training by accessing the following link: <https://usarmy.skillport.com>.

## Be Aware of GeoTagging!



Iteragency OPSEC Support Staff  
**HOT TIPS**

### What is GeoTagging?

A new function of many computing devices—including smart phones, some digital cameras, and even portable game systems (in some cases)—is the ability to track your location to near-GPS precision. While this feature is for “location services,” which can be fun or useful, they also present a risk.

In particular, many devices add location data to photos by default. Called “Geotagging,” the data becomes part of the image file and goes wherever the image goes. By uploading or sending such images to the Internet, you may have provided an adversary with critical information.

### Consider:

1. Public sharing sites like Flickr® or Google™ maps are public. An adversary can search by location to see who takes photos there and research the users who took the photos.
2. Even profiles that are set to “private” could compromise photos if the privacy controls are not set or used properly. The hosting service itself could sell or lose your data as well.

3. Pictures taken at sensitive locations can lead adversaries directly to supply depots, command centers, or our troops. Pictures taken from home (often found in the same user’s profile) can also paint a target on our friends and family.
4. If many photos are available from the same user or a collection of related users (several people in the same military unit, for example), the adversary may be able to determine patterns of your activities.

### What to do:

1. **Be Aware.** Now that you know about this capability, think twice before taking and sending photos. You can test to see if you have geotagging capability by taking a photo and checking properties in Windows® Vista, or higher. Some photo editors as several custom programs allow for the viewing and manipulation of location data as well.
2. **Evaluate the Need.** Do you have a specific point or purpose to tagging photos? If not, it’s far simpler to disable the feature instead of trying to remember to “clean the photos later.” Instructions for doing so can be easily found by searching for the model of your phone with the keywords “disable” or “geotag”.

### Bottom Line:

Even if posted briefly, photos can enable the adversary to capture vital information and record exact grid coordinates. Rather than risking “forget-then-regret,” consider disabling the feature and thus avoiding the risk entirely.



Cartoon from Operations Security Collaboration Architecture newsletter, Volume 3, Number 12

Advertising yourself makes for an easy target. Pocket your access badge when you leave the building.

**Think before you upload!**

## Spice, bath salts—not worth the risk

Compiled by Michelle Montieth  
597th FRSA

Is trying a designer drug worth losing your career or your life?

Substance abuse involves the repeated and excessive use of a drug in order to experience pleasure or escape from problems or from reality, despite negative outcomes. Drug abuse affects every facet of a person's life—mental, physical and social.

The Army Substance Abuse Program's mission is to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Army's workforce, to conserve manpower and enhance the combat readiness of Soldiers.

On Feb. 10, 2011, Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh issued a memorandum establishing an Army-wide policy prohibiting the possession and use of synthetic cannabis and other THC substitutes.

Spice products are a mixture of herbal plant products sprayed with psychotropic drugs, often contaminated with unidentified toxic substances. They may have adverse effects on the heart, circulation and the nervous system. Because the ingredients can differ from batch to batch, there is a higher risk of accidental overdosing. Side effects may include hallucinations, paranoia, anxiety, seizures, tremors, unconsciousness, nausea, vomiting, swelling of the brain and chemical dependency.

Another popular designer drug are Bath Salts, a synthetic substitute with effects similar to ecstasy and cocaine. Ivory Wave, Purple Wave, Vanilla Sky and Bliss are a few of the common street names for this drug. They are sold in both pill and powder forms, and are typically snorted, injected or smoked.

The active ingredients in Bath Salts are methylenedioxypyrovalerone and mephedrone; neither approved for medical use in the U.S. These stimulants can affect the central nervous system and cause increased heart rate, chest pain, dizziness, hallucinations, nosebleeds, nausea, vomiting, kidney failure, agitation, aggression and suicidal thoughts.



Synthetic marijuana substitutes like Spice and K2 are prohibited by the Army for Soldiers, and by the Drug Enforcement Agency for all Americans. Photo credit: DEA; <http://www.army.mil/media/183767/>



Bath Salts drug being abused. Photo credit: N.Y. State Government photo; <http://www.army.mil/media/214202>

Whether it's counseling or treatment, help is available: ASAP counseling center, Employee Assistance Program, Chaplain's office, Department of Veterans Affairs, Military Family Life Consultants and Military OneSource, to name a few.

The Army implemented ASAP to enhance mission readiness through helping Soldiers cope with stress by means other than alcohol and drugs. The program focuses on prevention, identification, intervention and treatment of

high-risk behaviors to enable Soldiers, civilians and their families achieve and sustain balance in their lives.

Red Ribbon week, Oct. 21-31, is an opportunity to raise awareness and promote drug-free choices in our community. Also, ASAP's Warrior Pride campaign is a prevention campaign that focuses on the incompatibility of substance abuse with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos.

Data from ASAP



### WHO WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE ON YOUR TEAM?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>POPPED HOT ON DRUG TEST</b></li> <li>• <b>MADE SPECIALIST TWICE</b></li> <li>• <b>FREQUENTLY LATE OR HUNGOVER</b></li> <li>• <b>RECEIVED DUI</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RECEIVED NUMEROUS AWARDS</b></li> <li>• <b>PROMOTED AHEAD OF PEERS</b></li> <li>• <b>ALWAYS GETS THE JOB DONE</b></li> <li>• <b>HIGHLY RESPECTED</b></li> </ul>
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**ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE WILL IMPACT YOUR LIFE, MISSION READINESS, YOUR TEAM AND THE ARMY.**

For more information visit the website at [www.acsap.army.mil](http://www.acsap.army.mil)

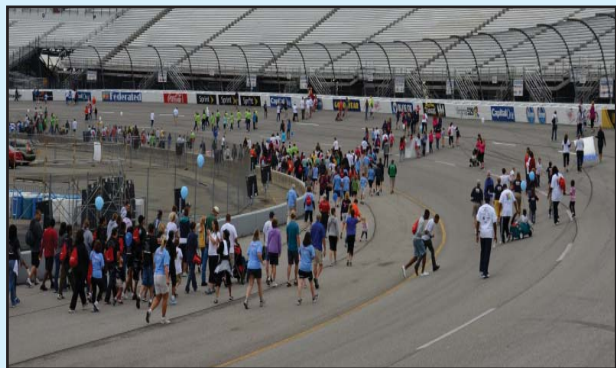


## Walking for a cause

RICHMOND, Va.— On September 29, members of the 597th family join the Walk For Autism Speaks. Autism affects one in 88 children, one in 54 boys.

“One thing the data tells us with certainty – there are many children and families who need help,” said Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Thomas Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. “We must continue to track autism spectrum disorders because this is the information communities need to guide improvements in services to help children.”

<http://nationalautismassociation.org>



Photos by Michelle Montieth

[www.militaryonesource.com/specialneeds](http://www.militaryonesource.com/specialneeds)  
or 1-800-342-9647  
[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)  
[www.michaelsmagnificentmarchers.org](http://www.michaelsmagnificentmarchers.org)

## Your child has autism

By Jon Carr  
597th Administrative Officer

“YOUR CHILD HAS AUTISM.” These four little words literally turned my life upside down. My Michael was born July 7, 2003, and on Feb. 24, 2006, he was diagnosed autistic.

At 18 months, Michael was a perfect little boy making milestones—talking, giggling and interacting with us. However, before his second birthday, we knew something was wrong. It seemed like overnight, his personality changed—Michael was different. He was withdrawn and unresponsive. He would not react to us or his name. In fact, he stopped talking altogether. Although Michael is 9 years old, his speech is below that of a 4 year old. He struggles with speech, noise, socializing with others and depth perception. He is afraid to tackle a simple set of stairs, no matter the size.

