



The **DOUBLE EAGLE**

"Twice the Citizen! Army Strong!"

NOVEMBER 2016, Vol. 5 No. 8

RESPONDING TO THOSE IN NEED

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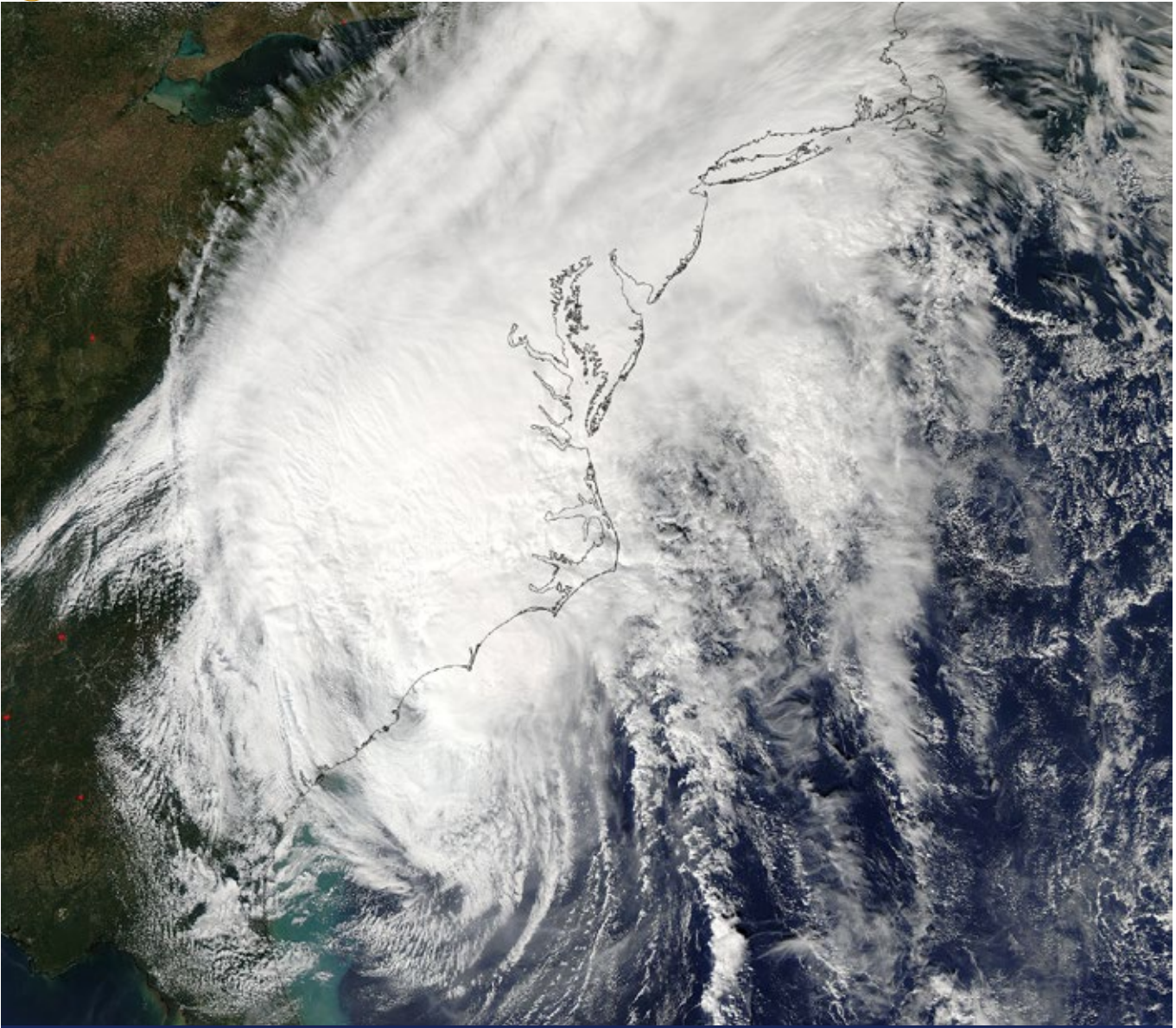




FREEZE FRAME

1st Lt. Erin Kan, a U.S. Army Reserve military police officer with the 724th Military Police Battalion, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, moves up a stairwell during the Active Shooter Threat Response Training taught at an Army Reserve installation in Nashville, Tennessee, on Sept. 27. This training is the first program in the Army Reserve to use the latest tactics taught by federal agents to defend against active shooter incidents, which will eventually train all military police armed guards across the 200th Military Police Command.

Photo by Master Sgt. MICHEL SAURET
200th Military Police Command



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HURRICANE MATTHEW

[U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs keeps lifeline open during storm.](#)

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COVER and ABOVE - On Oct. 8 at 2:20 p.m. EDT (18:20 UTC) NASA's Aqua satellite captured this visible image of Hurricane Matthew's clouds over the southeastern United States. After grazing past Florida and Georgia, the hurricane made landfall in South Carolina and crossed in North Carolina before heading out to sea leaving thousands homeless and stranded due to widespread flooding and power outages. (Photo by NASA Goddard MODIS Rapid Response Team)



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS:

"BEST IN THE ARMY RESERVE"

WINNER: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MAJ. GEN. KEITH L. WARE AWARD

HONORABLE MENTION: 2013



**CLICK HERE for
 Double Eagle back issues.**

"Best of the Best"

In 2007, the [U.S. Army Reserve](#) and [Army National Guard](#) competed for the first time in the [Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition](#). I know because I was the media relations officer for the competition - at the time, my fourth year in the position.

There were many of us involved with the competition that year who were skeptical of the abilities of these two components to compete at that level; much less win. After all, we had infantry and Special Forces Soldiers consistently winning the first four years of competition.

