First In Support !

www.21tsc.army.mil 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany Vol: 3 Issue: 8 August 2010

21st TSC team goes to CROATIA

Sgt. Jeremy Mackey and two other Soldiers from the 720th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Mannheim, Germany, analyze a map with Croatian army1st Lt. Predrag Svaga, an officer with the military cooperation section, Croatian army headquarters in Karlovac, Croatia, Aug 24. (Photo by Sgt. Frank Sanchez III, 21st TSC PAO)

By Sgt. Frank Sanchez III
21st TSC PAO

KARLOVAC, Croatia – Working closely with our European allies is a critical part of U.S. Army Europe's mission. To support this mission, the 21st Theater Sustainment Command sent several Soldiers and Civilians to Croatia Aug. 23-27 to conduct a joint site survey for the upcoming exercise there, Immediate Response '11.

The logistical and operational subject matter experts from the 21st TSC assisted USAREUR and the Croatian Ground Forces Command in planning IR 11, which is a joint field training exercise scheduled to take place in June 2011.

After attending a planning conference at the Croatian Army Headquarters in Karlovac, the 21st TSC teamed up with their Croatian counterparts, specialized in several areas of expertise, to set into motion the site surveys, which are used to determine the various support requirements for the exercise.

The 7th Civil Support Command's 1177th Movement Control Team from Kaiserslautern traveled two hours southeast to the port city of Rijeka where they met and surveyed alongside the Port of Rijeka Authority representatives to begin organizing the seaport area of debarkation for the exercise.

The 1177th MCT will be responsible for the accountability of all the equipment that will go through the Rijeka seaport. The equipment will be tagged with a fixed global positioning system, called an interrogator,

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405th Army Field Support Bde. in Russia, Pakistan

By Jennifer King
405th AFSB PAO

LEGHORN ARMY DEPOT, Italy – The 3rd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade supported efforts to assist with the containment of wildfires in Russia by providing military equipment to Russia on Aug. 13.

The fire-fighting equipment, including 40 toolkits and 45 chainsaws, is being released from the Army Prepositioned Stocks in Italy at the request of the U.S. European Command.

"The U.S. European Command contacted us regarding the release of equipment," explained Lt. Col. Richard Pierce, commander of 3rd Battalion.

"We quickly retrieved the equipment from the APS and palletized it for shipment to Russia. Furthermore, we received phenomenal support from the Italian 46th Air Brigade in Pisa. We are proud that we are able to do some small part to help ease the suffering of the Russian people and hopefully assist with resolving this catastrophe."

Col. Ronald Green, commander of the 405th AFSB, strongly supports all humanitarian aid missions that the battalion receives.

"We routinely provide humanitarian assistance whenever we receive a request for aid," Green said. "We value our relationship with Russia, and this is an example of our ability to work together and support each other in times of crisis."

Shipment of the supplies was not an easy task for the battalion.

"Although we are only shipping 85 pieces of fire-fighting equipment, the sheer weight of the shipment presents some challenges," explained Angelo Borelli, support operations officer for 3rd Battalion.

"For example, each of the toolkits weighs more than 300 pounds; however, we're accustomed to challenging logistical operations, and we were able to get everything packed and palletized on six pallets within 24 hours of receiving the request from EUCOM."

The pallets were transported from the battalion via truck to the Pisa Military Airport, where it was be loaded onto a U.S. Air Force C-130J for delivery to Russia.

LEGORN ARMY DEPOT, Italy – The 3rd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade sent a shipment of humanitarian aid supplies to Pakistan Aug. 13 as requested by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Northwest Pakistan has experienced significant flooding caused by extremely heavy monsoon rains, and millions of Pakistanis have been impacted by the natural disaster.

"We received a request to send 1,310 rolls of heavy-duty, waterproof plastic sheeting to Pakistan immediately in order to assist USAID in its disaster relief efforts," said Alberto Chidini, who manages the USAID program for the battalion. "The plastic sheeting will be used by USAID to construct temporary shelters for families whose homes have been damaged or swept away by the flood waters."

Lt. Col. Richard Pierce, commander of the 3rd Bn., 405th AFSB, is proud that his organization plays such an integral part in international relief efforts such as these.