This mysterious developmental disability is referred to as Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD. It affects the way a child perceives the world and his/her ability to communicate and socially interact with others. We don't know what causes it or which treatments are best because no two children have the exact same disability. Many struggle with physical touch, loud noises, lights, smells and speech.

Autism is a way of life for millions of people—affecting one in 88 children; one in 54 boys. It is not contagious nor a death sentence. However, the challenges are 24/7. There are no “off” days. Even with the advances in technology, the only “cure” for autism is constant hard work and a lot of love and prayers.

Autism not only impacts Michael's life, but also our lives. Within our new reality, we have learned persistence, patience, understanding and faith. When autism affects your loved ones, you have to have the will and determination to keep fighting. You have to believe that with greater awareness and understanding, one day we will find a cure. But until then, please join the fight and spread the hope.





## Soldier rides 800 miles for breast cancer awareness

By Michelle Montieth  
597th Public Affairs

THEODORE, Ala.— Two soldiers from the 690th Rapid Port Opening Element, 833rd Transportation Battalion, located at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., embarked on a journey of hope. The two traveled across four states, nearly 800 miles, to raise awareness for triple negative breast cancer in honor of Michelle McBroom.

Sgt. Douglas A. McBroom, a 24-year-old Corpus Christi native and an Army 88H senior forklift operator, began his bicycle ride from Theodore, Ala., to Corpus Christi, Texas, Sept. 17. Spc. James A. Conklin, an 88H cargo specialist, followed him in a moving truck. They traveled through Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Riding more than 100 miles per day, McBroom arrived in Corpus Christi Sept. 22.

“My family is my strength and my mommy is my inspiration,” said McBroom. “After receiving the news of her fight against triple negative breast cancer, I wanted to find a way to show her my love and support. I thought, ‘How could I raise awareness and funds to finding a cure for this awful disease?’ That’s when I decided I would ride my mountain bike home, from Alabama to Texas. I quickly created a facebook page, *My Ride for a Cure for Mommy McBroom*, to spread the word and share my experience.”

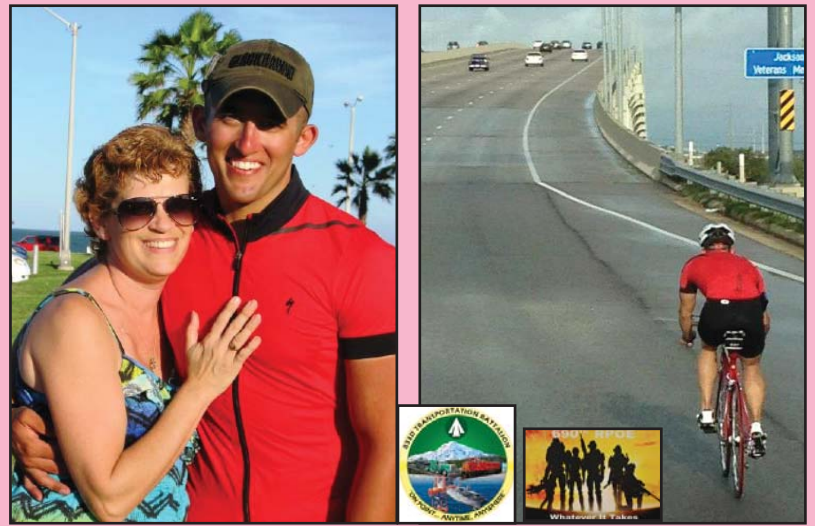
“It’s kind of hard to put it into words,” said Michelle McBroom. “Douglas has always done tremendously—when he sets a goal, he achieves it. Douglas and I have a very special relationship. I am immensely proud of my son.”

In June 2011, Michelle McBroom was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. Seven months of chemotherapy, one surgery and a month of radiation later, she received the good news—she was cancer free. However, that was shortly lived. After a routine body scan, came the devastating news—the cancer had recurred. The diagnosis was she had triple negative breast cancer. Now, not only was she fighting for her life again, but she was also fighting against a disease that had no cure.

Breast cancer is generally diagnosed upon the presence, or lack, of three receptors: estrogen, progesterone and human epidermal growth factor 2. With triple negative breast cancer, none of these receptors are found. Although this type of cancer is typically responsive to chemotherapy, it can be particularly aggressive and is more likely to recur than other subtypes of breast cancer. Since traditional hormonal therapies will not work, more research is needed to find a cure.\*

“I want to send a message to everyone who is either battling or has been affected by this awful disease—FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!” said McBroom. “And just when you think you’re at your breaking point, dig deep and push through! You are not alone!”

“Sgt. McBroom is one of the most determined, goal oriented and inspiring people I have ever met,” said Maj. Keith E. Pruet, 690th RPOE commander. “He epitomizes everything that the Army stands for. Any unit with him in it, will succeed.



Top left: Sgt. Douglas McBroom and his mother, Michelle McBroom—together upon his arrival in Corpus Christi, Texas. Photo by Crissie Suarez. Top right: McBroom on day one of his ride. Photo by Spc. James Conklin. Bottom: McBroom and Conklin prepare for their 800-mile bike trek across four states to raise awareness for breast cancer. Photo by Michelle Montieth.

Despite the circumstances that have motivated him to pursue this trip, his attitude toward this challenge has been nothing less than spectacular. He sets an example that all should emulate. I am so proud of him and truly wish him and his family all the best.”

“Sgt. McBroom is a motivated and determined noncommissioned officer, who never quits or gives up,” said 1st Sgt. Jennifer J. Callicutt, 690th first sergeant. “He researched, coordinated and planned his ride to bring awareness to triple negative breast cancer in support of his mom. He didn’t even let Recruiting and Retention School interfere with his training. Once Sgt. McBroom sets a goal, he does everything in his power to accomplish that goal.”

“Riding a bike from Alabama to Texas for charity shows how large this man’s heart is,” said Conklin. “Most people would be mad at the world after learning of their mothers’ cancer diagnosis, but Doug took it as a challenge to help others. I cannot describe how honored I am to be part of their “fight”, to support my friend and his family and to raise awareness about this disease.”

In 2006, McBroom enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from high school. He has had one 15-month deployment to Iraq. While assigned to the 690th RPOE, he competed in the 2011 Department of Army Best Warrior competition after winning three “Best Warrior” titles: the 597th Transportation Brigade; the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command; and the Army Materiel Command. His next assignment, as a recruiter, takes him home to Corpus Christi.

\* [www.breastcancer.org](http://www.breastcancer.org)



## Hitting a safety home run

By Gary Tripp & Michelle Montieth  
597th Safety and Occupational Health  
Manager; 597th Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — The brigade takes the theme, “Safety is Everyone’s Business”, and makes it a reality.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2011, the transportation industry had about six accidents per year, per 100 employees, resulting in hospital time. With more than 400 Soldiers and civilians working within the 597th, that would mean that the Bureau would expect approximately 24 accidents per year. Yet, how many did the 597th have? Zero—None—Zip. In fact, in 2011, all seven subordinate units qualified for both the Army Safety Excellence Streamer and the Army Accident Prevention Award.

Receiving the streamer is difficult, but qualifying for the award is even more difficult. In addition to having no Class A (deaths) or Class B (three people hurt during an accident) accidents, the Army Accident Prevention Award means the unit had zero Class C accidents—those which result in lost work days. Thus, 0 percent compared to 6 percent is huge in safety.

An Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspector once stated that hitting a home run during an inspection required key safety programs to be in place. At the beginning of an OSHA inspection, the examiner would ask for the accident log. If the organization could not produce it, then the organization didn’t even make it to first base and might as well sign a blank check because it was going to be a long inspection. However, if the unit did have it, then leader involvement in its safety program would get it to second base. Third base meant having training programs in a few key areas. And, a home run was having written programs in most of the areas inspected.

Some are under the impression that OSHA regulations do not apply to the military. There are two sources for the Army’s safety program requirements: OSHA and Army Regulation 385-10, the Army Safety Program. AR 385-10 addresses the safety functions not covered by OSHA. Executive Order 12196 states that the military will adhere to OSHA standards with the exception of personnel reporting of Soldiers and military-unique missions. Soldiers are not included in OSHA’s person-

nel reports because OSHA only considers accidents and injuries at work whereas the Army includes on- and off-duty accidents and injuries. Also, military-unique missions are not covered by OSHA as it would be inappropriate to hinder missions—possibly affecting national defense.

Leadership involvement is the Army’s most important element of any safety program. If leaders of a unit are not actively engaged in safety, the best written programs will be hollow and useless. A commander’s involvement includes participating in safety councils, having written safety policies, reviewing and signing risk assessments, conducting safety inspections and evaluating accident reports.

When developing a solid safety program, a comprehensive training program is how a unit gets to second base. Although OSHA has a long list of requirements, inspectors usually focus on four areas required of all organizations: new employee orientation, fire evacuation plans, personal protective equipment and hazard communication. Many of the other programs are considered “as needed”; all dependent upon the hazards of the working environment.

Since ship operations are a major recurring mission for units within the 597th Transportation Brigade, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Gary Tripp, the 597th safety and occupational health manager, conducts the 10-hour OSHA Maritime Safety course. This 2-day training, focusing on long-shore and terminal safety, includes topics such as an introduction to OSHA, walking and working surfaces, personal protective equipment, fall protection/scaffolding, electrical, confined and enclosed spaces, control of hazardous energy and fire protection. Although several of these topics are already part of the Army’s required annual training, upon completion of this additional training, participants receive OSHA certification cards through the University of Southern Florida. In addition to classroom instruction, students receive hands-on training by identifying possible hazards on a Land Craft Utility ship at 3rd Port here.

“Having a good written safety program is important,” said Tripp. “But, having a good safety culture is even better. With a safety culture, you have safety awareness, engaged leadership and everyone working together to ensure safe conditions. It’s easy to say, ‘Everyone is a safety officer.’

However, if Soldiers are not trained in safety standards, the statement has no meaning. The OSHA Maritime Safety course provides Soldiers with the tools to know what right looks like. I do not expect Soldiers to know that a bull rail installed before 1983 should be six inches versus the current 10 inches. However, I am hoping that when Soldiers arrive at the pier and look around, they would raise a safety flag if the bull rail was missing. It’s a win-win situation when we eliminate hazards and maintain a safe work environment.”

“The Maritime Safety course is specific to the environmental safety of the RPOE’s SPOD (Rapid Port Opening Element’s Seaport of Debarkation) mission, but it also reinforces safety habits that should be used on a daily basis,” said 2nd Lt. Brian M. Kavanagh, the 689th RPOE clearance officer in charge. “Two topics that I think are particularly important were HAZCOM and PPE. Every Monday, we conduct command maintenance. Any observer or participant in the motor stables would see Soldiers engaging in activities that require the use of PPE and an awareness of HAZCOM.”

“Mr. Tripp was very thorough with his class and made sure everyone understood the importance of maritime safety,” said Pfc. Leslie A. Owens, a 689th RPOE supply clerk. “He showed us the consequences that could erupt if you were not careful and thinking about safety.”

In addition to OSHA, the Army’s safety training requirements are based on military-unique situations and the fact that Soldiers are Soldiers 24/7. The main training requirements for all Army personnel include employee/supervisor safety training, accident avoidance, also called defensive driving, and Composite Risk Management. Depending upon the nature of the unit’s mission, other training requirements may apply.

CRM is the Army’s primary decision-making process to identify hazards, reduce risk and prevent loss. The 597th makes safety priority one by incorporating CRM into daily operations. The experts—operators and supervisors—can identify hazards, implement controls and conduct missions in the safest possible manner to ensure the safety of Soldiers and Department of Army civilians.





## 833rd Transportation Battalion relocates to Fort Eustis

Compiled by Michelle Montieth

597th Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va.— With the uncasing of its colors, the 833rd Transportation Battalion officially moved its headquarters from Seattle to Fort Eustis July 2. The 833rd provides mission command for three transportation detachments on Joint Base Langley-Eustis—the 688th, 689th and 690th Rapid Port Opening Elements—and one transportation terminal detachment in Seattle—the Pacific Northwest Detachment. The unit conducts surface deployment, redeployment and distribution operations through the Pacific Northwest coast seaports to meet U.S. Northern Command's objectives. On order, the 833rd provides the Seaport Command Element for U.S. Transportation Command Joint Task Force-Port Opening Seaport of Debarkation and Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's contingencies worldwide.

History of the 833rd Transportation Battalion:

Originally established on July 28, 1942, in support of the Pacific Theater in World War II, the Seattle Port of Embarkation became one of eight Seaports of Embarkation in the continental U.S., with sub-port facilities in Portland and Prince Rupert, and Alaskan seaports in Juneau, Excursion Inlet and Skagway. By December 31, 1944, the Seattle SPOE employed more than 19,000 military and civilian personnel and moved more than 17 million tons of military cargo during the war. It was also the principal mover of personnel, supplies and equipment for the construction of many Alaska stations.

In 1950, the Seattle SPOE experienced another rapid buildup in support of the Korean conflict. In 1955, it changed its name to the Seattle Army Terminal under the command of the U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Agency, Seattle—the parent to the later Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service Terminal Unit, Pacific Northwest, then the Pacific Northwest Outport. The parent unit later became the Military Traffic Management Command, which was renamed in 2004 to the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. The Navy's Military Sealift Command, the Air Force's Air Mobility Command and SDDC are components of U.S. Transportation Command. Today, the 833rd falls under the 597th Transportation Brigade.



Photo by Michelle Montieth

The 833rd Transportation Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Isabel E. Geiger, and the acting sergeant major, promotable Master Sgt. Cedric L. Richardson, uncased the 833rd's colors during a ceremony on Joint Base Langley-Eustis July 2. The uncasing ceremony marks the official arrival of the unit from Seattle to Fort Eustis.

In the 1980's, an Alaska Detachment was established under PNW to improve customer service to the ever-growing military in Alaska. It was disbanded in 2001, and then reinstated in 2005 under the 833rd. In 2007, the Alaska Det. was realigned under the 599th Transportation Brigade, SDDC.

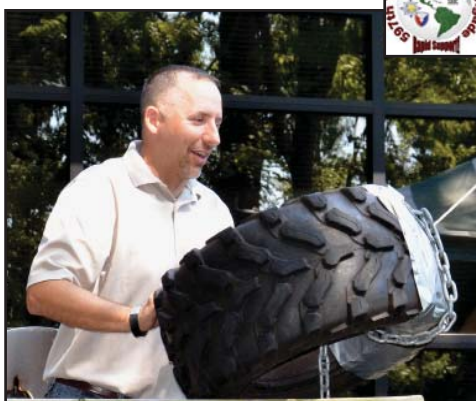
Since 1992, the 833rd has deployed personnel in support of overseas operations. In 1999, its first Deployment Distribution Support Team deployed in support of exercise New Horizons in El Salvador; in 2003, an 833rd DDST opened the port of Qatar in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; other deployments have included Peru, Guatemala, Thailand, Australia, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and multiple ports throughout CONUS. Most recently, the 833rd deployed to Haiti for two months in support of Operation Unified Response.

