

# THE HEARTBEAT

The Official Magazine of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division



## STRIKE'S NEW SHOTGUN

2nd BCT first unit in Army issued the M26

page 15

## STRIKE Stress Shoot Exercise

STRIKE Force's deploying teams conduct live fire exercises

page 11

## STRIKE's Division Run

A two-page spread of 2nd BCT Soldiers during the latest run

page 25



# TABLE OF CONTENTS...

## COLUMNS

### 2|Words From the Top

A message from STRIKE's Col. Dan Walrath & Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo Smith

### 3|The STRIKE Unit Ministry Team

Direction provided by the brigade's chaplains

### 4|Resiliency & STRIKE FRG

Guidance, instructions and standards

### 5|STRIKE BOSS & Legal

Information for Single Soldiers and legal advice

### 6|Retention & Equal Opportunity

Re-enlistment updates and vital EO info

## FEATURES

### 7|STRIKE Superbowl Party

Strike's Single Soldiers party at The Zone for the big game.

### 9|STRIKE Soldier Chefs Win CG's Award

526th BSB Chefs and Dining Facility are best in Ft. Campbell

### 11|STRIKE Force Stress Shoot Exercise

2-502nd prepares deployment teams with live-fire exercises

### 15|STRIKE's New Shotgun

2nd BCT first unit issued newest Army shotgun

### 17|STRIKE SFAT Deployment Brief

2nd BCT informs deploying Soldiers and Families on upcoming mission

### 19|Fallen STRIKE Journalist Honored at PT

HHC Brigade does combat focused PT in honor of Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter

### 23|Top Guns' Single Soldier Retreat

1-320th singles retreat to Smoky Mountains

### 25|Division Run

A two-page photo spread of the 2nd BCT Soldiers during the latest 101st run

### 27|Foreign Weapons Expert Trains STRIKE

John E. Foley introduces the Soldiers of Strike to the weapons in Afghanistan

## STRIKE SPECIALS

### 29|STRIKE Poster

A page size sample of a new Strike poster

### 30|Faces of STRIKE

Snap-shots of today's STRIKE Soldiers

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Sgt. Vincent Mennell, a combat engineer with Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), fires the newly issued M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System at Fort Campbell's Range 44b, Feb. 10.



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# Words from the Top



## STRIKE Soldiers and Families.

You have accomplished a great deal during the beginning of 2012 - organizing and training for a new and challenging Security Force Assistance (SFA) mission while simultaneously preparing Soldiers and Leaders for continued operations and training back at Fort Campbell.



Our Team STRIKE SFA teams have conducted excellent training on the BIG 5 fundamentals to prepare for combat and we will continue our training at the Joint Readiness Training Center next month to practice how to advise and assist a host-nation security force.



From what I saw on my recent reconnaissance in Afghanistan, I am excited with the significant opportunity our Team STRIKE SFA teams will have to contribute to enduring transition of lead security responsibility to the Afghan National Security Forces.



The Team CAMPBELL STRIKE BCT(-) remaining at Fort Campbell will have a great opportunity as well - additional dwell and training time to achieve true proficiency in individual and small unit skills and tasks through repetition. Many young leaders will also have an incredible opportunity to step up to lead, train and care for STRIKE units, Soldiers and Families. Team STRIKE and Team CAMPBELL STRIKE



I have great confidence in what you will accomplish. Continue to "fight where told and win where you fight!"



-Col. Dan R. Walrath



# The Chaplain Says... *by Chaplain (Capt.) William J. Sheets*

All types of problems face us; downsizing, illness or illness of a loved one, family problems, money problems, and all sorts of complex local, national, and international challenges that require our best efforts and our enduring courage. And you've heard the saying, what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger. But who are you becoming? You know you are not the same after you have suffered a loss or great challenge, but are you stronger in what is good? Or bad for you and those around you? The life of Louis Zamperini is a great example of survival, resilience, and redemption in the face of unbelievable difficulties. His amazing journey has been captured in the book, *Unbroken*, by Laura Hildebrand, author of *Seabiscuit*.

Louis was born in 1917 and led a fairly wild youth until his older brother introduced him into running. At first he was horrible at it, but eventually he constant training propelled him to make the 1936 Olympic team at the age of 19. Although he didn't win a medal, he made quite an impression.

When World War II began, Louis joined the Army Air as a bombardier. In 1943 while flying in the Pacific, his plane had mechanical problems and went down. Louis, the pilot, and

another crew member survived at first. Having secured a life raft, they floated over a thousand miles at sea, fighting hunger, severe dehydration and sharks for weeks without rescue. Louis and the pilot survived 47 days on virtually nothing!

But to add insult to injury, after those 47 harrowing days, they were picked up by the Japanese and spent the next two years in the hell holes of Japanese POW camps where Louis was beaten and suffered horribly until his release at the end of the war. He had survived.

But what happened to Louie after all that?

After the war ended, he tried to get his old life back. He attempted a return to running, but an injury to his ankle from a beating during his POW years prevented him. He got married and started working, but his life still spiraled down. He drank heavily. He got into fights. He had serious financial problems and then serious marital problems. He had horrible nightmares. Sleep evaded him. Having kept his life together through the ordeals of war, he lost it at home.

But the story doesn't end there. While Zamperini struggled personally and in his marriage, his wife Cynthia came to faith in God and her life was completely changed. And it was her influence

and others that eventually led Louis to finding true peace through faith in God.

For the first time in his life, Louis felt God's love and concern for him. As the author of *Unbroken* wrote, "He was no longer a worthless, broken, forsaken man. In a single, silent moment, his rage, his fear, his humiliation and helplessness, had fallen away... he believed he was a new creation." Not ever again after that day did he have the nightmares which up to that time had plagued him and later he even went back to Japan and publicly forgave his oppressors. In suffering whether it is physical, spiritual, or emotional, we may be able to survive on our own strength...for a while. But what or who do we become in the process? Who are we becoming even outside of suffering? My hope is that you turn to God and find peace.





## STRIKE Physical Therapy

Most people consider setting resolutions to improve their physical health in the New Year, but making mental health goals can be just as important. This list is adapted from one created by Chip Coffey, the director of Outpatient Services at St. Luke's Behavioral Health Center. I recommend writing out your goals, sharing them with loved ones, and seeking help from others to make them a reality.

1. "I resolve to treat myself with respect and speak nicely about myself." Talk to yourself like you would to a friend or loved one. Create a list of 10 positive things you like about yourself and post in places you will see daily, such as your home, car, or office, to serve as a reminder.
2. "I resolve to be mentally healthy." Although there may still be lingering stigma surrounding seeking behavioral health care, it is one of the healthiest things you can do for yourself, especially in times of crisis. A therapist or chaplain is an unbiased party that can help you understand why you do the things you do.
3. "I will be physically active on a daily basis." Exercise can help improve mental health significantly, and, in some people, can be even more effective than antidepressant medication in reducing symptoms. Be sure to include physical activities you enjoy on the weekends, such as yoga, weight lifting, or team sports, in addition to daily PT.
4. "I will learn to relax and enjoy." It is very easy to get caught up in the high OPTEMPO and forget to take care of ourselves. Remember to make time for yourself after work or on the weekends when you can do something you truly enjoy. Take a class or pick up a hobby that is enjoyable to you and spend a little time doing it each week.
5. "I will be mindful." Being mindful is about appreciating the moment you are in right now. You cannot change what you did in the past, or predict the future, but you do have control over the here and now.
6. "I will work toward being the person I want to be." This might include setting goals like getting promoted or graduating from Air Assault School, or preparing yourself for life outside the Army. Whatever your situation, remember that life is a journey to be enjoyed, not an obstacle to be overcome.

The Division Behavioral Health Clinic will now be offering walk-in services Monday through Friday from 0730-1100 at Carentan Clinic. Please call 270-412-0090 for more details.

## STRIKE Family Readiness Group

Dear Strike Families,

We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust our sails... an appropriate sentiment for STRIKE'S current mission to serve as a Security Force Advisor Team in Afghanistan!

As STRIKE Soldiers prepare for their new mission, STRIKE Family Readiness Group Volunteers likewise are adjusting their sails as they prepare in their mission to serve during the next deployment. Occurring months earlier than expected, this new mission will require organization into teams, versus traditional company/troop/battery units. Therefore, our Families will face changes in the FRG structure and flow of information. We are confident that our STRIKE FRG Volunteers, who have been attending higher level FRG training since November of last year, will be able to meet the new challenges!



Continuing in the spirit of selfless service, STRIKE FRG Volunteers often display the same warrior ethos as their Soldiers with respect to their dedication and commitment to serve, often for no other reason than to serve a purpose greater than themselves. They continue to be an invaluable force in fulfilling the overall mission of the STRIKE Family Readiness Group.

A heartfelt thank you to all our STRIKE Soldiers and Families, who display the highest level of courage and professionalism in accepting the challenges of our new mission, and to all the STRIKE FRG Volunteers who continue to answer the call to serve with kindness, strength and compassion!


Strike Spouse Strong!

Christine Walrath & Sandra Smith

Strike FRG Senior Advisors



# STRIKE Legal



STRIKE's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (STRIKE BOSS) is a program that supports the overall quality of life for single STRIKE Soldiers. STRIKE BOSS identifies well-being issues and concerns by recommending improvements through the chain of command.

STRIKE BOSS encourages and assists single Soldiers in identifying and planning for recreational and leisure activities. Additionally, STRIKE BOSS provides single Soldiers the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their respective communities.

Meetings are weekly to discuss current issues, upcoming events and how to better the lives of STRIKE's Single Soldiers.

To get involved and/or to become a representative for a battalion, squadron, battery, company, troop, contact Sgt. Joe Padula, the new STRIKE BOSS President at: [joseph.padula1.mil@mail.mil](mailto:joseph.padula1.mil@mail.mil)

"Together, we will learn and then implement how to better ourselves and our battle buddies around us, absolutely."

-Sgt. Joe Padula

Our nation is gearing up for another election year here in 2012, and uniformed members of the Army need to understand the important rules regarding permissible (and impermissible) political activities. The Army and the Department of Defense (DoD) have very detailed rules and guidelines when it comes to participation in political campaigns, rallies, or events. Recently, a U.S. Army National Guard Soldier brought attention to these rules when he appeared at a political rally for a particular Presidential candidate. This Soldier took the microphone stand and spoke in full support of the candidate while wearing his ACUs and identifying himself as a United States Soldier. Many videos began to air on national news outlets and on the internet that showed this young man voicing support for that candidate while wearing full uniform. This is a classic example of how his actions, however innocently intentioned, made a clear implication to the viewer that he was supporting that candidate in his official capacity as a U.S. Soldier.

The Army encourages Soldiers to exercise their civic duty to vote, sign petitions, or contribute to political campaigns. However, many actions showing political support can become inappropriate if done while in uniform or while acting in one's official capacity as a U.S. Soldier. For example, the rules do allow Soldiers to attend political rallies, debates, or fundraisers, whether partisan or nonpartisan, as long as they do so as a spectator only and not in uniform. It is important that Soldiers do not give off the impression, either directly or implied that their support for any particular candidate or political party is endorsed by any branch of the military. Soldiers are prohibited from wearing any uniform while supporting a campaign or acting in any way that would give the appearance of official sponsorship or support from the DoD.

When analyzing the "dos" and "don'ts" of political affiliation, Soldiers must think about whether their actions or words will give off the impression to others that they are acting in their official capacity as a uniformed Service member. The most important thing for Soldier to remember is that it is improper to use their official position, duty title, or rank when endorsing a particular candidate or political party. For example, it is permissible for a Soldier to display a political bumper sticker on a personally owned vehicle, but hanging or erecting political signs or banners at the work place or in front of on-post housing is strictly prohibited. In addition, Soldiers may not distribute political literature, pamphlets, or emails while at work or through official government email networks that endorse or support any candidate or party.

Furthermore, Soldiers are prohibited from holding any political office while they are still serving on active duty in the Army. There are different rules for holding political office when it comes to Soldiers who are serving part-time in the Army Reserves or the National Guard. If you are considering seeking a political office or even thinking about working on a political campaign, see your brigade legal office to discuss your options.

A Soldier's decision to join the military should not be misconstrued as a forfeiture of his or her rights as a private citizen. All civic rights are still intact for any Soldier as a citizen of this great Nation. These rights include the right to support one candidate or political party over another. As long as this support comes from each Soldier in their capacity as a private citizen and not as a uniformed representative of the U.S. Government, there are no problems. For more information regarding the rules that govern political campaigns and contributions, please visit your legal office or check out the references at DoD Directive 1344.10 or AR 600-20, para. 5-3.



# ***STRIKE* Retention Update** by Sgt. 1st Class Cesar Andujo

As the Army faces significant reductions, as well as winding down from major combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the focus on the future of our enlisted force in future years must shift from emphasis on “quantity” to “quality”. Beginning with Phase 2 of the Fiscal Year 2012 Retention Program on 01 March, the Army will implement dynamic changes to ensure we retain the highest quality, most qualified Soldiers.

The opportunity window for Soldiers begins 01 March, and will end 30 September 2012. Soldiers that have an ETS date in Fiscal Year 2013 will be eligible to reenlist in Phase 2. In other words, Soldiers who have an ETS date from 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013. A few of the many important changes include:

- > Soldiers’ leadership teams will have more impact than before in determining who is given the privilege of staying Army Strong.
- > Soldiers can be denied the privilege of reenlistment by the BCT Commander, based on certain criteria that indicate they are not the best quality for continued service.
- > SSGs and above who have certain negative information in their OMPF can be denied the privilege of reenlistment. Examples include a “Relief-for-Cause” NCOER, or failure of a NCOES course.
- > Requests for waivers and exceptions to Army policy will be more closely scrutinized, and more difficult to consider favorably.

Soldiers must understand it is critical we retain, for the long-term future of our nation’s Army, the high-quality Soldiers who possess the most potential. Understandably there will be questions and concerns over the next year and beyond. As noted by the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Sergeant Major of the Army, “performance counseling will be one of the key tools in determining retention.” Some Soldiers that are fully

qualified may be denied reenlistment. However, these changes are necessary as we reduce the Army’s end strength and shape the future force.

Soldiers and leaders who have questions and concerns can contact their servicing Career Counselor in their battalions for further information.



## ***Equal Opportunity for STRIKE - Sgt. 1st Class Ta Mouton -***

Ethnic observances recognize the contributions and achievements of all Americans and increase the awareness, mutual respect and understanding of the various cultures that contribute to the American culture

Special and ethnic observances are held annually in support of Joint Congressional Resolution, Presidential Proclamation, and Chief of Staff Directives. These activities are designed to develop an awareness of the various cultures that contribute to the American culture and are a portion of the Army’s ongoing equal opportunity education process.

Special and ethnic observances provide commanders an opportunity to enhance the human relations climate through increased unity, awareness, and mutual understanding of the accomplishments and contributions of all members of the Army. These observances, as with respect to equal opportunity, are the responsibility of the commander.

### **LIST OF OBSERVANCES**

Month: February

Observance: African-American/Black History Month

Authority/comment: First Presidential Proclamation, Feb. 76

Hashoah

Observance: “Days of Remembrance” for Victims of the Holocaust  
Authority/comment: Public Law 96-388, Oct. 80

Month: March

Dates: 1-31

Observance: Women’s History Month

Authority/comment: Public Law 100-9, Mar 87

Month: April/May

Dates: Sunday to Sunday for Week Incorporating Yom

Month: May

Dates: 1-31

Observance: Asian Pacific Heritage Month

Authority/comment: First Presidential Proclamation, May 91



# STRIKE Soldiers Celebrate Super Bowl 46



Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), cheer in for the New York Giants winning Superbowl XLVI at Fort Campbell Morale, Welfare and Recreation's The Zone, Feb. 5. The Zone provided a safe, fun and close place for the Strike Soldiers to watch the NFL's championship game.

"Did you see that!" screamed a Soldier while jumping out of his seat as he watched New York Giants' wide receiver, Mario Manningham, make a game-changing catch late in the fourth quarter of Superbowl XLVI.

The amazed fan was among the more than 500 people and fifty other Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), watching the championship game at Fort Campbell Morale, Welfare and Recreation's The Zone, Feb. 5. He thought it was the place to be for the big game.

"I'm here to watch the Superbowl and I am surprised and impressed with how it turned out here," said Spc. Kevin Cude, a petroleum supply specialist and a company Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers representative with Company G, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. "This is excellent to see so many of the single Soldiers come out and just enjoy themselves and get out of the barracks meeting new people, watching a great game, life is good."

The Zone started their Superbowl party at 2 pm with tailgate style food/beverages, door prizes, and about 30 large screens allowing those who came to be a part of the 111.3 million viewing audience.

"This is the Soldiers' place, their home away from home," said Catherine Walker, manager of The Zone and hostess of the party. "The Strike Soldiers and the regulars are great and we are letting them develop The Zone into what they want it to be and this turnout is fantastic."

With all the amenities available for the parties, they were able to freely root for their team of choice, which came with mixed judgment.

"Let's go Giants," said Spc. Christopher Siegrist, an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. "I'm having a good time at The Zone watching the game and having a few drinks with my boys and yeah, this is helping unit cohesion, absolutely."

Some Soldiers were in support of the favored New England team, who still enjoyed themselves despite their teams defeat by a score of 21-17.

"I'm rooting for the Patriots," said Pfc. Dominic Teresa Montano of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment and the battalion's BOSS representative. "I'm enjoying the party with my friends today and I'm real impressed with the crowd and the prizes."

Others who did not have their favorite team involved were there to

watch a good game and the football atmosphere.

"I didn't care either way for the outcome of the game, but I am happy to here," said Pfc. Brian Sullivan an intelligence analyst with HHC, 2nd BCT. "The party was great, the food was great and all of the free prizes were like, wow, these are some really nice things."

About 17 drawings for prizes were held per each quarter during the game, that put in the hands of the Soldiers items like Superbowl leather jackets and apparel, video games, CD's, a football shaped grill, a kegerator for 21 and over aged participants, 14K gold Superbowl coins, VIP seating during the game and a 55" television. Whether or not they won a prize, the Strike Soldiers walked away from The Zone's 2012 Superbowl party with something.

"I'm seeing a lot of Strike Soldiers here laughing, smiling and it's a good thing, I've never seen it like this before," said Pfc. Lajoyce Perkins, an automated logistical specialist with Company G, 1st Btn., 320th FAR. "I hope to see more events just like this more often because we're leaving here a lot closer."



Pfc. Logan Stokes, a cavalry scout with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, grabs food from the buffet table at Fort Campbell Morale, Welfare and Recreation's The Zone, Feb. 5.

# STRIKE CONTINUES FAMILY BOND WITH WOUNDED WARRIORS

“You’ve found in one another, a bond, that exists only in combat, among brothers,” said Cpl. Joseph Liebgott, from the TV mini-series, “Band of Brothers.”

The bonds that were formed on the Kandahar battlefield created a strong connection between the Strike Soldiers, which continues today, especially with those wounded during the Afghanistan surge, which are now healing in other units.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), maintain the bond with their wounded warriors and held its wounded warrior lunch at the Strike Dining Facility, Jan. 12, where the wounded and Strike Soldiers ate together, reconnected with their units and confirmed they are still a part of the Strike family.

“You are not forgotten and once a Strike Soldier, always a Strike Soldier and if you felt otherwise, it is not so,” said Command Sgt. Major Alonzo Smith, the brigade’s command sergeant major, while addressing the wounded warriors at the lunch-in. “Whether it’s five-years from now, ten-years from now or 20-years from now, what you have done and your service has made you always a Strike Soldier.”

Some of the wounded are currently assigned to Fort Campbell’s Warrior Transition Battalion, whose purpose is to prepare Soldiers to return to their active duty unit or to become a successful Army veteran in the civilian life through medical and physical treatment. The 12-wounded Soldiers from the WTB revisiting Strike were emotional about their visit.

“I’m always thinking about my guys and seeing them and being with them is so needed,” said Sgt. Kevin Siler, a Bronze Star Medal with Valor recipient now with the WTB and was with Strike’s Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, when he sustained wounds on July 31, 2010 during the Battle of Bakersfield, an offensive in Afghanistan’s Arghandab district. “The closest bond was made between us and words can express how it feels to be reunited with my brothers.”



Spc. Michael Waskom, previously with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, looks at the Combined Task Force Strike Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11 Fallen Heroes Wall outside of the Strike Store during a visit to the 2nd BCT, Jan. 12. Waskom was wounded Sept. 5, 2010 from an Improvised Explosive Device and is currently with Fort Campbell’s Warrior Transition Battalion.



Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo Smith, command sergeant major, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101 Airborne Division (Air Assault) and 12-Strike Wounded Warriors, stand in front of the Combined Task Force Strike Fallen Hero Monument during a visit back to Strike, Jan. 12. The wounded warriors are currently assigned to Fort Campbell’s Warrior Transition Battalion and still carry a strong bond with the 2nd BCT.

Discussions during their meals touched upon war stories about places in Kandahar, Afghanistan called Zharay, Arghandab, Maiwand and Panjwa’i. Laughs, moments of silence and long embraces were shared throughout the lunch.

“This reminds me of the things that I’ve missed and at the Warrior Transition Unit, things are great, but it’s not the same camaraderie and it’s not the same family,” said Spc. Richard Danker, now with the WTB’s Company B and was with Strike’s Company G, 526th Brigade Support Battalion, when he sustained wounds Oct. 22, 2010, while operating in Jelawur. “I look around me and I feel like I’m at home and I’m doing a lot better than I was before.”

During the lunch, footage of Strike’s Afghan missions and operations was shown and then a visit to the Strike Store, where the wounded warriors were given unit memorabilia. The effects of Strike’s continued connection to its wounded are felt amongst the Soldiers.

“The emotion I have when I am over here is pride, I am very proud to be a part of Strike and the solidarity that I feel with my brothers here is like that of family,” said Sgt. Jeremy Smith, who was injured in Zharay district July 2, 2010, when he was assigned to Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. “My unit in Strike is family to me and is one of the best units I’ve ever been in.”

Before heading back to the WTB, the Strike Wounded Warriors paid their respects to the 66 fallen Soldiers of Combined Task Force Strike at the brigade’s memorial dedications.

“The 2nd Brigade is an excellent place to be and I was honored to fight along the side of my brothers there,” said Smith, while standing next to the wall with the faces of the fallen from Strike’s Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.

The 101st’s 2nd BCT has scheduled more events to include its wounded warriors as it continues to never forget its Strike family.



# STRIKE SOLDIER CHEFS WIN COMMANDER'S CERTIFICATE



Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Herndon, Fort Campbell's garrison command sergeant major, presents the Commander's Certificate for best dining facility during the Thanksgiving holiday to Sgt. 1st Class Raquel Mendoza, a platoon sergeant with Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, at the Strike Dining Facility, Jan. 24.

"For distinguished service provided to our Soldiers and the Fort Campbell community during the period of 22 November 11 through 24 November 11 for selection at the Commander's Best Decorated Dining Facility for Thanksgiving 2011 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky," is what's written on The Commander's Certificate presented to the Soldier chefs and staff members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Dining Facility, Jan. 24. "You achieved the highest standards in the dining facility decorations and food service support provided to our Soldiers. The displays, quality of food and outstanding teamwork made a positive difference in the quality of life for our Soldiers. This achievement reflects great credit upon your unit, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and serves as an outstanding example for others to follow," signed by Maj. Gen. James McConville, commanding general of Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne Division.

The Strike Soldier chefs worked hard for many hours leading up to and the day of Thanksgiving to create a festive environment for the Soldiers and Family Members and appreciate the recognition.

"We worked on the Thanksgiving prep-team for almost a month and put in a lot of hard hours, even staying past midnight the day of, but it all paid off," said Cpl. Nicholas Opielski, a Soldier chef with Company

F, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. "Seeing the smiles on the faces that day felt really good and gives us a lot of pride, it feels good."

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Herndon, Fort Campbell's garrison command sergeant major, presented the award and expressed the importance of the Soldier chef and their job.

"You probably don't get told it enough, but thank you for what you do everyday; thanks for going the extra distance when it comes to events like Thanksgiving or Christmas," said Herndon before awarding the formation of chefs at the Strike Dining Facility. "A lot of times our Soldiers lose some of their skill set on what they do everyday, but over the holiday season you proved you still have it and are still the best the Army has to offer."

In charge of the dining facility staff responsible for the successful holiday is Sgt. 1st Class Raquel Mendoza, platoon sergeant with Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, who has a great respect for her Soldiers.

"Today the Soldiers were awarded for their hard work and dedication to mission over Thanksgiving," said Mendoza. "They showed their culinary arts skills and came out on top and these are some of the best Soldier chefs that we have in the Army."





**STRIKE  
D-Fac  
Awarded**



*Jan 24th  
&  
Feb 21st*



## The Commander's Certificate

For being selected as the commander's best dining facility, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, 1st quarter, fiscal year 2012. You achieved the highest standards in dining facility management and food service operations and your outstanding teamwork has made a difference in the quality of life for our Soldiers. This achievement reflects great credit upon the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Dining Facility and serves an outstanding example for others to follow. Air Assault!

James C. McConville  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding





# STRIKE FORCE READIES FOR DEPLOYMENT WITH STRESS SHOOT



Soldiers from a deploying Security Force Assistance Team with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), drag a weighted medical litter during a stress shoot training exercise at Fort Campbell's Range 40a, Feb. 16. The stress shoot training exercises put the Strike Force Soldiers through highly intense situations.

When the bullets are flying and the enemy is sight, a Soldier's heart is beating fast, his adrenaline is pumping and his mind races, but he keeps his cool, maintains his composure and eliminates the enemy.

The only way he reaches that level of skill is by continuous training and the deploying Strike

Force Security Force Assistance Teams from the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), played out this heart racing scenario by conducting a stress shoot training exercise at Fort Campbell's Range 40a, Feb. 16.

In full combat gear and

with live ammunition locked and loaded, the Strike Force Soldiers tested their physical fitness, improved their fundamental shooting skills and developed self awareness about the difficulties of shooting in a high stress, combat environment as they better prepare themselves to face the challenges of a 9-month deployment to Afghanistan.

"This course assess your physical fitness and your marksmanship and if you can control your heart rate and breathing, theoretically you can hit what you are aiming at," said Sgt. Maj. John White, the Strike Force command sergeant major.

Being timed and working as a two-man team, the Soldiers began the course by sprinting 200-meters, engaged the first target,

200-meters away, with their M4 carbine. After 10-rounds shot from the kneeling and prone firing positions, the Soldiers sprinted another 50-meters towards the target and fired again. After a total of five separate sprints covering a distance of



Spc. Aaron McCosh and Sgt. Juan Gonzalez, part of a deploying Security Force Assistance Team with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, carry a wounded Soldier to a medical litter during a stress shoot training exercise at Fort Campbell's Range 40a, Feb. 16.



Capt. James Nardelli, part of a deploying Security Force Assistance Team with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), fires at a target during a stress shoot training exercise at Fort Campbell's Range 40a, Feb. 16.





Col. Dan Walrath, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), fires at a target 200-meters away after sprinting for 50-meters during on part of a stress shoot training exercise at Fort Campbell's Range 40a, Feb. 16.

370-meters and then using their sidearm weapon at a close-quarter target, the Strike Force Soldiers completed the course in between six to seven minutes effectively hitting their marks.

"Fitness play a big role in this," said a hard breathing Capt. James Nardelli, part of the brigade's deploying Security Force Assistance Team. "The better shape you are in, the quicker you can lower your heart rate, increasing the effectiveness of your firepower. This is a key training event for the upcoming deployment."

The deployment training continued as the SFAT Soldiers assembled and patrolled through the nearby woods and came upon a mass-casualty sight. The Soldiers provided care-under-fire, assessed and

treated the wounded then took the steps in evacuating the casualties, within a 25-minute time limit.