"I have only been in command a short time and am already awed by the international scope and reach of our mission," Pierce said. "I am pleased that we have the ability to assist in relieving human suffering throughout the world, and I truly believe that support to these humanitarian missions is one of the most important missions that our battalion has."

The plastic sheeting was removed from the warehouse, packed for shipping and then trucked to the Pisa International Airport. The shipment left Pisa for Islamabad Aug. 14.

The 3rd Bn., 405th AFSB is responsible for the storage and maintenance of USAID emergency humanitarian assistance commodities under an interagency agreement between the Army and the U.S. State Department.

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Memorabilia from Hammond Barracks sent to family

By Angelika Lantz
21st TSC PAO

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Do you ever wonder why an installation or building bears a certain name? Hammonds Barracks in Seckenheim, Germany, for instance, was named in honor of Pfc. Robert Hammonds who was killed in action April 11, 1945.

Since the installation is being closed, Scott Ramich, a lead management analyst with the 409th Contracting Support Brigade, is returning the memorabilia to Hammonds' relatives.

"I consider myself the caretaker of it all. It is an honorable task, and I am going to make sure the family gets everything back," Ramich said.

When the 409th CSB relocated to Kaiserslautern, no one knew whether the family wanted a new building dedicated to Hammonds or how to best use the memorabilia. Nicole McAbee, a management service specialist with the 409th CSB, initially recieved the task of finding a suitable solution, Ramich explained.

"I wanted to do what is right. I read through all the letters and documents, and Hammonds seemed like a genuinely nice guy. He loved his mama – and that's what I really liked about him," McAbee said.

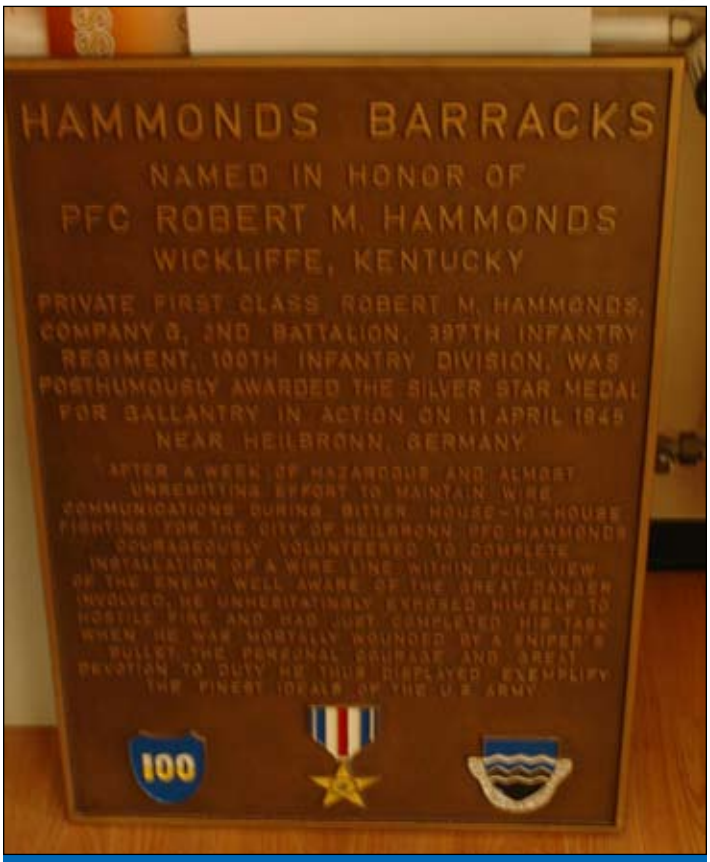
McAbee was extremely busy and Ramich volunteered to take on the project. He, too, researched Hammonds' history and also contacted the family. Thus, he learned that while Hammonds' relatives did not want another building named in Robert Hammonds' honor, his great-nephew was interested in the belongings.

"My son, Hayden, has developed quite a love for military history. It began shortly after the dedication of Hammonds' Barracks and continues today. Often we have thought we may not have donated the items if we had known that Hayden would develop such a strong interest," Theresa Wheeler, Hammonds' niece, wrote in a letter to the 409th CSB.

Therefore, Ramich archived every item. He also grouped documents, arranged them into several collages and had them custom-framed before preparing everything to be shipped to Oklahoma.

