



# THE GLOBAL LINE

U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND



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## 411th CSB activates in Korea

By Galen Putnam  
ASC Public Affairs

The 411th Contracting Support Brigade was activated during a ceremony Feb. 6 in the Naija Ballroom of the Dragon Hill Lodge at U.S. Army Garrison – Yongsan, in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

The brigade, commanded by Col. Daniel T. Cottrell, is headquartered at Camp Coiner, a sub-installation of USAG – Yongsan, and has subordinate units in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Korea.

“I need not tell you that without the work the 41 Soldiers of the 411th do to maintain over 3,000 contractor employees and their over 2,000 family members, our forces would be without a lifeline of support,” said Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of the Army Sustainment Command, who presided over the ceremony. “I commend the unwavering, behind-the-



US ARMY PHOTO

**Col. Daniel T. Cottrell, new commander of the 411th CSB.**

scenes work the 411th has done, and will continue to do, for the warfighter. Services such as vehicle and weapon maintenance, installation food services,

health care, minor construction and IT support may not be the stuff of movie scripts, but they are an integral part of what makes our Army strong.”

The 411th traces its roots to the establishment of the Eighth Army Procurement Agency (Provisional) in August 1954. The organization transitioned through numerous iterations, including redesignation as the U.S. Army Contracting Command Korea in 1993. The USACCK was assigned to the Army Contracting Agency, headquartered at Falls Church, Va., in 2003.

The unit’s mission is to provide comprehensive contracting support to the joint warfighting commands on the Korean Peninsula during armistice, contingency, and war – while being prepared to support contingencies worldwide.

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## ASC employee among first civilians to receive Global War on Terrorism Medal

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

Fourteen Defense Department civilians became the first to receive the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism during a ceremony at the Pentagon recently.

The medal, approved Aug. 7, 2007, recognizes the contribution of DoD civilians operating in direct support of military forces engaged in the war on terror.

Carol King, who served as chief of staff at ASC’s 401st Army Field Support Brigade in Kuwait was among the first recipients.



DoD PHOTO BY R. D. WARD

**Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England congratulates Carol King, at Pentagon award**

See Medal on page 9

# Sacrifice personifies black history

**Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin**  
**U.S. Army Sustainment Command**

In April 2004, Spc. Micheaux Sanders was traveling with a tank crew in Iraq when insurgents launched an ambush. During the attack, Spc. Sanders was struck in the arm, but he ignored his wound and kept on fighting, repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire. Because the tank was carrying only a minimal amount of ammunition, the crew soon ran out of bullets, so Spc. Sanders and his comrades began throwing rocks to hold off the insurgents until reinforcements arrived.

In June 2004, Sgt. 1st Class Chad Stephens was on patrol in Iraq when his platoon came under heavy fire from all directions. A rocket-propelled grenade struck a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, trapping a Soldier inside. Though he was injured himself, Sgt. Stephens ran 50 meters across open ground and pulled his wounded comrade from the disabled vehicle. He then gathered his platoon and led a counterattack which eventually forced the enemy to retreat.

In May 2007, Lt. Col. Gregory Gadson, a battalion commander in Iraq, was returning from a memorial service for some Soldiers who had been killed in action when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. The damage to his lower body was so severe that doctors amputated both his legs above the knees, a devastating loss for this 1989 West Point graduate who had played on the Army football team. Yet today, as he goes through grueling physical therapy and adjusts to life on prosthetic legs, Lt. Col. Gadson often expresses his desire to return to his unit and his Soldiers someday.

These accounts of bravery under fire and selfless devotion to others are recent additions to our nation's military lore, and demonstrate the timeless values that make



our Army proud and strong. But they could just as well become part of another American legacy, a legacy which we celebrate during Black History Month.

Spc. Sanders, Sgt. 1st Class Stephens and Lt. Col. Gadson all happen to be African-American. They stand in a long line of courageous black Soldiers that stretches back to first battles of the Revolutionary War, and includes 86 Medal of Honor recipient.

In past wars, black Soldiers faced withering fire from enemy forces, and racial prejudice in its ugliest forms from white comrades and fellow citizens. Still, they fought on and slogged forward, winning battles for freedom, hope and opportunity on all fronts.

Today, I proudly serve in an Army where we look at our fellow Soldiers and see green, not white or black or brown or red. Our experiences in uniform show us that courage and ability come in all colors, and that race means nothing in combat.

Still, old attitudes and ways of thinking die hard, so the racism of our past continues to haunt our present. We struggle with these issues as we try to build an Army that is absolutely colorblind, and a society where equality of opportunity is a reality for all people in all circumstances.

That is why we celebrate Black History Month. An honest look at the past can illuminate the present, and light the way to a better future.

We do not need to look back far to see Spc. Micheaux Sanders, Sgt. 1st Class Chad Stephens and Lt. Col. Gregory Gadson. Nor do we need great vision to see that, with the likes of these Soldiers in the ranks, the battle for full equality, justice and opportunity for all will someday be won.

## THE GLOBAL LINE

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## AFSB civilians in Iraq become combat lifesavers

By Spc. Jay Venturini  
316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command PAO

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq.— If you look at the current population of American personnel in Iraq, you would see there is nearly a one-to-one ratio between military and civilian on the numerous bases, according to Sgt. 1st Class Eric Woodrum, Task Force 62nd Multifunctional Medical Battalion Jameson Combat Medical Training Center noncommissioned officer in charge.

Because of this, many civilians are receiving more military training to be able to properly react during emergencies.

The 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, which employs over 700 civilian contractors, had 30 of their personnel go through the Combat Lifesaver Course to ensure readiness in case of emergency.

“With a battalion that has 700 civilians and only 12 Soldiers, when an emergency happens, because it will, we will need first responders to keep the casualties alive until the ambulance arrives,” said Sgt. Maj. Eric Hill, 1-402nd AFSB command sergeant major.

The 1-402nd AFSB coordinated with the 62nd MMB, who teaches the CLS course, to have their course coincide with the different needs of the civilian students.

“The 62nd personnel did a great job fielding our requests and working with us on our time schedule,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tarr, 1-402nd AFSB operations non-commissioned officer. “They really bent over backwards for us.”

A few of the changes to the course included extending it



US ARMY PHOTO BY SPC. JAY VENTURINI

**Students carry a simulated casualty to an ambulance during the mass casualty event of the Combat Lifesaver Course.**

to five days instead of the usual three to accommodate the civilians’ work schedule. They also changed what information went into a nine-line medical evacuation request.

“Because of where these people work, there would be no possible way to get a medevac helicopter in the compound, so we taught them to call an ambulance,” said Woodrum.

During the course the students learned advanced first aid and how to administer an

I.V. to a casualty. The culminating event was a mass casualty scenario where the students had to use what they learned to save casualties who had simulated severe bleeding, missing limbs and other life-threatening injuries.

“The event is to give the students hands-on experience during a very stressful situation,” said Hill. “Obviously, there is nothing like dealing with a real mass casualty event, but it takes it up a notch from the classroom environment.”

In a battalion that consists of 95 percent civilians, some military resources and training can be very helpful preparing their people for anything thrown their way, and the 1-402nd AFSB are taking full advantage of their opportunities.

“This is only the beginning with offering courses to civilians,” said Woodrum. “With the ratio between military and civilian, it only makes sense to give the civilian side every opportunity we offer the military.”

## Ribbon-cutting ceremony in Korea attracts widespread media



US ARMY PHOTO BY GALEN PUTNAM

**Sylvia Rich from Moline, Ill., shares family mementos with Jonathan Turner, a reporter for the Rock Island Argus and Moline Dispatch at her home Feb. 15. Rich was the guest of honor at a Feb. 26 ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Army Field Support Battalion – Northeast Asia, at Camp Carroll, Korea. The battalion dedicated a new \$15 million, 26,000 square-foot maintenance facility in her brother’s honor. Rich is the sister of Melvin L. Brown of Mahaffey, Penn., who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions near Daegu, Republic of Korea, Sept. 4, 1950. The event, and Rich’s participation, has generated media attention in the Quad Cities as well as Pennsylvania, and Korea.**

# New office maps path to progress

By Galen Putnam  
ASC Public Affairs

No matter how good an organization might be, there is always room for improvement. With that in mind, Army Sustainment Command has established its new Command Assessment and Continuous Improvement Office.

The Lean Six Sigma Deployment Office and the ASC Logistics Support and Evaluation Team joined forces Dec. 31, 2007, taking on the additional responsibility of overseeing the command's Organizational Inspection Program.

"CACIO is charged with [the] responsibility to facilitate better communications and synergy between various ASC staff and external elements (e.g., Internal Audit, GAO/AAA, Inspector General, ALSET) working assessments, inspections, evaluations, improvements, analysis and 'helping each other' to provide the right kind of help to our operations," wrote D. Scott Welker, deputy to the ASC commanding general, in an e-mail distributed to key leaders. "The CACIO will facilitate trend assessments of where our problems and anomalies are so we can focus on command priorities with the proper resources. They will facilitate ensuring our processes and operations are following the standards, replicating best practices, and building a continuous improvement/LSS cul-

ture throughout the ASC enterprise."

In the near future you can expect to see several CACIO initiatives, including:

- A revitalized ASC Organizational Inspection Program, beginning this spring
- The expansion of the ALSET's technical capability beyond supply and maintenance, as the Command's "standards pilot" for all ASC mission areas, including Contracting Support Brigades
- An enterprise cataloging and trend analysis tool
- And equally important - Increased sharing and replication of best practices and LSS improvements across the entire ASC enterprise.

"I firmly believe that we can make what we do every day a bit better simply by better communicating great ideas, sharing those ideas, and establishing uniform standards across the Command," Welker concluded. "A lot of what the [commanding general] has all of you and the staff doing is exactly that, so this simply puts some structure to the focus."

Heading-up the CACIO is Jerry D. De La Cruz, Jr. For information about the CACIO, contact De La Cruz at DSN 793-0702 or [jerry.delacruz@conus.army.mil](mailto:jerry.delacruz@conus.army.mil).

## Another Lean Six Sigma success story

### Ft Drum Small Parts LSS Excellence



**The way we used to do it...**

- Relied on the Shop Mechanic to Prime the System for Shop Order and QAP Release
- Shop Mechanic Would Walk the Paper Work Through the System and Manually Retrieve his Required Parts
- Bench Stock was Maintained Partially in the Shop and Partially in the Tool Room

**The changes we made...**

- Moved the Work Order and QAP Release to Production Control – Eliminated the Need for the Shop Mechanic in This Process
- Established Point of Use Staging and Issuance of Mandatory / Non-Mandatory Parts and Bench Stock in the F & E Shop
- Streamlined the Condition Tagging Process



	Current State	Future State	Percent Improvement
Process Steps (Number)	31 Steps	27 Steps	13%
Value Add / Non Value Added Operations (Ratio to Total Operations)	48%	0%	100%
Man Hours (Hours)	8168.2 Man Hours	7714.2 Man Hours	6%
Travel Distance (Miles)	466.2 Miles	.9 Mile	99% (Transferred responsibility to the Warehouse and Supply – who already perform this task daily. No additional impact)
Cycle Time (Days / Component)	11.7 Days / Component	10.4 Days / Component	11%
Capacity (Based on FY07 Values)	4041 Components	4353 Components	8% (Increased Capacity by 312 Parts / Year – Assuming the same Headcount)

# Wounded warriors still Soldiers

By Elizabeth M. Lorge  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - The Army is ready to launch a new phase in caring for wounded warriors, the assistant surgeon general for warrior care and transition told Soldiers and Army Civilians during an Army Leader Forum at the Pentagon Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. Mike Tucker announced that the Comprehensive Care Plan is scheduled to begin March 1, and will focus on healing the whole person - body, mind, heart and spirit - and not just physical well-being.

The program will include educational, vocational and life-skills development, leadership and mentoring, relationship coaching and behavior-health treatment in addition to medical treatment and physical and occupational therapy.

Also as of March 1, Tucker said, Soldiers in Warrior Transition Units will not be allowed to waste time playing video games or watching mindless cartoons during duty hours. They are still Soldiers in the Army, Tucker said, and their one mission is to heal: to go to their appointments, take their medications and now participate in cognitive-enhancing activities or a structured-work program, if able.

"We want them to return to duty or return to be a citizen in society and be successful and be proud of their service," he said. "If we're not careful, we'll raise a generation, 10-15 years from now, that will be panhandling because they don't have any life skills.

"It's important that we give these Soldiers life skills. They all want to be something in life, other than what they are right now. They have to aspire. We have to allow them to achieve all they can be and provide them the structure at a time in their lives when they need it the most."

The WTU return-to-duty rate is over 70 percent he added, the equivalent of two brigade combat teams each year. Eighty-eight percent of those Soldiers are between the ranks of corporal or specialist and sergeant first class, an incredible amount of experience, Tucker said. The Army hasn't denied one continued-on-active-duty applicant since the beginning of the war.