"It's very important to incorporate the medi-

cal treatment with the infantry tactics in order to evacuate casualties from the front lines," said Sgt. Manuel Valdez, a combat medic with Strike Force's

Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "The terrain in Afghanistan is different then here, but the training is the same and as long as the basic framework is complete, it can be done anywhere."

The teams would then drag two weighted medical litters about 100-meters to the extraction point, thus completing the training. The concentration for the Strike Force Soldiers has been on physical and mental fitness as they prepare for their mission to advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces in securing the Afghan people.

"We will continue to focus on fitness and this training validates if your physical fitness program is working," said White.



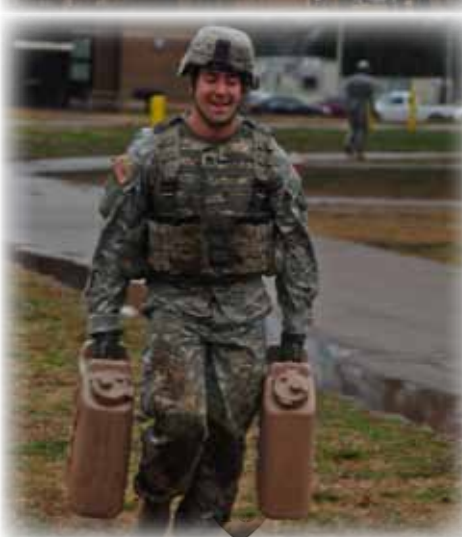
A grader with Strike Forces observes two Soldiers from a deploying Security Force Assistance Team with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), while they perform care under fire to a casualty during a stress shoot training exercise at Fort Campbell's Range 40a, Feb. 16. The stress shoot training exercises put the Strike Force Soldiers through highly intense situations.



# IRON STRIKE COMPETITION

## 16-FEB-12

800 METER RUN  
100 METER DASH  
AIR ASSAULT ROPE CLIMB  
300 METER WATER JUG CARRY  
6 FOOT WALL CLIMBS  
100 METER MEDICAL LITER DRAG







FINISH TIME	NAME	UNIT	TIME ADD	EVENT PEN
0/1-75	SP4 Thomas, Robert		33.19	
	SPC Carter, Marcus		30.51	
	SP6 Faglar, Victor		30.01	
	SPC Sam, Madala		33.46	
FINISH TIME	NAME	UNIT	TIME ADD	EVENT PEN
A/1-502	SPC Placido, Mitchell			
	SPC Kamigaki			
	SPC Nico, Mac			
	SPC Brady, Th			





# ***STRIKE First Army Unit Issued M26 MASS***

It weighs 3.5 pounds, has a barrel length of 7.75 inches, fires 12-gauge shells and can be mounted on the M4 carbine or act as a standalone firearm. The M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System is the latest combat enhancer in Strike's arsenal.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, is the first unit in the Army selected to be issued this new weapons system.

"This is a new capability that is now in your hands for you to conduct your mission downrange," said Col. Scott C. Armstrong, with Project Manager Soldier Weapons, during a presentation ceremony held at Fort Campbell's Strike Academy, Feb. 7.

"This is a big day, not just for the 2nd Brigade, but for the Army."

Picatinny Arsenal-based PMSW is a group that supports Soldiers through the development, production, fielding and sustainment of current and future weapons systems. PMSW fielded the M26 MASS to the 2nd BCT, also known as the Strike Brigade due to the unit's profile and future deployment schedule. "We're glad to be the first unit to put this weapon to work and there is an appreciation for all that goes



Sgt. Vincent Mennell, a combat engineer with Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), fires the newly issued M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System at Fort Campbell's Range 44b, Feb. 10. The 2nd BCT, also known as the Strike Brigade, is the first unit in the Army to be issued the future weapon.

into this," said Col. Dan Walrath, the Strike commander, while holding the new Strike Shotgun.

After the "hand-over" ceremony, the weapons were issued to Strike's engineer company, Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and Strike's military police with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BSTB. For three days, under the guidance of PMSW, the Strike Soldiers learned how to assemble, maintain, repair and effectively fire their new weapons.

"From the classroom instruction to employing the techniques taught at the

M26 live-fire range, I was very impressed with the professionalism, motivation and skill of the Soldiers present," said Maj. Vinson Morris, assistant product manager.

"I have no doubt the 2nd Brigade Soldiers will seamlessly incorporate this new weapon into their current missions while benefiting from the weapon's light weight and exceptional reliability."

The Strike Soldiers who received and shot the weapons are welcoming the new firearm into their arsenal, and saw how its capabilities will help their missions.

"I can see this being very

effective with the engineers for breaching and with the military police, especially since you can shoot ammunition that is non lethal," said Sgt. Rhys McMahon, a combat engineer with Company A.

"So far this is an amazing weapon; I've shot about 75 rounds and it works magnificently.

"This would have helped us out quite a few times when we were in Afghanistan."

The Strike MP's first sergeant, 1st Sgt. David Ward, is honored to have his teams use the new weapon system and attributes it partly to their accomplishments achieved



in Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.

“Since I have the brigade MP platoon in my company, I feel the initial deployment of these weapons to Strike is a testament to the service the Strike Soldiers have always exemplified, but most specifically in our last deployment into Afghanistan,” said Ward, talking about the brigade’s engineers and MPs.

“Both of these elements of the brigade did some outstanding work in Afghanistan and it is nice to see them be the first to field the latest and greatest systems.”



Sgt. Rhys McMahon, a combat engineer with Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, fires the stand alone version of the M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System at Fort Campbell’s Range 44b, Feb. 10. After firing the weapon system McMahon said, “This would have helped us out quite a few times when we were in Afghanistan.”



Maj. Vinson Morris, with Program Manager Soldier Weapon and a M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System expert, show the elements of the new shotgun to Col. Dan Walrath, Strike commander, at Strike Academy, Feb. 7.



Sgt. Chris Dupertuis, a combat engineer with Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, fires the stand alone version of the M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System at Fort Campbell’s Range 44b, Feb. 10.



# STRIKE READIES FAMILIES, SOLDIERS FOR DEPLOYMENT



Capt. Daniel Belzer, one of the deploying Security Force Assistance Team members with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), holds his newly born child during the brigade's pre-deployment brief held at Fort Campbell's Passenger Processing Facility, Mar. 6. The brief provided information and guidance to the family members and Soldiers regarding the upcoming Strike SFAT deployment to Afghanistan.

Strike Families and the deploying Strike Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), were given their pre-deployment brief at Fort Campbell's Passenger Processing Facility, Mar. 6, as the Strike Brigade prepares its Security Force Assistance Teams for their mission to Afghanistan's Regional Command-East.

"Your Strike Soldier and the teams they represent really constitute a new strategic capability that will make a decisive difference in transitioning the Afghan National Security Forces to assume full responsibility for the security and governance of Afghanistan," said Col. Dan Walrath, the Strike Brigade's commander, as he addressed the Strike families during the opening of the brief. "Your Strike Soldier, husband, spouse, in coordination with U.S. brigade combat teams, will train, assist and advise the ANSF in RC-East."

Walrath's intent during the brief was to inform the Families and Soldiers about the Strike mission while operating in Afghanistan and to notify the attendees about protocol and services provided for those involved with the deployment. The

American Red Cross, legal assistance and the unit ministry team were some of the groups on hand to discuss their topics. The Families welcomed the useful information

"The way the information was presented made it easy to absorb and it was great having each different group coming in to talk about each aspect," said Erica Wenger, wife of Capt. Jay Wenger, commander of Strike's Company D, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. "This is great for those going through a deployment for the first time. I would of liked something like this for our first deployment, that's for sure."

Most of the deploying SFAT members are made up of the brigade's Leaders and experienced personnel, who have multiple deployments under their belts. They also found the brief to be important.



Col. Dan Walrath, the commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, discusses communication with families and Strike Soldiers during the brigade's pre-deployment brief held at Fort Campbell's Passenger Processing Facility, Mar. 6. Nearly 500 Family Members and Soldiers attended the brief and were informed on policies and provided guidance for the upcoming Strike deployment to eastern Afghanistan.

“This reminds us of each step needed to take making sure everything is in order,” said Capt. Jay Wenger, who has experienced multiple deployments. “Not necessarily new information was brought out, but the brief made sure I was tracking what my wife needs to have and know.”

Families and Soldiers were provided the know how and the tools in order to stay up-to-date, taken care of, plus informs with the deploying Strike teams during their new mission, as the brigade continues the fight to keep its loved ones out of the dark.

“With a brand new mission comes a brand new communication system for our spouses and this is very different then anything we have done before,” said Christine Walrath, the brigade’s Family Readiness Group leader. “It provides assurance to the family and it also provides assurance to the Soldier, because he knows his family is being taken care of. Keeping the Strike Families informed is extremely important.”



Deploying Security Force Assistance Teams with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, watch a deployment video during the brigade’s pre-deployment brief held at Fort Campbell’s Passenger Processing Facility, Mar. 6.



Lt. Col. Tarpon Wiseman, commander, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, talks Top Gun specifics to the his Soldiers and Families after the brigade’s brief. Each Strike Battalion, Squadron held its own following brief.



Col. Dan Walrath, the commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, wraps up the brigade’s pre-deployment brief held at Fort Campbell’s Passenger Processing Facility, Mar. 6, with questions and answers concerning the deployment.



# STRIKE PT's for its Fallen Journalist



Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter, a combat correspondent, with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), died of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device, June 18, 2010. His former unit, HHC, 2nd BCT, held a combat focused training exercise in honor, Jan. 24.

June 18, 2010, an IED detonates in southern Afghanistan, taking away from the world a man holding a rifle and camera. He is a Soldier, a writer, a leader, a friend, a brother and a son; he is Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter, the combat correspondent who loved to tell the Soldier's story.

Hunter was an expert at telling the Strike's story on and off the battlefield. He helped put the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also known as "Strike," in newspapers, on television screens and uploaded to the web. His devotion to telling the Soldier's story is still felt today and his unit, Strike's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, honored their fallen hero during a morning combat focused physical training session, Jan 24.

"We can't forget our fallen comrade, we can't forget our friend; we've worked with him, lived with him and we owe it to Hunter never to forget him," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Duquette with HHC Strike, who was in charge of the event and knew Hunter well. Duquette and Hunter shared laughs and jokes days prior to June 18, 2010. "He was such a great Soldier and so strong, he would've smoked this event."

In full combat gear, the Soldiers of HHC ran five separate 800-meter runs, diagonal sprints with firing position dives, air assault rope climbs, 300-meters water jug carries, six foot wall climbs while throwing medicine balls over and dragging weighted medical liters for 100-meters. The event pushed the Soldiers

to their physical limits, all relevant to how serious Hunter took his and his Public Affairs team's physical training.

"We honor Staff Sgt. Hunter with this kind of event because he was a PT stud," said Sgt. Jeffrey Stokes of HHC Strike, the master timer for the PT session and a friend of Hunters who worked closely with him while in Kandahar. "By his actions and words he motivated people and Soldiers to step up and give everything they could, which is exactly what he did in Afghanistan. He made sure everyone around him achieved the goals that needed to be achieved."

Some on the Soldiers taking part in the remembrance PT are new to Strike and never had the opportunity to meet Hunter, but they know about him and what he stood for.

"I didn't know Staff Sgt. Hunter, but I know he meant a lot to the unit and his shop and I have found respect for him and the public affairs Soldiers," said Pfc. Jeremy Russell, HHC, one of Strike's new topographical analysts and a reader of the brigade's magazine, *The Heartbeat*, a publication made well-known because of Hunter. "Because of what he did and what continues now, we get to read about what everybody in the unit does and reading the magazine is motivating."

Upon completion of the timed event, the Strike Soldiers shared stories about the fallen hero. Some smiled as they remembered his good nature, some got teary-eyed from missing their friend. Nonetheless, Hunter is remembered and his actions overseas and at home were imperative to the mission.

"The unit was successful in all our deployments due



Pfc. Nicole Veneziano, a communications specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, climbs over a six foot wall during a combat focused physical training event honoring Strike's fallen hero Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter, the brigade's combat correspondent who was killed in southern Afghanistan, June 18, 2010. Veneziano said that the PT was really demanding and she wanted to quit, but was inspired to continue because of Hunter and his story.



to dedicated Non-Commissioned Officers like Staff Sgt. James Hunter,” said Capt. John Chung, the commander of HHC Strike. Chung was the commander of Strike’s engineer company when he first knew of Hunter. “I’ve first heard about Staff Sgt. Hunter prior to our last OEF 10-11 deployment and when I heard my Sappers talk about him it was how he loved to be with Soldiers and capture their stories. We honor Staff Sgt. James Hunter because his dedication to mission accomplishment inspires each and every one of us.”



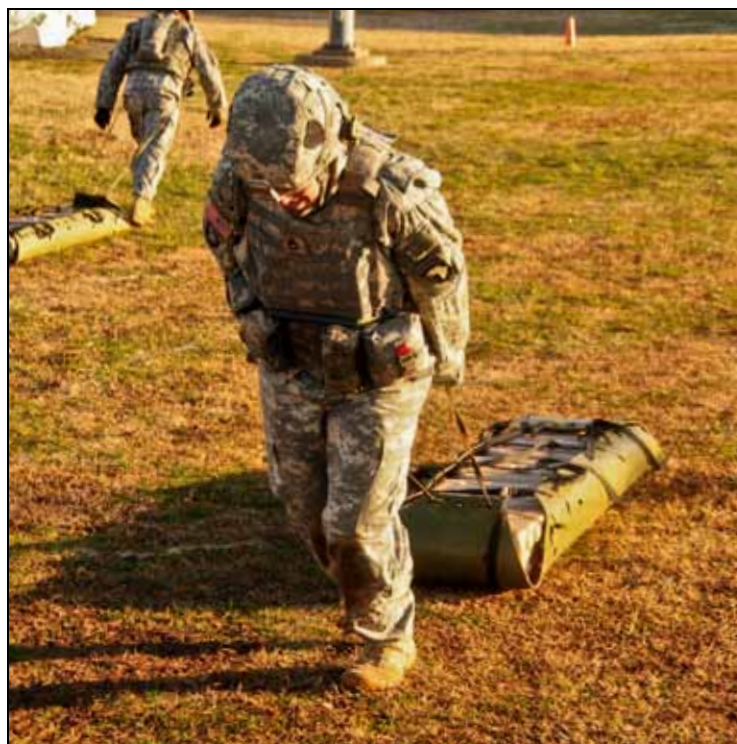
Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), carries fully loaded water jugs for 300-meters during a combat focused physical training event honoring Strike’s fallen hero Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter.