And so the legacy of the 19-year-old Soldier from Wickliffe, Ky., which includes his burial flag, Silver Star, Purple Heart and even the pillow sham he slept on during basic training, will be on its way to Oklahoma.

Hammonds, a wireman with Company G, 1st Battalion, 397th Infantry Regiment, had courageously volunteered to reconnect a field telephone line severed by an explosion during house-to-house fighting during World War II. He left cover and had just completed his task when he was mortally wounded by a sniper's bullet.



The bronze plague detailing why Hammonds Barracks was named in honor of Pfc. Robert Hammonds used to be displayed near the Hammonds' parade field. With the installation closing, the Hammonds memorabilia is being shipped to the Hammonds family. (Photo by Angelika Lantz, 21st TSC PAO)

For his bravery he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, and in 1948 Loretto Kaserne was renamed Hammonds Barracks in his honor.

At the time, Maj. Gen. Withers Burress, the commanding general of the 100th Infantry Division, in his condolence letter promised Hammonds' mother that her son's "devotion to duty and his courage will not be forgotten, and will serve to inspire us to better efforts."

However, until 10 years ago, there was no record of any formal dedication, historical marker or visible record to reveal who the installation was named for and why.

Then in June 2000, with Hammonds' brother and sister-in-law as well as his sister and niece in attendance, Hammonds Barracks was rededicated. During the ceremony, a bronze plaque detailing Hammonds' act of valor was unveiled.

Now, the plaque and the U.S. flag last flown on Hammonds Barracks will be returned to Robert Hammonds' great nephew, Hayden.

18TH MP STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE

Sgt. Nicole Jenkins, a corrections officer with United States Army Regional Correctional Facility-Europe, 95th Military Police Battalion, 18th MP Brigade a native of Foxborough, Mass., competes as the Army Corrections Command representative in the National Capital Region Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition. (Photo by Marny Malin, Ft. Belvoir PAO)

By Capt. Martyn Crighton
18th MP Bde. PAO

MANNHEIM, Germany – Sgt. Nicole Jenkins, a corrections officer with U.S. Army Confinement Facility- Europe, took the Army commercial that said Soldiers do more before breakfast than most people do all day to heart. She has lived it the last four years and shows no signs of stopping any time soon.

Recently selected as the 2010 Army Corrections Command noncommissioned officer of the year, Jenkins will reach four years in the Army in October but has already achieved a lot in her short time in service.

The Foxborough, Mass. native, is already a member of the Sgt. Morales Club and has competed in several competitions.

After winning the ACC NCO of the Year competition held Jan. 22-23 at McGill Air Force base in Tampa, Fla., she went on to compete as the ACC representative at the National Capital Region NCO of the Year Board held July 12-16 at Ft. Belvoir, Va., where she placed third as the only female in a field of 14 NCOs, a major achievement by any measure.

The competition included weapons qualification and reflexive fire, a physical training test, a formal board, combatives, a day and night urban land navigation course, and a long overland course with multiple stations where each competitor had to complete specific warrior tasks like first-aid, and reacting to an improvised explosive device.

The challenges she faced as the lone female competitor were illustrated by her experience during the combatives double elimination tournament where Jenkins had to compete against much larger males.

"In the first round I was paired up against a guy who weighed 215 lbs. I didn't win but he didn't make me tap during our five minute round." Nor did she tap out when it came to taking the PT test, which was scored by the male standards. Not only did she hold her own she outperformed every other NCO competitor. It was

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to track the movement of equipment from the seaport to and from the training areas.

Staff Sgt. Antonio Marquez, a team leader for the 1177th MCT, said he trusts his team and believes they will be able to provide superb movement support for the upcoming exercise.

"Our team is pretty sharp, and I guarantee our people will be ready. I look forward to this because we have a lot of new Soldiers, and they are excited to learn movement. I think that this will be a good mission," said Marquez.

Other survey teams boarded commercial buses and headed south through the mountains and scenic countryside of the Croatian Army training site in Eugen Kvaternik near the town of Slunj.