Shortly after the 2007 competition was over, I PCS'ed to my current position at the U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters in Atlanta. I was sure that I was free of Best Warrior competitions but was I ever wrong.

Now, 13 years later, I have seen three U.S. Army Reserve noncommissioned officers and one U.S. Army Reserve specialist [win it all](#) at the Army's premier competition - 2008, 2013, 2015 and 2016. The National Guard has produced two winners since 2008.

So what does this say about the quality of the U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard serving today? It tells me that after nearly 15 years of conflict, they are just as tactically and technically proficient as their active duty counterparts.

The U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard have been and will continue to be at the forefront; combat-ready as part of the Total Army operational force.

It doesn't matter in what component they serve, the uniform still says the same thing - [U.S. Army](#).

Every one of us at this headquarters must remember that we have an impact on each one of the 198,000 Soldiers serving in our ranks, no matter where they serve or what jobs they perform.

Our challenge is to give them our best efforts so they may give their best in defense of our nation.

In order for our Soldiers to be the "Best of the Best," we must be at our best every day. 🇺🇸



Timothy L. Hale
 Editor



REACHING OUT - Members of the U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs Fort Family team work around the clock placing wellness calls and providing access to emergency resources to those affected by Hurricane Matthew in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina. (Courtesy photo U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs)

Responding to those in need

Story & photos by Contributing Writer

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — *“It’s incumbent upon all of us as part of the institution ... to really take care of that Soldier and importantly, their Family. By doing so, we are contributing to the readiness of the force.”* — **Gen. Mark A. Milley**, Chief of Staff of the Army

The mission of taking care of Soldiers and Families is the role of **U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs**. While Hurricane Matthew was causing severe property damage, injuries, and loss

of life, the members of the Family Programs Fort Family Outreach and Support Center were working throughout the storm to ensure that **U.S. Army Reserve** Families located within its projected path were accounted for and received the assistance they needed.

“Fort Family is by the U.S. Army Reserve, for the U.S. Army Reserve,” said Charlotte Douglas, Family Readiness division chief, U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs.

“Our goal for this effort is to track the Families and the Soldiers. We provide resources that will help them through their perspective crisis. They were dealing with a lot of evacuations, flooding, power outages, and food going bad,” said Donna Brown, Fort Family contract program manager.

Hurricane Matthew claimed hundreds of lives in the Caribbean before making its way towards the southeastern coast of the U.S.

“We were tracking the storm as it traveled up the coast as it was set to affect Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia,” said Brown. “We tried to identify the U.S. Army Reserve households in those states, which we do through our information system.”

“One of the first things we wanted to do when we started those calls, was to look at the affected area, but we also wanted to filter it by the mobilized Soldiers,” Douglas said. “If the Soldier is out of the home we need to make sure we are giving that Family our first and foremost

support, because if the Soldier is supporting this country, we need to support their Family.”

Members of the Fort Family team worked closely with the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) as impacted areas were refined and different areas were identified. The fluid movement of the storm situation required a watchful eye, as an individual may have been identified in a safe zone, but may have been re-designated in an impact zone or traveled to one.

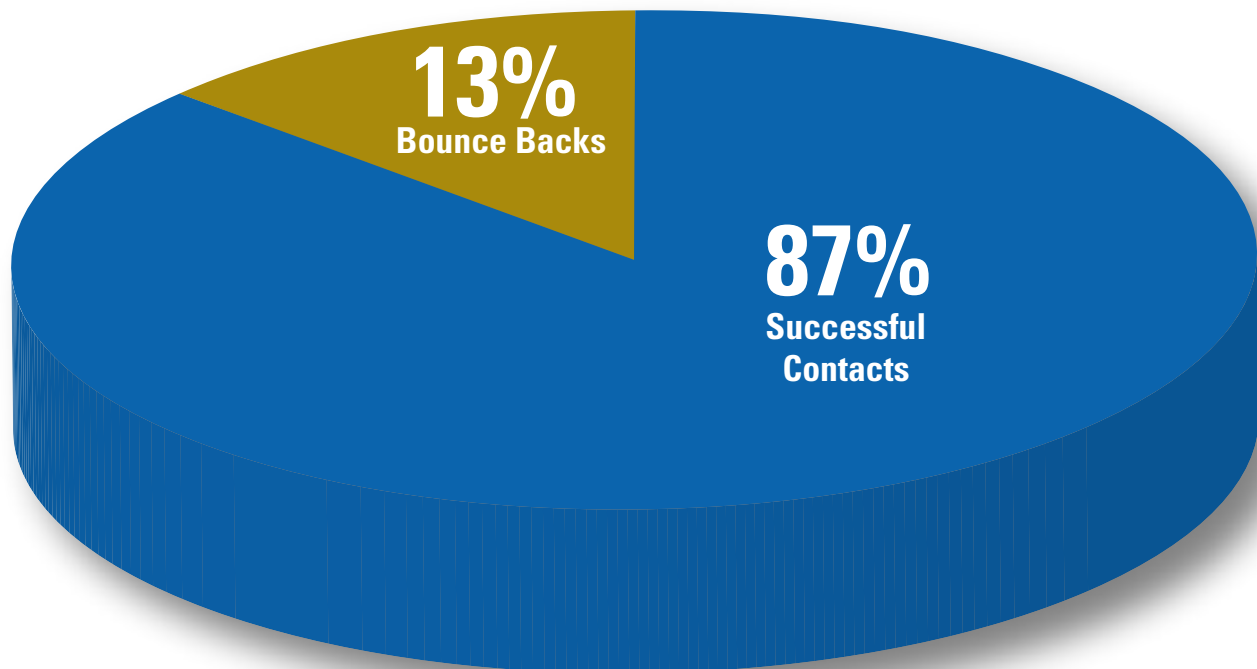
“Someone in a county on the west coast of the state may have very easily driven to a county in

the impact zone to assist a Family member,” said Brown.

