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## Quartermasters study to improve their careers

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CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — While other Soldiers spend their free time watching movies or playing in sports leagues, a group of quartermaster Soldiers here have been trying to better their careers.

Cpl. Laura Cranfield, shower and laundry specialist, 506th Quartermaster Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and several other quartermaster Soldiers are studying to improve their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores

The ASVAB is an entrance exam prospective Soldiers take before entering military service. The Army uses the test to gauge what military occupational specialties entrants are most qualified for.

But few prospective Soldiers understand the importance of the test when they take it. For one, it determines what jobs a Soldier is eligible for, or if the Soldier could someday become a warrant officer or officer.

In the Army, many jobs have a requirement of a particular “GT” (general technical) score the Soldier has to get on the ASVAB.

But the Army offers a second chance for Soldiers that might not of adequately prepared for the ASVAB, or might not of taken it seriously enough, called a “fast class,” where Soldiers are taught a brief refresher on the test and given the opportunity to retake the ASVAB.

First Lt. Amy Clark, 506th Quartermaster Co., who is currently teaching a fast class for company Soldiers, believes the course is an opportunity to improve scores that will allow Soldiers to cross train into a different MOS, or who want to leave the enlisted ranks.

“By improving your GT score, you will have more career options whether you stay in the military or decide to get out,” said Clark. “I enjoy teaching and Soldiers appreciate the time and effort you invest in their future.”

Clark, a native of Maryland, says that in the near future she hopes not only to be able to tutor Soldiers on improving their GT score but, she would like to be able to proctor the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) examination. “I have completed all the tests required to be a proctor but I’m still waiting to be fully certified.”

Cranfield, a native of Ventura, Calif., is studying to improve her GT score to someday get a different job in the Army.

“I would like to reclass into an accounting MOS that requires a GT score of 110 or higher. First Lt. Clark is able to breakdown (math) problems so I can better understand the equations.”

Currently, six Soldiers participate in the study group which is held in the company’s education center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.



First Lt. Amy Clark, 506th Quartermaster Co., 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, tutors Cpl. Laura Cranfield, shower and laundry specialist, 506th Quartermaster Co., who is studying to improve her Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores at Contingency Operating Marez-East Feb. 18. Cranfield, a native of Ventura, Calif., is studying to improve her GT score to someday get a different job in the Army. “I would like to reclass into an accounting MOS that requires a GT score of 110 or higher. First Lt. Clark is able to breakdown (math) problems so I can better understand the equations.” (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Patrice Elmes)