To ensure they make their appointments and take medications, each Soldier in the Army's 35 WTUs has a squad leader (one per 12 Soldiers), a nurse-case manager (one per 18 Soldiers) and a primary care manager (one per 200 Soldiers), who communicate frequently.

Squad leaders and other WTU cadre are selected based on their leadership abilities and receive training on leading wounded Soldiers. They're there to help Soldiers with orders, pay, housing concerns - any logistics problems.

All of this is part of Tucker and the Army's crusade to break

down the bureaucracy that the Washington Post exposed in February 2007. Outdated regulations, dwindling resources, fewer hospitals and an unprecedented-survival rate created what Tucker calls a "perfect storm" that no one knew existed.

"People we should be caring for the most, we were caring for the least, institutionally," he said, acknowledging that many of the same problems existed Army-wide, but that WTUs and additional funding have fixed many of them.

He still faces the bureaucracy head-on, often encountering problems no one could have foreseen, like the injured Soldier who was initially told he was no longer entitled to his re-enlistment bonus.

Tucker said the problem was immediately fixed, and while Army employees may have been following a regulation to the

letter, it's more important for them to stop and say 'Wait a minute, this doesn't seem right. Let me talk to my boss.'

"So when we came to impasses on what we were going to do with bu-

reaucracy, I would always err on the side of healing," he said.

"Well, the Soldiers at Fort Bragg don't want to come to the WTU because they can't wear their maroon beret. 'Why can't they?' Because Army Regulation says they can't. 'But why can't they? Is it legal, moral and ethical?' Well, not really. 'Well, make your folks aware that they can now wear it.'"

"Some Soldiers said 'I don't want to go there because I can't wear my patch. I want to wear the 101st patch. I'm a 10th Mountain Climb to Glory Soldier. Don't make me wear the MEDCOM patch. I went to war with these Soldiers. I fought. I bled with these Soldiers. I don't want to lose my identity.' Is that part of making them feel good? Is that part of healing? They can wear their patch now.

"Well, I don't want to go to the WTU, because if I go to the WTU, I won't get back to my unit and I want to get back to my unit because those are the Soldiers I fought with, I bled with.' So now we've authorized them to go back to their unit, even if it's in an over-strength status. We're busting bureaucracy on the side of healing. If it makes you feel better, that's fine."

Wounded warriors who decide to leave the Army now have 90 days to transition to Veterans Affairs and Army representatives help walk them through the process and introduce them to VA, making sure they know what their benefits are. Soldiers will receive their first check from the VA on the first day of the next month after they've transitioned.

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***"We want them to return to duty or return to be a citizen in society and be successful and be proud of their service."***

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***- Brig. Gen. Mike Tucker***

# Contracting Soldiers saving money, time

By Charles Sprague  
401st Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Soldiers of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command put their Contracting Officer Representative training to work saving the Army thousands of dollars while curbing fraud, waste and abuse.

Keeping pace with the mission, two new contracting experts, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Smith, Alliance, Neb., assigned to 1st TSC information technology, and Sgt. 1st Class William Perkins, Corpus Christi, Texas, assigned to the 164th Quartermaster Group at Camp Buehring, were recently awarded their COR credentials by the 408th Contracting Support Brigade.

The 408th CSB initiated an intensive COR management program last summer to identify, train, appoint and manage CORs in an effort to improve and enhance contract oversight. Since then, nearly 200 CORs have been trained and appointed to oversee a myriad of contracts supporting Army combat operations. Their mis-



US ARMY PHOTO BY CHUCK SPRAGUE

**Contracting Officer Representative Soldiers were recognized for completing COR training, which helped save the Army more than \$200,000 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (L to R) Sgt. 1st Class William Perkins, Brig. Gen. James Hodge, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Smith and Lt. Col. Doug Kiser.**

wait who are true stewards of the taxpayers' money and integral to the mission," said Brig. Gen. James Hodge, U.S. Army Materiel Command (Forward) commanding general.

"This mission is critical to Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Their work ensures the Army receives required supplies and services at the right time, in the right place and at the right price," said Hodge.

Identify opportunities for the Army to save money and ensure the Army receives the goods and services it's paying for.

