

The Morning Calm

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In “Rocket Valley” in Chorwon Sept. 15, one of the U.S. Army’s M270A1 mobile rocket launchers sends a rocket roaring downrange during a live-fire drill that climaxed a week of fast-breaking combat training for Soldiers of a Multiple Launch Rocket System, or MLRS, battery. The unit, Battery A, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, is part of the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division’s 210th Field Artillery Brigade. The training stint included a variety of battle drills that helped the battery’s Soldiers hone the skills they’d need in actual combat. — U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michelle U. Blesam

Rocket artillery unit trains for battle

Fast-paced combat drills train MLRS troops to think fast, adapt quickly and pull together in battle

By Franklin Fisher
USAG Area I Public Affairs

CAMP CASEY, South Korea – Like the others in his rocket artillery battery in Korea, Pfc. Matthew Smith has the training he needs to do his main job in combat.

But thanks to a fast-paced stint of

combat training recently, Smith and others in his unit have a whole new feel for the hazards and sudden changes they’d face in actual battle.

Smith is a mobile rocket launcher driver with Battery A, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, part of the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division’s 210th Field Artillery

Brigade. The battery is a Multiple Launch Rocket System, or “Steel Rain” MLRS unit. Its M270A1 launchers can unleash devastating barrages of rockets and missiles, including some whose explosive bursts can rip through four inches of armor.

Battery A, known also as the “Assassin” battery, took to the field

Sept. 10 through 15 for battle drills that honed its Soldiers’ basic skills but that also forced them to think fast, adapt immediately to change, and pull together as a team amid the chaos of combat.

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Thunder

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Near South Korea's Hantan River earlier this month, vehicles of Battery A, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, prepare to roll out in convoy as they move from one combat training area to the next during a fast-paced stint of battle drills the unit conducted Sept. 10 through 15. Members of the battery said the realistic training helped show them the need to be ready to adapt immediately to the rapid changes of battle, and of the crucial need to keep the fight going even when their team takes casualties. The unit is part of the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division's 210th Field Artillery Brigade. — U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michelle U. Blesam

"It also allows them to get a feel of the conditions that they will have to execute their mission under," said Capt. Matthew Sturgis, Battery A's commander.

For Smith, with a little over a year in the Army, that meant facing some situations for the first time. Those included reacting to a training scenario in which the Soldier who serves as chief of his rocket launcher is wounded.

That, in an instant, changed everything for the launcher crew, which normally consists of a section chief, a gunner, and driver.

Besides driving, Smith had to handle most of the launcher's radio traffic and for the first time got to practice working a "9 Line" radio request for a medevac helicopter to pick up the wounded launcher chief.

"I have to do certain things that the gunner might be doing or just help him because it's only two of us now instead of three," Smith said. "So many things you have to do, and I helped him.

"Basically, we came together to make the launcher work, even though we were one man down."

Battery A's training was in two phases. First, three days of drills south of the Hantan River for the MLRS platoons to scout out and then "occupy" an area they'll use to fire from. That process drilled the officers who lead the platoons in choosing the right ground, issuing proper orders to their platoons and carrying out fire missions once the calls for fire come in over the radio. Those fire missions were simulated and did not use live rockets.

"When I send a platoon to occupy an area I'm looking for them to have conducted a thorough reconnaissance," said Sturgis. "When the section chiefs occupy, I'm looking for them to

not just park in the open, but make sure they've gone through every step of a task and that what they've done makes sense and is something that would ultimately be successful if there were additional challenges."

In scouting the ground, they trained in two methods. In one, the platoons themselves relied on maps to choose what looked to be the best launch sites. In the other, cavalry scouts from Troop A, 4th Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, put eyes on the terrain and reported back to the battery on what they thought would be the right spots for launch sites.

The training also used a varied mix of additional high-pressure scenarios to further train the battery and sharpen its fighting skills.

"With each passing day we added more variables that the platoon leaders had to deal with," said Sturgis.

In addition to having to work with the cavalry scouts, the battery also had to practice reacting to various types of incoming enemy fire, evacuate mock wounded and recover a battle-damaged artillery vehicle. And they had to occupy an operations area at night, under blackout conditions.

The battery then moved in convoy to a live-fire area known as "Rocket Valley" in Chorwon, where they spent a final two days firing live rockets. The training, known in the Army as "Gunnery Table VI," allows the battery's launcher crews to be formally qualified in their MLRS live-fire skills.

The officers who lead the battery's platoons also faced new challenges through the training.

"Immediate changes, thinking under pressure and just having to react to an unknown element thrown against us," said 1st Lt. Nolan Moore, the battery's 2nd Fires Platoon leader.

"I guess the overall challenge is time," he said. "You don't have the

luxury to necessarily think of all of the possible outcomes. Just have to make the best-informed decision you can and expect your platoon to execute."

For example, said Moore, at one point they relied on maps in choosing what seemed good launch sites, but when they arrived at those spots they discovered they weren't suitable.

"So we had to try to think on our feet," Moore said.

That also applied to the Soldiers in his platoon.

"My expectation for them is to get basically an understanding of how we operate - the operations order, the mission flow - and basically understand the role of the privates," said Moore. "If you're a driver of a launcher, how does that affect the overall mission of the battery? They're a driver now, but they have to think ahead. If the gunner goes down, will they be able to act in that position? And be able to take it to the next level?"

As commander of the battery, Sturgis sees the recent battle training as a key ingredient in his battery being combat-ready.

"By training both individual and collective skills together," Sturgis said, "it gives us the opportunity to assess our overall readiness level and to build our overall readiness level by telling us what we need to train in the future."

Sturgis said the battery would be continuing its brisk schedule of rolling out to the field for combat training.

"The pace here is constant," said Sturgis. "We do everything we can here to accomplish the mission set before us. We're up to it and we're very glad to do it."

AREA I MAN ON THE STREET



Spc. Corey Duvall, field artillery automated tactical data systems specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division.

Pvt. Trenton Stutts, cavalry scout, Troop C, 4th Cavalry Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Spc. Wesley Givens, combat medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"Yes, I have tried Korean food. I love Korean food, it's actually my favorite even in the States. I like the flavors from the Korean culture and the food is always fresh and it tastes good. My favorite dish would probably be dak-galbi. It has chicken, and cheese, and rice cakes, and it's spicy and when it all comes together it equals greatness."

"I love the food here, I love trying it and seeing how different cultures prepare food and things like that. It's really good to go out with the KATUSAs in my unit and see what they like and then try it myself."

"I have had a chance to have Korean food. It's definitely different than American food. It's less sweet than the food back home. One of my favorites - though it's not really a dish, it's more of a style - are those restaurants where you essentially cook the meat on the table in front of you. By far my favorite places to go. Because it's a nice place to unwind after work."

Our Question:



"If you've had a chance to try Korean food, what do you think of it and are there any dishes you especially like?"



U.S. Army photos by Sgt. James M. Griffin



Spc. Antoine Walker, cavalry scout, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Cavalry Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Pvt. Nashira Cato, unit supply specialist, Troop B, 4th Cavalry Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Pvt. Brandi Efford, petroleum supply specialist, 579th Forward Support Company, 6th Battalion 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division.

"So, the Korean food, my favorite so far has been the tangy chicken and rice. I just think it's a unique taste."

"Yes, I have had Korean food. I liked it a lot, because it's different from what I am used to. It was actually really good. It was a really big dish too and that's what I liked the most about it. It was called Bibimbap. It had egg and rice and it was spicy and the blend made it pop, of all the dishes I had here, it was the best."

"I love Korean food. It's really different from American food. Eating it is a cultural experience. They eat the whole chicken egg, embryo and all. What would be taboo in the states is a delicacy here. The udon soup was my favorite, I love the taste and big thick noodles. I've never seen noodles that big before."



Area I hosts suicide prevention speaker Kevin Berthia

On Camp Casey in Dongducheon Sept. 18, suicide prevention speaker Kevin Berthia talks to Soldiers about how he was saved from jumping to his death from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge in 2005 by the calm intervention of a police officer. In the course of his presentation Berthia emphasized the importance of listening closely and patiently to a suicidal person before escorting them to a medical facility or other place where they can be given further help by trained professionals. Berthia's appearance on Camp Casey was hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison Area I's Army Substance Abuse Program as part of the garrison's observance of Suicide Prevention Month, which is each September. The audience also heard brief remarks from Wayne Johnson, the garrison's ASAP Manager, and from Col. Brandon D. Newton, Commander, USAG Area I, who underscored the importance of suicide prevention and encouraged the audience to listen closely and to ask Berthia questions during a question and answer period. — U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Lee Jin-woo



Area I hosts dinner for Dongducheon mayor, other local officials

On Camp Casey in Dongducheon Sept. 15, the U.S. Army in Area I hosts a Friendship Dinner for Dongducheon City Mayor Oh Sea-chang and key members of his staff, as well as local civic officials and educators. Dining on chicken cordon bleu and baked potato at the Warrior's Catering and Conference Center, the audience heard remarks from Col. Brandon D. Newton, Commander, USAG Area I, who introduced Lt. Col. Brian A. Jacobs, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Casey. Jacobs was attending his first friendship dinner with Dongducheon's mayor since assuming command of USAG Casey in July. Jacobs thanked the mayor and other Dongducheon officials for their friendship toward and support of the U.S. military community. Oh expressed the city's continuing goodwill toward its U.S. Army neighbors, and thanked them for their annual donations to aid needy members of the city's population. Also attending the dinner were Gregory B. Kirkland, USAG Casey's Deputy to the Garrison Commander, and Steven J. Ryan, USAG Area I's Deputy to the Garrison Commander. — U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Lee Jin-woo



Area I Soldiers complete training course in giving first aid in combat

On Camp Casey in Dongducheon Sept. 21, Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Area I, take part in a Combat Lifesaver certification test, capping 40 hours of required training in how to save lives in combat. The company began its Combat Lifesaver training earlier this month. To pass the certification test, Soldiers had to properly perform a variety of combat medical skills, working with fellow-Soldiers who were role-playing as battle casualties. Among medical skills tested were the ability to properly apply a tourniquet, choose and apply the right dressing for a given wound, and use the proper radio procedure for requesting a medical evacuation helicopter. — U.S. Army photo by Sgt. James Griffin



Command Sgt. Maj. Jason R. Copeland gives keynote remarks at KATUSA ETS ceremony

At the Camp Red Cloud Theater on Camp Red Cloud in Uijeongbu Sept. 20, 52 KATUSAs – South Korean Soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army – end their military service with an ETS ceremony. During the ceremony the Soldiers heard farewell remarks from several senior leaders, including as keynote speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Jason R. Copeland, U.S. Army Garrison Casey's senior enlisted leader. Copeland told the KATUSAs he believed that the skills they'd gained during their military service would stand them in good stead through life. And he noted that "Our KATUSA and U.S. Soldiers live together, eat together, train together, and gain cross-cultural insight and close ties" through their shared military service. "As you pass one last time through the Camp Red Cloud Main Gate, and move forward through life," Copeland said, "my hope is that you'll look back with very fond memories of the times we have shared." — U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Lee Jin-woo

Six weeks later, Drivecam trial helps Area II address risks

By Cpl. Park, Min-je
USAG Yongsan Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN – Traffic accidents, one of the leading causes of death in the United States, indiscriminately inflict significant physical, emotional and financial injury – even on an organizational level.

The U.S. Army is no exception, recording 70 deaths in Fiscal Year 2016 as a result of privately owned vehicle accidents, according to Army accident statistics year end data. Moreover, accidents result in significant property damage. In 2016, Logistic Readiness Centers spent more than \$200,000 for repairing government owned vehicles (GOV) among four installations, according to Marshall McMickell, transportation officer of the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade.

USAG Yongsan has put in place a telematics device in government vehicles as an experimental solution to mitigate these costly figures. Six weeks since their installation, the garrison has accumulated enough information to share and perhaps influence other commands like the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center of the importance of reducing driving incidents across the Army.

Since the installation in June 2017, there have been only one collision and five near collision events. The Drivecam was able to detect risky behaviors as well. Below are some of the statistics recorded over the six-week period:

- Frequency of risky behavior has decreased by 31%.
- Severity of the events has decreased by 25%.
- Failure to wear a seatbelt has dropped by 80%.
- Following at a safe distance has improved by 23%.
- Sudden braking or other late response events decreased by 53%.
- Traffic violations increased by 320%.

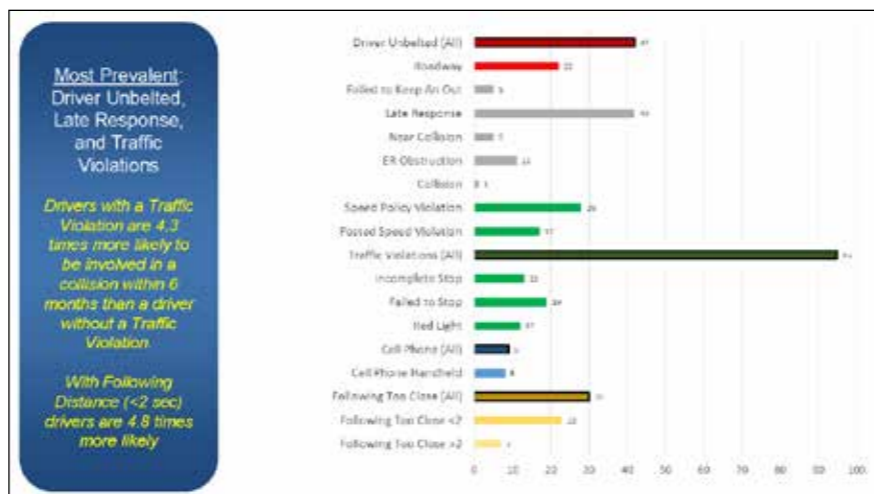
- Distracted driving occurrences increased by 121%.

“We wanted to collect data at this time to test the system rather than exercise the system to its full potential,” said George Carlson, Plans and Operations Officer of LRC-Yongsan. Some of the increase in figures could be attributed to the captured raw data, he said. Improvements may also be due to a combination of drivers becoming used to the system and/or the introduction of new drivers to the pool.

The camera on the Drivecam, a special black-box that supports telematics, is triggered by an incident or actual collision.

Unlike ordinary blackboxes, which are geared toward documenting accidents, the Drivecam is intended to correct dangerous and risky driving behaviors. The camera saves eight seconds before the instigating event occurs and four seconds after the event. The recorded video is then analyzed to determine the cause of the event and the driving behaviors associated with the event.

During the six weeks of the trial period, the Drivecam recorded various dangerous driving habits. In one example, two Soldiers were caught speeding and shouting in a nearby commercial area as if they were racing at an amusement park. The incident was then reported to their command, and renewed emphasis on driving safety and profession-



The graph shows the type and frequency of risky driving behaviors detected by the Drivecam system in Area II during the six-week trial period. Some of the most common dangerous driving habits turned out to be seatbelt use, late response time, and traffic violations. — Photo courtesy of LRC-Yongsan

alism ensued throughout the command. Drivers in uniform in government vehicles represent the U.S. Army, said Carlson.

Some people are optimistic that the Drivecam system has potential to reduce vehicle accidents.

“We have identified specific problem drivers that need reinforcement training through the six-week trial of Drivecam,” said David Johnson, director of the USFK Safety Office. “Overall, Drivecam has shown promising results that could provide significant reductions in our motor vehicle accidents.”

According to Carlson, LRC-Yongsan extended the trial period of Drivecam to the end of December 2017. ▽

Army Surgeon General shares on leadership at TogetHER meeting

By Cpl. Park, Min-je
USAG Yongsan Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN – TogetHER, a mentorship group that invites all Soldiers and civilians to meet others and discuss issues viewed through the female perspective, welcomed Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, Sept. 21, to South Post Chapel. West is the 44th U.S. Army Surgeon General and the first African-American female Army Surgeon General. More than 500 people, including USFK/CFC/UNC Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, gathered to listen to her speak on leadership.

