

Sledgehammer Times

"NOT FANCY, JUST TOUGH"

Volume 5, January 2014



Commander's Corner



Col. Charles Costanza

I hope you all had a great time celebrating the holiday season! December is a great time of the year, especially when the brigade isn't deployed, because Soldiers get to spend some of their much deserved vacation time with families and friends. Command Sgt. Maj. Green and I are glad to see everyone made it back safely and we look forward to an exciting new year.

The holiday season is a time for giving and many Soldiers throughout the brigade spent their personal time giving to fellow veterans and to the same community that has given so much to our brigade throughout many years and numerous deployments.

Our chapel here on Kelley Hill raised funds and donated them to Operation Helping Hand which then purchased eight-five \$25 gift cards for Sledgehammer Soldiers and families. Every Soldier who received a gift card also received a bag of nonperishable items donated during our food drive.



Our brigade family readiness support assistant also teamed with Operation Homefront to brighten the holidays for more than 300 children of Fort Benning families and Post 9/11 wounded veterans during a toy distribution. Soldiers donated toys and many spouses worked throughout the night setting up to make the event a success.

In addition, many Soldiers donated their time to volunteer with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and also made a positive impact on the next generation of youth by partnering with local schools. Sledgehammer Soldiers are part of the community and we look forward to giving back to the areas where we work, live and raise our families.

Spc. Tristen Perez, one of our cooks in 203rd BSB displayed a true act of heroism when he saved a fellow Soldier and his family from a house fire in Smiths Station, Ala. Spc. Perez noticed a fire in the distance as he watched television with



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Green

his family, and ran approximately 150 yards, clearing two barbed-wire fences to alert and evacuate the family. He also helped contain the flames until the fire department arrived. Because of his bravery, no one was injured and the fire was contained in the garage.

These are only a few great examples of selfless service, sacrifice and heroism that represent not only what our Soldiers and families achieved during the holiday season but all year long. Because of you, 2013 was a great year for the Sledgehammer Brigade and I believe we can make 2014 even better.

SLEDGEHAMMER!!

3rd ABCT History



The heritage of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 3rd Infantry Division (ID) at Kelley Hill, Fort Benning, Georgia, is a unique blend of two proud lineages. The brigade traces its roots to the foundation of the 3rd Division in November 1917, during World War I, but also has a special long-term affiliation with Fort Benning - the home of the Army Infantry.

The unit presently known as 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division was originally constituted on 12 November 1917, in the Regular Army as Headquarters, 6th Infantry Brigade, and assigned to the 3rd Division. The brigade was then organized on 1 December 1917, at Camp Greene, North Carolina. From there, the brigade deployed to the European battlefields of the First World War, and received battle streamers for participation in the Aisne, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and Champagne campaigns. The United States had declared war with Germany April 6, 1917, and the 3rd Division arrived in Europe with ap-

proximately 28,000 men during the final series of German offensives designed to end the war. By May 1918, French forces had retreated to within 50 miles of Paris, but elements of the 3rd Division stopped the German advancement at the Marne River. As persevering regiments of the 3rd Division held their ground and eventually reversed the German advancement to Paris, the division earned its nickname "Rock of the Marne." General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing said the division's performance was one of the most brilliant in United States military history.

Headquarters, 6th Infantry Brigade was reorganized and redesignated in March 1921, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Infantry Brigade, and was again redesignated on 23 March 1925 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Brigade (omitting "Infantry") in the title. However, on August 24, 1936, the unit reverted to its previous designation of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Infantry Brigade, restoring the descriptor "Infantry" as an adjective for "Brigade." This organization disbanded on 12 October 1939, at Fort Douglas, Utah, but its legacy, survive through regiments within the "Marne Division." In 1941, the 3rd Division was renamed 3rd Infantry Division. During World War II, each regiment represented in the modern 3rd Brigade fought as part of the 3rd Infantry Division, where they were called Blue and White Devils.

Serving in the Second World War,

the "Dog Face Soldiers," as members of 3rd Infantry Division (3rd ID) soon came to be known, fiercely fought the Axis Powers in north Africa and in the Mediterranean well before the Operation Overlord D-Day Invasion in Normandy on 6 June 1944. The 3rd ID continued to fight in mainland Europe until victory was secured in 1945.

When North Korea invaded the border of South Korea in 1950, the 3rd ID was one of ten active divisions in the U.S. Army. The division arrived in Korea in September 1950, and joined in the operations in the Hamhung-Hungnam area. On 23 November 1950, China entered the war and the overwhelming size of the Chinese Army forced the Allies to retreat. From 30 November to 24 December 1950, the 3rd ID conducted the most massive beachhead evacuation in American military history: 105,000 troops, 100,000 refugees, 17,500 vehicles, and 750,000 tons of cargo. By 1951, elements of the 3rd ID helped recapture Seoul, the South Korean capital, while the Chinese were pushed back to the 38th Parallel.

As the Chinese tried to recapture Seoul, the brunt of the attack fell on the 3rd ID's sector and the Marne Division became the "Rock of Seoul." Again, the Chinese were driven back to the 38th Parallel and the 3rd ID settled into front-line duty, defeating all hostile attempts to seize strategic positions. The armed conflict concluded in July 1953, and by the end of October 1954, the division had returned to the United States.

The brigade's special association with Fort Benning, