

Duke



Dispatch

Vol. 18



Year in Review

Winter 2012

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Photos from operations of Task Force Duke taken between Jan 1, 2011 - Jan. 1, 2012. Top Left: Photo by Sgt. Tobey White, Top Right: Sgt. Tobey White, Middle Left: Sgt. Tobey White, Middle Right: Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil, Bottom Left: Spc. Phillip McTaggart



Staff

Editor-in-chief:
Maj. Travis Dettmer

Managing Editor:
Staff Sgt. Ben K. Navratil

Staff Writers and Photographers
Staff Sgt. John Zumer
Sgt. Tobey White
Spc. Phillip McTaggart

Layout and Design:
Sgt. Tobey White

Inspiration:
Home Sweet Home!

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Cover photo illustration by Sgt. Tobey White

Editor’s note: This edition of the Duke Dispatch attempts to capture the last days of our recent deployment as well as several of the significant events impacting our Duke Brigade since we’ve returned. We thank you, our readers, for your support over the past several months and look forward to serving you well into the future with this publication. Duty First!

Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Toner
3/1 IBCT Commander

Dismissed. This simple command is one that all Soldiers look forward to hearing. After 12 months of hard work in Afghanistan every Duke Soldier has been given that directive, closing a mission that saw great success in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. What our Soldiers accomplished during the past year is nothing short of phenomenal. Drawing on my experience as a battalion commander in the same area six years ago, I can say, without a shadow of a doubt, the Afghan people are far better off now. Leveraging the power of the evermore capable Afghan Security Forces, as well as a government that is growing in capability and capacity, there is no question that Afghanistan is well on its way to providing governance and security independent of coalition help.

By the numbers it was a very busy year for us. Imagine, for a moment, the impact that Duke Soldiers executing more than 14,700 patrols alongside their Afghan partners had on the enemy. Add to that

another 4,600 ANSF unilateral patrols and you see just how busy we were as a Task Force. In nearly 700 named operations, TF Duke logged more than 275 confirmed enemy kills and captured almost 1,800 insurgents, with more than 320 confirmed leadership. Combine security operations with our focus on developing Afghan capacity for good governance by connecting citizens to their leaders, assisting the government in improving services and infrastructure, and increasing their agricultural base, we are finally beginning to see the seeds of prosperity take hold.

Yet there is still much work to be done. The Duke Brigade handed off considerable momentum to our replacements, the 4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div. out of Fort Richardson, Alaska. Just like when we arrived a year ago, these Spartan Warriors have previous experience here and will seize upon that familiarity and continue to blaze the trail in support of full Afghan independence.

Amidst all of our success, we cannot forget the 27 Duke warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of a worth



cause. Our thoughts and prayers remain with their families who gave so much in defense of freedom for all Americans. These guardians of peace will hold a special place in our hearts forever.

While it was a tremendous privilege to serve alongside our Afghan partners over the past year, I consider it an even greater privilege to return back home to Fort Knox, our surrounding communities, and our precious Families with heads held high after a job well done. I thank everyone for the support this past year, and I especially want to thank the Families who have, by far, sacrificed the most in support of our mission.

Duty First! 🇺🇸

Voice of the outgoing CSM

By CSM Drew Pumarejo
3/1 IBCT Command Sgt. Maj.

After nearly 31 years of service I can't think of a better way to close out my career. than as the Command Sergeant Major for one of the finest brigades in the Army, under the most accomplished, longest serving Army Division, the Big Red One. I am proud of the troopers of the Duke Brigade and the accomplishments we have made together over this past year. We kept our boots on the neck of the enemy and gave the Afghan people and Afghan forces we served alongside enough breathing room to establish independence down the road.

Duke Brigade: be proud of yourselves. Blue Spaders, you notched another major accomplishment in your already proud history by executing the brigade's main effort in Khowst Province. Well done.

Raiders, your command of the high ground kept an elusive enemy at bay and

on the run. Just what I expected from such a fine cavalry squadron.

Centaurs, you had a diverse mission and you executed to perfection. Your precision fires were a combat multiplier, your ground mission was superb, and your force protection was second to none. Outstanding.

Ramrods, of any 3/1 unit I knew we could count on you to take the fight to the enemy outside of our brigade's task organization. The enemy in Ghazni is still reeling from your collective force.

Valiant Warriors, you gave us the edge—those enablers that make us a superior fighting force. You gave the commander battlefield omniscience, protected our warriors in the fight, and gave us the tactical advantage. Great job.

Thor, with you we never worried about logistics or Soldier care. The Soldiers of TF Duke never went without due to your constant vigil. Excellent work in an extremely challenging environment.



