



FACES OF BRAC



Many people work behind-the-scenes to shape the MCoE

The 2005 BRAC Commission's announcement to transform Fort Benning into the Maneuver Center mandated the completion of the MCoE's move of the U.S. Army Armor School from Fort Knox to Fort Benning by September 15, 2011. BRAC law also brought the Army Reserve's 81st Regional Support Command's 43rd Equipment Concentration Site from Fort Gillem, Ga. to Fort Benning and consolidated seven local Reserve Units into an Armed Forces Reserve Center at the MCoE.



Folke Alquist : Project Manager, Army Corps of Engineers

As a project manager with Army Corps of Engineers, Folke Alquist is responsible for overseeing the renovation of McGinnis-Wickam Hall, a \$170 million project that includes stripping the 500,000 square foot building to its skeleton and rebuilding it to be sounder, safer and more efficient. The finished project, with a red-brick, neo-traditional façade looks quite different from the original structure built in 1963. The decision was made to renovate the building, rather than build fresh on another site, saving the Army more than \$50 million. The six-floor central “tower” houses the offices of the post commander and the commanders of the Infantry and Armor schools while the east and west wings consists mostly of classrooms.



Sam Whitt : Installation Facilities Utilization Officer

Sam Whitt is a facilities utilization officer tasked with identifying usable work space for the influx of Soldiers and personnel arriving here as a result of BRAC. Whitt renovated underutilized space across the installation including a number of historic buildings and barracks and converted them into pleasing work spaces for people. Whitt said he also considers how a converted space could be reused again once the temporary occupants vacate a building.



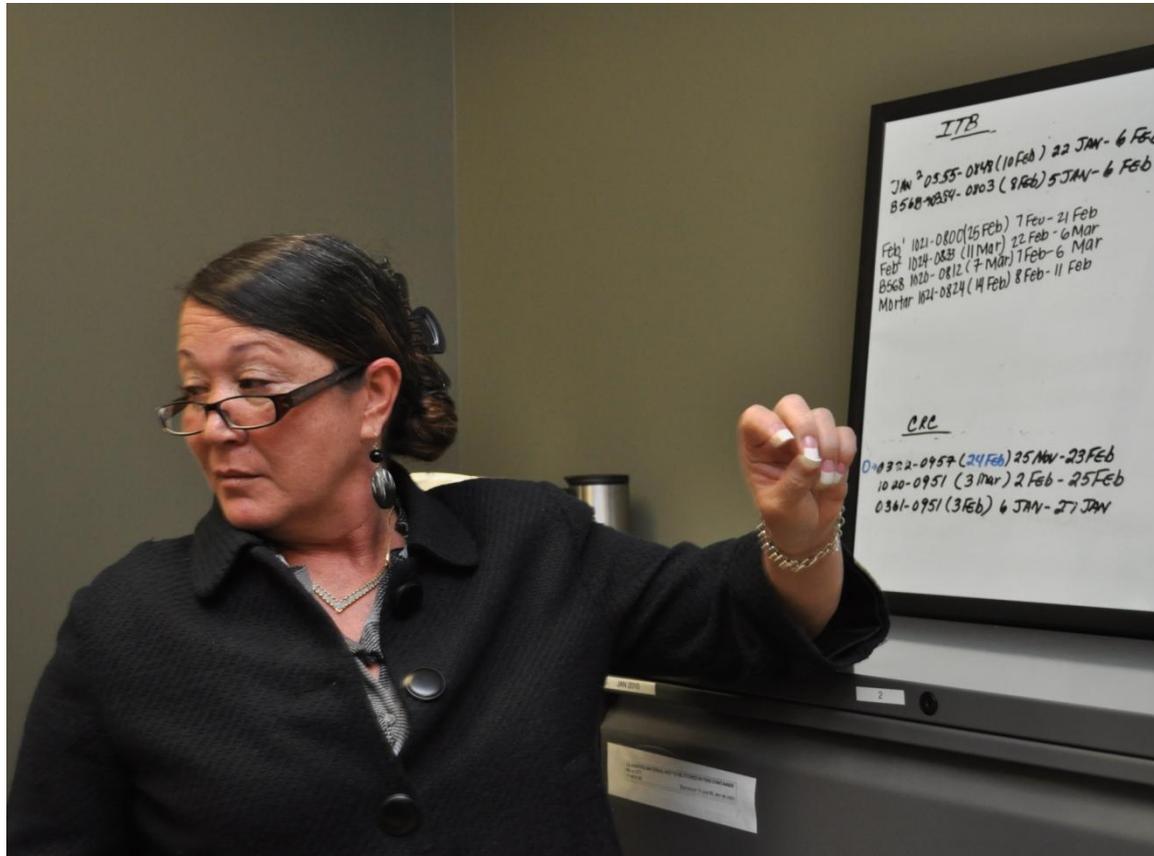
John Thierry : Project Engineer, Army Corps of Engineers

