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Celebrate your independence

Independence Day has come and gone. The 4th is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, which established our independence from the British Empire.

These days, it is commonly associated with fireworks, barbecues, picnics and family reunions. I hope everyone had a great time with Family and friends and most importantly, remained safe.

Let’s not lose focus as we still remain a mobilization force generation installation. Military units such as the 65th SFAT from Utah, the 1174th DDSB from New York and the 203rd TC from Minnesota are currently training here at Camp Shelby. Though these are just a few units that are currently training for a mission, continue to provide excellent and relevant training for these Soldiers and their leaders. Proper training can go a long way; it can make you or break you; and it can help save your buddy’s life.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj Steven Chancellor

The 155th ABCT held their Change of Command ceremony last month during their annual training. We salute Col. John Rhodes and his command staff on a job well done and the entire 155th Family welcomes Col. Jeffrey Van as the new commander of the brigade. Just as the adjutant general said, we are confident that you will do a superb job.

Kids AT was a great success! Thank you to those who sacrificed their time, energy and sweat in making another Kids AT a great accomplishment.

Camp Shelby is looking forward to next year in hosting this wonderful event. I believe the kids enjoyed themselves.

Every one of my columns in the Reveille, I’m going to mention something about hurricane season. I believe that repetition leads to understanding.

So, with that said, do you have an evacuation plan? Are you stocked up with non-perishable items? Do you have enough money to last you for nearly two months? Do you have a first-aid kit? These are just a few questions to think about. Don’t wait until the last minute.

Once again, thank you for your sacrifice, your hard work and dedication to the mission of mobilizing and demobilizing of our Soldiers. Your work is not done in vain and it is not unnoticed. There is never the right time to do the wrong thing.

May God continue to bless you, your Families, and this great country.

SOLDIERS FIRST!

155th

Continued from Page 1

“He is more than ready and fully qualified to lead this proud brigade through the upcoming challenges,” said Rhodes. “I am proud to have served as your commander; I thank you for your dedicated service and look forward to our continued service together in the Mississippi Army National Guard. Dixie Thunder always!”

The incoming brigade commander, Col. Van, taking note of the increasing heat of the day, advised the troops of the brigade to drink water before delivering his remarks to the assembled Soldiers, distinguished guests and Family members.

“The highest honor anyone can bestow a leader is the privilege to command troops and patriots in a Combat Arms brigade,” said Van. “I thank you for providing me that opportunity. Our mission, intent and scheme of maneuver for moving forward, improving personnel and collective readiness is clear: We’ll continue to build on the efforts and service of those who have preceded us, and this command will set high, positive conditions for those who follow us.”

Van said that he looked forward to working with the Soldiers, NCO’s and Officers of the 155th to develop the Ar-

mored Brigade Combat Team into a more lethal, professional, doctrinal and digital fighting force capable of achieving any combat or civil support mission assigned to them in any theater of operations.

“Again, I would like to state my pride in being the commander of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team,” said Van. “I look forward to the exciting and challenging opportunities that await us. May God bless all of you. May God bless and keep safe those currently serving in harm’s way and may God continue to bless the United States of America.”

Ladder

Continued from Page 5

pounds

- Type IA (extra heavy duty) 300 pounds
- Type I (heavy duty) 250 pounds
- Type II (medium duty) 225 pounds
- Type III (light duty) 200 pounds

The duty rating can be found on the specification label. Safety standards require a duty rating sticker to be placed on the side of every ladder. Do not assume that a longer ladder has a higher weight capacity. There is no correlation between ladder length and weight capacity.

There is a wide variety of ladder types to choose from (step, single, articulated,

combination, extension, fixed, mobile ladder stands and ladder stand platforms). Probably the most important factor in determining the type of ladder to use for a given job is you work environment and the physical size restrictions.

When climbing a ladder it is safest to utilize “Three Points-of-Contact” because it minimizes the chances of slipping and falling from the ladder. At all time you must face the ladder and have two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand in contact with the ladder steps or side rails. Also, avoid carrying any objects in either hand that can interfere with your grip of the ladder. In this way you are not likely to lose your balance. Maintain three points-of-contact or the chances of

falling is increased. You can reduce your chances of falling during the climb by:

Wearing slip resistant footwear.

Cleaning the soles of all footwear to maximize traction.

Using towlines, tool belts or having someone to assist you in moving tools/materials so that your hands are free when climbing.

Climbing deliberately and avoiding sudden movements.

Keeping the center of your waist between the ladder side rails when climbing or doing work.

Ladders are an essential part of many work and home improvement projects, but they must be used properly. As always, safety is the most important consideration on any job.

Retire

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rectorate of Resource Management. She, along with Sgt. Vanessa Snodgrass presented a heartwarming candle on behalf of the Soldiers and staff of DRM. They also gifted her with a kit of gardening supplies and Wathen’s last travel

voucher as a sentimental keepsake.

During the ceremony, Wathen was presented a certificate of retirement and a certificate of appreciation by Greg Gellerman from First Army Division East. Gellerman then presented her with the Civilian service award. In addition, Snodgrass presented her with an American flag that once flew over

CSJFTC at Building 1001.

“I want to thank all of you and those who have given me kind words and certificates. I feel I don’t deserve it,” said Wathen. “Working here was a wonderful experience and I met many fine people. I look forward to the next chapter in my life.”

She will retire to Kansas to spend time with her son and four grandchildren.