In 1993, the unit was renamed the 1313th Medium Port Command, and in 1997, the 833rd Trans. Bn. Although much smaller than its original 19,000-man formation, the 833rd retains its original mission and capability by using contracts and tariffs for terminal, stevedore and shipping requirements. Effective June 28, the 833rd TB relocated to Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.—aligning the 688th, 689th and 690th RPOEs, in Virginia, and the PNW Det. in Seattle, under one command.

And the winner of the *Broken Wheel* is...

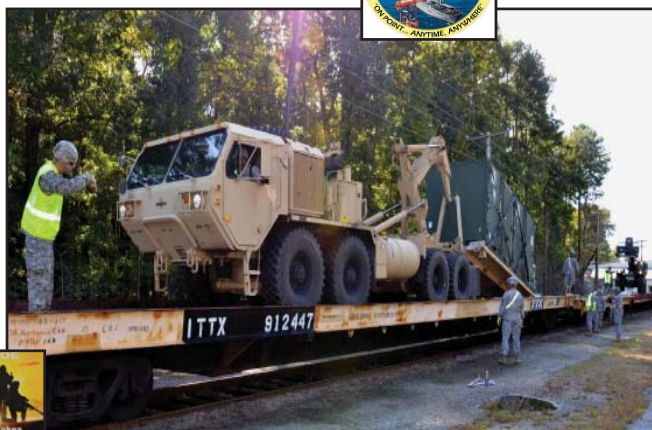
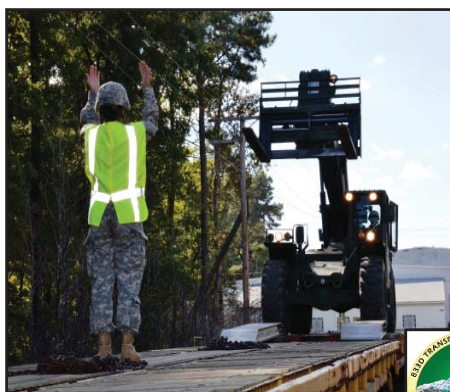
"Ranger" John Lyons

HQ, 597th—During Rapid Support Mess, Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Blasko, 597th command sergeant major, awards the Broken Wheel to John Lyons, 597th security manager, Sept. 27. The Mess, where "talking shop" is not allowed, is designed to get staff together and have some fun in conjunction with a BBQ or potluck. One of the events involves nominations—humorous in nature—for the prestigious Broken Wheel award. These nominations, based on at least 1 percent truth, focus on something silly, comical or entertaining someone said or did. The crowd determines the winner via applause.



Photos by Michelle Montieth





Photos by Michelle Montieth

## 690th RPOE's Sergeant's Time Training: Rail-load Operations

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.— Soldiers of the 690th Rapid Port Opening Element, 833rd Transportation Battalion, learn how to properly conduct pre-inspections and prepare vehicles and equipment for movement by rail during their sergeant's time training Oct. 18. Emphasis is placed on implementing strict safety procedures in loading and securing cargo on railcars. They also learn how to inspect railcars and tie-down material—identifying shortfalls prior to execution of rail-load operations.



Photos by Michelle Montieth

## Deputy Commander visits the 597th

HQ, 597th— Col. David B. Gaffney, the deputy commander for the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, visits the 597th Sept. 17-18. During his visit, he meets with brigade and 833rd Transportation Battalion key staff to discuss capabilities and resources and tours the USTRANSCOM alert RPOE- the 690th Transportation Detachment.



# Around the Brigade

## Hurricane hits Balvador

Imagine a hurricane has just devastated your country and thousands are in desperate need of food, water, shelter, medicine, etc. Because there is no accessible air or seaport in your country, large amounts of aid have started to flow into a neighboring country. How would you get relief or aid? Who is going to help?

*Situation:* A severe hurricane has hit Balvador and thousands of its citizens are in crisis. Many have fled to the country of Torminica. The governments of Torminica and Balvador have requested assistance to help minimize human suffering of their citizens.

The commander of U.S. Southern Command has stood up Joint Task Force-416 in support of Operation Sustain Hope. USSOUTHCOM requests that U.S. Transportation Command Joint Task Force-Port Opening forces conduct an assessment of the transportation infrastructure at and around the seaport of Torminica. Commercial power may be available. Coordination with the Torminican military and government representatives must be accomplished to determine if there is any Torminican government support available. Food, water and fuel are very limited. Operations will require self-sustainability until USSOUTHCOM can establish sustainment channels for resupply.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Soldiers from the 839th Transportation Battalion, 598th Transportation Brigade, out of Livorno, Italy, and the 688th Rapid Port Opening Element, 833rd Transportation Battalion, from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., and Navy Sailors from the 107th Expeditionary Port Unit, out of Raleigh, N.C., train together during the JTF-PO SPOD exercise, Operation Sustain Hope, July 14-24.

The 832nd Transportation Battalion also hosts Brig. Gen. Gwi Chel Seo, commanding general of Transportation Command, Republic of Korea, and his staff. During their visit, they discuss the battalion's capabilities and then meet with Soldiers and Sailors as they tour JTF-PO SPOD exercise.

Passage and photos by Michelle Montieith



JTF-PO SPOD team of Soldiers and Sailors



Constructing CAMSS shelters



Arrival of equipment and additional personnel



Briefing in the Joint Operational Center



Identifying and tracking cargo



Setting-up operations



Setting-up communications



832nd TB hosting ROK general and staff



## 841st DDST supports units at Fort Campbell

By Lt. Col. Tracey M. Williams, Beth Mazuk & Michelle Montieth  
841st DDST Officer-In-Charge; 597th Traffic Management Specialist;  
597th Public Affairs

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky.— In July, the 841st Transportation Battalion’s Deployment and Distribution Support Team from Charleston, S.C., completed another successful mission. Ten Soldiers of the DDST, 5 members of the U.S. Coast Guard Container Inspection Training and Assistance Team, and one traffic management specialist from 597th Headquarters traveled to Fort Campbell, Ky., to support the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division with deployment—providing efficient and effective movement planning, preparation and communication.

DDSTs are force multipliers in the deployment process—providing smooth, efficient and synchronized moves from the installations to the ports of embarkation. Their purpose is to eliminate frustrated cargo at the strategic ports. At the installation, the task force’s main effort is to focus on cargo preparation and validating source data in the Transportation Coordinator’s Automated Information for Movements System, which feeds into the SDDC’s Worldwide Port System or Integrated Booking System and Integrated Computerized Deployment Systems.

“Our goal, like yours (DDST), is to mitigate the amount of frustrated cargo at the port and make for a smooth transportation move from fort to port and onward into theater,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Darl E. Cord II, 101st ABN DIV mobility warrant officer. “One of the greatest and underutilized assets that Army units have access to is that of DDSTs. Their professional attitudes and work ethic led to two very successful weeks of equipment and container inspections. The integration of the inspectors, Coast Guard and TC-AIMS specialists; and daily out-briefs with the two BCTs, DTO (division transportation office), ITO (installation transportation office) were instrumental in the streamlining, loading and inspection of equipment, containers and HAZMAT (hazardous material) certification.”

“The DDST/CITAT support has been critical to the success of this deployment preparation,” said Staff Sgt. Nelch Princivil, 101st CAB Movement Control Cell noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

DDSTs assist in the planning, staging and preparation of unit equipment and personnel movement by surface. The teams directly assist the war fighter, DTOs and ITOs with equipment and container preparation, TCAIMS II data input, documentation and radio frequency in-transit visibility technology. They also provide assistance to the seaport operating units. A DDST is always augmented with USCG personnel, who verify the unit’s hazardous material, packaging and documentation.

See FORT CAMPBELL, Page 18



Members of the 841st DDST, 597th TBDE and Coast Guard CITAT



Staff Sgt. William Thomas and Spc. Michael Snipe review documentation of containers.