The Family Programs Fort Family team sent out over 35,000 e-blasts, alerting Families to the danger and identifying available resources they could use should the need arise. The broad e-blast was followed by more focused outreach calls which reached thousands as the storm progressed.

“We had several cases where Soldiers were evacuating their parents who were in the impacted zone, so that’s why we always start to identify very broadly, then narrow our focus as we track the storm and see where it’s really

Fort Family Outreach Service Center Hurricane Matthew Email Blast



During the Hurricane Matthew event, 35,046 eblasts were sent to Army Reserve personnel in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia. Of those, there were 30,759 contacts made for an 87% success rate.

SOURCE: Army Reserve Fort Family

Graphic by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command

hitting,” said Brown.

Hurricane Matthew didn't just affect the Soldiers and Families of the U.S. Army Reserve. The individuals dedicated to help them faced their own struggles.

“We had some of our own team members who were impacted and unable to come in to work. They were either surrounded by water, or had power lines and trees down, so of course they had to take care of their Families first,” said Brown. “Those of us who were not impacted sort of hunkered down for the event. We came in on Friday and didn't leave until Monday or Tuesday.”

“I am beyond impressed with how the Fort Family team responded, from the moment they were first notified, jumping into gear, continuously maintaining and sustaining throughout the weekend,” said Paulla Conant, Soldier Support Division chief, U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs. “Their dedication speaks volumes to their commitment to our Soldiers and Families, and I am proud of them.”

Fort Family, which is a program division of U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs, received assistance from staff members of other programs, collaborative partners, and from senior leaders at U.S. Army Reserve Command.

“It's sort of a ‘whatever it takes’ to get it done,” said Brown. “The average was 12-18 hours worked per day.”

Brown, Douglas, and other leaders at USARC commended the Family Programs Fort Family team for their dedication during a trying time.

“I hope our response sends the message that we are here for them and it isn't just a job, it's a passion. Every single person on our team has empathy and compassion for our Soldiers and Families,” said Brown.

Many of the team members with Fort Family share a deep-seeded connection with the military, as many of them are military spouses, reserve component Soldiers themselves, or have military members in their Family.

That connection allows for a greater level of understanding, and contributes to the empathy felt by the credentialed victim advocates of Fort Family, according to Brown.

Such understanding was reached when a

member of U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs made a wellness call to Master Sgt. Sandra Cook, non-commissioned officer in-charge assigned to USARC G-1. Cook who lives in Linden, N.C., was impacted greatly during the hurricane, sustaining roughly \$30,000 worth of damages to her home and property, according to Cook.

“The currents hit the houses so hard that they pushed in the garage doors,” said Cook.

As the water level rose in her home, Cook and other neighbors in her community had to be evacuated by emergency services.

“It's surreal when you look at it. A few years ago watching Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy on T.V., then it's us,” said Cook.

The Fort Family Outreach and Support Center's commitment to the U.S. Army Reserve Family pushed the team through the difficult event, making wellness calls, providing emergency services contact resources, and doing follow-up phone calls with those who may have been impacted.

The wellness call to Cook allowed her to get a detailed list of resources provided by Fort Family after she was able to assess the damages caused by the hurricane.

“What you really have to look at is the individual Family, that one person,” said Douglas. “A Soldier who called in that was deployed and said my wife needs to evacuate, she doesn't have anywhere to go, and we help her find a place, if that was the only thing we did all weekend, it was worthwhile.”

“Yes we look at numbers, but the real number is one, that one person who needed help and had nowhere else to turn. They're a Soldier, a part of this Family, the big U.S. Army Reserve Family and we had that impact on them,” said Douglas.

“It was overwhelming. They were trying to find any way to help, and it was awesome for them to reach out,” said Cook.

While Hurricane Matthew has since disappeared, the wake of its destruction lingers, and the work of those in Fort Family continues.

“At this point in time the wind and the rain has stopped, but the need will become greater over the next few days as Families get home and find out the damages that happened to their homes and things they need now,” Douglas said.


“We are going to focus, for at least the next few



MEETING THE TEAM - Maj. Gen. David J. Conboy, Deputy Commanding General (Operations), U.S. Army Reserve Command, visits with members of the U.S. Army Reserve Fort Family team to say thank you at USARC headquarters, October 11, 2016. Members of the U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs Fort Family team have been working around the clock in order to assist Soldiers and their Families in the wake of Hurricane Matthew which devastated parts of North Carolina.

weeks, on these Families as much as those who were affected during the time of the storm,” she said.

“We are a Family, and in an emergency the first Family you take care of is yours. U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers are part of our Family, and they are the first people we need to take care of,” Douglas said.

The significant outreach provided by the Fort Family team relied heavily on the Soldier and Families contact information provided in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and Army Disaster Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (ADPAAS). Soldiers are encouraged to update their information in the systems to ensure future efforts have even greater impact at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/> - adpaas.army.mil/. 



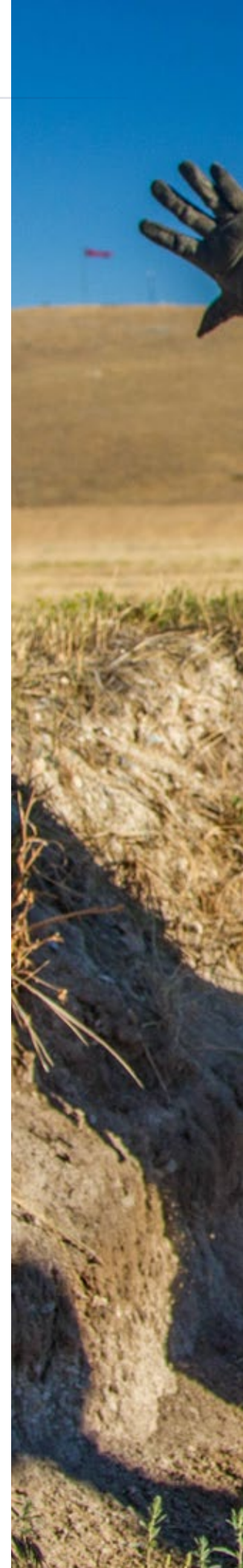
2016 ARMY BEST WARRIOR

**Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Moeller
wins NCO of the Year title**

■ **Third U.S. Army Reserve NCO to win in the last four years.**

Story begins on Page 12

FRAG OUT! - Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Moeller, 2016 U.S. Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition Noncommissioned Officer of the Year winner, tosses a training grenade at Fort Harrison, Mont., Aug. 9, in preparation for the Department of the Army Best Warrior competition held at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. (Photo by Calvin Reimold/U.S. Army Reserve Command)