This was a new experience for Sgt. 1st Class Guillaume Samson, the operations sergeant for the 7th CSC's 209th Army Liaison Team from Wiesbaden, Germany. Samson said he took this time to assess his team's capabilities and learn more about his Croatian counterparts. Samson will be working in the command and control section for the 209th ALT during the exercise. He said he believes these kinds of exercises help to foster strong relationships between the U.S. and countries like Croatia.

"We never know in the near future when we will have to work with the Croatians in different parts of the world. Working together we can learn how each other functions," said Samson.

Soldiers from the 18th Engineer Brigade, 720th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, and several Soldiers and civilians from the 21st TSC's headquarters also took part in the survey.

Croatian army 1st Lt. Zvonko Gromilovic, the commander of Croatia's Counter Improvised Explosive Device Task Force, said this site survey mission will help the U.S. Army to take back more than just the survey information for IR 11.

"With our languages and technical expression, we must be able to harmonize our standards of procedures on how we all deal with specific situations," said Gromilovic.

The work has now only begun for the 21st TSC as the necessary preparations to make Immediate Response 11 a success continue.

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a grueling few days but according to Jenkins it was well worth it.

Although her successes might make it seem like Jenkins was destined to be in the Army, she did not always feel that way.

It was her promotion to sergeant that was most significant to Jenkins.

"I didn't know this was what I wanted to do with my life until after I got promoted to sergeant and became responsible for Soldiers," she said.

What began as a three year commitment has become a calling and a career for Jenkins.

"I didn't think it would be such a good fit, but I think it turned out for the best. I really didn't think about law enforcement before, but I really like it," she said. "The Military Police Corps is a really unique experience and I'm glad I got to be a part of it. It's really humbling. You serve people, whether on the road or in the prison, who know they need you but don't necessarily like you."

Since joining the Army she has received a bachelor's degree in Social Science from the University of Maryland and is currently enrolled at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology where she is working on a master's degree in forensic psychology. The determination and ambition that has led her to succeed in the classroom has also led her to excel at work.

Jenkins will soon be moving on from USACF-E. She has been selected to become a drill sergeant at the MP school at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. where she will continue to set the standard for Soldiers.

Sgt. Nicole Jenkins, a corrections officer with United States Army Regional Correctional Facility-Europe, 95th Military Police Battalion, 18th MP Brigade a native of Foxborough, Mass., carries a tripod for a .50 caliber machine gun during the National Capital Region Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition. (Photo by Marny Malin, Ft. Belvoir PAO)

Teens of Army Reserve Soldiers learn life skills

By Staff Sgt. Patricia Deal
USAREUR PAO

HEIDELBERG, Germany –"The best thing was I could have fun and talk about stuff with kids my age without having to worry about adults," said Chris DeRose, 14. "Oh yeah, and I learned lots of neat things, too."

DeRose was among 10 teens who attended the first European Youth Leadership, Education and Development Summit here Aug. 6-8. The seminar helped teens of U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers learn life, leadership, social and communication skills, plus helped them to develop a better sense of community service.

Chris DeRose, 14, Dorian Jones, 13, and Michael Fargas, 14, brainstorm ideas for a communication game at the first European Youth Leadership, Education and Development Summit at Crown Plaza Hotel in Heidelberg, Germany, Aug. 6. The teens attended YLEADS Aug. 6-8. (Photo by Spc. Adam Garlington, USAREUR PAO)

"YLEADS is a very important program for teens of Reserve Soldiers because of the unique situation they're in," said Beverly Arah, the operations manager for Army Reserve Child, Youth School Services. "Many of them are not familiar with the military culture or may not know any other kids from Reserve Families. Through YLEADS, they meet other teens who are going through the exact same thing they are. They develop bonds with each other and feel comfortable talking about issues with their peers."

Arah said they hold eight YLEADS a year, one in each of the geographic locations of the Army Reserve Command throughout the world.

"Wherever Reserve youth are, we go. We pick out different cities within the region so the kids can also benefit from the cultural experience of the area, as we take educational field trips during the summit," Arah said. "We knew there was a need to reach the youth in Europe as they are spread out in different countries and may feel a bit more isolated from friends in the States."

