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2-1 BCT UME TEAM OF THE QUARTER

By Mike Beauregard



Congratulations go out to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Unit Managed Equipment (UME) Augmentation Team for winning Hood Hero Team of the Quarter Award, 1st Quarter, FY12. The team was recognized by COL Mark Freitag, Garrison Commander for their outstanding commitment and dedication to 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. This team worked side-by-side with unit Soldiers in order to execute the 1st Cavalry Division Commander's maintenance vision. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and professionalism were a constant reminder to 2nd Brigade of DOL's commitment to them and all Soldiers on Fort Hood. Now that 2nd Brigade's UME mission ended March 31, you will see new faces in the shops, so please make these individuals feel welcome in your areas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

By Mike Beauregard

We just sent 20 mechanics to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii to support 3-25 Infantry's LBE mission. These individuals are scheduled to remain through July 13 to assist Soldiers and the local ASC AFSBn to repair over 670 pieces of equipment to 10/20 standards. We are also sending five mechanics to Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER), Alaska to support 4-25 Infantry's LBE mission as an advance party to TI and order parts. The main body of 34 mechanics will depart May 14 and remain in Alaska through September 15. This is the same mission to Alaska we performed in the summer of 2010, so we have a good working relationship with the JBER DOL. Being asked to return to Alaska says a lot about the quality of work we do, but more importantly, the quality of individuals we have working within the Ground Maintenance Branch—well done!

RETIREMENTS

By Mike Beauregard



We said goodbye to many friends over the last six months. Most of them took IMCOM's VERA/VSIP offer to retire early, some did not. I could tell how difficult retirement was for some of them. As they said goodbye to me, their coworkers, and friends I could see in their eyes both joy and sadness. The joy of starting a new adventure with family and friends, and also the sadness that they would not see the people they have come to call friends every day when they came to work. There is something special to be said about lifelong relationships we develop over a 20 to 30 plus year career. It was quite apparent about some lasting relationships that developed throughout the Ground Maintenance Branch that will certainly transcend retirement. We said goodbye to the following employees: Anne Quinton, Albert Hasty, Victor Rodriguez, Santos Lopez, Cora Dates, James McCarley, David Buckley, Steve Doubleday, Sherry McCluer, Richard Moore, Clint Pittman, Tim Nickles, James Hodges, Thomas Thornton, Jonathan Singleton, Benjamin Laguna, Shirley Anderson, and Carmen Underwood.





DIVISION OF MATERIEL SAFETY

By Kent Young

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Where we were or where it all started...

Everything was going along just fine, or so it was thought.

Then came July 22nd 2010; “The Fatality” changed everything. Obviously, a fatality in the work place has a major impact on the morale of an organization and raises questions that need to be answered. What did we do wrong? Were we doing anything right? These questions, plus the focus of many outside agencies on employees and procedures put the

organization under the proverbial microscope and decreases morale and the sense of security that is every employee’s right. Fortunately, sometimes out of tragedy comes change.

The Directorate and the Division of Materiel decided that the culture of our workplace would change. The focus would change from “completing the mission” to “safely completing the mission”. The leadership is committed to building a safety culture that focuses on our work community.

To start with, the leadership brought in a dedicated Safety Professional. This does not mean that all problems are automatically solved. It does mean that one person in the organization has the time and dedication to help plan, focus and monitor the organization’s safety program through all levels. But one person cannot do it alone. The goal is that all employees work together to change the culture and embrace safety at all levels. Division of Materiel has borne the growing pains of change since that fateful day in July 2010. There is evidence that the safety culture is changing in many positive ways, and that the organization at all levels is moving toward a positive change.

So where do we go from here? Where are we headed in the safety arena?

Well, we are going to turn it up a notch. We are going to expand the safety culture, attitude, and mindset to a more complete safety program approach. We will be improving the physical workplace as well as educating all employees while improving our standards and surroundings. We will do this through the adoption of the **OSHA VPP (Voluntary Protection Program)**. This program represents the highest level of safety that any business can obtain. The process of attaining membership into OSHA’s VPP (preparing for a VPP audit) provides a roadmap to follow that will immediately improve our programs and workplace. Following this high quality program will move us forward. Our program will do better and be better.

Improving the safety culture will have positive effects in many other areas of our organization. The peace of mind that comes from a safe and effective workplace cannot be overstated. To reach our goal of a collaborative safety program will require effort from all of us in the Division, but we are all in this together. In many cases, you are only as safe as the co-worker next to you, so help each other. Embrace safety; incorporate it in to your everyday life. The benefit overall is a safer workplace and a greater chance of going home to your friends and loved ones at the end of the day.