LEADING OFF: 2016 NCO OF THE YEAR



MOELLER NAMED THE 2016 ARMY BEST WARRIOR NCO OF THE YEAR



Story by TIMOTHY L. HALE
U.S. Army Reserve Command

WASHINGTON - For the second year in a row, a [U.S. Army Reserve](#) noncommissioned officer was named the [2016 Army Best Warrior](#) NCO of the Year.

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Moeller, the [2016 U.S. Army Reserve Best Warrior](#) winner in May, competed at the Army-level competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, Sept. 26-30, besting nine other NCOs from across the Army.

Moeller follows in the footsteps of U.S. Army Reserve of Staff Sgt. Andrew Fink, the 2015 Army NCO winner. He also joins the company of Sgt. 1st Class Jason Manella, the 2013 Army NCO winner, and Spc. David Obray, the 2008 Army Soldier of the Year.

MEDIC! - Moeller, treats a simulated casualty, opposite page, and calls in a 9-line MEDEVAC, left, at the U.S. Army 2016 Best Warrior Competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., Sept. 28. (Photo by Spc. Michel'le Stokes/55th Signal Company (COMCAM).



JUST ONE MORE - Moeller participates in the sit-up event during the U.S. Army 2016 Best Warrior Competition. (Photo by Spc. Michel'le Stokes/55th Signal Company (COMCAM).

The announcement was made Oct. 3 during the [Association of the United States Army](#) Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Moeller, a 36-year-old 16-year Army veteran who lives in Riverside, California, is a former cavalry scout and is now a senior drill sergeant with 2nd Battalion, 413th Infantry Regiment, [95th Training Division \(Individualized Training\)](#), [108th Training Command \(Individual Entry Training\)](#) in San Diego. He deployed once to Afghanistan and twice to Iraq.

After winning the U.S. Army Reserve competition in May at Fort Bragg, N.C., Moeller said he knew the Army-level competition would be a challenge.

"I know I'm going up against the entire Army's best," Moeller said. "That means I really need to bring my game and step it up a few notches and

really study hard for this next one."

But his journey to the Army NCOY title wasn't without some personal difficulty along the way.

"Five days after I won the U.S. Army Reserve competition, I broke my right fibula and twisted my ankle 90-degrees to the right playing in an adult-league soccer game," Moeller said, laughing about it now. "I was pretty concerned that I had taken myself out of the running for the Army competition."

But Moeller didn't let his time in a cast take away from his preparation.

"During my recovery my mind was still in the game. I had my face in the books and manuals and I was reading regulations online. Even if I knew something I went back over it because some of that information is perishable," he said.

Once out of the cast, Moeller and fellow USARC Best Warrior Soldier of the Year, Spc. Michael S.

Orozco, along with NCO and Soldier of the Year runner-ups Sgt. 1st Class Robert D. Jones and Spc. Carlo Deldonno, travelled to Fort Harrison, Montana for three weeks of training to prepare for the Army competition.

“The training the U.S. Army Reserve Command put on was more than I could have hoped for as far as the pace and depth and breadth,” Moeller said. “Not only the tactical training but the leadership training we went through. All of it was important to becoming an overall, well-rounded leader and NCO.

“I also attended the Senior Leader Course that was a month-long training of talking everything and anything military with infantrymen, tankers, mortar crews. It was coincidental but extremely helpful,” he said.

The month before the competition, Moeller spent at least one day a week on a range back home in California using his own personal weapons to maintain his proficiency.

Collectively, all of this training helped him prepare for the physical and mental aspects of the Army competition.

“There was so much out-of-the box training events at the Army Best Warrior competition,” he said. “All of the events were designed to get the Warriors to think their way through each event. It was a physical competition but so much more of it was mental.”

He said his toughest event was the 12-mile ruck march.

“I consider myself to be a very strong ruck march Soldier but the toughest hill was at the end of mile three,” he said. “We were gassed but we knew we had nine more miles to go. Usually I can tell within the first few minutes or miles who is strong, who is going to be dropped.

“But on this one, you had 20 of the Army’s best Soldiers so everyone was strong. I can usually start pulling away but I looked around and there were still Soldiers around me. I managed to catch a group ahead of me but they started to pull away. That’s when those doubts start creeping in and you have to tell yourself to just keep pushing.”

When the announcement was made he was able to immediately share the moment with his girlfriend Lisa Cho, a California attorney, who was at the ceremony.

“I hugged her immediately,” he said. “I was glad

she was there to share the moment.” He said his entire family is proud of him and he will be having a belated birthday and NCOY winner celebration in the next few weeks at his mother’s house in San Diego.

In the week following the announcement, Moeller and Army Soldier of the Year, Spc. Robert Miller, representing U.S. Army Pacific Command, were treated like royalty the rest of the week at the AUSA meeting and exposition.

“As soon it was announced the fun really started. It was a constant barrage of congratulations,” Moeller said. “We never stopped moving. Media interviews, attending some of the meetings, and canvassing the exposition floor meeting people at all of the displays. I’m a techie-kind of guy and I loved getting to see and get my hands on all of the new technology for the Army.”