Teenagers from the 7th Civil Support Command design a blanket at the first European Youth Leadership, Education and Development Summit at Crown Plaza Hotel in Heidelberg, Germany, Aug. 6. The blanket will be donated to the children of Wounded Warriors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. (Photo by Spc. Adam Garlington, USAREUR PAO)

Each youth attending this summit had different expectations as to what it would mean to them, but the constant was the friendships and fun.

Michael Fargas, Jr., 14, said he thought this summit was great because he felt it's important to learn to communicate with one another and to build friendships.

"Like for example, I'm mostly (quiet) in the school, but here I learned how to communicate better and, you know what, I met more friends here than I would at school," he said. "It's been wonderful, and I'm going to cherish this experience my whole life."

For Elizabeth DeRose, 16, the opportunity to make some new

friends was a big plus. She and her brother, Chris, just arrived in Germany July 19, which hasn't given them much time to meet other kids.

"This was the perfect setup for me. The other kids are great," she said. "Plus, I'm actually learning some good thing like how to get along better with my brother."

The different workshops at YLEADS teach many different life skills, with particular emphasis on empowering the youth to become leaders in their community through involvement, community planning, and leadership programs, Arah said.

"We have a community services portion where the kids actually work on a project for outreach groups. We have volunteered to clean-up communities and we have made gifts to give to hospitals and places like Ronald McDonald House," Arah said

For this summit, the teens made blankets that will be given to Wounded Warriors through the Wounded Warrior Ministry Center at Landstuhl.

Daniel Jones, 17, said he thinks the community service part of YLEADS is important. Daniel is also a member of the Army Reserve Teen Panel, a group of teens selected to represent their peers and deal with issues surrounding youth of Army Reserve Soldiers.

"This is a good way for the kids to learn that they can actually make a difference. A lot of the kids feel that some things need to change. They just don't know how to go about doing it," Jones said. "After YLEADS, they learn just how to do it, and realize they can actually make a difference in their community."

21st TSC holds retreat, retirement ceremony

By Sgt. Fay Conroy
21st TSC PAO

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – The 21st Theater Sustainment Command held a retreat and retirement ceremony at Panzer Parade Field here Aug. 27 to honor the service and careers of three Soldiers who are retiring.

A retreat ceremony traditionally signals the end of the duty day by lowering the Nation's colors. It is also a way to pay respect to the flag. In Germany, the U.S. and the German colors are honored during retreat.

"It is a distinct honor and privilege to be here and take part in a ceremony, which honors and pays due respect for a lifetime of service to the Nation and the Army," said Col. (Dr.) John Cho, the commander of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. "I believe in fate and destiny. I believe that there is a reason that these three are on the field today and are being recognized."

Those reasons are for careers that have spanned at least 20 years, more than two continents, and a list of accomplishments that include such praiseworthy accomplishments as Bronze Stars, Ranger school and multiple deployments.

The rain that drizzled throughout the ceremony had a special significance for one retiree.

"I loved it; it was great," said Staff Sgt. Robert Eastman, a physical security inspector for U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern's Provost Marshal's Office. "There was a little rain, and it was tears from the sky because we're leaving," he said laughing.

Eastman, a Maine native, will be retiring Sept. 30 after 23 years. He has served in a variety of positions in Germany, the U.S. and Korea.

For Lt. Col. Cliff Serwe, a logistics officer with the logistics sustainment operations division, U.S. Army Europe, his time in the Army in Germany holds a lot of memories.

"It's been a wonderful place to live and grow, working with a lot of fantastic people doing fantastic work. I really loved it," he said.

Serwe, a Wisconsin native, retired July 1 and is serving as the director of the Rhine River Detachment, 838th Transportation Battalion.

California native Sgt. Maj. Steven Thorp, the human resources sergeant major for the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, had a few words for the people that he served with.

"Thank you, because the people who I have come into contact with are the ones that have helped me move along and move up," he said.

Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuistion, the commanding general of 21st Theater Sustainment Command, presents Kristina Eastman, the daughter of retiree Staff Sgt. Robert Eastman, with a certificate of appreciation. (Photo by Alfredo Barraza, VICE Media)

He also had some advice for young Soldiers who work in his career field.

"Seek out the hard jobs," he said. "They'll pave the way for you."

Staff Sgt. Deval Blackwood, who is changing duty stations, received a Meritorious Service Medal in recognition for his work while at 21st TSC.