As one of the most influential women in the Army, she talked about her how she got to where she is today. The answer is both simple and complex, she said. “Show up, do as you are told.”

She also shared her own story on how she came to serve her country.

“I was orphaned and had an uncertain future. That’s how I began. I was adopted by a very humble family, who showed me by example that anything is possible, no matter where you start, and no matter where you are from,” recalled West.

West’s father retired as a first sergeant after 33 years of dedicated service. When he joined the Army, the Army was segregated, but he never expressed any bitterness. He loved the Army, she said. West was inspired by her father’s belief that all should have the opportunity to serve their country in the military and work for a common purpose and toward the betterment of the nation.

West looks up to her mother for

being so hard-working. Her home was patriotic, and most of her siblings also served in the military.

“So, my story begins with these amazing two people with fate, resilience, strength, hard work, service and no-excuses,” she said.

As a military leader, she stressed the importance of team effort.

“Cultivating empathy, by really learning about others, will strengthen you as leaders,” said West. “As individuals, our own backgrounds, personal experiences, influences from others all have a part in shaping us into the leaders that we become. Be resilient, but also rely on others that are motivating and trying to achieve the same goal. It is a team effort.”

She said role-models and diversity were important as well.

“Leadership is about influencing people by providing purpose, direction, motivation, and all about accomplishing missions. The remarkable thing about that definition is that it can be applied broadly, to find leaders, mentors and good role-models,” said West. Studies show the more diverse the group is, the more intelligent the group because diversity provides more perspectives, she said. The more perspectives you have, the greater variety of solution sets we generate. It is important for leaders to reflect this diversity.

During her Army career, West was challenged by the lack of female role-models. In retrospect, this was an opportunity, she said, and she says the Army has embraced diversity in general.

“As the Army continues to evolve, it



Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, who is the 44th Surgeon General of the U.S. Army and Commanding General of U.S. Army Medical Command, delivers a speech on leadership, Sept. 21, at South Post Chapel. — U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Kim, Hee-cheol

is moving towards managing talents based upon skills, knowledge, and attributes of the person, rather than focusing on genders, ethnicity, or any other types of external identifiers,” added West. The emphasis on the competency, the character, expectations and potential of the person will shape leadership.

The audience at the Chapel, made up of different in backgrounds, branches, sexuality and ranks, was inspired by her words.

“She is a woman and, so far, she’s been the prime example for all young women of diverse backgrounds,” said 1st Lt. Garcia Marissa, clinical staff officer in education at the 121st Combat Support Hospital. She said she would remember her words for

the rest of her life.

West concluded people can turn challenges into opportunities, depending on how people think.

“The one thing that you can always control is your attitude. How you frame the situation, how you respond to it might be the only thing that you can control. You might consider adversity as an opportunity. Anything you encounter is an opportunity, and there is no such thing as adversities anymore.”

West thanked the audience for being role-models, leaders, mentors. “Thank you for all you do every day,” she said. ▽

Chuseok, celebration of bountiful harvest

Story by Cpl. Lee, Kyoung-yoon
USAG Yongsan Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN - Chuseok, celebrated on the fifteenth of the eighth month according to the lunar calendar, is a three-week holiday for Koreans to be thankful for and celebrate the year's good harvest. This year, Chuseok day falls on Oct. 4, making Oct. 3-5 the holiday period. The Korean government declared Oct. 2 an ad hoc holiday, Oct 6 is a "sandwich" day given to Koreans as a day off to enjoy the weekend. In addition, Oct. 9 is Hangeul Proclamation Day, which is also a national holiday. As a result, this Chuseok holiday will translate into 10 consecutive non-working days, an opportunity known as "Hwangeum Yeonhyu," or directly translated "Golden Holiday."

Chuseok is best understood as Korea's Thanksgiving Day. During this holiday, families gather from across the country and feast on a traditional spread of food that also appears in Korean ancestral rite ceremonies called "charye." The ritual takes place first thing in the morning of Chuseok day. Charye is Koreans' way of thanking their ancestors for a bountiful harvest and praying for future success. Some believe the spirits of ancestors serve to protect future generations, and charye ensures proper respect is paid in the form of the ceremony and special food prepared in their honor.

The very essence of this holiday is in enjoying Korean traditional food. One of the major foods is "songpyeon," which is a Korean traditional rice cake filled with sesame seeds, black beans and honey. The ingredients do not vary much compared to other rice cakes.

However, it is the unique way of steaming songpyeon that makes it special. Before songpyeon is ready to be steamed, pine needles are placed around the steamer. This contributes greatly to the aromatic fragrance, beauty, and taste of songpyeon. "Hangwa," a Korean traditional cookie, is another popular food enjoyed during Chuseok. Hangwa is made of rice flour, honey, fruit and other special roots. Their specialty lies in their artistic appearance as they are decorated with various natural ingredients to express various colors and tastes.

Koreans believe happy, positive energy will lead to a steady and bountiful harvest for the family. As Chuseok is a harvest festival, Koreans usually give gifts to their peers and families. The gifts are typically simple, mostly food-related products to celebrate a bountiful harvest. Giving gifts during this holiday is a great opportunity to express gratitude or contriteness for being distant. It is a great way to take care of personal connections.

In addition, numerous traditional folk games that can be easily enjoyed by men and women of all ages during Chuseok are played. In the past, these folk games were the main source of entertainment for Koreans to spend their time during the holidays. "SSireum" is the most popular Korean sport played during Chuseok, and competitions are held during this holiday. The sport is similar to wrestling except the players can only put their hands on the opponent's "satba," which is tied around the player's wrist and thigh. When a player's upper body touches the ground, the player loses. "Ganggangsullae" dance is also a famous folk game played during

Chuseok. Women wear "hanbok," or traditional Korean dresses, and they go around a circle, holding hands with one another and singing Korean folk songs.

Every year, the Korean peninsula witnesses large crowds of people heading to their hometown to spend Chuseok with their families. During this time, the public must be aware of traffic conditions and avoid becoming mired in severe congestion on major arteries leading into and out of cities and burial sites. Accidents are common, and public transportation is highly recommended. Bus lanes allow large-capacity vehicles unfettered access on major highways. Strict enforcement of these lanes by helicopters and drones result in heavy fines for passenger cars and other unauthorized users of the bus lanes. ▴



Songpyeon is a Korean traditional rice cake filled with sesame seeds, black beans and honey. Steaming them below or on pine needles contribute greatly to their aromatic fragrance, beauty, and taste. The procedures of making songpyeon is simple, allowing all family members to gather around and participate in making them. — Courtesy Photo



Ssireum is a Korean traditional sport mainly played during Chuseok. Pulling on the opponent's "satba" and throwing them to the ground so that their upper body touches the ground is the ultimate goal of this game. The winner is called "Cheonha Jangsa" and is rewarded with a bull and 1 kg of rice. — Courtesy Photo

Young Army officer proves himself to be the best medic in Pacific region

By Yun, In-kyeong
BAACH Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN - During the 72-hour-long competition, 2nd Lt. Adam Schafer pushed himself asking the same question over and over in his head, "Can I prove myself?"

After the grueling competition, he finally got his answer by holding the 1st place trophy high up, standing between Brig. Gen. Bertram Providence, commander, Regional Health Command-Pacific and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard F. Watson III, senior enlisted advisor, RHC-P.

When Schafer's name was announced as the winner of the Pacific Best Medic Competition, held on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, the intense three-day competition that challenged him physically, intellectually and emotionally passed through his mind vividly.

The competition was designed to test Soldier's tactical medical proficiency and leadership. It consisted of a physical fitness test, obstacle course, force-on-force combat, tailgate medicine test, stress shoot, patient extraction event, warrior task lane, land navigation and a culminating 12-mile road march, all in a realistic simulated operational environment.

Being the first Army officer in his extended family with over 100 first cousins and a young company grade officer who just started his career, Schafer wanted to prove himself, to his Soldiers and people around him.

Competing in the Best Medic Competition was

one of the best ways to show his authenticity and determination as a commissioned officer. While working as a busy executive officer in Bravo Company for the 121st Combat Support Hospital, Schafer worked for a chance to compete in RHC-P's Best Medic Competition.

Schafer shared that he felt honored and privileged to participate in the competition. His biggest motivation was to prove himself to his Soldiers but what gave him the resiliency throughout the competition was the mentorship he got from his 121st CSH leaders throughout his tour in South Korea.

"I just feel so lucky that I met Capt. Rosales and Col. Clarkson in my very first year of my Army career. They have always influenced me to want to grow as one of them, the best leaders who are always leading by example," said Schafer. "Without their advice and support, I wouldn't have been able to achieve what I have achieved so far."

"Also, I want to thank Command Sgt. Maj. White who so generously helped me with the chance to compete, from the qualifiers to the regional competition," added Schafer.

"A great leader shows rather than speaks and 2nd Lt. Schafer was that very example to his Soldiers. He made all of us proud," said Col. Erica Clarkson, 121st CSH commander. "I hope the experiences he gained from this competition go with him through his career and we are so thrilled to see him compete in the all Army Best Medic Competition."

Winning the Best Medic Competition also gave Schafer confidence to go forward in his career and he already has another goal set up. "I want to go to

medical school to become a surgeon in the nearest possible future," said Schafer. "I'll work hard as I always do and push myself to the limit because that is the only way you find out what you are capable of."

Schafer will represent the region in the 2017 Army Best Medic Competition in October. Army medics from across the Army will once again compete in a grueling 72-hour competition at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Camp Bullis, Texas. ▴



After the grueling Pacific Best Medic competition, 2nd Lt. Adam Schafer was able to hold the 1st place trophy high up standing between Brig. Gen. Bertram Providence, commander, Regional Health Command -- Pacific and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard F. Watson III, RHC-P senior enlisted advisor. — Photo courtesy of Flavia Hulsey, RHC-P Public Affairs

USAG Yongsan welcomes home Vietnam veterans during Fall Fest



U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan celebrates annual Fall Festival, Sept. 23, at the Williams Avenue and Field #12. Community members gathered to enjoy festivities, including food, live band performances and Korean celebrity entertainment. Fireworks wrapped up this grand event. See more photos at the official USAG Yongsan Facebook. — U.S. Army photos by Spc. David Garcia, Pfc. Tommy Spitzer, and Pfc. Sidney Perry

**By Sgt. Brandon Thomas
USAG Yongsan Public Affairs**

USAG YONGSAN - Yellow and orange leaves fell from where they once proudly stood, indicating the beginning of autumn. As the summer comes to a close, service members and civilians celebrate their annual Fall Festival.

Vietnam Veterans, both American and Korean, were honored in the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony during the 2017 Fall Festival Sept. 23 at USAG Yongsan.

"Seven million living Vietnam veterans and families of more than 9 million who served are being thanked and honored where they live and work by neighbors, family and friends," said Lt. Col. Terrell L. Jones, USAG Yongsan Chaplain.

The Vietnam veterans and their guests were

escorted by United States Soldiers and Korean Augmentees to the United States Army Soldiers, or KATUSAs, to V.I.P. tents where they were served a meal prepared by the Veteran of Foreign Wars or VFW.

"We feel privileged to be able to honor both the American and Korean veterans of the Vietnam War at our garrison," said Deputy to the Garrison Commander Tommy R. Mize. "The Korea-U.S. alliance is a major pillar of our mission here in Korea, and this ceremony serves to enhance our historical partnership."

While the Vietnam veterans enjoyed the VIP area, they were visited by the Deputy to the Garrison Commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph M. James. Many leaders greeted the veterans with handshakes and some took photographs.

"We are a grateful nation that honors the Vietnam veterans," said Jones.

Jones, the guest speaker for the prestigious event, reflected on the Vietnam veterans' hard work and years of criticism from Americans during their time of war. He also reiterated how grateful the American people are for the service and sacrifice of those that are not here today.

"I am honored to be here today to pay tribute to all our Vietnam veterans and their family members," said Jones. "More than 1.4 million Vietnam veterans and their families have been honored with ceremonies around the world to recognize their service in Vietnam from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975."

Vietnam veterans were handed certificates and then photographed in front of the crowd waving both U.S. and South Korean flags during the closing of the ceremony.



The Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony took place, Sept. 23, during the USAG Yongsan Fall Festival. Approximately 50 Vietnam veterans, both American and Korean, were honored during the ceremony. They were escorted into V.I.P. tents, and afterwards were handed certificates of recognition and a coin by distinguished guests including Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Tommy R. Mize, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph M. James, to recognize their service in Vietnam. The ceremony was live-streamed on the official USAG Yongsan Facebook. — U.S. Army photos by Spc. David Garcia, Pfc. Tommy Spitzer, and Pfc. Sidney Perry



“Team 19” begins new chapter



Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal hands over the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command colors to the incoming 19th ESC commanding general, Brig. Gen. Michel M. Russell Sr. during a change of command ceremony on Kelly Field at Camp Walker, Korea, Sept. 22. — Photo by Staff Sgt. David Chapman, USFK Public Affairs

By Cpl. Sin, Jae-hyung
19th ESC Public Affairs

USAG DAEGU, SOUTH KOREA – The 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command held a change of command ceremony to honor its outgoing commanding general, Maj Gen. John P. Sullivan, and incoming commanding general, Brig. Gen. Michel M. Russell Sr. Sept. 22, at Camp Walker’s Kelly Field, Daegu, Korea.

U.S. Soldiers stood alongside Korean Augmentees to the United States Army, members of the Korean Service Corps, Daegu community leaders, family members, friends and many area IV personnel as Sullivan and Russell exchanged unit colors, with the Eighth United States Army commanding general, Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal officiating the exchange and who was also the host of the ceremony.

Since June of 2015, Sullivan had served as the 19th ESC’s commanding general. During his tenure, he successfully led many joint level exercises, the latest one being Operation Pacific Reach, which was held in Pohang from February to May and which involved various sustainment mission sets such as Combined/Joint Logistics Over the Shore and Inland Petroleum Distribution System. In addition, he also led numerous Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration Rehearsal of Concept Drills and

Non-combatant Evacuation Operations to prepare Team 19 to fully be able to sustain the fight-tonight readiness.

“I am, above all else, extremely grateful. Grateful for having had the opportunity to lead the phenomenal Soldiers and Civilians in Team 19 for over two years,” said Sullivan during his remarks.

The ceremony started with the formation of troops led by Col. Patrick K. Curran, Chief of Staff, 19th ESC. The formation consisted of commanders from Materiel Support Command – Korea, 6th Ordnance Battalion, 498th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 25th Transportation Battalion, and 94th Military Police Battalion and their unit colors.

Immediately following the ceremonial firing of canons, Sullivan was presented with a ceremonial artillery shell casing from the last round fired as a memento by the battery commander on behalf of the command.

“When I stood on this parade field as a company commander in 1993, during the ceremony in which then-Brig. Gen. Dan Brown assumed command of this proud unit, I never, in my wildest imagination, thought that I would have the privilege of someday leading this incredible team,” mentioned Sullivan during the ceremony.

Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal, 8th

Army Commanding General, Sullivan, and Russell marched towards the center of the formation to conduct the passing of the 19th ESC unit colors during the ceremony.