John Thierry oversees the Dixie Road construction, which includes reconfiguration of the Lindsey Creek Interchange and expansion of the Marne Road Bridge. A retired U.S. Army Ranger since 1997, Thierry said he's been on and off Fort Benning since 1991, the last time he was on the installation for training. Thierry returned to the post in 2008 when he was selected to oversee a number of BRAC-related construction projects. "It's kind of like being back home a little bit," Thierry said. "I have actually run into some people who are still active duty here." Thierry said a passion for building things runs in his family. Both his grandfather and great-great-grandfather were civil engineers. "It is personally rewarding to look at a completed project and see people using it," he said.



SFC Vernon Prohaska : Liaison Officer

Following a deployment to Iraq and reassignment to Fort Knox, Ky., Sgt. 1st Class Vernon Prohaska said he was looking forward to retiring from the Army and beginning a new career in Human Resources. That all changed during a weekend honey-do chore when the Milwaukee native received a phone call from his post commander. Three weeks later, Prohaska was at Fort Benning as a liaison officer for the Strategic Plans Cell Headquarters, U.S. Army Armor School. The former gunnery course instructor was tasked with identifying gaps in the Armor School's requirements previously provided to the Base Realignment and Closure team and strategic planners at Fort Benning. Prohaska started visiting Fort Benning on temporary duty assignments during the summer of 2006.



Gayle Rosalez : DOTS Ammunition and Explosives Supervisor

Gayle Rosalez is an ammunition and explosives supervisor with the Directorate of Training Sustainment DOTS. The 30-year experienced ammunition specialist and U.S. Army veteran supervises an ammunition supply team that supports combined arms live-fire exercises at Fort Benning. DOTS acts as the middle people between units and persons pushing out the equipment and ensures enough equipment is available.



Bobby Seawright : DOTS Ammunition Branch Supervisor

Bobby Seawright works with DOTS operations to collect documentation that sets the ammo supply team into motion. The ammo supply team verifies requirements and coordinates logistics with ammo managers who confirm forecasted ammo requirements with the brigades. “We are the guys who keep it running,” Seawright said. “We get the ammo, store it, transport it, everything, and we take care of the vehicles to keep them running. Seawright said MCoE’s addition of the Armor School will most likely double or even triple the number of training missions at Fort Benning. The increase will significantly impact the ammunition team and require more vehicles and personnel Seawright said.



Ammo Supply Team : DOTS Ammunition and Explosives

The Ammo Supply supports 52 different ranges and training areas for the 192nd, 197th, and 198th Infantry Brigades, and with the relocation of the Armor School here, the 194th Armored Brigade and 316th Cavalry Brigade, as well.



CWO 4 Curtis Grover : GSMMD

Grover set up operations for Ground Systems Materiel Management Division and its \$45 million vehicle maintenance complex that spans nearly 140,000 square feet along 8th Division Road on Harmony Church. GSMMD is responsible for maintaining and performing all field level maintenance for the training fleet at Fort Benning. GSMMD provides one central point of contact for all things related to the field level maintenance of the Maneuver Center's training vehicles. "We really have come a long way from when I first came in (23 years ago)," Grover said, talking about a time when lieutenants, new to the unit, had never seen an Abrams tank. "We now train as we fight."



Kenneth Mullins : Simulations Training Division Chief

Kenneth Mullins set up more than 160,000 square feet of simulation facilities and \$30 million in equipment including the installation of about 64 Bradley and Abrams simulators for the Maneuver Center of Excellence. Mullins said his prior aviation career especially prepared him for his current role as simulations training division chief for the MCoE. “We simulated everything from flying in the clouds to landing on the runway,” Mullins said. “It is easier to do in a box than to crank up an aircraft, it’s the same with the Bradley or a tank.”