By the time you read this I will have hung up my stripes for good. While a bittersweet experience, I count it a great honor to end my career serving as the top NCO in such a fine outfit. I am proud to boast the Big Red One as my final combat patch. I'm proud to have served such fine Soldiers.

Thanks, Dukes, for giving me such a great honor. We did well.

NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT,
NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT.
DUTY FIRST! 🇺🇸

Voice of the incoming CSM

By CSM Bradley Meyers,
3/1 IBCT Command Sgt. Maj.

Greetings, Dukes!

I begin my duties as command sergeant major with an eye to the future, and how our actions today as Soldiers will influence our unit's success. As a veteran with over 28 years of service, I'd be less than truthful if I said I never looked to the past for inspiration and guidance.

I'll use this month's column to highlight some key points gleaned from my combined experiences that form the building blocks of a disciplined, competent and confident Duke Brigade.

Have you ever heard people referring to someone as a "born leader?" I can tell you that rather than wasting time hoping that needed professional skills and characteristics just magically appear, we owe it to ourselves and fellow Soldiers to constantly improve. Being a noncommissioned officer is a learned trade, believe me, and there is no shortcut to becoming an exceptional NCO. Challenge yourself to become the best you can in all things and you, your Soldiers and the Army will all reap the benefits.

While professional schooling and development are certainly important and encouraged in developing our leaders, there are many other ways we can develop and strengthen everyday skills. One of the most important is our ability to notice the small things in our surroundings, wherever they may be. Some refer to this as having an "eye for detail," and with regular practice we can enhance this often-overlooked skill. Why is this important? I've been around long enough to know that little things left unchecked, or sloppy habits allowed to continue, manifest themselves in other

areas where the consequences can be more severe or even deadly.

Imagine for a moment a unit where the standards for discipline, personal grooming and wearing of the uniform are allowed to fall by the wayside. It doesn't sound like any outfit I want to be part of, and it's certainly not the Army the taxpaying public is footing the bill for. Whether you're the most junior Soldier or veteran NCO, take the extra seconds to make sure your comrades are squared away. Leadership skills, unit discipline and esprit de corps will benefit from the extra attention, so always remember that an Army without discipline isn't an Army; it's a mob. The United States Army has never been, nor ever will be a motley crew of undisciplined and unorganized Soldiers.

Failing to obey a simple order or the inability to uphold uniform or grooming standards also have deeper, potentially lethal ramifications. If one of your Soldiers takes so little pride in himself in the way he looks or acts, it's highly unlikely he is meticulous about cleaning a crew-served weapon when stationed downrange. If a Soldier doesn't maintain his barracks room in an orderly fashion, the likelihood that he keeps his equipment and vehicle clean and functional is diminished. Simply put, use your leadership skills to eliminate such problems before they take root. We owe it to our fellow Soldiers to master the basic tasks and expectations set before us, so don't let them down.

You've probably heard senior officers and others say that the only constant in the Army is change. It's true. The Department of Defense, Congress and the American public are all clamoring for the military to do "more with less." It will take creative noncommissioned



officers doing their share as we execute and conduct training to make this a reality. But besides just adapting to a shifting fiscal picture, several constants will remain high on the Duke Brigade list.

Rigorous training will continue to be the benchmark of our brigade. It inoculates Soldiers to the perils that lie ahead, and makes it easier to withstand the rigors of the battlefield. We will continue attempting to duplicate that battlefield realism without getting people hurt or equipment destroyed. Finally, don't offer up reasons for why our Soldiers can't do something; figure out ways to help them accomplish the daunting tasks that will pay dividends down the road.

When I assumed my duties I remarked that it's truly an honor to serve in the Duke Brigade and the 1st Infantry Division. I believe that and encourage you to be mindful not only of the expectations we carry for ourselves and fellow Soldiers, but also the corresponding trust and responsibility our loved ones and Nation have placed upon us. Do what you're supposed to do, when and where you're asked to, and the finished product will be something that we Big Red One Soldiers will all be proud of.

Duty First! 🇺🇸



TF Duke officially hands over command

Story by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil,
3/1 IBCT, PAO

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, officially relinquished command of coalition forces in Khowst and Paktya provinces in a ceremony Dec. 31.

The Fort Knox, Ky. – based TF Duke cased their colors as they transferred authority to the 4th BCT (Airborne), 25th Inf. Div., TF Spartan, based out of Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Dignitaries and senior Afghan National Security Force leadership, as well as senior leaders from Combined Joint Task Force – 1 attended the ceremony held on Forward Operating Base Salerno.

“Today, the TF Duke soldiers around you represent dedication, partnership and mission success,” said U.S. Army Maj. Gen.