Moeller said he would be put on orders to work in the office of the Sergeant Major of the Army for the next year. He said he will also be making some personal appearances on behalf of the Army and the U.S. Army Reserve at events like the Army All-American Bowl and maybe even the Army-Navy game.

If he had one piece of advice for fellow U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers who want to compete at this level it would be to ask, “What does being a Best Warrior mean to you personally?”

“Warrior is in the name. The first thing you have to do is shoot, move, communicate, survive, and adapt and do it again and again. You have to study and keep studying over and over. And take some time to do some self-reflection. When your body starts to give out and those psychological demons start talking you have to be able to shake them off and keep pushing.”

He said ultimately, competing at this level is a personal commitment to increase individual and personal readiness.

“Competing in BWC is training, no matter how you slice it,” he said. “It’s the highest level of training over a long period of time. They need to sharpen and hone their abilities as individuals and this directly correlates back to the unit. The individual and the whole team reap the benefits. It’s real-life training that helps every Soldier achieve their fullest potential.” 🇺🇸

LEADING OFF: 200TH MILITARY POLICE COMMAND





Defending lives in **CLOSE QUARTERS**

Story & photos by Master Sgt. MICHEL SAURET
200th Military Police Command

BEGINS ON PAGE 18

STAY DOWN! - Spc. Megan Barrett, a U.S. Army Reserve military police Soldier with the 724th Military Police Battalion, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, prepares to engage a suspect during the Active Shooter Threat Response Training taught at an Army Reserve installation in Nashville, Tennessee, on Sept. 29. This training is the first program in the Army Reserve to use the latest tactics taught by federal agents to defend against active shooter incidents, which will eventually train all military police armed guards across the 200th Military Police Command.



HANDS UP! - Innocent civilians run past Staff Sgt. William Taylor, a U.S. Army Reserve military police Soldier with the 160th Military Police Battalion, Tallahassee, Florida, during the Active Shooter/Threat Response Training taught at an Army Reserve installation in Nashville, Tennessee, on Sept. 29.

DEFENDING LIVES IN CLOSE QUARTERS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – It’s not every day that an office building resembles a battle zone. But when a man with a gun enters the room and starts shooting, hallways full of doors and cubicles suddenly become a labyrinth of hidden dangers.

About 14 months ago, a man opened fire on one recruiting center and a stand-alone military installation in Chattanooga, Tennessee, targeting service members who didn’t carry weapons on the job.

In December 2015, the [Department of the Army](#) authorized armed guards to protect every installation.

Now, a major military police organization within the [U.S. Army Reserve](#) has launched its first-ever

Active Shooter/Threat Response Training, a program using the latest tactics employed by federal agents against these types of shootings. The program started in Nashville, just two hours away from where the Chattanooga attacks happened.

“When we are talking about an active shooter or an active threat, that’s a very chaotic situation. A very emotional, scary, horrific situation,” said Sgt. 1st Class Donald Snow, the senior training manager for this course who developed the curriculum for the [200th Military Police Command](#).

The 200th is an U.S. Army Reserve command and the largest military police organization in the entire [Department of Defense](#), responsible for roughly 14,000 Soldiers.

In general practice, the U.S. Army Reserve has developed a specific response protocol for Soldiers in case of an active shooter threat. Those tactics cannot be disclosed, but it partners installations with local emergency responders. Armed guards are implemented as necessary, fighting in response to a threat according to the specified protocol.

This military police program focuses on armed guard training. It's the first time an official program has been developed from scratch, using instructors certified by the [Federal Law Enforcement Training Center \(FLETC\)](#), a training branch that belongs to the [Department of Homeland Security](#).

"The training there was way above what anything I've experienced as far as scenario-based role-players. Just the way that FLETC treated us was amazing," said Sgt. 1st Class Grant Smith, one of the lead instructors for the course and a military police Soldier with 19 years of Army experience.

While FLETC was not allowed to give officials with the 200th their training documents, Snow developed the majority of the training slides from memory and experience, using the FLETC course model as his platform. Toward the end, FLETC reviewed

REFINING TECHNIQUES - Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Suckiel and 1st Lt. Erin Kan, top, U.S. Army Reserve military police Soldiers within the 290th Military Police Brigade, move through a hallway during the Active Shooter Threat Response Training.

A group of U.S. Army Reserve military police Soldiers, middle and bottom, work on room-clearing procedures during the training.





AFTER ACTION REVIEW - Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Grote, U.S. Army Reserve instructor for the Active Shooter Threat Response Training, gives feedback to military police Soldiers going through the training.

their curriculum before the team launched the first session in Tennessee.

Officials with the 200th began planning for this training event 10 months ago.

“The program was born out of a vision to do something proactive instead of reactive, and to train our Soldiers on how to mitigate the threat before they actually, God forbid, had to see a threat (in real life),” said Sgt. Maj. Randall Cooper, the course’s program director and a senior member of the 200th.

The first training event took place on Sept. 27-29 to train a group armed guards from the 290th Military Police Brigade, headquartered in Nashville. Most of these armed guards are also qualified military police Soldiers, a job that specializes in law enforcement and combat support.

The command plans to train three more brigades over the next 12 months.

The process can take time because of how

specialized the training is, according to the instructors and course manager. Soldiers who attended this training were screened and handpicked by their commanders. Each instructor was personally selected by Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Owens, the senior enlisted advisor for the 200th, who first came up with the idea for a command-wide program last year.

During their typical Warrior training, Soldiers shoot targets 50 to 300 meters away, fighting the enemy out in the open as teams, squads or platoons. The closest thing to armed guard training is when Soldiers clear small buildings as four or five-member teams. Yet, even those situations are very different from this. They have the element of surprise on their side, and the buildings they clear are very small.

“What these (Soldiers) are getting, you saw, you’re not taught that stuff in basic training,” said Cooper.

If required to fight, armed guards need to think quick on their feet. They have to recognize victims from perpetrators in a split moment, moving through a huge building filled with cubicles, doorways, hallways, stairs, and respond with a warrior mindset, making a hundred tiny decisions a second, each of which could cost their lives or save others. Each minute delayed could cost a life, or two, or ten.

“That’s truly the warrior mindset: to accept that you’re going into a situation where you may have to kill somebody or you may be putting your own life in danger to save others, and that’s a huge responsibility,” said Snow.

This is not training that should be taken lightly.

For that reason, the 200th selected a group of 14 instructors to train at the FLETC in New Mexico in April where they received the latest active shooter response tactics. It was an intensive five-day, certification course that used life-like scenarios that stimulated every sense. In order to graduate, these instructors had to pass a final scenario involving about 70 role-players, then teach the course back to

their own instructors as experts.

These instructors were selected for this course because of their professionalism and experience. They include Soldiers who have trained and worked in private security, as active duty military police, civilian law enforcement and even a police officer who now works for the Pentagon.

“I have full confidence that I can handle the situation, but actually having the training from people who have taken extensive amounts of classes ... I don’t think it could have been put together by a better group of people or any better training because of their credentials ... The training these instructors are bringing to the table is top of the line,” said Spc. Travis Farrar, one of the first Army Reserve armed guards to take the course and a military police Soldier with the 290th MP Bde.

The hope is that none of these Soldiers ever have to use this training in real life, especially with the help of local law enforcement in place. But if they have to, these armed guards said they won’t hesitate to act. 🇺🇸



BACK-UP - Sgt. 1st Class John Salinas, instructor with the 200th Military Police Command, and Spc. Megan Barrett, a U.S. Army Reserve military police Soldier with the 724th Military Police Battalion, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, secure opposite ends of a hallway.



(GRAPHIC courtesy FAA via USARC G-34)

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS): Drones could pose serious security threats to U.S. Army Reserve facilities and personnel

Story by JONATHAN P. LEDTARD
USARC G-34/Antiterrorism

Let's face it, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), also known as drones, are pretty cool.

In the past few years, drones have exploded in popularity and a frenzy of new enthusiasts are lining up to buy one. Even businesses like Amazon introduced new innovations in home delivery using drones.

As the use of drones increases, the potential for harm increases alongside it. The [Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\)](#) has enacted new regulations (www.faa.gov/uas) regarding the operation of drones and all users should be aware of what is authorized and what is prohibited.

We've all heard stories of people flying too close to airports, spying on their neighbors or even losing control and crashing. The use of drones comes with a responsibility and operators should be familiar with state and federal laws governing the operation of drones.

If you see somebody hovering a drone over a [U.S. Army Reserve](#) center, it's probably wrong and you should report it to local police.

The Army recognizes there are risks associated with the potential adversary's use of drones to plan, prepare, and carry out pre-operational activity against Army information, people, and facilities. Due to their growing availability, drones may become increasingly susceptible to exploitation by terrorists to conduct surveillance or even attacks. As technology advances and prices decrease, commercially available drones will become increasingly affordable and available to the public.

Knowing a terrorist can get their hands on a drone and cause harm is alarming. But there are ways to mitigate these vulnerabilities.

First, we need to enhance the community awareness of authorized and prohibited use of drones. (FAA provides rules for operating UAS at www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/).

Next, the public needs to be informed on how to report suspicious drone activity to the proper law enforcement authorities. So educate yourself, family, and friends on what right looks like and report what isn't. Be sure to look out for any signs prohibiting the use of drones.

The [Army's](#) Antiterrorism theme for the first quarter (October through December) of fiscal year 2017 is Unmanned Aerial Systems. So why is this important to the U.S. Army Reserve?

Drones are relatively new to the scene and the general public may not be aware of where you can fly them. It's important to do your homework before you take them out.

Remember to register your drone with the FAA, check federal, state and local county laws on when and where you can operate drones safely.

As a general rule of thumb, flying drones near airports and federal buildings without permission is prohibited.

Once you familiarize yourself with the rules regulating drone operation, it can be a blast.

Many people have shared captivating images and videos using drones that will simply take your breath away. Not only can you record images in hard-to-get to areas, but it's just plain fun flying these things.

The FAA provides a summary of rules at www.faa/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf. Remember, it is everyone's responsibility to report suspicious activity.

If you see something, say something. 🇺🇸



(FILE PHOTO Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)



Chief Army Reserve Sends



“READINESS 2016”

Standard Operating Procedures November 2016

- **Mandatory:** The written procedures that **MUST** be followed when performing a task
- **Application:** Required when tasks are complex or involve hazardous materials
- **Outcome:** Correctly developed SOPs lead to work that is performed satisfactorily and efficiently, with minimal risk, and the highest possible levels of safety.

Writing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is a team effort. The team is composed of personnel with experience and expertise in the operation being documented. They conduct a hazard assessment and develop the SOP. Agreement by the SOP team is based on their assessment of the safest and most logical way to perform a given task.

Before writing the SOP, consider at least the following:

- Work environment, supplies, safety equipment, clothing and hazards
- Before writing, observe knowledgeable workers performing the task (without hazardous materials) as an initial walkthrough
- Include supervisors to ensure no steps are overlooked and the process is correct
- During the walkthrough, Safety will observe and note any hazards that may occur – the hazard assessment will be included in the SOP

While writing the SOP, analyze each step in accomplishing the task using the following criteria:

- The user is successfully directed to accomplish the steps objective
- The procedure is useable and accurate
- Each step complies with applicable standards and regulations
- There is sufficient detail, presenting all important information without superfluous information
- Write in short, simple words and sentences using a vocabulary appropriate to workers
- For munitions and/or explosives the SOP must include contingency plans, emergency preparedness, and security, including how to notify emergency response and environmental agencies

After writing the SOP, take at least the following actions:

- Review the final draft SOP by subject matter experts within and external to the performing organization
- Review is conducted by component personnel with specialized knowledge (safety, environmental, logistics, quality assurance, fire/emergency services, engineering, etc.)