Courtland Pegan : Battle Simulation Specialist

Courtland Pegan, battle simulation specialist at the Harmony Church Simulations Facility, stands by during an After Action Review in which Soldiers receive feedback, individually and as a unit, on their virtual armored vehicle operations.



Maj. Ross Davidson : Health Facilities Planning Agency Program Manager

Major Ross Davidson oversees planning and execution of the new \$350 million Martin Army Community Hospital scheduled for completion in fall 2014. MACH, since becoming operational in 1958 has exceeded its life expectancy and is the Army's second oldest hospital. A significant alteration was initially proposed to the existing facility after the BRAC decision was made to relocate the Armor School here from Fort Knox, Ky. However, there wasn't enough capacity within that alteration project to go forward. Davidson said constructing an entirely new facility became the better solution. Davidson said the new hospital will be gorgeous and he is enjoying this project as it is one of those opportunities that will not come along often.



Harmony Church Troop Store opens

Master Barbers Theresa Reese, William Lee, and Greg Carden are ready to serve you at the new Troop Store and Barber Shop at Harmony Church. The store celebrated its Grand Opening April 12 offering free food and drinks. Yummy.



Sgt. 1st. Class Brian Hahner, Sgt. 1st. Class Robert Putzer : Bradley Vehicle Maintenance Instructors

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hahner and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Putzer worked together to set up the new Bradley Vehicle Maintenance Instruction Facility at Harmony Church for the Armor Branch Bradley Training Division. While Hahner remained stationed at Fort Knox prepping more than \$200 Million worth of equipment for shipping to Fort Benning, Putzer received the loads as they arrived. After downloading and inventorying each load, Putzer put everything from books to vehicles where it was supposed to go. It took about 60 to 70 days to prepare the facility for its first class held in January.



Joycelyn Lewis : AIT Certified Instructor

Joycelyn Lewis is the only female AIT certified instructor in a male-dominated MOS to train Soldiers on the maintenance of the Bradley Fighting Vehicles at Fort Benning. Her students along with 21 others of the 194th Armor Brigade 91M Bradley System Maintainer Advanced Individual Training course will represent the Armor School's first students to graduate here after relocating from Fort Knox to the MCoE.



Students of the First Bradley Maintainer Course at Fort Benning

Students disassemble and reassemble the 25mm gun as part of the Armor School's 12-week M2/M3 Bradley System Maintainer Course--the School's first teach at the MCoE since the 194th Armor Brigade relocated from Fort Knox, Ky. to the MCoE. About 39 students graduated April 14.



Students of the First Bradley Maintainer Course at Fort Benning

SSG Kyle Haley offers feedback to students participating in the Armor School's first Warrior Training Exercise here as part of the 91M Bradley Maintainer AIT class. The students test their skills in a mock battlefield scenario that includes troubleshooting a vehicle and pulling the pack or engine out of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.



Maj. Dean Falvey : Instructor

Maj. Dean Falvey is a Cavalry Leader Course instructor and Australian Exchange Officer. The three-week course relocated from Fort Knox, Ky. to Fort Benning in March. After planning scenarios on computers and other assets, students come into a simulator environment at the Harmony Church Simulators Facility where they can enact their plans to see whether they are successful. If there are any problems with their planning, the students can enhance and improve their plans and learn from the experience. That saves a considerable amount of money compared with exercising troops in the field.



Stetson Cavalry Hat returns to Fort Benning

The Stetson Cavalry Hat returns to Fort Benning during a graduation ceremony of the Armor School's first Cavalry Leader Course under the Maneuver Center of Excellence. Lt. Col. Chris Kennedy was commander of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment; the Reconnaissance Squadron "Blackhawks" for 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division prior to becoming the current G3 for the MCoE. Maj. Dean Falvey, CLC instructor and Australian Exchange Officer, wears a hat with an ostrich feather to commemorate days on horseback. Capt. Ereke Bruce is a graduating CLC student.



First graduating class of the Armor School's Cavalry Leader Course

Here is your first graduating class of the U.S. Armor School's Cavalry Leader Course at the MCoE since the school relocated from Fort Knox, Ky. to Fort Benning, Ga. The course builds on the Maneuver Captains Career Course and prepares these commissioned and non-commissioned officers to take troop level command of reconnaissance formations.