Daniel Allyn, native of Berwick, Maine and commander of the Fort Hood, Texas, – based 1st Cavalry Division and CJTF-1. “TF Spartan will sustain the momentum of TF Duke’s extraordinary teamwork” as they take on the mantle of responsibility in this critical area of Afghanistan.

By the numbers, TF Duke achieved monumental success in their region of eastern Afghanistan. Over the course of their deployment, Duke soldiers conducted more than 14,600 combined patrols with their Afghan partners while executing nearly 700 operations. During these operations they logged over 275 confirmed enemy kills and captured almost 1,800 insurgents, with more than 300 of these being insurgent leaders. According to local Afghan officials, the marked increase in security in Khowst and Paktya has given way to better governance and development

in the region, key pieces to Afghanistan’s future after the departure of coalition forces.

U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, Topeka, Kan., native and commander of TF Duke, thanked his Afghan partners for their support over the last year.

“We’ve all served together for the safety and security of our families in Afghanistan and the United States,” said Toner.

He went on to reflect upon the Soldiers who gave their lives during the deployment.

“Sadly, this effort was not without loss, as 27 TF Duke soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice,” he said, adding that 92 ANSF members also gave their lives to the effort. “Their sacrifice has made all of us all even more committed to finishing this fight on our terms and ensuring their sacrifice was not in vain,” said Toner.

Toner also gave credit the families at Fort Knox and elsewhere for the support they gave to their deployed soldiers.

“Lastly, but foremost in our minds, is a heartfelt thanks to our



Courtesy photos



Left: Col. Chris Toner (right), commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, TF Duke, and Command Sgt. Maj. Drew Pumarejo, TF Duke command sergeant major, prepare their BCT’s colors to be cased at a transfer of authority ceremony on Forward Operating Base Salerno, Dec. 31.

Top Right: Soldiers salute during the playing of the U.S. and Afghan national anthems at a transfer of authority ceremony on Forward Operating Base Salerno Dec. 31. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, handed over coalition forces authority in Khowst and Paktya provinces to the 4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div., TF Spartan.

Lower Right: Col. Chris Toner and Command Sgt. Maj. Drew Pumarejo, of the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, case their colors at a transfer of authority ceremony.

families and loved ones who have borne the true burden of this deployment,” he said, visibly moved. “To be sure, their burden was the toughest and ours was the easiest. Without their love, support and tremendous courage, we could not have accomplished our mission.”

Year in review

Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White



Upper Left: First Sgt. David Dunbar awards the combat patch to Soldiers deployed to Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan in a patch ceremony.

Bottom Left: A Soldier from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division drops off a bag for bag drop before heading to formation on his trip to Afghanistan.

Middle: Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division hold the colors during a transfer of authority ceremony between Task Force Duke and TF Rakkasan.



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White



Courtesy photo

Upper right: Col. Chris Toner and Command Sgt. Maj. Drew Pumarejo, commander and command sergeant major for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, salute their colors at the transfer of authority ceremony.

Bottom Right: A color guard made up of Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, holds the American flag and the colors of their respective brigades at a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, Jan. 30. 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division transferred authority of Khowst and Paktya Provinces to 3/1 IBCT, also known as Task Force Duke..

Upper left: A Soldier from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division takes a knee during a patrol, March 29.

Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins



Lower left: Spc. Frank Monack, a military police officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, from Boulder Creek, Calif., looks through his scope to ensure that people on the mountain in front of the patrol are not insurgents prior to moving out to a village in Bak, Afghanistan on Feb., 8.

Center: 1st Lt. Justin Smith, with 3rd Platoon Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Knox, Ky, radios in grid coordinates for the drop zone, outside of Combat Outpost Sabari, Khowst province, Afghanistan, Mar. 9.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Guffy



Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins



Upper right: Sgt. Chad Staples, 703rd Explosive Ordnance Company and a native of Mona, Utah, places C4 on a pile of ordnance to prepare for a controlled detonation outside of Forward Operating Base Clark, March 27.

Lower right: 1st Lt. David Chappelle, from Virginia Beach, Va., of 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, instructs Afghan National Army Soldiers before they begin searching the Kholbesat Bazaar in Khowst Province, Afghanistan, March 13.

Photo by Sgt. Tobey White



Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins

Upper left: U.S. Army Soldiers, with 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, Focused Targeting Force, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, in the city of Gardez, Pakiya province, Afghanistan, Apr. 27.

Bottom left: Two U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, Focused Targeting Force, 3rd Brigade 1st Infantry Division, pull security on a rooftop, in the city of Gardez, Pakiya province, Afghanistan, Apr. 27.

