

Risk reduction program helps assess readiness

Did you know, the risk reduction program is a commander's program designed to identify high-risk Soldier behavior and to assess Soldier readiness at battalion or brigade level?

Incident numbers from various agencies are reported to the risk reduction office on a monthly basis for the following: accidents, alcohol offenses, chapter eliminations, child abuse, courts martial, drug offenses, financial problems, positive urinalyses, sexually transmitted infections, spouse abuse, self-harm or suicide attempts, deaths, AWOL, traffic violations, crimes against people, crimes against proper-

ty, number of urinalysis samples shipped, housing warning letters, eviction notices and disciplinary actions.

This information is then entered into a Department of the Army system to develop command reports, track trends and to develop mitigation or intervention strategies.

The data is then broken down by battalion or brigade and presented to commanders on a quarterly basis, making it easy to identify problem areas within their units.

The visual shot group report allows commanders to see where their units challenges are at a quick glance.



Did you know?

By Col. Paul Hossenlopp
Fort Sill Garrison commander

Then, prevention options developed in a collaboration effort by the installation prevention team, co-chaired by the risk reduction coordinators, are presented and discussed with commanders.

Another useful tool the risk reduction program provides commanders is the unit risk inventory survey, or URI. These surveys were developed by the Army and

are administered to active-duty Soldiers by risk reduction professionals. The URI is an anonymous questionnaire designed to screen for high-risk behaviors and practices that compromise unit readiness. The results are analyzed by battalion or brigade, not on an individual basis. The survey takes less than 30 minutes to complete.

Once the surveys have been administered to a unit,

they are sent to Army Center for Substance Abuse programs for processing. The results are usually received by the risk reduction office within one to two weeks after administration. Upon receipt, a briefing with the unit commander will be scheduled to review the results. At this meeting the unit's high-risk areas of concern are discussed, and a plan for prevention and intervention efforts will be developed.

As well as conducting URIs, the risk reduction program also conducts re-integration unit risk inventory surveys, or R-URIs. They are given to Soldiers returning from deployment 90-180

days after their return. R-URI results provide valuable information to commanders about significant or critical responses that may compromise unit readiness among redeployed Soldiers.

All-in-all, the risk reduction program allows commanders to look at the whole Soldier — identifying trends of events or actions that we know about that's collected on the shot group, and then identify what is not known by using Soldier self-reporting through the URI and R-URI surveys; thus providing a complete picture of the mission readiness of the Soldier population.



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Matt DeLay

Cargo parachutes drop fuel to a combat outpost in Afghanistan, Sept. 16, 2011. Army researchers are testing a quick release system to be fielded later this year.

Research official visits Afghanistan

By RDECOM Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — A senior research and development leader spoke with Army officials here June 11-13. Army leaders in the field are seeking technology solutions for complex challenges.

"The commanders have a need for low-cost quick release systems for airdrop bundles," said Dr. Jack Obusek, U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center director. "A quick release system would prevent cargo from being swept out of friendly hands when parachutes get dragged on the ground in high wind conditions."

Army researchers have been developing prototype quick release devices and has plans to provide a substantial number to U.S. troops in Afghanistan later this year.

"We're looking to significantly accelerate this effort and checking whether our forward deployed research center or stateside prototype facilities can produce the prototypes," he said.

Obusek also discussed a

possible far forward medical aid capability package. The research center and the PM and the medical community have recently entered full production on a modular medical package that will provide near intensive care unit-like capabilities to Soldiers serving forward.

Obusek said he received positive feedback from Soldiers on the First Strike Ration and the Army Combat Shirt — two initiatives developed at Natick. He met with medical staff to discuss new materials for protective equipment and received many great ideas for future technology development.

Obusek leads an 800-person military and civilian workforce at NSRDEC, located in Natick, Mass. The center is part of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command with the mission to maximize a Soldier's survivability, sustainability, mobility and combat effectiveness.

This was Obusek's first visit to Afghanistan since being named as the NSRDEC director in January 2011.

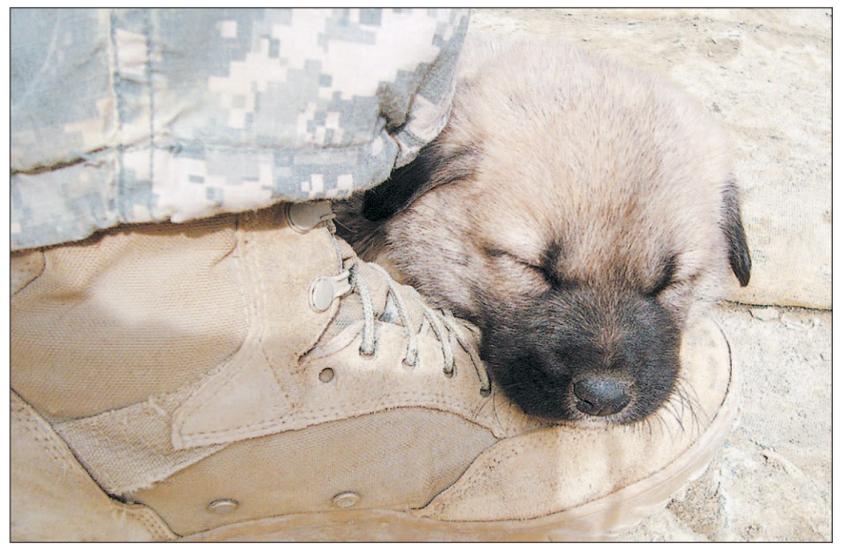
Ranger seeks to help vets, dogs

By Adrienne Anderson

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Retired Staff Sgt. Joseph Trainor's personal journey as an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran inspired him to create a nonprofit organization to reach out to other veterans while saving the lives of animals.

To promote the healing of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans, Trainor teamed up with master dog trainer Toriano Sanzone for 14DDV — an alternative way to help troops transition and heal. Whether a Soldier is transitioning to civilian life or coming back from a tour — Trainor said he wants to help veterans get back on their feet.

14DDV — one dog man, 14 dogs and 14 veterans — takes 14 dogs that were slated to be euthanized and trains them to be companions for 14 select OIF and OEF veterans in 14 days. From July 1-14, at the Good News Community Church in Chicago, 14DDV will document the event and stream it worldwide on Trainor's website, www.14ddv.com. Trainor said he hopes to raise money to be able to continue the program in other cities. He said the event was important to him



Courtesy photo

Retired Staff Sgt. Joe Trainor teamed up with master dog trainer Toriano Sanzone to form a nonprofit organization to connect Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans with dogs that were scheduled to be euthanized. Trainor said while transitioning back to civilian life, his dog helped him cope.

because he served with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and deployed twice during OEF.

"It's difficult for people to understand the tough transition back into civilian life for veterans. For veterans, it's tough to understand what lies ahead until it's too late — plain and simple," he said. Trainor said his dog, Diesel, helped make his transition back to the U.S. easier.

The dogs are of various breeds and will be trained to be companion animals for the veterans — this includes wounded veterans in wheelchairs or crutches, or those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The selected veterans will receive two months' worth of dog supplies, which includes dog bowls, leashes, collars and two weeks of free doggie boot camp classes, as well as vaccinations and reg-

istrations, for a package totaling \$1,500.

Currently there are spots open. The only qualification, Trainor said, is to be an OEF or OIF veteran.

Veterans must be able to make a verbal commitment to being at the event July 14 to receive their therapy dog and fill out paperwork.

Veterans interested in the program should call 334-663-7121. For more information, visit www.14ddv.com.

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