"With the increase in contractor support to our deployed forces, the COR performs a vital role in the support of the war effort. Sergeants Smith and Perkins are just two of the many CORs in Ku-

## Free on-line tax assistance for troops

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Rather than paying a tax specialist, servicemembers and their families can obtain free assistance to prepare and file their annual tax returns through a special military program, a Defense Department tax advisor said recently.

The military's tax assistance program processes more than 200,000 returns each year, Army Maj. John Johnson, director of the Defense Department's Armed Forces Tax Council, said during an interview with Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service reporters.

"It is just one of the benefits military people have," Johnson said of the program. Participants can visit their installation tax center for free assistance in filling out tax returns, he said, or access the Military OneSource Web site, [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

"You can log on there, online, and also

file for free," Johnson said of the Web site. The online tax-filing system on Military OneSource is closed to military retirees, however.

Military members from all service branches sit on the Pentagon's tax council that coordinates the program, Johnson explained.

Free tax-filing assistance services are open to active-duty and reserve component servicemembers, as well as family members and military retirees, Johnson said.

Participants should bring their military-issued identification cards, W-2 Wage and Earnings statements and any other forms or documents required for tax filing, Johnson said. People who believe they may be eligible for tax refunds also should bring their bank account numbers if they'd like the refund direct-deposited into a specific account, Johnson pointed out.

More complicated tax-preparation work involving itemizing of returns for added tax deductions also can be processed for free, although these returns normally require more documentation, he said.

Military members receive many tax benefits, Johnson pointed out. For example, all allowances, including housing, meals, family separation and others, are tax-exempt, he said, as is all military pay for enlisted military members deployed in overseas combat zones. Officers deployed in combat zones, he added, can exclude about \$7,000 of their monthly pay for federal taxes.

Servicemembers deployed to combat zones have six months to file their taxes after departing the area, Johnson noted.

People with questions about the military's tax filing assistance program can visit the Military OneSource Web site or their installation tax center, he said.

# Tire shop keeps wheels turning

By Spc. Jay Venturini  
316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command PAO

LSAANACONDA, Iraq – An Army mechanic can fix almost anything on a vehicle. From replacing a transmission to a broken headlight, they can fix it quickly and efficiently. But what if you get a flat tire that won't inflate?

That is where 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) Tire Assembly Repair Program (TARP) comes in to save the day.

The TARP produces more than 100 tires per day and 1,500 per month. It produces tires for 43 different tactical vehicles including rout clearance vehicles and buffalos.

“Our biggest demand is for Humvee tires,” said Mr. Robert Bland, 1-402nd AFSB TARP supervisor. “We make 700 to 900 Humvee tires per month.”

The tires are shipped directly here from the United States and Kuwait. When they arrive here the workers attach the tires to rims and have them inflated.

The TARP has been in operation since September 2005 and is the only tire producing facility in Iraq. Before the plant Soldiers had to rebuild the tires themselves which would take three hours per tire.

To keep tires available for Soldiers, the TARP works closely with the class nine yard which is responsible for providing Coalition Forces with repair parts and equipment. The yard is always well stocked with tires to minimize the wait time for Soldiers.

“We keep the class nine yard stocked with at least 200 Humvee tires and different amounts of other tires,” said Bland. “This dramatically cuts the wait time for Soldiers. They can have new

tires within minutes instead of hours, which gets them back on the road faster.”

Another way the TARP supports the war fighter is through the forward redistribution point (FRP) here. When the class nine yard becomes over stocked, the excess gets moved to the FRP to be distributed throughout theater.

Despite the help of machines, building so many tires day in and day out is a tedious and physically demanding task. However the TARP workers understand how important their mission is.

“It's definitely a lot of back breaking labor but we are here to support the Soldiers that go outside the wire and keep us safe, so it's well worth it,” said Mr. Jose Roberto 1-402nd AFSB TARP worker.

Many of the TARP workers are on their second and third years of working here. Many of them have stayed on due to a sense of purpose and dedication to the mission.

“There's not a vehicle out there that moves without tires, except for tracked vehicles,” said Bland. “We keep the war fighters moving everyday and that's a great feeling.”



US ARMY PHOTO BY SPC. JAY VENTURINI

**A 1-402nd mechanic prepares a tire for installation at LSA Anaconda, Iraq.**

## Postal service offers discounts for APO/FPO packages

By USPS Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Postal Service will begin offering a discount Priority Mail rate March 3 and a larger box for care packages sent to military members overseas.



The new flat-rate box is 50 percent larger than the current Priority Mail package and it will be delivered for \$10.95 to an APO/FPO address — \$2 less than for domestic destinations.