Bottom right: U.S. Army field artilleryman Sgt. Charles Rubich, serving with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 6th Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, cools off with water from a well in Katalai village while on patrol on June 15, Khowst province, Afghanistan.

Upper right: A Soldier from the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, waits for a chinook to land in Spera, Afghanistan, May 17.



Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins



Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Watson

Upper left: Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, Iowa National Guard, dismount their vehicles and prepare to conduct maneuvers through Ruwquiean Village, Afghanistan on June 9.

Bottom right: Spc. Robert McCubbins the 201st Brigade Support Battalion welds a gate under construction at Forward Operating Base Salerno, June 11.



Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins

Upper right: Pfc. Mercedes Juarez, a wheeled vehicle mechanic, listens to Staff Sgt. Jeremy Catron explain some of the finer points of the M1075 Palletized Loading System at FOB Salerno, June 11. Both are members of the 201st BSB.



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer

April

May

June

Right: U.S. Army Sgt. Jonathan Soto, Long Island, N.Y., native and the platoon sergeant for 3rd Plt., Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, inspects his Soldiers at their patrol base atop a hill in Sabari District Sept. 9.



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil

Above: Pfc. Brandon McElhinney, a maintainer with B Co., Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke fixes a rudder on an Unmanned Aerial System Shadow before a launch at Forward Operating Base Sharana, Aug. 24.



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White

Right: A Soldier with B Co., Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke flies an Unmanned Aerial System Shadow in Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Aug. 24.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil

Left: U.S. Army Sgt. Jonathan Soto, a Long Island, N.Y., native and platoon sergeant for 3rd Plt., Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, searches the roof of a home in Majiles village for weapons or other contraband Sept. 11.

Lower Right: U.S. Army Soldiers from the Personal Security Detail, 1st battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigaded Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, pull security on a road while protecting Lt. Col. Jesse Pearson during Operation Steel Rain in Tirzaye, Afghanistan, Oct. 24..

Photo by Sgt. Joseph Watson

July

Aug.

Sept.



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White
Upper Left: Spc. Kris Goettsche, a rifleman for 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke and a native of Melbourne, Fl., pulls security in Sabari during Operation Maiwan VI, Nov. 3.

Lower Left: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dave Brown, the commander of the 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry division, Task Force Duke, and a native of Dover, Del., talks with his Afghan National Army counterpart Col. Abdul Sami, commander of the Combat Service Support, 5th kandak, 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps at Combat Outpost Wilderness, Oct. 18.



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White

Oct.



Photo by Maj. Travis Dettmer

Nov.



Photo by Spc. Phillip McTaggart

Lower Middle: Elders greet each other while an Afghan Uniform Policeman sits nearby just before the start of the Matun Elders Security Shura held on Nov. 20 at Forward Operating Base Salerno.

Upper Middle Left: Leaders of the government and Afghan National Security Forces eat lunch with members of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, on Forward Operating Base Salerno Oct. 20.

Upper Middle Right: Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division talk with villagers Dec. 2.

Lower Right: An Afghan National Army Soldier sits on a mountainside in Khowst province, outside of Camp parsa on Dec. 2, 2011.



Photo by Maj. Travis Dettmer



Photo by Spc. Phillip McTaggart

Dec.

Duke remembers Fallen, dedicates memorial

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. John Zumer
3/1 IBCT, PAO

Family, friends and Soldiers coming together normally implies good food, good times and plenty of fun. In the case of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and its honored guests, however, Friday's Duke Memorial and Dedication Ceremony was a much more solemn occasion.

The day's events were planned by the Duke Association, a private organization entrusted with preserving the legacy of the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. "Dukes." The group wanted to remember the ultimate sacrifices paid by Duke Soldiers since 2001 in the Global War on Terror. Brigade leaders and veterans felt the best way to honor the memory and service of their fallen was to build a unique memorial, separate from other larger, all-encompassing memorials. It was that desire which served as the impetus for launching the new organization.

With Friday's dedication of the Duke Memorial, event organizers brought to Waybur Theater the Families of those Duke Brigade Soldiers who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terror. Guests were introduced and welcomed, and Duke Association President Maj. Steve Smith took the opportunity to thank those in attendance. He also commented on the many people and organizations in the greater Fort Knox community that helped make the memorial a reality, once word got out about the project.

"I quickly found out they had made the Duke Brigade their own," said Smith.

The solemnity of the occasion was brought home to the audience with a Fallen Hero Flag Presentation, where an honor guard

meticulously folded a United States flag. A narrator explained during the folding that the thirteen separate folds in the process each represent not the 13 original colonies as one might suspect, but special virtues or influences like equality, womanhood and country.

After a memorial video, highlighting Fallen Duke Soldiers and the brigade's history since 9/11, Col. Chris Toner, commander of the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., discussed the unforgettable legacy of those Soldiers who had died, and how they and their Families will be remembered in brigade circles.

"We will never forget the terrible loss you have suffered," said Toner.

After the Waybur Theater events concluded, attendees moved to the formal dedication of the Duke Memorial, near the common area shared by the 3/1 BCT battalions. The monument unveiled to the public is modeled after the 1st Cavalry Division's memorial at Fort Hood. Featured are separate markers for each of the brigade's six battalions, with individual names of Soldiers who have fallen in Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001 listed on each marker.

The monument currently holds 118 names.

A special memorial prayer and the somber notes of "Taps" set the stage for many months of work on the part of volunteers reaching fruition. In unison, each marker was uncovered, with Family members then inspecting each, looking for the names of loved ones. Many took the opportunity to highlight with tracing paper and charcoal the imprint of the names set into the black granite markers.

A reception for Gold Star Families at the Fort Knox Leaders

Club brought the day's events to a close.

It was a somber day of remembrance, certainly, as those present relived some very painful moments, recognizing brave Duke Brigade Soldiers no longer with Families, friends and their comrades-in-arms. Toner said if there was any consolation, however, it was in knowing the Fallen won't ever be forgotten by those who gaze upon the Duke Memorial, or remember in their most precious memories what their lives meant to the nation and loved ones left behind.

Many Family members present thanked those who had arranged the tributes paid to their Fallen Soldiers, even on such a bittersweet day that couldn't help but remind them of what they had lost.

"You guys just did an amazing job, all of it," said Darren Baker, stepfather of Spc. Mikayla Bragg, who died in December just before the brigade was set to return from Afghanistan.

For those who helped and planned the memorial and day's events, however, it was a small installment on a debt that can never be repaid.

"Their sacrifice was great, but not in vain," said Toner. "They risked their lives, ultimately, for their brothers and sisters." ▀

Top: Mikki Frison, the widow of 1st Lt. Demetrius Frison, uses charcoal and tracing paper to capture the imprint of her husband's name, Mar. 9.

Upper Right: Becky Welch, widow of 1st Lt. Robert F. Welch, takes a moment to remember at the Memorial Dedication and Fallen Hero Ceremony, Mar. 9.

Lower Right: An honor guard folds a United States flag during the Memorial Dedication and Fallen Hero Ceremony, Mar. 9.



Duke battalions change command



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer

Top: Lt. Col. Dave Brown, outgoing battalion commander of the 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and his Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Angelucci attach a battle streamer to the 201st BSB's guidon, March 15. The unit returned this January from a one-year deployment to eastern Afghanistan, in which they delivered more than seven tons of cargo throughout their area of operations. Brown relinquished battalion command to Lt. Col. Scott Shore during a change of command ceremony at Brooks Field.

Right: The color guard of the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, displays the American flag and the battalion guidon during a change of command ceremony on Brooks Field March 14. During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Ryan Janovic formally handed over command to Lt. Col. Rob Bollinger. Col. Chris Toner, commander of the 3rd BCT, called Janovic "the best the Army has to offer," adding that his unit met or exceeded the standards on all assignments during their tour in Afghanistan.

Lower Left: Col. Chris Toner (center), commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division troops the line during Lt. Col. Mark Borowski's final inspection of the troopers of the 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. The inspection took place during a battalion change of command ceremony at Brooks Field, March 14. Borowski (right) relinquished command of the battalion to Lt. Col. Michael Zernickow (left), two months after the unit returned from a one-year deployment to eastern Afghanistan. In his farewell speech, Borowski called his Soldiers the "absolute best that America has to offer."

Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer

Top Right: Lt. Col. James Vizzard, commander of the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, hands over his battalion guidon to Col. Chris Toner, commander of the 1-6's parent unit, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, at a change of command ceremony at Brooks Field, March 15. The passing of the colors signifies the outgoing commander handing over his responsibilities and formally relinquishing his command. During their year-long deployment to eastern Afghanistan in 2011, the 1-6 "Centaur's" fired more than 4,000 artillery rounds.

Lower Right: Capt. Benjamin Daughters, commander of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, presents his company for review during a change of command ceremony for the 2nd Bn. at Brooks Field March 13. Lt. Col. Alan Streeter handed over command of the infantry battalion to Lt. Col. Eric Lopez, two months after returning from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. During their deployment, 2nd Battalion Soldiers conducted more than 1,900 combat patrols and opened 56 schools in Ghazni Province.

