FIGHTING FIRE with COLLABORATION

STORY and PHOTOS by CPT MATTHEW RILEY  KENTUCKY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
A byproduct of that cooperation is a synergy for future real-world missions in Kentucky. The firefighters of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard worked exceptionally well together. If an emergency situation in the Commonwealth of Kentucky required both military firefighting agencies to work together, we will be well prepared to do so.

Whatever doubts I had last year about command- ing a firefighting unit were quickly disappearing as multiple soldiers of the 761st commented that they had learned more from this AT than during previous training events.

The Army works in mysterious ways. If someone had told me a year ago that I would soon be changing units, taking command of soldiers with a job I had no idea about, and needed to work with the Air Force, it certainly would have been one of the greatest shocks of my career.

Serving as the Commander of the 761st Engineer Detachment has proven to be a great experience, and leading in a joint AT venture with the Air Guard was the high-light. I strongly encourage other National Guard Fire-fighting Team commanders to seek similar opportunities within their respective states.