“This is the first time the Postal Service has offered a special price for our armed forces serving overseas,” said Postmaster General John Potter. “We're proud that family and friends will be able to use this new larger-sized box to send much appreciated packages to our dedicated troops overseas.”

The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box (12" x 12" x 5 inches or 800 cubic inches) will be available in Post Offices nationwide beginning March 3, but cus-

tomers can begin ordering them Feb. 20 at [usps.com/supplies](http://usps.com/supplies) or by calling 800-610-8734. Some of the new boxes are co-branded with the logo of America Supports You, which is a Department of Defense program that connects citizens offering support to the military.

The \$2 discount is applied when the Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Boxes are shipped to an APO/FPO destination. The two existing flat-rate boxes (11 x 3 x 13 inches and 11 x 8 X 5 inches), which currently retail for \$8.95 for U.S. addresses, are not available for the military discount, postal officials said. They said all flat-rate boxes can still be used for international shipping.

# Blind warrior training for Boston Marathon

By Charmain Z. Brackett  
Army News Service

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Although he no longer has his sight, 1st Lt. Ivan Castro doesn't believe in it placing limitations on himself.

"I have dreams and goals," he said. "Because I'm blind it may take me a little longer (to achieve them)."

Castro is receiving treatment at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center's blind rehabilitation unit. He is also training to run the Boston Marathon in April.

A native of New Jersey, Castro moved to Puerto Rico when he was 12. In college, he joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

"I was young and dumb and didn't put my max into college," he said. "After four years, I decided to go active duty."

Castro has been active duty for 18 years and served in Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He's been a drill sergeant and worked with many missions in Belize, Ecuador and Venezuela. After many years as an enlisted noncommissioned officer, he attended officer candidate school, eventually joining the 82nd Airborne Division as a first lieutenant.

He was deployed to Afghanistan during the elections in 2005, and in 2006 deployed to Iraq.

Castro's injuries came while serving as a platoon leader in Iraq. There, he had been positioned on a rooftop to provide support to his unit.

"We started to receive fire," he said. "A round landed five feet to my left."

The explosion killed two of his Soldiers. Fragments from the explosion blew his right eye out of its socket, broke his nose and ripped off the tip of his right index finger. He also sustained injuries to a neck artery, his lungs collapsed, he suffered a pulmonary embolism and an aneurysm, and had numerous open wounds.

He was unconscious for six weeks after his injuries.

Castro had numerous surgeries and is scheduled for another surgery in Bethesda, Md., on Valentine's Day.

At the blind rehab unit, Castro is learning how to live practically with his blindness, learning Braille and how to maintain his mobility are a few of the tasks he works on each day.

Last week, he walked from 13th and Broad Streets to 6th and Broad in downtown Augusta.

"There are a lot of chairs and tables on Broad Street," he said. "Broad Street is 50 steps across."

He also is using a computer with adaptive software.

Castro said he wants to be back at work by April 1. He also said he wants to stay active duty and his command at Fort Bragg is working to help him to do that.

"I could work teaching or in an office setting," he said. "I think that will be great. I will be able to show people that blind people can be productive. I don't see blindness as a disability."

His injuries have done nothing to dampen his sense of humor.

He said he'd drive if they'd let him and if he could find a brave enough person to sit in the passenger seat.

Castro credits his attitude to his faith.

"Things happen for a reason," he said. "I believe in the Lord. The Lord has kept me here. There's a reason why I'm blind. A lot of people say I'm inspirational and motivational — maybe that is the reason."

His wife Evelyn and her mother have been strong supporters and caregivers.

"She's my pit bull," he said of his wife and her tenacious spirit.



US ARMY PHOTO BY CHARMAIN Z. BRACKETT

**1st Lt. Ivan Castro was blinded during an attack in Iraq in 2006.**

While in the Augusta area, he's also had the support of his friend, Command Sgt. Maj. Chester Grelock, of the 551st Signal Battalion.

"He's been running with me in the mornings," said Castro. He ran the Army Ten Miler Oct. 7 and the Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 28. He plans to be in the Boston Marathon April 21.

Castro said

he's always been a runner, but he never had the opportunity to participate in many marathons because of deployments.

As an officer, Castro said he knows there are many people looking up to him, and he promises not to disappoint. On Jan. 24, Grelock arranged for him to speak to a group of NCOs, and Castro said his message was a simple one.