Duke CSM bids farewell

By Staff Sgt. John Zumer
3/1 IBCT PAO

All things eventually come to an end, if not full-circle, in life. Careers and children are born, and other actors and co-workers come and go, but few people witness a journey spread across four decades. Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Drew Pumarejo is one such person.

Pumarejo, the outgoing command sergeant major of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's "Duke Brigade," closed a 31-year U.S. Army career in a March 16 retirement ceremony at the Patton Museum. Earlier that day, Pumarejo also relinquished his brigade sergeant major duties to incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Meyers.

Pumarejo said he was just an average teenager spinning his wheels, unsure of what he wanted to do in life, when he vis-

ited the recruiting station in his hometown of Harrisburg, Pa.

"The Army was exactly what I needed as a 19-year old," he said.

Lured by the prospect of action and adventure, Pumarejo enlisted as an infantryman, planning to head to Hawaii for his assignment. Half-way through basic training, however, an 82nd Airborne Division recruiter bent the ears of Pumarejo and a couple buddies.

"I let them talk me into it," he said.

"Eight of us signed up to go to jump school and the 82nd Airborne Division, but after the dust settled six of them had quit."

"They left me," he said, "but I've got no regrets, and as it turned out it was the start of something really great."

Col. Chris Toner, commander of the

3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., agreed. He praised Pumarejo for his tremendous service to the nation, quiet professionalism, calmness and ability to lead and inspire Soldiers.

"Words will do no justice today in describing Command Sgt. Maj. Pumarejo," said Toner.

Having served as an Army paratrooper in every enlisted rank from private to Command Sergeant Major, Pumarejo witnessed several changes since joining in 1981. Early in his career he was able to supplement his professional skills through attendance at Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Arctic, Jungle, and Amphibious Warfare Schools.

That training in the 1980s was more focused on traditional warfare compared to today's counter-insurgency focus, Pumarejo said.

"Back then in the Cold War days, you conducted a parachute assault and you moved out to your objective," he said. "If you weren't on the offense, you were on the defense, digging your position."

After Operation Desert Storm, Pumarejo experienced the tightening of the military budget and the reduction of the force.

"The motto at that time was 'Do more with less,'" he said. "Units weren't picking up and going exotic places like they used to. It was pretty much home-station training."

Pumarejo said as technology improved, Soldiers began receiving instruction that developed into the methods used today.

"That's when close-quarter combat training began," he said, "and we started to see some changes to the weapon systems."

When Pumarejo first enlisted, there was no squad automatic weapon; the squad's automatic rifleman was equipped with the same rifle as everyone else, except he got a 30-round magazine instead of a

20-round one, and a bipod for his weapon that, he said, "looked like a pair of salad tongs."

"Equipment just started getting better and better," he said, "and I really started noticing that in the mid-90s."

Even with all the technological advancements, Pumarejo insists his Duke Brigade Soldiers fighting in eastern Afghanistan on their just-concluded deployment are no different from his comrades he fought and trained alongside in the 80s.

"It's not the kit that makes the Soldier," he said. "I caution Soldiers not to get too far away from the basics; there are always iron sights on the weapon, you should always make sure you can use those first, and then you put the optics on."

Why then, with so many potential years of Army service left to serve, would he even consider retirement?

"I still have plenty to give, and I'm going to give it to my Family," he said.

That Family includes two children, Abigail Faith, 6, and Drew Jr., 5, and wife

Dee, whom Pumarejo said put her own professional aspirations on hold as she supported him along his Army path.

"They've been following me all these years to all these different places. So I'm going to give back and allow my wife to pursue her career," he said, adding he feels the toughest job in the entire Army is that of Army wife.

When asked for any parting advice from his vast experiences to offer younger Soldiers, he was quick to cite the six rules he's lived by during his 31 years of enlisted noncommissioned service.

"You do what you're told, when you're told, how you're told. Be a team player, be respectful, and don't be a brown-noser. If you can do these six things, you'll be a success."

For those in attendance, Pumarejo summarized his thoughts briefly and clearly when the time to say goodbye to Army life finally arrived.

"I can proudly say I carried the torch," said Pumarejo. 🇺🇸





Brigade volunteers recognized

By Staff Sgt. John Zumer
3/1 IBCT PAO

Listen to some Fort Knox-based Soldiers who just returned from a year in eastern Afghanistan, and they'll probably be able to recount a few instances where pressure mounted and times got tough. According to one Soldier with a birds-eye view of the proceedings, however, the true unsung heroes of that recent deployment not only wear civilian clothes, but never left Kentucky.

"The greatest burden, day in and day out, is on our Family members," said Col. Chris Toner, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, also known as the "Duke Brigade."