The Soldiers of Headquarters Company, climbed over a six foot wall then threw weighted medical balls over, during a combat focused physical training event honoring Strike’s fallen hero Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter, the brigade’s combat correspondent who was killed in southern Afghanistan, June 18, 2010.



Capt. John Chung, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, climbs an air assault rope during a combat focused physical training event honoring Strike’s fallen hero Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter, the brigade’s combat correspondent who was killed in southern Afghanistan, June 18, 2010.



Sgt. 1st Class Abby Blaisdell, the civil affairs specialist with Strike’s HHC, drags a weighted medical liter 100-meters during a combat focused physical training event honoring Strike’s fallen hero Staff Sgt. James P. Hunter. Blaisdell knew Hunter and worked close to him prior to the brigade’s deployment to southern Afghanistan.



Staff Sgt. Hunter was a pioneer in the field of public affairs. He and his Soldiers crossed trained on both print and broadcast journalism. Under his watch The Strike Public Affairs Office created a monthly magazine, a monthly television show, a brigade sized facebook page and put the Strike Soldiers in the news across the nation.





# 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment Changes Command



Master Sgt. Larry Breland, squadron command sergeant major, passes the colors to Lt. Col. Thomas McFadyen, the outgoing squadron commander, during the change of command ceremony of 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, at Fort Campbell's Hangar 3, Jan. 27.



Lt. Col. Clint Cox, new squadron commander, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment and Lt. Col. Thomas McFadyen, outgoing commander, stand in front of the Strike Cav formation during the change of command ceremony. They both were the traditional Stetson cavalry hat for the ceremony.



Two years ago, Lt. Col. Thomas McFadyen took of Strike's cavalry squadron and trained them for the fight against the insurgency in Kandahar's Zharay district, the birthplace of Taliban. Gen. David Petraeus, at the time ISAF commander, called Combined Task Force Strike the 'Tip of the spear' in the War on Terror.



Lt. Col. Thomas McFadyen thanked the Strike Brigade and his Soldiers for the great work and accomplishments they had made together during their deployment to southern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11. He and his unit were well known for successful combat operations and an effective cash for work program in Zharay district.



Lt. Col. Clint Cox, squadron commander, Col. Dan Walrath, brigade commander and Lt. Col. Thomas McFadyen, the outgoing squadron commander, observe the colors during the change of command ceremony of 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team at Fort Campbell's Hangar 3, Jan. 27.



Lt. Col. Clint Cox, new squadron commander, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), takes over for Lt. Col. Thomas McFadyen as commander of Strike's Widowmakers. Cox is a Strike Veteran who has multiple 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) deployments under his belt.



## STRIKE's Iron Chef Prepares for Military Culinary Arts Competition



Spc. Eric Morin, Strike's Iron Chef from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, one of 11 picked from the top chefs throughout the division to compete in the 37th Annual Military Culinary Arts Competition held at Fort Lee, Va., Mar. 9.

## *STRIKE Cav Presents New Squadron Coin*



Lt. Col. Clint Cox, squadron commander, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, awards the newly designed squadron coin to six Strike-Cav Soldiers, Mar. 7, for outstanding performance. The coin is decorated with the unit's history.



## *Top Guns' Singles Retreat to Smoky Mountains*



Strike single Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Strike's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, pose for a picture in front of the Smokey Mountains in Gatlinburg, Tn., Jan. 22. The retreat provided guidance for the Strike singles and offered bonding time outside of Fort Campbell, Ky.

The life of a Soldier whose official status is single, can at times be difficult. Demanding work hours, living in close quarters and maintaining high standards amongst a large group, are just a few of the daily challenges facing the Strike solos of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

According to Strong Bonds, a group dedicated to increasing the individual Soldier and family

member readiness through relationship education and skill training, about half of the US Army is made up of single Soldiers, making it around 250,000 unwed Soldiers.

The Strike Brigade maintains a high focus on its single Soldiers and prepares them for the ordeals they see on a daily basis. The unit ministry team of Strike's 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment and the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, left the

gates of Fort Campbell in civilian clothing and headed to the Smoky Mountains in Gatlinburg, Tn. the weekend of Jan. 20, for a Strong Bonds sponsored retreat. Their intent: to provide guidance for single Soldiers and have a good time.

"This Strong Bonds event, a single Soldiers retreat, is building relationship skills, building resiliency and it's important to do it beyond the classroom environment," said Chaplain (Capt.) Adam Tietje,



Spc. Jeffrey Leibold, an infantryman with Strike's HHC, listens to Chaplain (Capt.) Adam Tietje, Top Guns chaplain, during a learning seminar at a single Soldier retreat held in Gatlinburg, Tn., Jan. 21.



Top Guns single Soldiers wait for the Gatlinburg Trolley after visiting the Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies in Gatlinburg, Tn., Jan. 21. Gatlinburg offers an array of activities for the Strike singles.

a native of Corning, N.Y. and the 'Top Guns' Battalion chaplain. "This is a great opportunity for the guys and girls to get out of the barracks to meet new people, have some fun and keep their center of gravity in check."

The retreaters checked into the Gatlinburg's Park Vista Hotel on Friday and began their weekend of learning seminars and relaxing in the scenic Smoky Mountain town. The courses held discussions touching on the subjects of spiritual/physical fitness, financial discipline and the topic of love. The Soldiers responded well to the information and exercises.

"All of the topics in general are real interesting and relatable, but the one that stood out most in my mind was the spiritual fitness class because that is a top priority," said Spc. LeeAnne Suffridge, a Batesville, In. native with Top Guns' Company G. "If you are spiritually fit, your mind is right and you're able to think clearly, making you more productive in life with better goals and priorities."

Money troubles can easily occur for a unaware single Soldier, so others paid close attention to the financial lessons provided by the Top Gun unit ministry team.

"I work in the legal office and I see problems of single Soldiers and often it's dealing with their

finances," said Sgt. Arvin Priestly, a paralegal in Strike who is from Clinton, S.C. "The budget training provided will help out a lot with the financial battle."

After the interactive seminars, the Soldiers ventured out in battle buddy teams into the city of Gatlinburg to places like Guinness World of Records Museum, Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, the Ober Gatlinburg ski resort and experienced the deep Tennessee culture.