Using the SOP during operations, supervisors will take at least the following actions:

- Supervisors will use the SOP to train employees
- Supervisors will verify that SOP requirements are being followed during day-to-day operations

“Ready in 2016” When writing and using SOPs, apply USAR Regulation 385-2 and DA PAM 385-10

Be Thankful Each Day

By CHAPLAIN (COL.) ALAN POMAVILLE
USARC Command Chaplain

Thanksgiving is a great Holiday that began initially when the Pilgrims celebrated a plentiful harvest with their Indian friends, after nearly dying in the previous year. Many gave thanks to God for life, provision, protection and abundance. The Pilgrims most likely read scriptures about giving thanks such as Psalms 100 and 1st Thessalonians chapter 5.

Pres. George Washington affirmed Thanksgiving in his 1789 proclamation in which he wrote: "Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country."

In 1863 Pres. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday, writing: "The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God."

Lincoln was right that people are prone to forget where their blessings come from. Indeed, it is easier to remember negative things. But if we take time to count up all of our blessings, we can truly be thankful to God.

Being thankful is a choice and we have much to be grateful for individually and corporately as a nation. There are many benefits to being thankful.

Thankfulness usually helps people be happier, joyful, grateful, optimistic and hopeful for the future; while it combats negativity, stress and depression. Having a thankful attitude increases resilience and the ability to bounce back from the tough times that life may bring. Most importantly, God is more likely to bless individuals, Families, and a nation that is truly grateful and gives Him thanks. We want you to be blessed and encouraged and to pass that onto the Soldiers and Families under your care.

Command Chief Chaplain Assistant, Sgt. Maj. Anthony Pamplin, and I, consistently hear our U.S. Army Reserve and Army leaders say how thankful they are for Soldiers and Families like you who faithfully care for our Troops and serve our nation! Thank you for your faithful service and we are so grateful for you!

On behalf of our Command Chaplain Team ~ we pray God will bless you, your loved ones and all of our Soldiers and Families! 🇺🇸

FORSCOM/USARC Christian Bible Study

**U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command
hosts a weekly Christian Bible study.**

**Studies are held each Tuesday,
starting at 11:30 a.m., Room 1901 near the USARC G-4.
Please come and share a time of fellowship and worship with us.**

**"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that
the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."**

2nd Timothy 3:16-17





DRILL SERGEANTS STRENGTHEN THEIR MINDS.
CHAPLAINS STRENGTHEN THEIR SOULS.



Balocki says farewell to USARC; sets sail for the Navy



James Balocki, U.S. Army Reserve chief executive officer, gives his remarks during his farewell ceremony at the USARC headquarters, Oct. 26, at Fort Bragg, N.C. Balocki says goodbye to the Army after a combined 35 years of uniformed and civilian service to take a Senior Executive Service position with the Department of the Navy.

Story & photos by **TIMOTHY L. HALE**
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – After nearly three years as the [Chief Executive Officer for the U.S. Army Reserve, James B. Balocki](#), is charting a new course in his senior executive service career – this time with the Department of the Navy.

As someone who has spent the majority of his career in engineering, Balocki said that he is looking forward to this new challenge, but has fond memories of his time with the [U.S. Army Reserve](#). He said the success he has witnessed since his arrival in 2014 rests squarely on the shoulders of the Soldiers and civilians within the force.

“I wouldn’t hang it (success) on me, I would attribute it to the teams that we built here,” Balocki

said. “It’s really the realization that if you select great people and you build great teams you can accomplish great things. With the team leadership that we have, it’s easy.”

He also attributed success to getting away from the headquarters and meeting the Soldiers and civilians who do the work on a daily basis.

“You’ve got to go out into the environment and get your boots dirty and find out all the greatness that you think you’re delivering ‘What does it look like at the end of the string?’” he said. “By the time it gets down there, it may not be so great.”

He said it’s important to bring that feedback into the headquarters and, if necessary, adjusting the

requirements to meet the original intent.

He said one of his biggest challenges when he stepped into the role of chief executive was to understand the culture of the U.S. Army Reserve. He said each function within the Army – ranging from engineers to combat arms – has its own culture and understanding the culture is necessary to be an effective leader.

“It (U.S. Army Reserve) operates with its own language and belief and value system, mirroring the overall Army system. It takes time, at least a year, to being immersed in that culture to understand how to effect change.

“I retired out of the Army staff at headquarters Department of the Army but my first four years in the Senior Executive Service was with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, again kind of a special culture. What this has taught me is that leading in different cultures is hard and challenging but it’s really enjoyable. Which is why I have chosen to go and lead in another culture with the Navy and the Marine Corps.”

Balocki’s next step with the Navy will take him back to Washington, D.C. where he will work on the [Secretary of the Navy staff for Energy](#).

[Installations, and Environment](#) as a deputy assistant secretary.

“My portfolio will consist of all the Navy and Marine Corps installations worldwide, military construction, and base operations,” he said. “It’s really in my sweet spot in an area that I know, enjoy, and understand pretty well although it’s in a different service.”

He said another reason was for Family purposes. Balocki has been a geographic bachelor during his time with the U.S. Army Reserve.

“It’s not a problem but certainly a challenge to continue Family life, as many in the headquarters have or continue to experience,” he said. “Many of them have been operating that way for a lot longer than I have.”

He also said he had the feeling the teams within the U.S. Army Reserve had coalesced into viable and productive organizations.

“These teams are producing great results and I was seeing irreversible momentum had been created in a number of areas. So at that point, you start believing that it’s time for them to prove their mettle to somebody else. It just felt like the right time,” he said. 🇺🇸



LTG Charles D. Luckey, left, Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, presents a certificate of appreciation to Marie Balocki, wife of James Balocki, U.S. Army Reserve chief executive officer, at the USARC headquarters, during Balocki’s farewell ceremony.

FORSCOM/USARC hosts Cybersecurity Expo





ARE YOU CYBER SAFE? - A Cybersecurity Expo, hosted by the U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters, was held Oct. 3, at Fort Bragg, N.C. The expo was held to increase awareness of cybersecurity threats and how they impact day-to-day Army operations.

Army civilians, above, take a cybersecurity quiz during the Cybersecurity Expo. Depending on how well they scored on the quiz, left, they earned the chance to win a prize. (Photos by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)

U.S. Army Reserve Soldier reaches new heights; earns coveted Free Fall badge



FREE FALLING - U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Justin P. Morelli, a combat cameraman assigned to the 982nd Combat Camera Company, 335th Signal Command (Theater), practices his free fall techniques during a four-week Free fall Parachutist course in Yuma, Arizona. Morelli recently successfully completed the course, becoming the first Army Reserve combat cameraman to do so. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army)

Story by **SGT. 1ST CLASS BRENT POWELL**
335th Signal Command (Theater)

EAST POINT, Ga. – Many people set high goals for themselves, but one U.S. Army Reserve Soldier here set his goals higher than most, aiming at an achievement that would take him more than 12,500 feet above the ground.

U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Justin P. Morelli, a combat cameraman, assigned to the [982nd Combat Camera Company, 335th Signal Command \(Theater\)](#), watched his goals become reality recently when he became the first combat cameraman to earn the coveted [Free Fall Parachutist Badge](#) after successfully completing the four-week military free fall

course in Yuma, Arizona.

To earn the badge, the military member first must receive all necessary ground training, have earned the Parachutist Badge (be jump-qualified), and must complete all of the course required free fall jumps, which include night operations, jumps with full combat equipment, and jumps utilizing an oxygen system.

“This goal has always been a dream of mine,” said Morelli. “When I first started in this specialty, I read in some of our doctrine that the combat camera field had military freefall qualified personnel, but as

I started to meet people and talk to them about it, I never met anyone who had actually been through the course. So about a year ago, I dug deeper into the regulations and began making a case that we need to start a free fall program.”

The next step in the process was convincing his command to approve the idea, find a seat in the school, and ensure funding was available for it. He also had to pass several in-depth physicals. “The command was very supportive of me pursuing this opportunity, and offered assistance when and where it was needed. The process itself was pretty lengthy because the free fall physical is much more in-depth than most.” Morelli had to travel to Fort Rucker, Alabama and go through a hyperbaric pressure chamber to ensure he could withstand the pressure and oxygen changes at high altitudes. He also had to travel to Fort Benning on three separate occasions to complete the qualification physical.

Once he was medically cleared and had a reserved seat in the course, he showed up at the school and began in processing. “It was very evident to me early on in the course, that the instructors and the personnel in charge of the school were very supportive and really wanted to make this capability available to combat camera,” said Morelli.

The first week of the course is ground week which encompasses a lot of classroom time and time in the wind tunnel, where students learn how to properly position their body in the air during the free fall. “All of the main free fall fundamentals necessary to complete the course are covered during that first week,” said Morelli. “You learn about your equipment, your procedures, and how to pack a parachute.”

The second week of the course, the students make their first free fall jump and then continue jumping and practicing their skills 2-3 times a day until the end of the course.

“Each jump is a progression,” he said. “You start off jumping with just a parachute, your plate carrier, and a helmet, so that you learn what free fall feels like. By the end of the course, you will be part of an entire team of free fall personnel jumping at night at a high altitude with oxygen, full combat equipment,

and your individual weapon with the goal of landing on a target no more than 100 meters from the first person to the last.”

Morelli, who completed 20 free fall jumps during the course, felt it was important for him to achieve this goal because it adds another capability to his career field. “As a combat camera operator I’m supposed to document a mission from start to finish, but if I can’t get to work that day because I don’t have the qualifications to jump with the rest of the team on a mission, then I don’t have a complete story and can’t provide my full capability to the elements that need it.”



Staff Sgt. Justin P. Morelli

Now that he successfully completed the course, Morelli looks to the future and sees more of his fellow combat camera Soldiers following in his footsteps. “I believe that information can win wars without bullets and what better way to provide information than through still and video imagery,” he said. “As our specialty becomes more well-known and our information campaign is implemented throughout the theater of operation we are in, I want my combat camera operators to be looked at as what they are: force

multipliers and enablers that can move around the battlespace and provide the best product possible to battlefield commanders. To do that they need more tactical training, more infiltration capabilities and a solid understanding of an operational environment. With those things they will be able to consistently perform their job and provide outstanding products to our customers.”

Morelli also has some advice for others who have set high goals for themselves. “Just because someone says it can’t be done doesn’t mean there’s not a way,” he said. “Set your sights on something that’s important to you and work the different angles to see if it is indeed a possibility. If it’s possible, talk to the right people who will support you and help you along the way, and do what you can to prepare yourself to achieve that goal.”

With graduation from the course now behind him, Morelli hopes to continue taking to the skies and eventually log 200 jumps.

“I’m just going to continue jumping and learn as much as I can about my new capability,” he said. 🇺🇸

HERE IT COMES

The Great Outdoors

Autumn and winter offer a number of exciting activities for outdoor enthusiasts. However, they also present challenges unique to the cooler-weather months. Whether hunting, hiking or riding an ATV, ensure you're prepared for all the hazards the change of seasons bring.



READY ...OR NOT?

<https://safety.army.mil>

Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their readiness for what lies ahead - both the known and unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?