Toner's comments were delivered at the Dr. Mary E. Walker Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held at the Wilson Road Community Center Feb. 28. Award recipients were recognized on behalf of the Duke Brigade by Toner and Duke Command Sgt. Maj. Drew Pumarejo for the many hours they put in during their Soldier's deployments keeping spouses and Families connected on all deployment phases.

Dr. Mary E. Walker Awards recognize Army spouses whose achievements and performance merit special recognition for contributing significantly to the quality of life for Soldiers, their welfare and for exhibiting concern and attention for their Families.

Those in attendance were treated to a historical presentation on Walker, who served as a medical doctor in some of the American Civil War's most trying battlefield environments,

earning the respect of prominent Union generals like William T. Sherman and George Thomas. Her accomplishments were all the more noteworthy at the time, considering that era's long-standing prejudice in the medical community and society against women serving in professional capacities.

That willingness to serve, even without pay or daily recognition, is what separated those Duke Brigade volunteers recognized, said Toner.

"Our volunteers serve in our community, because our Families are in our community," he said.

Mary E. Walker awardees included 13 spouses of Duke Brigade Soldiers, each of whom helped keep Family Readiness Groups operational and efficient in getting relevant deployment facts disseminated to spouses and Families left behind.

Additionally, three Outstanding Civilian Service Awards and two Commander's Awards for Public Service were handed out. A luncheon and cake awaited all at the end of the awards ceremony.

For Toner, however, the occasion meant far more than food, dessert and a chance to catch up with old friends. It was a chance to recognize first-hand a Family support structure that has made the U.S. Army far better because of such caring, determined and ever-present civilian involvement.

"We couldn't do the things we do, and have done, without your support," Toner said. 🇺🇸

Resiliency training key to readjustment

By Staff Sgt. John Zumer
3/1 IBCT PAO

Ask any Soldier about slogans or catchphrases he's heard during his Army career and he'll probably be able to list several. Whether it's "Be all that you can be," "Army of One," or "Army Strong," attempts to influence Soldiers so that a more disciplined, competent and confident Army emerges have long been a staple of military life. Now the buzzwords of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, Resilience, and Effective Communication can be added to the mix for some Fort Knox-based Soldiers who recently returned from Afghanistan.

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's "Duke Brigade" have gradually been adjusting to garrison and Family life after returning in January from a year-long Afghanistan deployment. One part of that readjustment, ultimately focused on a Soldier's physical, emotional, social, spiritual and Family needs, has been classes on learning to communicate and interact more effectively with others, especially Families, after months of separation.

Expressing bottled-up emotions is something many Soldiers aren't accustomed to doing, said Master Sgt. Shermeka Myles, one of the instructors for the Army's "Comprehensive Soldier Fitness" program.

"Older Soldiers were conditioned to 'Suck it up and drive on,'" said Myles, the transportation plans non-commissioned officer in charge, Human Resources Command. "The younger Soldiers coming in today know that it's okay to seek help and talk to people."

The crux of the CSF program, according to Army doctrine, is to allow Soldiers, Families, and Army Civilians, through resilience and total fitness, to remain balanced, healthy, and self-confident in this era of persistent conflict and frequent deployments. Easier said than done, perhaps, especially when new buzzwords like "Resilience" might confuse Soldiers with the methods used for reaching the desired outcomes, or results.

Resilience, said Myles, is the ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges and bounce back from adversity. Developing resilience in Soldiers as not only a way of thinking but also through providing necessary mental toughness is built upon four CSF pillars, first rolled-out by Army leadership in 2008 at Fort Hood, Texas.

The first, a Global Assessment Tool, is a short, online survey-based self assessment tool that Soldiers take anonymously. Other pillars include online Comprehensive Resilience, or self development modules, tailored to one's performance levels on the GAT, and progressive institutional military training taught in Army-sponsored schools and targeted to unit deployment cycles.

Master Resilience Trainers like Myles tie everything together in presentations geared toward unit personnel and their Families.

One of the Soldiers in attendance, Sgt. 1st Class John Dominguez, brigade schools non-commissioned officer for the Duke Brigade, found the CSF information both pertinent and well-

presented.

"I think it has relevance for any issue a Soldier might encounter," he said, adding exposure to the "Activate-Thought-Consequence Model" was the most appealing. In that model, people encounter activating events which not only trigger their initial thoughts on how they might respond to an obstacle, but also shows the resulting consequences for certain responses.

"It opened my eyes to a lot of things," Dominguez said.

Measures of success for the CSF program would be declining suicide rates, fewer Soldiers seeking chaplain assistance, and fewer incidents of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and domestic violence, said Myles.