Staff Sgt. John Sapp checks documentation for one of containers..



Members of the Coast Guard CITAT: Officer-in-charge Lt. Andrew Cooke, Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Jones, Petty Officer Justin Sunquist, and Petty Officer Jason Pronovost



Left to right: Petty Officer Justin Sunquist checks the fuel level in a generator system; Staff Sgt. Raymond John checks bolt seal on a container; and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Morel checks the serial number of a generator system. Photos by Lt. Col. Tracey M. Williams.



## BOAT Physical Fitness

GLOUCESTER BEACH, Va.— Soldiers of the 688th RPOE, 833rd TB, conduct physical fitness, Boat PT, with the 74th Engineer Dive Detachment.

“It was a great PT session that allowed us to incorporate another unit—giving them a little insight into our world.”  
~Staff Sgt. Eric Bailey, the NCOIC of the Boat PT

“Boat PT with the rapid port opening unit was a fantastic experience. It helped both units with team building, and showed how we can rely on each other in tough situations.” ~Pfc. Lavassaur

“Best PT session ever.” ~Sgt. Jamir Carter.

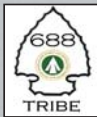
“Had a great time working out with the Dive Detachment. Can’t wait to do it again.” ~Cpl. Larry Bender



Courtesy photo: 74th Engineer Dive Detachment



Courtesy photo: 688th RPOE



Courtesy photo: 688th RPOE



Courtesy photo: 688th RPOE



Courtesy photo: 74th Engineer Dive Detachment



Courtesy photo: 688th RPOE

**JOINT TASK FORCE - PORT OPENING**  
 JOINT OPERATIONAL ACCESS EXERCISE 12-02, MACKALL ARMY AIRFIELD, N.C.

688TH RAPID PORT OPENING ELEMENT  
 JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, VA.

JUNE 2-7, 2012

818TH CONTINGENCY RESPONSE GROUP  
 JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NJ

Photo illustration by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Parker Gyokeres.

**READY & RESILIENT**



## DDST Training at Port Arthur, Texas

Story and photos by Christopher Donohue  
*Pacific Northwest Detachment*

PORT ARTHUR, Texas— In July, three members of the Pacific Northwest Detachment, 833rd Transportation Battalion, traveled to Texas for training and developmental mission. Chris Donohue, Roy Miller and Penny Wargo worked with the 842nd Transportation Battalion during a discharge operation at the port.

Ralph Cote, a 842nd lead Marine cargo specialist, oriented the team to the battalion and the port's key personnel and facilities. Larry Ordway, the chief of Information Management, provided a comprehensive training session on Intermec scanner operations; including firmware updates, wireless capabilities and combined Global Air Transportation Execution System and Integrated Computerized Deployment System scanning operations on a single scanner.

Upon the M/V Green Point's arrival, discharge operations commenced on the night shift July 21. The following day, 268 pieces of cargo were discharged. The retrograde cargo consisted primarily of Heavy Equipment Transport tractors and trailers, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and construction equipment; approximately half of the cargo was "non-operational".

Although the discharge was uneventful, there were a few challenges. It took time to "dig out" the operational HET tractors needed to discharge the HET trailers and tow the non-operational and battle-damaged cargo. Also, due to the location of the stanchions, maneuvering the big trailers was difficult.

Cargo disposition was primarily by rail to Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas, and Herlong Army Depot, Calif. Forty-nine railcars, with 95 pieces, were loaded and jointly inspected by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Kansas City Southern Railways July 26. These cars were pulled and replaced with another 52 railcars on July 28 in order to complete the Red River cargo load. The 842nd worked with the rail companies to secure the additional 35 railcars for the Herlong Depot bound cargo. There were also 24 pieces dispositioned via a line-haul truck that could not be loaded to rail.

Communication and support among the 842nd Transportation Battalion, Port Arthur and Ports America (the 842nd's stevedoring contractor) continues to lead to mission success.



Port Arthur, Texas—Loaded railcars are ready to be pulled.



Battle-damaged Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles AP's are discharged using "tandem" methods.



Heavy Equipment Transport trailers are lifted to rail.

### Commercial perspective of global logistics

SEATAC, Wash.— Lt. Col. Isabel Geiger, the 833rd Transportation Battalion commander, Sgt. Maj. Claudia Shakespeare, the 833rd command sergeant major, and employees of the Pacific Northwest Detachment visit the Boeing Spare Parts Distribution Center Sept. 25. Their professional development includes an informative tour, including an extensive description of the plant's distribution process—from receiving an order to shipping parts to the customer, and of the means to lowering costs and increasing efficiency.

Courtesy photo





# Around the Brigade

COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET							
For use of this form, see FM 5-19; the proponent agency is TRADOC.							
1. MSN/TASK		2a. DTG BEGIN		2b. DTG END		3. DATE PREPARED (YYYYMMDD)	
4. PREPARED BY				b. RANK		c. POSITION	
a. LAST NAME							
5. SUBTASK	6. HAZARDS	7. INITIAL RISK LEVEL	8. CONTROLS	9. RESIDUAL RISK LEVEL	10. HOW TO IMPLEMENT	11. HOW TO SUPERVISE (WHO)	12. WAS THE CONTROL EFFECTIVE?
Additional space for entries in Items 5 through 11 is provided on page 2							
13. OVERALL RISK LEVEL AFTER CONTROLS ARE IMPLEMENTED ( <i>Check one</i> )							
<input type="checkbox"/> LOW		<input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE		<input type="checkbox"/> HIGH		<input type="checkbox"/> EXTREMELY HIGH	
14. RISK DECISION AUTHORITY				b. RANK		c. POSITION	
a. LAST NAME							



## HOME RUN, from Page 9

“Composite Risk Management hasn’t changed for at least the last 15 years,” said Maj. Joe Borovicka, 688th RPOE commander. “It’s simply a simple, easy way to identify and mitigate risk in military operations. Used correctly, it prompts incisive thought and planning for ensuring a safe operation and results in a checklist for use during the operation in question. When conducting composite risk management, even experienced leaders often become aware of new or previously unplanned-for hazards and risks.”

The use of risk assessments reduces accidents within the Army and is how a unit gets to third base. A risk assessment, in its simplest form, lists possible hazards a unit may encounter while doing a mission, the risks associated with those hazards and possible ways to mitigate or reduce the risks. The form is straightforward and completed from left to right.

On the far left, the task or subtask is listed and then the hazard associated with that task. To determine the level of risk, an initial risk assessment, reviewing the probability of the hazard occurring and the severity of its result, is conducted. A hazard that has a low probability of occurring or has a minor impact, if it were to occur, would be rated as a low risk. In contrast, an activity that occurs frequently or would have disastrous consequences would be rated high or possibly extremely high. Although all missions have the same ultimate goal—to be rated low risk—that is rarely the case.

After the risk has been determined, controls—actions or things that can be done to mitigate or lower the risk for that hazard—are listed in the third column. An example of such is requiring a Soldier to wear steel-toed boots when working on a

Soldier’s feet from the danger of heavy items falling on them.

The next step of CRM, the residual risk, involves reassessing the hazard with the implemented control. The same standards as the initial risk still apply, but now, hopefully, the risk is lower because of the control. The next two columns list how and by whom the control would be implemented. The final column, evaluating the control’s effectiveness, is completed upon the mission’s conclusion.

By identifying the activity with the highest risk for each day and including it on the daily report, the 597th discerns which events require command attention. Also, by detailing the controls in order, the CRM becomes a checklist that any leader can use to ensure safety issues are being addressed.

Contrary to popular belief, OSHA does not determine what Personal Protective Equipment or PPE is required. OSHA mandates that the supervisor or leader evaluates the tasks to be performed, the hazards associated with those tasks and the PPE required. Since the tasks and hazards are already identified on the risk assessment, adding PPE as one of the controls is an acceptable way to mitigate risk and document the requirements for PPE.

Risk assessments need to be reviewed and signed by the proper level of supervision—the Risk Decision Authority. The level of the decision authority depends upon the level of the residual risk. If a risk assessment has a low residual risk, it can be signed by a supervisor. However, if the risk level is higher, then the level of the decision authority is higher. For example, if a unit is conducting concurrent operations and has to split the unit to different sites, having less people to complete the task at each site may increase the levels of risk. If the Risk Decision Authority were

a battalion commander rather than a company commander, the battalion commander would have greater resources available to lower the risk to acceptable standards. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the higher level commander to determine if the mission is worth the risk.

Risk assessments cannot be used to violate existing laws. A supervisor or commander cannot assume the risk in order to avoid correcting a deficiency or following proper procedures or laws. For example, a convoy commander whose convoy is running late cannot accept the higher risk of increasing the convoy’s speed and go over the posted speed limit.

Although the above procedures apply to formal risk assessments, these procedures can be implemented during off-duty activities. The Army’s Take 5 safety campaign educates everyone on the use of CRM principles anytime, anywhere. Before starting a project, stop for 5 seconds or 5 minutes, depending upon the task, and think about the hazards one might encounter. Have a sensible plan and ask, “Is there something I can do to make this project safer?” By conducting this simple informal risk assessment, unnecessary accidents can be avoided.

Having a program of programs—incorporating both OSHA and military safety programs—is hitting a home run. Other OSHA programs under the safety umbrella could be respiratory safety, blood-borne pathogens, ergonomics and lock-out/tag-out procedures. Many military safety programs also focus on off-duty activities—motorcycle, privately owned vehicle and sports safety. Military-unique safety programs include range operations, ammunition and tactical safety. Taking responsibility and working together to keep Soldiers, civilians and families aware of hazards and how to reduce risks, keeps everyone safer.



# Around the Brigade

## Joint Logistics Over The Shore

FORT STORY, Va.— The 833rd TB, 688th RPOE and Navy EPU 110 conduct JLOTS Aug. 15-25. The exercise includes port opening and sustainment operations—joint assessment; integration of command and control; offload, identification, in-transit visibility, and transport of cargo. Courtesy photos



## 597th Officer Professional Development: History, Connections, Communication

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.— Col. Charles R. Brown, 597th commander, hosts October's Officer Professional Development Oct. 2, at the Virginia War Museum and Fort Monroe's Casemate Museum. It was an opportunity for officers within the 597th Transportation Brigade to take a moment to learn a little history, bond with one another and share experiences. Photos by Michelle Montieth.



Photos by Michelle Montieth

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va.— In July, Warrant Officer Michael Keller and Sgt. Angi Mann of the 401st Field Support Brigade receive training on the Weigh-in-Motion System before returning to Afghanistan with the WIMS. Shortly thereafter, Soldiers from the 689th Rapid Port Element, 833rd Transportation Battalion prepare the WIMS for transport.





## Fort Eustis 2012 Rising Star

Fort Eustis, Va.— After weeks of ‘American Idol’ style competition, Spc. Reuben Eldridge, an 88M heavy vehicle operator with the 688th Rapid Port Opening Element, 833rd Transportation Brigade, reigns as the winner of the Fort Eustis Morale, Welfare and Recreation Rising Star Oct. 24. He sings Marvin Gaye’s “Let’s Get it On” for his final competitive performance, which got the judges and the audience dancing.

“It’s hard to describe how I feel,” said Eldridge. “I’m truly overjoyed and grateful for the support I’ve received from my family here in the 688th and my family back home. I’m grateful to be recognized as a great performer. To prepare for every competition, I practiced and I reminded myself that this is for fun and entertainment.”

The Rising Star competition is Army-wide, with a total of 27 bases competing. The winners from each base will now submit a video of a cappella performance as well as past performances to MWR Headquarters. Twelve contestants will be selected from these submissions to compete at nationals in San Antonio, Texas.

*Photos from Fort Eustis MWR facebook page*



### FORT CAMPBELL from Page 13

“The unity of effort and the willingness of all parties to work together reduced a planned 4-week action down to two weeks of actual application,” said Cord. “This is a 50 percent reduction of manpower and time to complete the equipment and container load-up, which allowed for the units to plan additional down time for their troops.”

“Integrating container inspectors, the Coast Guard and assistance with TC-AIMS-II has been instrumental in our movement,” said CW2 Destiny M. Jackson, mobility warrant for 101st CAB.

When the DDST arrives at an installation, it begins to integrate into the installation system of deployments. The team works directly with the Unit Movement Officer, ITO, DTO and a multitude of support staff at each organization. Once integrated, the DDST works directly with the unit representatives to assist with their deployment processes; in particular, TC-AIMS-II and container inspections.

The team assists the UMO with data input and verification of properly identified HAZMAT and sensitive items.

“Both Beth Mazuk and Sgt. Suzette Heaven were assets,” said Jackson. “They worked late hours to ensure our UDL was squared away. This resulted in minimum errors on the Compass Report.”

Container inspections consist of verifying containers are serviceable and have current CSC stickers, meeting the MIL-HDB-138B guidelines, prior to loading. The DDST also works with the unit to ensure proper cargo placement, blocking and bracing—minimizing damage. Then documents are checked—verifying unit and Soldier packing lists are complete. Having correct and complete documentation allows for unit or individual reimbursement if items are damaged or lost in transit.

The USCG CITAT is responsible for inspecting containers carrying hazardous material. This team checks each container for the presence of undeclared and declared HAZMAT; checks for the proper documentation associated with the declared hazardous material; and either removes undeclared hazmat or assists with completing proper documentation.

“The container inspection team was nothing short of professionals and experts,” said Jackson. “They came down here to do a job and they did it well. By having the HAZMAT class and going over the documentation with the UMOs was essential.”

“The DDST assistance and dedication led to UDLs being updated and corrected in an expedited and timely manner,” said Cord. “The 1750s and HAZMAT documentation reviewed by the team (DDST and CITAT) in coordination with the unit UMOs led to efficient time management and proper utilization of resources.”



## Suicide Prevention Stand Down: Sept. 27



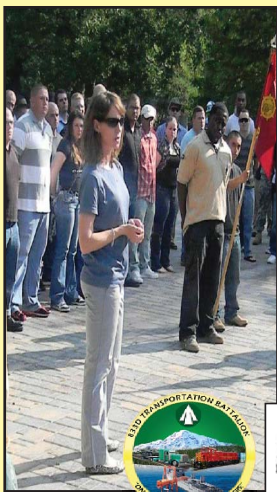
Photos by Michelle Montieth

HQ, 597th— Chaplain John Jacobs, 597th chaplain, conducts suicide prevention training to brigade staff during the Army-wide Suicide Prevention Stand-Down day. He reemphasized the importance of communicating with and caring for one another; being aware of risk factors; recognizing warning signs; and getting help. After the training, the team ate delicious food and enjoyed each other's company at the BBQ.



Courtesy photo

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.— Sgt. 1st Class Teodoro Martinez and Sgt. Heriberto Perez conduct suicide awareness training—facts, assumptions and prevention—to the 832nd Trans. Bn. staff. They also discussed the educational benefits of having Master Resiliency trainers within all units.



Courtesy photos

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.— The 833rd Transportation Battalion's Suicide Prevention Stand Down began with the release of yellow balloons—remembering those lost to suicide—followed by a fun-run through the Newport News Park. The day, designed to raise awareness, educate, provide resources and share stories and experiences, included presentations by the 597th chaplain, Chaplain John Jacobs; Master Resiliency trainers, 1st Sgt. Jennifer Callicutt and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Jones; military family life consultant, Mr. Patterson; and Maj. Anthony Winters (Shoulder to Shoulder).