Lt. Col. Michael Muller : Commanding Officer MarDet Headquarters

USMC LTC Michael Muller is commanding officer of the MCoE Marine Corps Detachment Headquarters on Harmony Church. About 500 Marines are anticipated to come through the U.S. Armor School at Fort Benning for training annually. The Infantry School trains about 1500 Marines each year.



Capt. Michael Stallings : Assistant Project Officer, 316th Cavalry Brigade

Capt. Stallings is an assistant project officer overseeing the development of the Good Hope Maneuver Training Area for the Armor Basic Officer Leader Course. Wetland and water crossings similar to the one shown here are constructed to protect streams from pollutants as students maneuver Abrams tanks across the terrain.



First Cavalry Scouts with Armor School

Drill Sergeants from 194th Armor Brigade picked up their first trainees for scout basic training with E Troop, 5th Squadron, 15 Cavalry Regiment, June 23. The young troopers arrived at the 30th Adjutant General Battalion on Sand Hill for in-processing the week before and represent the first Cavalry Scouts to begin AIT training at the U.S. Army Armor School's new home on Harmony Church.



Rail operations crew unchain vehicles arriving from Fort Knox

This crew is part of the largest rail operation in support of BRAC yet. The crew unchained 70 armored vehicles on this rail load. Fort Benning personnel will download the equipment and drive the vehicles to motor pools on Harmony Church, less than two miles from the Ochille Railhead, June 21, 2011.



Local school districts tour the new home of the U.S. Army Armor School

Muscogee County School District Superintendent Dr. Susan Andrews and administrators receive a briefing from Mr. Rodney Maupin, director of the Bradley Training Division, while touring the Armor School's new "campus" on Harmony Church July 15, 2011.



Maurice Lofton : Maintenance Supervisor, 43rd Equipment Concentration Site

It's move in day for Maintenance Supervisor Mr. Maurice Lofton and other personnel with the 43rd Equipment Concentration Site. July 20, 2011. The new storage and maintenance facilities were constructed for the Reserve Equipment Concentration Site as a result of BRAC 2005, which relocated the ECS from Ft. Gillem, Ga. to Fort Benning. The Base Realignment and Closure commission's recommendations also include the consolidation of seven local Reserve Units into an Armed Forces Reserve Center located adjacent to the ECS on Harmony Church.



Private 1st Class Zachary Moder : Cavalry Scout

Getting a driver's license brings new meaning to Pfc. Zachary Moder and his fellow Cavalry Scouts in E Troop, 5th Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment, as they learn how to drive the Bradley Fighting Vehicle during week 5 of their advanced individual training. The training event represents the first drivers training conducted for Cavalry Scouts at the Maneuver Center of Excellence since the Armor School relocated to Fort Benning as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure commission's recommendation to move the school here. July 27, 2011.



Sgt. 1st. Class Daniel Taylor : Drill Sergeant, 5th Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment

The mission to train 19D cavalry scouts for the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard belongs to the 5th Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment, at Fort Benning. Cavalry instructors like Sgt. 1st. Class Daniel Taylor prepare the new Bills for full-spectrum operations. Part of the training includes mounted and dismounted urban operations wherein the scouts are presented a realistic scenario in which to practice urban combat skills. The scouts must use the many tasks they've learned over their first few weeks of training and the instructors or cadre evaluate the scouts to ensure they are proficient in those tasks.



Can you spot the Cavalry Scouts in the photo?

These scouts, with E Troop, 5th Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment, are performing dismounted operations as part of squad training exercises during week 7 of advanced individual training. The cavalry scouts must remain undetected while observing and communicating activities taking place in the urban village across the distance. The STX culminates with a 20 kilometer boot march later this week whereupon completion, all warriors standing will receive their new Cavalry Scout Sabers in a "rites of passage" ceremony, inducting them into the U.S. Cavalry.



Cavalry Scouts receive sabers in rite of passage ceremony

Cavalry Scout trainees with E Troop, 5th Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment participated in a "rite of passage" ceremony Aug. 10 inducting them into the U.S. Cavalry. This was the first 'rite of passage' ceremony at the Maneuver Center of Excellence since the Armor School relocated to Fort Benning. The ceremony comes on the heels of more than a week of situational training exercises that culminate in week 7 of advanced individual training for Fort Benning's inaugural cavalry scouts. Graduation is held the following week.