Such incidents were previously "off the charts," she added, cautioning that it's important to also reach out with behavioral assistance to Soldiers in garrison environments. With reintegration taking potentially up to six months or longer after a deployment, according to Myles, it's hoped that CSF will ultimately encourage and educate Soldiers to overcome hardships and adverse events, bounce back, lead confidently and grow even stronger personally and professionally.

"Strong Minds and Strong Bodies" is what the Army aspires to with the CSF program, said Myles. Another slogan to remember for the Soldiers involved, perhaps, but if the end state is a fitter, resilient and battle-ready Army comprised of individuals able to maximize their potential there's unlikely to be any complaints.

Anyone interested in learning more about the CSF program can go online to the Army-sponsored website <http://csf.army.mil> 🇺🇸



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White

Master Sgt. Shermeka L. Myles, the transportation plans non-commissioned officer in charge, Human Resources Command, addresses Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's "Duke Brigade" on the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, Feb. 15. The CSF program information focused on helping Soldiers and their Families remain balanced, healthy and self-confident while fulfilling personal and professional obligations. The Duke Brigade returned in January from a year-long deployment to eastern Afghanistan.

Golf SCRAMBLE

Dukes hit links in tournament

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil
3/1 IBCT PAO



Left: Sgt. 1st Class John Dominguez of Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, sizes up a putt at Lindsey Golf Course March 22.

Above: Staff Sgt. Bert Alcon, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, takes a swing at Lindsey Golf Course March 22.

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, “Duke” Brigade, participated in golf scramble at Lindsey Golf Course March 22.

The event was an opportunity for the Soldiers, who returned in January from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, to get some time off work, fresh air, and compete with each other in a friendly competition. Some also brought along family to play along.

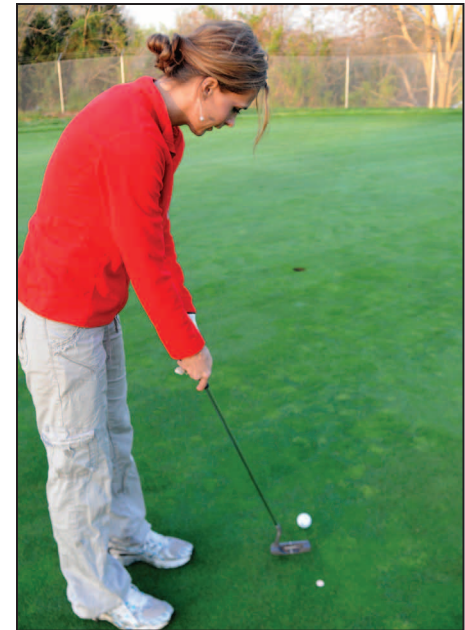
The event was long in the making, said Clyde Hill, the course manager. Lindsey Golf Course and Fort Knox Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation group started planning for an event for the 3rd Brigade in November, while most of the Soldiers were still downrange.

“We asked ourselves, ‘What can we do?’” said Hill. After deciding on the scramble, a date had to be chosen.

Hill said the obvious choice for the date was March 22, with the brigade set to begin leave the following Monday.

“We wanted to give the Soldiers a good feeling going in to leave,” he said.

An overwhelming amount of interest made what was planned



Upper right: Capt. Martisse Dettmer an administrative law attorney with the Fort Knox Staff Judge Advocate, attempts to sink a putt during a 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. golf scramble. Dettmer joined her husband, an officer with 3rd BCT, in the event which brought together Soldiers and family on the course for a day of fun.

Lower right: Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Gradick, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., takes a swing at a golf scramble.

as a half-day event take up all day, said Hill. Originally he had expected about 100 people to participate, but in the end more than 250 golfers came to play. The participants were split into 2 groups, one starting at sunrise, and the other just after lunch, which was provided free by the Fort Knox FMWR.

“Everyone’s happy,” said Hill, “this is our way of giving back to these Soldiers that have been away for so long.”

Capt. Sarah Spatzer of 3rd BCT’s Headquarters Company said the event was a chance to have some fun, get out of the office, and bond with her co-workers.

“It was a great way to build esprit de corps,” said Spatzer, “to show we’re part of a unit.”

She said she was happy with how she did, this being only her second time playing golf. But she was more interested in having a good time than keeping score.

“The simplicity of the sport is what makes it so fun,” she said. “When you strike the ball it helps you to release stress. Its freedom.”



Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, march through a cornfield while returning to their patrol base after a patrol through Majiles village in Sabari District. The U.S. and Afghan National Army patrolled the area around Majiles for local insurgent leaders and contraband. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ben K. Navratil)