## Give 100% and Never Quit

Compiled by Michelle Montieth

597th Public Affairs

Spc. James A. Conklin, an 88H cargo specialist with the 690th Rapid Port Opening Element, 833rd Transportation Battalion, represented the Army Materiel Command at the 2012 Best Warrior Competition at Fort Lee, Va., Oct. 15-18.

He holds three “Best Warrior” titles: the 597th Transportation Brigade, the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command; and the Army Materiel Command.

“The most challenging part of the competitions has been staying motivated while dealing with physical and mental exhaustion,” said Conklin. “Each level was more difficult than the last, but I was ready for the challenge. Over the past year, I trained continuously— increasing my knowledge, strength, endurance and agility. I exercised two to three hours per day; ran five to eight miles; lifted weights; ruck marched with more than 100 pounds of gear; trained at the weapons range and simulator; practiced land navigation; ate healthy; and studied history, current events, TM’s (Army technical manuals), AR’s (Army regulations), TC’s (training circulars) and FM’s (field manuals).”

“Spc. Conklin represents the best and the brightest of the new generation of today’s Army,” said Maj. Keith Pruett, 690th RPOE commander. “It is Soldiers like him who will carry-on our values and traditions, and in turn, pass them onto future ranks. I could not be prouder of him. This is only the beginning of his great journey.”

“Spc. Conklin has continued to hone his skills and stay focused with each consecutive competition,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Blasko, 597th Transportation Brigade command sergeant major. “We are proud of him and his accomplishments and are confident that he is more than ready to succeed at any challenge.”

“Spc. Conklin is a determined Soldier with the will to win,” said 1st Sgt. Jennifer Callicutt, 690th RPOE first sergeant. “He has been an advocate for mentorship in the community and generously volunteers his time to help others—whether becoming a role model for juvenile delinquents in the Newport News post-detention program called “Helping Young People to Excel” or following his comrade in a moving van during an 800-mile bike trek to raise awareness for breast cancer. Conklin serves as an inspiration for his fellow Soldiers and embodies the Warrior Ethos.”

*Question: No matter the scenario, what’s one of the challenges remains that same throughout the competition?*

“There are so many realms of Army here,” said Conklin. “You have everything from a Sergeant First Class Special Forces Operations to a Specialist Cook and everything in between. Transporters, infantry, Airborne, Air Assault, Aviation. And I don’t know what he brings to the table and he doesn’t know what I bring to the table so that’s the most challenging.”

<http://armylive.dodlive.mil/index.php/2012/10/quotes-from-the-armys-best/>



Courtesy photo from Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Blasko  
Col. Charles Brown, 597th commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Blasko, 597th command sergeant major, visit Spc. James A. Conklin during Best Warrior competition at Fort Lee.



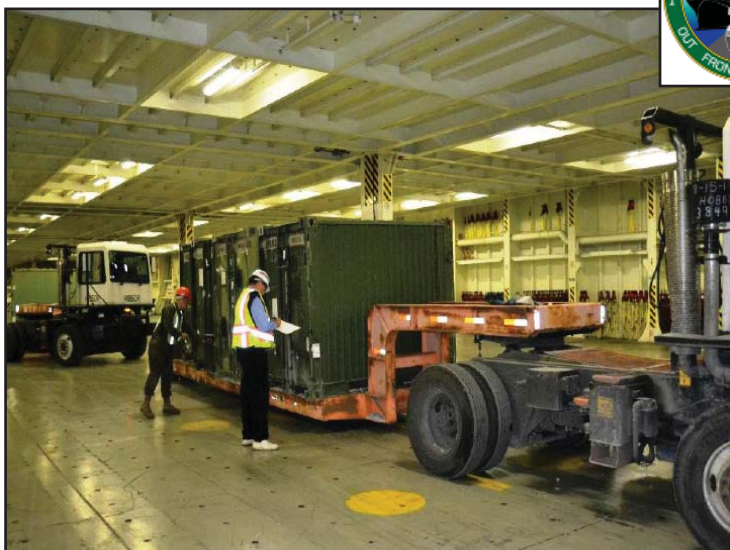
Photo by T. Anthony Bell  
Conklin, representing Army Materiel Command, shoots an azimuth during the land navigation portion of the 2012 Best Warrior Competition at Fort Lee.



Photo by Michelle Montieth  
Conklin trains in preparation for the competition, where 24 Soldiers will compete for Best Warrior.



## 597th Battalion of the Quarter: 841st

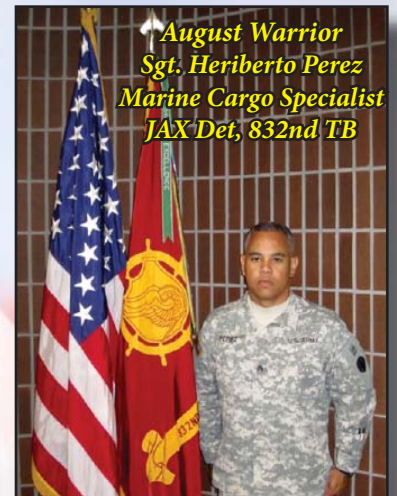




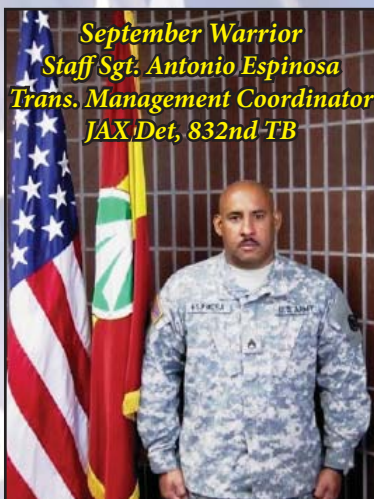
## WARRIORS OF THE MONTH

**Sgt. Heriberto Perez**' knowledge, commitment and resilience to accomplish the mission demonstrates the BE, KNOW and DO attributes of an NCO.

*Highlighted accomplishments:* deployed within 24 hours of notification to Peru, SOUTH-COM JCS exercise, facilitating the release of four 20-foot MILVANs of donated unit medical equipment to the country; assisted the 191st Infantry Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Wa., during the recent deployment for Operation Enduring Freedom, aiding the UMOs to facilitate the inspection, documentation and onward movements of 45 20-foot containerized units to theater; participated in the movement of 1,824 military pieces of retrograde cargo in support of OEF/OND; monitored the port clearance and final disposition of military cargo to their respective depots reducing port call to 4.8 days; supervises the stevedores during rail operations, while serving as a liaison to the CSX military department, ordering the proper DODX rail cars to meet cargo configuration—ensuring manufacture specification and safety.



**August Warrior**  
**Sgt. Heriberto Perez**  
**Marine Cargo Specialist**  
**JAX Det, 832nd TB**

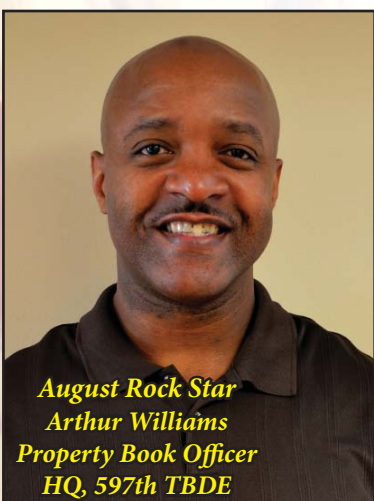


**September Warrior**  
**Staff Sgt. Antonio Espinosa**  
**Trans. Management Coordinator**  
**JAX Det, 832nd TB**

**In addition to Staff Sgt. Antonio Espinosa's** knowledge and experience, Espinosa is a skilled communicator and motivator—ensuring mission success.