The 21st TSC holds a retreat and retirement ceremony once a month to recognize the accomplishments of recent retirees.

Teens get a new perspective on Comprehensive Soldier Fitness

By Lt. Col. Michele Sutak
7th CSC PAO

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Sgt. 1st Class John Mayle, the 7th Civil Support Command force development non-commissioned officer and a Master Resilience Trainer spent a day educating 10 teenagers on Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, which helped supply them with the tools to grow and thrive in today's Army lifestyle stressors during the first Youth Leadership, Education and Development Summit held here August 5-8.

"Comprehensive Soldier Fitness is for Soldiers, Families and Army Civilians alike," explained Mayle. "The skills that are taught by MRTs can be beneficial for everyone."

During the YLEAD summit, Mayle gave an overview of the CSF program and then discussed the specific skill of "Putting it in Perspective." The skills are not limited to those facing the challenges of being deployed or in harm's way, they can be used by anyone encountering stress, trying times or traumatic events.

"If something happens that may cause stress in your life that may cause a downward spiral in your life or a traumatic event, you suddenly jump to conclusions, you start thinking the worse case scenarios … this skill can give a new perspective and help alleviate negative thinking as well as create a plan of action."

Mayle, who teaches CSF to all ages in the Army, admits this was a new audience for him. "It was a good experience, and watching them understand and grasp the concept of the class was impacting," said Mayle. "It was great to see the kids participate in this new program with a good attitude and in an enthusiastic manner."

"In school we are taught to teach these skills to Soldiers, so it was a little bit of a challenge relating some of the material to the teens, but nothing that could not be overcome," said Mayle. "We got it done and the kids understood the material."

Sgt. 1st Class John Mayle, 7th Civil Support Command force development non-commissioned officer and Master Resilience Trainer, spent time with teenagers participating in the Youth Leadership, Education and Development Summit, Saturday, Aug. 7 in Heidelberg. (Photo by Spc. Glenn Anderson, 7th CSC PAO)

Each youth attending the summit had the opportunity to talk about a situation and how they would apply PIIP. Some will take the skill and apply what they've learned here in school, at home, and in their everyday lifestyle.

"I learned how to communicate better, it's been wonderful, and I am going to cherish this experience my whole life," said Michael Fargas, Jr. a Carolina, Puerto Rico native and 14-year-old son of Sgt. 1st Class Nayda S. Martinez with the 7th Civil Support Command, Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

"The kids from YLEAD as well as the Staff all really interacted and enjoyed the class," Mayle said. "This makes me a little more anxious, but in a good way to do the training with the Soldiers now."

"This class was very good and I met a lot of new kids to hang with," said Belen Simpson, 13-year-old, native of Silverton, Oregon, and daughter of Lt. Col. Gregory Simpson with the 7th CSC. "I think the class really helped because now I can think more in a positive perspective and get out of those negative situations easier."

CSF provides a tailored plan for families to strengthen and grow physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually and create an Army family that is safe, supportive, caring and provides the resources needed for all members to live in a healthy and secure environment.

"My new friends here are now part of my Army family that I can always call on for support," said Belen.

Graf dining facility will represent USAREUR at DA

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Dyrcz
18th CSSB PAO

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – The Grafenwoehr dining facility won at the United States Army Europe level of the Connelly Competition and is now competing at the Department of the Army level of the competition.

The Phillip A. Connelly award was established in 1968 and is named in honor of the late Phillip A. Connelly, a former president of the International Food Service Executives Association, and is an Army award program that recognizes excellence in Army food service.

"Here at the Grafenwoehr DFAC we use the standards set forth in the Connelly Competition year-round in our day to day operations. And I am so proud of all the Soldiers and civilians who work at the DFAC, that their constant hard work and dedication is being recognized", said Sgt. 1st Class Damon Howard, a native of Oklahoma City, Okla., who works as the DFAC manager.

It is not just one unit at the DFAC who has control of dining operations, but a blend of Soldiers from 172nd Infantry Brigade, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 709th Military Police Battalion and the 615th Military Police Company. The manpower totals 66 Soldiers and 47 civilian personnel.

"There have not been any major issues with mixing all the different Soldier and civilian food service workers together. We have a feeling of teamwork here, we go by the motto: one team, one fight", said Howard.

The DFAC has an average of 1,500 people served per day, with the bulk of personnel eating during breakfast and dinner.

Spc. Louis Soler, a native of Queens, N.Y., who works as a food service specialist from the 574th Quartermaster Support Company washes down a food preparation table during the lunch rush at the Grafenwoehr Dining Facility. (Photo by Spc. Robert Lynds, 18th CSSB PAO)

Spc. Billy Davis, a native of Clarksville, Tenn., who works as a food specialist for the 23rd Ordnance Company serves up lunch and a smile to a hungry Soldier at the Grafenwoehr Dining Facility. (Photo by Spc. Robert Lynds, 18th CSSB PAO)

The DFAC team also takes care of meals for Soldiers training in the field. They have fed as many as 400 Soldiers at one time, in most cases the food service specialists go out to cook for their own units in the field.

The work load calls for a lot of hours and the running of the DFAC is a 24/7 job and the Soldiers work late hours and weekends. Their shifts average eight to 12 hours and up to 16 hours depending on manpower strength.

Even with the long hours and behind-the-scenes jobs the Soldiers remain upbeat.

"I really like what I do and I want to continue to advance my career with the Army food service", said Pvt. Coy Pellegrino, a native of Scottsdale, Ariz., who works as a food service specialist from 5th Maintenance Company.

The judging for the final round of the Connelly Competition will take place between Oct 1. and Dec. 17.

7th CSC reacts to disasters during GS'10

By Spc. Glenn Anderson
7th CSC PAO

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – A chemical plant in a foreign country accidently releases a plume of toxic fumes causing panic, sickness and numerous deaths within the city where the plant is located. Adding to all the chaos, the weather makes the situation worse for the citizens who live in the area of direct impact. A call comes from the foreign country for U.S. assistance. Who will go?

Guardian Shield 10, a yearly exercise designed to train the 7th Civil Support Command in conducting consequence management operations in response to a crisis, was conducted Aug 17-20 here at Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

The 7th CSC was alerted and marshaled to Plock, Poland in the scenario. Guardian Shield 10 is one in a series of exercises to help the 7th CSC train for its mission in consequence management and civil affairs.

7th Civil Support Command's Incident Management Team members participating in Guardian Shield '10 gather within their respective sections to discuss an inject placed within the exercise. An Inject is a sudden problem that is placed within the exercise requiring solving while keeping the exercise on track. (Photo by Spc. Glenn Anserson, 7th CSC PAO)

A relatively new unit having been activated in Sept. 2009, the 7th CSC is unique as it is the only consequence management and civil affairs Reserve unit in Europe. Their sole purpose is to respond to incidents and provide immediate assistance so the effected people or country can return back to normality.

The 7th CSC provides trained and ready, forward-stationed consequence management command and control, civil support teams, and civil affairs capabilities. They also provide immediate response capability as directed by United States Army Europe.

"The focus of this one was to conduct command and control," said Capt. Major Robinson, a 7th CSC training officer and the night shift battle captain for this exercise."It is almost like night and day in how much better we were this time around."

What I see is the 7th CSC moving into a real world direction, and it won't be long before we are ready to handle it. "We are headed in the right direction," Robinson added.

Mark Terry, a consequence management defense contractor supporting the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and a GS10 exercise planner / observer controller and After Action Review facilitator, said "The 7th has its own challenges, because of personnel rotations. The beauty of the 7th CSC is that there is a strong desire to do well and to learn and if you have that, you are golden."

These exercises are conducted so that the strengths and weaknesses can be pinpointed and built upon. And as long as there are dedicated people conducting the exercise, the unit will have a really good grasp on how things are done, said Terry.

He then added that from top to bottom, the 7th CSC has a great team that wants to work toward an attainable goal. And of course the DTRA is here to help with the foreign consequence management training.

"GS10 provided some of the most realistic training for the 7th CSC with members of the Polish fire services, the Polish police force, U.S. Air Force and Navy, to give the exercise the feel of a real world event," said James Otto, 7th CSC director of emergency services.

Mother Nature brings fires, tsunamis and earthquakes to different parts of the World. Disaster strikes through accidental chemical releases or explosions. The 7th CSC continuously trains and prepares to respond if called upon.