Command Sgt. Maj. Maurice V. Chaplin, Command Sergeant Major of the 19th ESC, first passed the colors to Sullivan who then passed them to Vandal, signifying the

relinquishment of command and gratitude for the support and opportunity to serve, then Vandal passed the colors to Russell, representing the assumption of command and the trust in the new commander’s leadership and finally, Russell passed the colors back to Chaplin representing his first action in command and signifies his confidence that the



Maj. Gen. John P. Sullivan, the outgoing commanding general of the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command speaks in front of the United States and Republic of Korea Service members, Korean Augmentees to the United States Army, family, friends, community leaders and cultural advisors with the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. He conveyed a sincere gratitude towards each and every one who supported and guided him during his tenure at the Camp Walker Kelly Field, Daegu, Korea, Sept. 22. — U.S. Army Photo by Cpl. Sin, Jae-hyung, 19th ESC Public Affairs



Maj. Gen. John P. Sullivan, the outgoing commanding general of the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command receives a ceremonial artillery shell casing from the last round fired as a memento from the battery commander on behalf of the command at the Camp Walker Kelly Field, Daegu, Korea, Sept. 22. — U.S. Army Photo by Cpl. Sin, Jae-hyung, 19th ESC Public Affairs

Noncommissioned officer Corps will continue to dress on the colors.

“The accomplishments that Team 19 has achieved in the last two plus years of Maj. Gen. Sullivan’s command tenure is nothing short of spectacular,” said Vandal during his remarks. “He has been an incredibly influential leader during his time here; mentoring superiors and subordinates on the nuances of logistics, always with a sense of teamwork that is the hallmark of the 19th ESC.”

The 19th ESC is the logistics support arm of 8th Army with the mission of sustaining combat power throughout the Korean peninsula. Its headquarters are on Camp Henry in Daegu, with subordinate

commands located in each of the Army’s four areas of operation on the peninsula.

For his next assignment, Sullivan will head off to the Pentagon, Washington D.C. as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, Department of the Army.

As the ceremony and another chapter of Team 19’s history came to a close, the commander of troops for the event, Curran led the formation in singing the 8th Army song and the Army song. The keeper of the colors, 19th ESC’s senior enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Major Maurice V. Chaplin, then retired the colors, marching the units of the parade field marking the beginning of its new chapter. ▴



Maj. Gen. John P. Sullivan, the outgoing commanding general of the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Brig. Gen. Michel M. Russell, the new commanding general of the 19th ESC, and the formation of troops stand on the Camp Walker Kelly Field, Daegu, Korea to take a photo of the formation for a change of command ceremony, Sept. 22. — U.S. Army Photo by Cpl. Sin, Jae-hyung, 19th ESC Public Affairs

Soldiers from anywhere – BOSS Strong everywhere



Pfc. Nicholas Angelo, from Camp Humphreys, Korea, arrived with his Army BOSS team to compete in a program which focuses on functional fitness. The program is organized by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's G9 Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation division to coordinate with existing facilities and outside contractors to develop the future of functional fitness. — Photo by Robert Dozier, IMCOM Public Affairs.



Pfc. Nicholas Angelo, from Camp Humphreys, Korea, assists team mate during obstacle course trial run, as part of the BOSS Strong Championship which focuses on functional fitness. The program is organized by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's G9 Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation division to coordinate with existing facilities and outside contractors to develop the future of functional fitness. — Photo by Tim Hipps, IMCOM Public Affairs.



Pfc. Nicholas Angelo, from Camp Humphreys, Korea, runs through ring obstacle during training at Ratama Park, San Antonio, as part of the BOSS Strong Championship which focuses on functional fitness. The program is organized by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's G9 Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation division to coordinate with existing facilities and outside contractors to develop the future of functional fitness. — Photo by Tim Hipps, IMCOM Public Affairs.

Story by U.S. Army IMCOM Public Affairs

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS - "I'm Pfc. Nicholas Angelo, from Camp Humphreys, Korea, Bravo Company, 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, born in Jersey, grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., I'm Italian, Sicilian -- proud," as this Soldier is eager to tell anyone. Like every competitor in the BOSS Strong Championship, he is one of many single Soldiers from everywhere, looking to better their lives in the Army.

"I was a troubled youth, growing up," explains Pfc. Angelo. "Got kicked out of high school when I was 15, hooked up with the wrong crowd. Moved out on my own at 16, really successful as a young teenager, but still found myself doing the wrong thing."

Angelo was preparing to be scored with his team at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center, one of several locations used to train, test and judge each team in the competition.

"I wanted to turn my life around, so I decided to go ahead and join the Army," continued Angelo. "Since then, my life is a complete 180. I'm a completely different person. My family is super proud of me, I'm really happy where I'm at today."

BOSS refers to Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, an Army program designed to increase exposure to educational, social, recreational, and artistic activities by unaccompanied military members at Army garrisons around the world.

BOSS leadership is embedded within the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's G9 Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation -- and is the main organizer of the Championship event.

Angelo joined the Army in February 2015. "I did basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma I actually had to go through basic twice, I got recycled," lamented Angelo. "The last two days of basic I got in a fight. I've been in about two years and that was the only time where the Sicilian came out. Since then I've learned to control myself a lot, and I've been growing as a person."

The mission of IMCOM is to "integrate and deliver base support [at the garrisons] to enable readiness," and the MWR programs and services help to shape and retain the Army's Soldiers.

"I was stationed in Korea and decided to get hooked up with the BOSS program so I could go out and explore," said Angelo. "I wanted to get different opportunities that most Soldiers wouldn't have."

Fast forward to this competition which pits five teams of Soldiers from Fort Lee, Fort Meade, Fort Sill, USAG Italy and Camp Humphreys against each other, to explore and offer a glimpse of the future of Soldier functional fitness - a concept of how the Army plans to train today for the fight tomorrow.

After a week in the competition, "for me, the hardest part of the competition was, believe it or not, the horseback riding," said Angelo. "I've never ridden a horse before, not many horses in New York City or New Jersey, so that was the hardest part for me -- to overcome the fear, but after I did it, I had a great time."

The events leading up to the Championship scheduled for the Sept. 24, combine life skills, such as healthy cooking and first aid; recreation opportunities like golf, swimming, archery, basketball, volleyball, soccer and equestrian skills, available at many Army installations through MWR; and physical trials through various obstacle courses.

"Our team has come together," said Angelo, speaking highly of his fellow Soldiers: Pfc. Khayree Sneed, from Gainesville, Florida, Spc. William Cook, from Florence, South Carolina, Spc. Catheryn Mayfield, from the Philippines, Pfc. Jayme Patterson, from Cullman, Alabama, and Spc. Bryce Forseth, from Green Bay, Wisconsin. "We've had our times, on the way over here, and during some competitions. We argued a little bit, but the team building exercises and the warrior proving ground brought us together."

Pfc. Angelo is part of "SWOLE Team Six" and wants to prove the means and methods of the BOSS Strong Championship will help him and his teammates perform at the highest level, together.

"We are way stronger now, then we were before, together," concluded Angelo. "I've seen us take on the gold -- I had a dream about it and I think about it constantly, all day long. Self-actualizing us, taking home the trophy and bringing back all the great information to the Soldiers there, the nutrition, the workouts, the resiliency. Just bringing back everything to make everyone's level of readiness higher in Korea."

MWR has over 70 bowling centers at installations around the world, and is part of the Army's mission to make wholesome recreation available to Soldiers and their Families where they are. Bowling is an activity which anyone can do, and it relieves stress and builds teams. Like each event programmed in the BOSS Strong competition, the bowling activity came with a surprise twist.

"The bowling experience was really fun," said Angelo, coming back to the competition at hand. "I've only bowled, probable two or three times in my life, and throwing in the left hand, I'm not really good with my left hand, so that was a unique experience."

The challenge presented to the Soldiers was to bowl their best game in their dominant hand, then bowl a game with their opposite hand. Of the six

team members, the two highest and two lowest scores were combined, the two median scores were thrown out. This forced the team to incentivize and encourage the weakest Soldiers to focus, work harder and perform outside their experience and expertise, in order to advance the squad. Then the BOSS Strong leaders threw another curve ball.

"Once we put on the full battle-rattle, it added a whole different aspect to it," explained Angelo. "The distribution of weight, the limitation of movement. Altogether it was fun and I think our team did very well."

Each exercise and event was designed by the leaders and coaches of the BOSS Strong Championship to help the team learn about themselves individually and together, to foster and promote readiness and train for the battlefield.

"While we were bowling, I had about eight gutter balls," lamented Angelo. "I've never had that feeling before, being on the bottom, being the weak link. It was somewhat humbling, but it was great reinforcement knowing that my team was right there supporting me, even though they were carrying my weight the whole time."

The entire BOSS Strong Championship is being recorded and will be broadcast on various military networks including the U.S. Department of Defense News website. The series will follow all the teams as they progress through the competition.

"I think it is really great the Army brought us here," said Angelo. "I feel really blessed and honored to be here. We're almost like the guinea pigs for what the Army wants to do. If we can all go back to our units and bring that to the rest of our Soldiers, I think what we are doing here can be a new start for the Army. Readiness and morale can go through the roof."

The competition is a physical, spiritual and emotional experience for BOSS Soldiers everywhere.

"So when we're done, after a big event or a really tough PT session, it's almost an indescribable feeling," said Angelo, one BOSS Soldier from anywhere. "During [the event] you want to quit. Every ounce of you, your body is telling you to quit, but your mind has to be stronger than your body, and you have to keep pushing yourself, pushing yourself, pushing yourself."

"Finally when you get through it in the end, and come out as a team, you are overwhelmed with a sense of accomplishment. You feel absolutely great about yourself and your team. It brings us closer together." ▴

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Humphreys honor Prisoners of War and Missing in Action



Command Sgt. Maj. Derrick Merriwether, the command sergeant major of 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, delivered the keynote address at the 13th Annual POW-MIA ceremony at Camp Humphreys Memorial Park on Sept. 16.



Brian J. Hamic, a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars CWO Benjamin K. Humphreys Memorial Post 10223, was one of the volunteers who placed flowers at the monuments during the 13th annual POW-MIA ceremony on Sept. 16.

Story and photos by Bob McElroy USAG Humphreys Public Affairs

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea – Veterans of Foreign Wars CWO Benjamin K. Humphreys Memorial Post 10223 hosted the 13th annual POW-MIA ceremony at Camp Humphreys Memorial Park Sept. 16.

The ceremony reminded those attending that America has not forgotten its service members who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

The Humphreys High School Junior ROTC color guard posted and later retired the colors. Humphreys Cub and Boy Scouts also supported the event.

The featured speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Derrick Merriwether, the command sergeant major of 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, echoed that sentiment in his remarks.

"We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured—and may still be enduring—the agonies of pain, deprivation, and imprisonment," Merriwether said.

The Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency lists approximately 83,000 Americans who remain missing and unaccounted for from past wars.

Merriwether said the 83,000 names represent more than just prisoners and missing Americans, they represent the families who still wait and wonder if their loved ones will return.

"Today, we honor those men and women, and keep faith with those families," he said. Merriwether said that when World War II ended 73,500 American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines were listed as missing in action, more than 48,000 were in the Pacific Theater.

The Korean War followed five years later and resulted in the loss of 35,000 Americans and approximately 7,800 missing in action. Not long after the Korean War ended with a cease fire, Vietnam raged. By the end of American involvement in the war more than 58,000 Americans were dead, almost 800 were taken prisoner and more than 2,500 were missing and unaccounted for there. Teams continue to search for and identify the remains of the missing.

Merriwether said that the number of MIA in Vietnam is nearing 1,600 due to diligent work by military and civilian experts from America and Vietnam who continue to investigate sites where remains might rest.

"Today, our nation reaffirms its commitment to achieve the fullest possible accounting of those who didn't come home," Merriwether said. "As veterans, family members of veterans, and supporters, we

must all do our part to remember their service, honor their sacrifice, and keep faith with each other to keep the hope of return alive in every family and community touched by those 83,000 names."

Merriwether recounted his trip to Vietnam earlier this year and the humbling experience of touring the infamous Hanoi Hilton where American prisoners of war were kept. His visit compelled him to remember the words of the Warrior Ethos and their meaning to the men held prisoner there—"I will never quit. I will never accept defeat."

"To these Soldiers we have kept the final promise of our creed: we will never leave a fallen comrade," he said.

In closing Merriwether encouraged all to recommit to remembering the prisoners and missing from wars past as well as their families who keep hope alive and wait for their hero's return.

"Let us continue to tell their story while we wait for them to come home," Merriwether said. "Prisoners of War, missing in action, men and women who placed the mission first, and never quit or accepted defeat, and whom we will never leave behind."

Following Merriwether's remarks, volunteers placed flowers at each of the monuments at the park.

Taps was played to conclude the ceremony. ▽



The Richard E. Cowan Post Office is located in building P-6809 between the Pfc. Ross A. McGinnis Warrior Zone and the Sitman Physical Fitness Center. This places it within walking distance for Soldiers living quarters in the newer areas of the installation. The post office is open Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for outgoing mail services.

New Post Office expands service on Camp Humphreys

Story and Photos by Clint Stone
U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea – The Richard E. Cowan Post Office opened Sept. 1, expanding mail services to those newly-relocated and rotational units occupying buildings on the western edge of Camp Humphreys.

Tony Spencer, the Area III Postal Superintendent, said the new post office provides more convenient service for Soldiers who live in the new part of post. Previously individuals looking to mail letters and packages had to travel approximately 20 minutes to the Main Post Office here.

“It provides outgoing mail service, so if you want to ship out a package you can also do it on this side of base as well,” Spencer said. “So it is providing mail services to the troop area.”

The Cowan Post Office is located in building P-6809 between the Pfc. Ross A. McGinnis Warrior Zone and the Sitman Physical Fitness Center. This places it within walking distance for Soldiers living quarters in the newer areas of the installation. The post office is open Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for outgoing mail services.

Also located in building P-6809 is a Postal Service Center that offers 8,700 mail boxes accessible 24 hours a day to assigned personnel. The PSC operates a package pick-up window Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Also offered is a letter drop slot, which accepts letter mail with postage for out-going mail service.

The Cowan Post Office is named in honor of Pvt. 1st Class Richard Eller Cowan of Lincoln Nebraska. Cowan was a machine gunner with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

On Dec. 17, 1944, the second day of the Battle of the Bulge, Cowan was attached to Company I as a heavy machine gunner near Krinkelter Wald, Belgium. The company was attacked by a superior force of German Wehrmacht infantry and tanks. For his actions that day Pfc. Richard Cowan earned the Medal of Honor. ▀



Medal of Honor Citation: He was a heavy machine gunner in a section attached to Company I in the vicinity of Krinkelter Wald, Belgium, 17 December 1944, when that company was attacked by a numerically superior force of German infantry and tanks. The first six waves of hostile infantrymen were repulsed with heavy casualties, but a seventh drive with tanks killed or wounded all but three of his section, leaving Pvt. Cowan to man his gun, supported by only 15 to 20 riflemen of Company I. He maintained his position, holding off the Germans until the rest of the shattered force had set up a new line along a firebreak. Then, unaided, he moved his machinegun and ammunition to the second position. At the approach of a Royal Tiger tank, he held his fire until about 80 enemy infantrymen supporting the tank appeared at a distance of about 150 yards. His first burst killed or wounded about half of these infantrymen. His position was rocked by an 88mm shell when the tank opened fire, but he continued to man his gun, pouring deadly fire into the Germans when they again advanced. He was barely missed by another shell. Fire from three machineguns and innumerable small arms struck all about him; an enemy rocket shook him badly, but did not drive him from his gun. Infiltration by the enemy had by this time made the position untenable, and the order was given to withdraw. Pvt. Cowan was the last man to leave, voluntarily covering the withdrawal of his remaining comrades. His heroic actions were entirely responsible for allowing the remaining men to retire successfully from the scene of their last-ditch stand.