*Highlighted accomplishments:* deployed as part of a 5-person Terminal Management Team to Guatemala to conduct SSDN operations and SDDC Single Port Management operations at Puerto Barrios - Santo Tomas de Castilla and Forward Operating Base Coban in support of the BTH Guatemala, documenting, labeling and manifesting 183 pieces of cargo; documented more than 2,500 pieces of Foreign Military Sale cargo—import and export—while working directly with 15 contractors, scheduling preventative checks and services, staging equipment and developing maintenance books; and is maintaining a 3.93 GPA as he pursues an Associate of Science degree.

## ROCK STARS OF THE MONTH



**August Rock Star**  
**Arthur Williams**  
**Property Book Officer**  
**HQ, 597th TBDE**

**Arthur Williams**, a true and quiet professional, continues to embody the Army values as a Department of Army civilian. His professionalism encompasses his commitment to our Soldiers and civilians.

*Highlighted accomplishments:* completed 100% command-directed Command Supply Discipline Program Inspections for FY 12; proactively ordered items for next FY to ensure units' equipment-on-hand percentage does not drop in October; maintained property books for all units with over 3500 line-item numbers valued in excess of 20 million dollars; assisted new RPOE commanders with Change of Command inventories; and is pursuing his bachelor's in logistics.

**Faye Banks**, a true team player, comes to work each day with a positive outlook—always striving to make a difference and willing to assist others to accomplish their tasks.

*Highlighted accomplishments:* coordinated the USDA issues at the Port of Houston; spearheaded the development of the new brigade CUB (commander update brief) slides, taking ownership for the accuracy and submission of product; assumed additional duties during the 30-day absence of the brigade operations officer; contributed to the development of the first-ever 597th SIR/CCIR (serious incident report/commander critical items report) format and SOP; took charge of the new CG BUB (business update brief); and was the first to volunteer to visit the chief of operations in the hospital and at home during his recovery—coordinating actions with family members and brigade leadership.



**September Rock Star**  
**Rock Star of the Quarter**  
**Faye Banks**  
**Trans. Management Specialist**  
**HQ, 597th TBDE**



## CSA draws blueprint for complex global environment

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON—The Army has revised much of its doctrine over the last year and will release more top-level doctrine over the next 10 months, said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno.

Speaking at the Association of the U.S. Army's congressional staffers breakfast Tuesday, he said the force is in the midst of the biggest revision of doctrine he's seen in at least the last 30 years.

Doctrine is the blueprint the Army uses to educate the force and execute in a complex environment, he said, adding the Army of today and the future will operate in an "extremely complex environment."

"The environment will not be easy," he continued. "It will be one that has varied threats: conventional threats, unconventional threats, terrorism and criminality, all in an environment of instantaneous movement of communications."

To understand and better respond to those threats, he said the Army has poured over lessons learned in the past 11 years of war and also examined all possible scenarios of future crises. The culmination of all this is massive doctrine revision.

"We've worked hard and rewritten every piece of doctrine over the last eight to 12 months and are releasing the top-level documents in this doctrine over next eight to 10 months," Odierno said.

### BUILDING FLEXIBILITY

Operating smarter and having greater agility and flexibility of worldwide response, Odierno said, requires continued efforts at regional alignment; the right type and mix of units, training and equipment; and proper balancing of the forces.

The Army is developing a readiness and training model for units operating in the complex environments and making "constant adjustments," he said, providing some examples, including a decisive action rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., last month; doctrine



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno gives his blueprint for the Army operating in a complex global environment, during the Association of the United States Army's Congressional staffers breakfast. Photo by David Vergun.

and training validation at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., next month; and current training in Europe involving the Joint Mobilization Training Center.

He said the Army needs the right balance and flexibility of units and equipment, including a "mix of armored medium and light airborne units that can be tailored and scaled to a range of missions (that) we can deploy rapidly in complex environments to accomplish many missions."

The Army must continue building a headquarters capable of commanding joint task forces, he said.

"Over the last eight or nine years, we proved we can do this," he explained. "Our corps have deployed multiple times in a joint, multinational environment."

Odierno said it is important that Soldiers have the flexibility, protection and speed needed to move with agility around the battlefield.

"To be networked, mobile and survivable, we will continue to use the JLTV (Joint Light Tactical Vehicle) for light force, the Stryker for medium forces and the Ground Combat Vehicle," he said.

Modern communications is vital to future warfare, he said.

"The single Soldier and his squad must be connected to major commands so they can make the right decisions to apply the right capabilities, wherever that might be. So we're going to develop a network that allows them to be connected and we're making tremendous progress on that," he said, citing ongoing communication network exercises taking place at Fort Bliss, Texas.

As the Army reduces its active end strength by 80,000, Odierno said it must adjust its forces accordingly, continuing to engage in Afghanistan, while adapting to meet the new Defense Department 2011 National Military Strategy, which states that the military must work with "government and interagency partners, and our friends and allies, as we meet our 21st-century responsibilities in a dynamic, yet uncertain, future."

To do this, Odierno said, requires the Army to regionally realign its forces "to better support combatant commanders so they can shape their own operational environments." Regional alignment refers to focusing on military-to-military partnerships in a specific world region, and includes receiving cultural and language training and familiarity with that area's people and Soldiers and enhanced joint/combined military interoperability.

"We'll do our first regional alignment this year," he said, with a brigade in U.S. Africa Command. "We already identified 93 separate missions (for the brigade), broken up into small, scalable, tailorable pieces that will be used in the active operational environment. Rotational units will be there to host alliance and partnerships such as the NATO response force.

"We'll continue to develop our partners who've helped us in Afghanistan and other parts of world," he continued. "We'll continue to develop relationships through interdependence and using the strengths of each other's capabilities. That's what the future will look like."

Odierno said the Army must have the right mix of active and reserve-component troop strength.

"The active component retains the required agility, readiness and capacity to rapidly respond to crises and can be engaged in complex, selective training.

"The reserve component provides depth and unique capabilities -- operational reserve in strategic depth, a strong state partnership program, specialized expertise in civilian skills, oper-

ational reserve in strategic depth and connection to the broader U.S. population.

"It's not one or the other (components). We've got to have both of these entities working together."

### SOLDIERS CENTERPIECE

Odierno lauded the quality of the force, noting that today's Soldiers are the "most experienced combat ready forces we've ever had." He said the entire modernization and transition effort of the Army is centered around the Soldier.

Good Soldiers must continue to have good leaders, he added. He said a lot of work is going into improving leader development programs at all levels for officers and enlisted. He admitted that when he was a young officer times were simple and Soldiers must now think about the "socio-economic aspects of what goes on around them" so they can make correct and rapid decisions at the right time and place.

"Our leaders have been asked to do extraordinary things and we're going to keep a lot of these leaders and young men and women who understand where we've been and where we need to go, so I'm very encouraged," he said.

Odierno touched on how the Army's Ready and Resilient campaign and Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program is vital to improving performance and readiness of Soldiers and families though "enhanced physical and mental performance that improve Soldiers' ability to bounce back in face of adversity, to build resilience, and to help Soldiers and families deal and understand the complex nature of what we ask them to do."

He said the Army will continue to work hard on its sexual harassment and assault prevention and response programs, disability evaluation system and transition programs throughout the Soldier's lifecycle.

Odierno concluded his remarks saying, "the strength of the nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers. The strength of our Soldiers is our families. And that's what makes us Army strong."