"Never quit," he said.

He also hoped he imparted to the group to keep the Army values and maintain the faith they embraced.

"I'm happy for what I've got. I could be depressed and feeling sorry for myself, but that's not going to get me anywhere," he said. "I've got to face the music."



**Medal** *Cont. from page 1*

According to Pentagon statistics, seven DoD civilians have been killed in the line of duty in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 16,000 DoD civilians have qualified for the award, according to Patricia Bradshaw, the deputy undersecretary of defense for civilian personnel policy.

One of the awardees, Natalie Sudman, was wounded by an improvised explosive device while performing her mission for the Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

“We are asking more of our civilian employees in this war than in the past,” said David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. “We are asking them to be part of an expeditionary force.”

Chu said civilian specialists not only are helping maintain combat forces, but also are helping the Iraqi and Afghan governments set up and maintain democratic institutions.

DoD civilians are on the front lines of the war on terror, Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said. “This is truly a counterinsurgency operation,” he said before presenting the awards.

The criteria for the award mirror those for the military’s Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal. The medal is authorized to civilian employees who provide direct support to military operations in locations designated a combat zone. “Employees must be engaged in direct support for 30 consecutive days, 60 non-consecutive days or — regardless of time — be killed or medically evacuated from the area of eligibility,” according to a DoD news release.

DoD has delegated the authority to make the award to component heads.

The U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry designed the award, and it should be available through the Defense Supply System in March.

## Slips, trips and falls... oh my

**By Rhys Fullerlove  
ASC Public Affairs**

One day soon the cold weather will be over. Images of salt scattered on icy walkways will be replaced with the smell of trees and flowers in bloom. However, just because the ice will be gone doesn’t mean we are safe from slips, trips and falls.

Slips, trips, and falls are often used as “slapstick” comedy in movies and TV sitcoms. For some reason, we all laugh when we see someone in a movie or on TV flailing out of control as they trip or slip and then land with a hard thud. However, slips, trips, and falls are very serious—especially at work and at home.

According to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center slips, trips and falls account for almost 20 percent of lost work days. Awareness of how to prevent these accidents is an important part of our safety program.

One of the keys to preventing slip and trip accidents is to identify hazards and then take steps to remove the hazards or evaluate ways to keep them under control. Each employee should evaluate his or her work area. Think of all the times when you may have slipped slightly on a wet or oily floor or almost tripped over an object. All of these are important and need to be addressed. Just because you were not injured in that instance does not mean that the next person will not be injured. Talk to other employees in your work area and find out what they have experienced as far as slip and trip hazards.

Develop a checklist of slip and trip hazards. Use this list to begin to seek out ways to control these hazards. This list can also be used to train employees on what hazards may exist and how to avoid being injured. Finally, this checklist can also be used to inspect work areas on a regular basis for hazards that have occurred in the past. When hazards are discovered, steps can be taken immediately to prevent someone from being injured. Hazards that continue to be a problem should be evaluated for some type of engineering controls.

Clean up spills and leaks of liquids immediately. Water and oil should be cleaned up with rags, mops, squeegees, and floor absorbent. Chemical spills or leaks should be reported so that properly trained personnel can clean up. Do not clean up a chemical spill unless you have been trained.

Stairs and inclines are always potential slip hazards. Outdoor stairs become particularly dangerous in cold and wet weather. Missteps on stairs and inclines are all too common, especially when we are carrying objects that obstruct our vision. Loose rugs and mats can cause our feet to fly out from under us. A loose rug on stairs or an incline is especially hazardous.

According to Jerry Waibel, the ASC Safety Manager, even slips and trips that do not result in a fall can cause injury. In fact, each year more than 50,000 injuries that require time away from work occur as the result of the worker slipping or tripping but not falling.

Ladders and stairs should be inspected on a regular basis, and employees should be trained in the proper use of ladders. Make sure to check the equipment you are using for climbing. Assure you have secure footing when climbing or moving on equipment. A good rule to follow when climbing is to always have three points of contact (two feet and a hand or two hands and a foot) on either a good handhold or on solid footing.

So, if something is creating a potential slip, trip, or fall hazard, clean it up or move it out of the way. If necessary, place signs to warn others of the potential hazard. If you can’t fix it yourself, place a work order so that appropriate officials can take action. Report all work related injuries to your supervisor immediately.

Remember: Safety in the workplace begins with you.