Also located in building P-6809 is a Postal Service Center that offers 8,700 mail boxes accessible 24 hours a day to assigned personnel. The PSC operates a package pick-up window Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Operation Spearhead Focus 2017



Soldiers with the 25th Transportation Battalion, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Republic of Korea 5th Logistics Support Command, and 1st Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force kicked off a two week combined joint training event, Operation Spearhead Focus, Sept. 12 at Camp Casey, Dongducheon, Korea. The first two events consisted of gas chamber training and medical evacuation with air support. Additionally, the exercise also included Squad Level situational training lanes and a culminating event where the trainees put everything they learned, to the test. These two event took place at the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, Pocheon, Korea. — U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Norman Llamas

By Sgt. 1st Class Norman Llamas
19th ESC Public Affairs

USAG-DAEGU, South Korea — Soldiers with the 25th Transportation Battalion, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Republic of Korea 5th Logistics Support Command, and 1st Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force kicked off a two week combined joint training event, Operation Spearhead Focus, Sept. 12 at Camp Casey, Dongducheon, Korea.

“They started by training to survive in a CBRN contaminated environment by going through the

gas chamber at Camp Casey,” said Cpt. Alan Kerr, assistant intelligence officer, 25th Transportation Battalion.

“Then they also learned how to load litters during an air Medical Evacuation scenario. These training events increased the survivability of American and Korean Soldiers and Marines to fight, survive, and win on the contaminated battlefield.”

These two training events are the first in a crawl-walk-run training plan which will incorporate Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. To build on the training conducted early on in the exercise. Task Force personnel will train with Virtual Battle Simulators such as the Convoy

Trainer and Call for Fire Trainer.

“These individual and crew skills will be integrated in a walk phase with the Situational Training Exercise,” said Kerr. “In this lane, the Movement Control Teams will need to negotiate situations such as encountering an improvised explosive device, a crowd control scenario, which gives the crews the opportunity to learn of an upcoming CBRN attack, allowing them to don JSLIST prior to the attack.”

“After the ambush which incorporates a CBRN attack and a decontamination lane, the MCTs will undergo a complex attack which will require the convoys to defend themselves, conduct a self-recovery, and then call in a MEDEVAC.” continued Kerr.

“This exercise certainly benefitted greatly from the Marines participation because they bring air assets with them, which are required to accomplish the task force’s mission,” said Cpt. Sean Clough, assistant operations officer, also with the 25th Trans. Btn. and originally from Saint Louis, Missouri.

Additionally, the 2nd Armor Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division also participated in the training event.

“The 2nd ABCT wasn’t originally part of the task force but, upon arriving at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, we both saw the opportunity for them to collaborate with the task force, as a supporting unit,” said Clough. “They provided additional mortar support during the event, which enhanced the training.”

“This training is giving our junior leaders much needed ground tactical leadership, which will help to get them prepared for future

assignments,” said Lt. Col. Patrick B. Almond, Commander, 25th Trans. Btn. “The purpose of this exercise is to make sure that if we have to move up and down the roadways during a real-world mission, that we are ready to do so.”

After being certified at the situational training lanes, the movement control teams will begin preparing for the run phase of Spearhead Focus by conducting crew gunnery certifications. This ensures that gun truck crews are prepared to safely and smoothly execute the culminating event.

The culminating training event was a combined joint convoy live fire exercise which incorporates the ROK Soldiers, U.S. Marines, and the U.S. Air Force. The Marines provided sniper and 8mm mortar support, as well as coordinated U.S. Army attack aviation assets (AH-64 Apache helicopter gunships), and the U.S. Air Force provided F-16 fighter jets, which simulated an informational leaflets drop around the operational area.

“I really like working with the various units out here,” said Spc. Jorge Andrade, a transportation Management coordinator with the 665th Movement Control Team, Waegwan, Korea and a subordinate unit of the 25th Transportation Battalion. “The Marines really helped me, especially with the whole aspect of how to use my assigned weapon. From proper breathing techniques to proven tactics when firing the M 2-49 machine gun.”

This resulted in a truly combined joint training event which enhanced readiness, strengthens the U.S.-ROK alliance and increased interoperability, and prepared us to Fight Tonight! ▲



Transportation Battalion steers children toward happiness

By Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Abril
19th ESC Public Affairs

DAEGU, South Korea – Soldiers with the 25th Transportation Battalion, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, partnered with Area IV Child and Youth Services as volunteers for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America annual “Day for Kids” event, September 9 on Kelly Field at Camp Walker, Daegu, Korea.

The yearly boys and girls club event aims to celebrate and advocate for the needs of all children across the U.S. Families from across Area IV attended the fun-filled event where several activities were available including static military vehicle displays, bounce houses, adult tricycles, various games, and face painting. Children also had the opportunity to meet the mascots of the Samsung Lions, Daegu’s professional baseball team.

As with any event, it takes proactive and constant involvement from all parties involved in order for

it to be a success and the 25th Trans. Bn. ceased the opportunity to make a difference.

“If 25th hadn’t partnered with us, we could not have had this event,” said Gerri Withers, the Area IV Chief for Child Youth and Schools Services and a native of Fairbanks Alaska.

25th Trans. Bn. Soldiers were spread out on the field hosting games and events for the children, this allowed the little ones to experience being inside military vehicles, to include those of the 194th Military Police Battalion, who also took part in the event.

“They enjoyed getting on military vehicles and seeing a little bit of what daddy does on the daily, and also getting to play on the jump toys and in the different events they had going on here today,” said Maj. Walter L. Ivory Jr., a brigade operations officer with the 2nd Infantry Division’s Sustainment Brigade, Camp Carroll, Waegwan, Korea and a native of New Orleans, Louisiana.

The transportation battalion Soldiers’ volunteerism and efforts did not go unnoticed by community members or their military leadership.

“We have great Soldiers doing great things,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Almond, the 25th Trans. Bn. Commander and a native of Newnan, Georgia. “It was a great event and our Soldiers continue to make us Proud.”

Almond also explained that when he asked for 10 volunteers for this event, over 20 of his Soldiers raised their hands, a true testament to their selfless service and commitment to their community.

As the “Day for Kids” event came to a close, it proved to be a success for the area IV community and was a reminder of how volunteerism makes a difference. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in the community, there are many opportunities available.

“If you would like to have that

sense of fulfillment and that sense of community and Family, please come and volunteer with Child and Youth Services,” said Khia Wood, an outreach services director with Child and Youth Services and a native of Boston, Massachusetts. “We have more than enough for you to do in the area of sports, child administration, and community events.”



Oscar Abril (4) poses with the mascots of the Samsung Lions, a South Korean professional baseball team located in the city of Daegu during the Boys and Girls Clubs of America annual “Day for Kids” event September 9, 2017 at Camp Walker, Korea. — U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Abril



Staff Sgt. Joey S. Carnes with D Battery, 2-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and native of Battle Creek, Michigan, rides an adult tricycle with daughter Brianna (9) and son Ethan (3) during the Boys and Girls Clubs of America annual “Day for Kids” event September 9, 2017 at Camp Walker, Korea. — U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Abril



Boys and girls wait in line to see military vehicles during the Boys and Girls Clubs of America annual “Day for Kids” event September 9, 2017 at Camp Walker, Korea. Children were allowed to enter the vehicles to see first-hand the equipment Soldiers use during the daylong event. — U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Abril

Job seekers connect with potential employers at ACS Job Fair

By Pfc. Kim, Bum-joon
USAG Daegu Public Affairs

USAG Daegu, South Korea – United States Army Garrison Daegu Army Community Service hosted the 2017 Community Job Fair at the Camp Walker Evergreen Club, Sept. 14. More than 25 Area IV employers and community partners participated in the fair to meet potential employees and volunteers.

“We have about thirty different organizations and each of them are offering either employment, payed opportunities or information about their company,” said Rebecca J. Oden, USAG Daegu ACS Employment Readiness Program Manager. “Some of them are also recruiting volunteers so they have people come and volunteer their services in their organizations.”