Photo by Mike Haskey

Staff Sgt. Ryan Healy : Platoon Sergeant, 316th Cavalry Brigade

Staff Sgt. Healy drives the last Abrams tank from its rail car arriving from Fort Knox. The Directorate of Training Sustainment and Ground Systems Material Management Directorate along with assistance from the 316th Cavalry Brigade and 194th Armor Brigade conducted the final rail operations as part of the BRAC move Aug. 11. The first vehicle was downloaded at 7:15 a.m. and the last tank was downloaded approximately 9 a.m.. There were 21 M1A1/A2 Tanks, 11 Bradley's, 4 STRYKERS, and 3 M88s.



Staff Sgt. Brooks and Sgt. 1st Class Lee : 1st Brigade, 98th Division

Army Reservists Staff Sgt. Sabrina Brooks and Sgt. 1st Class Sonia Lee, of the 1st Brigade, 98th Division, settle into their offices Sept. 12 at the new Armed Forces Reserve Center near the also newly relocated 43rd Equipment Concentration Site on Harmony Church. The AFRC and ECS are a result of the Base Realignment and Closure commission's recommendations to consolidate seven local Reserve Units into an Armed Forces Reserve Center and move the ECS from Fort Gillem, Ga. to Fort Benning.



Maureen Bush : Principal McCarthy Bush Corporation

Maureen Bush is a 5th generation principal of the McCarthy Bush Corporation, a construction company her great grandparents founded in 1897. The company was subcontracted to help construct a 16 mile, two-lane concrete roadway and three 120 MLC (Military Load Class) bridges each spanning approximately 160 to 275 feet in length. The \$21 million contract includes converting existing asphalt to concrete as well as building new concrete roads. The roads will support very heavy traffic and more importantly the hefty Abrams tank, which can weigh more than 60 tons and will be transported upon trucks to training areas located more than 12 miles from Harmony Church. Delivering the tanks to the distant training sites saves the Army around \$300 per mile — the cost incurred to fuel the armored vehicle.



Laying down concrete takes center stage in horizontal construction

An old asphalt bridge runs parallel with a newly concrete-paved bridge on Wood Road. The 8-inch deep, 16-mile stretch of concrete road was installed to support the weight of the 60-ton Abrams tanks that now use this road to access ranges and training areas on the northern and southern areas of Fort Benning. About 50,000 cubic yards of concrete were poured in constructing this impressive road project. That's enough concrete to fill an NCAA football stadium 25 feet deep. That's a lot of concrete.



Tom O'Buckley, Brian Hilton : Project Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers

Tom O'Buckley and Brian Hilton are project engineers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The two engineers managed the construction of 60 miles of gravel tank trails, and 16 miles of asphalt and concrete-paved roads and bridges north of Harmony Church. The project forms part of a transportation network enabling access to training areas between the northern and southern areas of Fort Benning. USACE celebrated the functional completion of the \$60 million improvement in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 15, 2011.



George Condoyiannis: Area Engineer, Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers

The road most travelled ... Fort Benning Area Engineer George Condoyiannis (1st row, 9th from left) and project engineers with the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, assemble with representatives from prime contractors (Caddell, Walton and Cheoah construction companies) for a group photo at the intersection of Lorraine and Buena Vista roads to celebrate the functional completion of Training Road and Tank Trail projects north of Harmony Church Sept. 15, 2011.



Buddy Collins : General Superintendent, Complete Sitework Services

Buddy Collins is a general superintendent with Complete Sitework Services, one of the thousands of subcontractors preparing Fort Benning for its transformation into the Maneuver Center of Excellence. Collins oversees workers as they move the earth and prepare the road bed for the last eight miles of Lorraine Road, which leads to Hastings Range on the northern area of Fort Benning. Clearing, excavation, erosion control, and grading comprise more than half of the work that must be done before concrete can be poured into the road bed. The \$16.3 million project includes concrete paving, three bridges, and multiple drainage culverts. Collins said he expects the road to be ready for use before spring 2012.



FACES OF BRAC