"This town is great and I've been able to do so much," said Pfc. Brandyn Johnson, an artilleryman with the battalion's Battery B. "This is also bringing our unit closer because there are guys here that I never socialized with before and here we are all going out together now," said Johnson, before entering a local restaurant.

The Strike single Soldiers know the importance of spending time with each other outside of Fort Campbell and out of the uniform.

"Sometimes at work you can't get to know your brothers and sisters in arms as well as you should, so it's important to get to know your peers outside of work," said Pfc. Lajoyce Perkins, an automated logistical specialist with Company G from Atlanta, Ga. "Here is where you get to find out more about them, what they like, what they don't like and possibly sharing the

same interests with you."

The three days of learning, relaxing and bonding allowed the Strike single Soldiers to learn about themselves and better equipped them for their daily challenges.

"Walking away from this weekend, I learned how to better handle relationships and with a better understanding of myself," said Spc. Kevin Cude, a fuel supply specialist with Co. G and the company's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers representative. "I'm now more informed with my decision making and because of it, I am able to help out the other Soldiers in my unit."



Chaplain (Capt.) Adam Tietje, Top Guns chaplain, leads one of the seminars held throughout the weekend. The courses discussed spiritual/physical fitness, financial discipline and the topic of love. The Soldiers responded well to the information and exercises.



The retreaters checked into the Gatlinburg's Park Vista Hotel on Friday and began their weekend of learning seminars and relaxing in the scenic Smoky Mountain town. The hotel provided prepared meals, lounge, bar and indoor pool for the Strike single Soldiers. The retreat was sponsored by the group Strong Bonds and promoted healthy living.



# DIVISION RUN

## 24 FEB 12









# FORT CAMPBELL'S FOREIGN WEAPONS EXPERT TRAINS STRIKE



John E. Foley, technician, collections manager and foreign weapons instructor at Fort Campbell's Don F. Pratt Museum, teaches the deploying Security Force Assistance Teams of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), on the functions of an AK-47 series weapon at the museum, Feb. 27.

In preparation for its upcoming deployment, Strike Brigade, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), sees the need to be familiar with the weapons used by its Afghan counterparts as well as the ones used by the enemy. The deploying Strike Security Force Assistance Teams did not have to travel far at all for such training and took part in a foreign weapons training exercise at the Don F. Pratt Museum, Feb. 27.

"These Soldiers will be in an environment where the dominant weapon in theater is the AK-system and they need to be proficient in its use both for reason of prestige and because they will be training the Afghan National Police and army in the use of these AK-system weapons," said John E. Foley, the museum's technician, collections manager and foreign weapons instructor. "They need to be able to handle these weapons in a proficient manner."

The AK-47 series was the primary weapon trained on, followed by the PK-series machine gun. The RPG-7 series rocket launcher and SVD "Dragonov" sniper rifle, the PPSH-41 submachine gun, the Browning hi-power pistol and the Makarov pistol are oth-

ers weapons seen used in the Afghan theater and were also part of the training. The SFAT members took the training seriously.

"I learned the most about the AK-47 this training on foreign weapons is real important because we learned all the different weapon systems," said Sgt.

1st Class Yolanda Baird, one of the team members deploying to eastern Afghanistan. "My favorite part of the training was learning how to and then disassembling the different weapons. Mr. Foley was very knowledgeable and I really liked how he used his personal experiences to teach the class. He even taught us how to booby trap a weapon if we were taken by the enemy."

Foley grew up in the Army back in the 1960's and has much hands-on experience with domestic and foreign weapons. He received formal training on them as a Ranger while on the Aberdeen Proving Grounds Foreign Material Training Team and then became a formal certified foreign material instructor while serving with the 25th Infantry Division. Though now retired from the Army, Foley continues instructing and has created the Screaming Eagle's foreign weapons training program, tailored to meet today's battlefield requirements.

The Strike SFAT foreign weapons training is now completed and the subject matter expert was impressed with his pupils.

"The Strike Soldiers did outstanding and kept working with the weapons until they were confident and comfortable with them," said Foley. "I have full confidence in the Strike Soldiers."



Sgt. Jose Rosario, a deploying Strike Soldier from one of the Security Force Assistance Teams with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), asks John E. Foley, the foreign weapons instructor at Fort Campbell's Don F. Pratt Museum, a question about the AK-47 series weapon during a foreign weapons training exercise held at the museum, Feb. 27. The Strike Soldiers were trained on foreign weapons commonly seen in Afghanistan.



# STRIKE WHITE IS... COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JOHN O. WHITE 07-MAR-12



Command Sgt. Maj. John O. White, the command sergeant major for 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), pins on the rank of the senior enlisted advisor to the battalion's commanding officer at Strike Academy, Mar. 7. White's contributions to the Army span over 25 years.



Amy White, wife of Command Sgt. Maj. John O. White, the command sergeant major for 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, pins the csm rank on his chest at Strike Academy, Mar. 7. White's next duty position will be at Fort Jackson, S.C.



Lt. Col. Jose Devarona, commander, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, hands Command Sgt. Maj. John O. White, the Strike Force csm, a csm certificate during a ceremony held Strike Academy, Mar. 7.



Maj. Gen. James McConville, commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) congratulates White and thanks him for his hard work during the ceremony, Mar. 7.



Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Schroeder, his wife Marla, White and his family, pose for a picture after the ceremony. White has known and worked with Schroeder since 2003.



# I BELIEVE



**A SOLDIER** is the most important person entering this facility.

**A SOLDIER** is not an interruption of my work.

**A SOLDIER** is the purpose of it. I am not doing the **SOLDIER** a favor.

**A SOLDIER** is entitled to my help.

**A SOLDIER** is not a cold statistic.

**A SOLDIER** is a flesh-and-blood human being with hurts and wants like my own.

**A SOLDIER** is a person that brings real needs and it is my job to help as expeditiously and courteously as possible.

**Take care of the SOLDIER**  
**That's why I am here**



# FACES OF STRIKE







# STRIKE ZONE AFGHANISTAN



*STRIKE Zone Afghanistan is the brigade's Tv show dedicated to keeping its viewers up to date with unit's events and missions during its deployment to Kandahar Afghanistan.*

*Learn about each company, battery and troop and be a part of their high-speed missions by checking out the STRIKE Zone Afghanistan. Look for it on the Brigade Facebook Page.*


## STRIKE HONORS



*A weekly look  
at STRIKE's History*

## The Brigade Facebook Page

The STRIKE Brigade is in the social networking world with the Brigade Facebook Page. On it are images and videos of the great missions and actions involving the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Join to start conversations and leave comments about everything the Team is doing. Watch the Brigade's Tv show, the 'Strike Zone' with monthly updates of our time in Afghanistan, read about the illustrious history of 2nd Brigade in the weekly edition of 'Strike Honors'. The page is an awesome way to stay close your Soldiers, even while they are far away.

To be a part of the STRIKE Brigade via the internet; log onto your Facebook page, click in the search box and type 2nd Brigade Strike. When the 502nd  comes up click on it and then click 'like'. Join the already thousands of viewers keeping up with the STRIKE Brigade!

1 am Select Sex:   
 By today: months: Days: Year:   
 