The Community Job Fair is held annually in USAG Daegu and is open to military spouses, active duty, employers and service organizations. Companies like Navy Federal Credit Union, Community Bank, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, United Service Organizations and Stars and Stripes participated in the fair, including several outpost companies such as the Grand Hotel. Organizations such as the American Red Cross, Daegu High Middle School and Child and Youth Services also sought volunteers and contractors.

“I’m recruiting volunteers for CYS,” said Khia Wood, CYS Outreach Services Director. “We have different capacities where people could volunteer such as sports volunteers and child care volunteers. We also have contracting opportunities for someone who can actually teach children.”

“I think the job fair is a really a good way to get people in the community to come out to see what’s available,” added Wood. “They can see all the components that are vital for hiring.”

Job-seekers brought copies of their resumes and were interviewed by organization representatives. More than 150 applicants attended



2017 Community Job Fair patron looks for information from the Global Integrated Technology Services booth at the Camp Walker Evergreen Club, Sept. 14. More than 150 applicants attended the job fair to look for new opportunities. Thirty organizations offered job openings and volunteer opportunities to the applicants. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kim, Bum-joon

the job fair to look for new opportunities.

“It’s my first time in USAG Daegu and I came here to find my luck in getting a job,” said Candy Mirafior, a military spouse who attended the fair. “I have a license as a registered nurse and I am looking for an opportunity that suits me well. I got a lot of information that will help me but, as of now, there’s no opening for a registered nurse. However, they gave me some advice on what to do next and it was very informative.”

The Community Job fair is part of The Employment Readiness Program. This Program assists Families in meeting the challenges associated with career planning and job searching by providing expert help and resources through a

cohesive, standardized employment support program. The Employment Readiness Program is not a job placement service, but provides resources and tools to enhance job search activities.

“If there is anyone seeking employments who would like help with their resume, practice interviewing or if they feel like they need more information, they can contact me to make an appointment,” said Oden. ▴



Candy Mirafior, a military spouse attending the Job Fair discusses opportunities with a representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center booth at the Camp Walker Evergreen Club, Sept. 14. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kim, Bum-joon



Representatives from Army Community Service Family Advocacy talk to a potential employee during the 2017 Community Job fair at the Camp Walker Evergreen Club, Sept. 14. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kim, Bum-joon

Sustainer Grill, named finalists in the 49th Annual Philip A. Connelly Award Competition



Sustainer Grill team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Camp Henry, Korea poses for a group photo as part of the 49th Annual Philip A. Connelly Awards Program, Active Military Garrison Category competition. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kong Woong-il

By Pfc. Kong, Woong-il
19th ESC Public Affairs

USAG DAEGU, South Korea – The Sustainer Grill were recently named finalists in this year's 49th Annual prestigious Philip A. Connelly Award, under the Military Garrison Category, hosted by Department of the Army. The Sustainer Grill, which falls under Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Camp Henry, Korea competed for a spot in this year's finals and hopes to be the overall winner.

The objectives of the program

is to promote Army food service through incentives, competition and media attention and to recognize deserving units for superb performance. There were two different evaluation areas; Active Garrison Evaluation Areas and Field Feeding Evaluation Areas.

The whole team, composed of U.S. Soldiers and Korean civilian employees participated in the competition. While preparing for the competition, they had to work extended hours in order to meet the demands of feeding the regular dining facility customers and prepare the entries they would

submit for the competition.

"The biggest reason for us winning a spot in the finals was teamwork," said Staff. Sgt. Abraham C. Felipe, an advanced culinary arts noncommissioned officer with the 75th Medical Company Area Support, 19th ESC. "As a training NCO, I had to let the whole team cooperate and communicate well and as a result, every participant understood their mission and worked as a team."

"Because we needed more time to meet the criteria required for the competition, we had to work extra hours every day," said Pfc. Zachariah A. Mele, a culinary arts specialist, 75th Medical Company Area Support, 19th ESC. "The criteria for this program is usually based on daily procedures, so if we are prepared every day, we don't have to work much harder for the competition. Even before entering the competition, we had always worked hard in order to provide better service to our customers, so we were always ready to win."

By placing in the Military Garrison Category, now our team is entitled to compete in the upcoming finals, which will take place in the up-coming Fiscal Year. This portion of the competition in the Military Garrison Category was at the 8th Army level and the upcoming finals are going to be Department of the Army level competition.

Each category winner will compete in the finals. There are three different types of finals; Active Garrison Finalists, Active Field

Finalists and Reserve Component Finalists. The finals will be evaluated by Department of the Army level evaluators. The Sustainer Grill team will be participating in the Active Garrison Finals alongside five other finalists.

"Our strengths are that we have a clean dining facility, professional Soldiers and Korean employees as well as high quality customer service," said Sgt. 1st Class Wesley J. Wosik, the Sustainer Grill's Dining Facility Manager, HHC, 19th ESC. "Rather than preparing only for the competition, we try to maintain the best conditions possible, every day. We will continue to work hard and keep practicing in order to win the next competition." ▴

NEWS & NOTES

Camp Walker Gate 4 Closure

WHO: Gate 4 (near the PX) was closed on Sept. 6 to vehicular traffic and will be inaccessible through mid-November. The gate will remain open for pedestrian traffic 24/7.

WHAT: People are strongly encouraged to use Gate 6 (behind the Commissary) as their primary option. Gate 6 is open 24 hours, daily. Gate 7 (near the Airfield) is open temporarily, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Friday for inbound and outbound traffic. Only registered vehicles may use Gate 7; no visitor access. More details and routing maps will be provided soon.

WHY: The Gate 4 closure will allow the Garrison to make improvements on Camp Walker quickly and safely, reducing the length of disruption and traffic congestion.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Use Gate 6 as your normal gate and allow extra time to get to and from work. Mission-related delays are possible, especially at Gate 7. Monitor the USAG Daegu Facebook and

marquees, and listen to AFN Daegu (88.5 FM) for further updates.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Join fellow community members Oct. 2, 11:30 a.m. at the Camp Walker Post Exchange for the Domestic Violence Prevention Month proclamation signing. For details, contact Army Community Service at 768-7112.

Chuseok Holiday Closures

The Korean Thanksgiving holiday, Chuseok, is approaching fast. Be sure to check for adjustments to operating hours for the Army Air Force Exchange Service at www.facebook.com/USAGDaegu and changes to Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation operations at www.facebook.com/DaeguFMWR.

Learn to Golf

Saturdays, 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Active Duty Soldiers interested in taking up the game of golf can request two free buckets of

range balls and practice clubs at the Camp Walker Evergreen Golf Course Pro Shop. For more information, call 764-4628.

Camp Henry and Camp Walker KATUSA Snack Bars are now open Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fitness Forum

Oct. 12, 6 p.m. at the Camp Carroll Fitness Center
Part 1 of this 4-part educational series of fitness presentations followed by a question and answer session, presented by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sports & Fitness, will cover information you should be familiar with when strength training. For the Q&A portion, participants can submit questions in advance at the Camp Walker and Carroll fitness center front desks or by emailing to: mwrdaegusport@gmail.com.

National Fire Prevention Week

In 2017, Fire Prevention Week is recognized Oct. 10-20. This year's

theme is "Every second counts: Find 2 ways out!" Activities will include a proclamation signing school fire and safety contest, fire safety canvassing and a community-wide open house. The National Fire Prevention Open House will be held Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Camp Walker Kelly Field. The open house will begin with a parade from Camp George to the event site on Camp Walker followed by games, contests, demonstrations and a variety of activities related to fire safety.

American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Class

Register at the Camp Walker Aquatics Center Oct. 1-14 to earn your ARC lifeguard certification. Classes will be held Oct 14-15 and 22, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Participants must pass a swimming pretest on the first day of class to continue. For more information, call 764-5274.

Submission for next News & Notes : usarmy.henry.id-pacific.list.usag-daegu-pao@mail.mil

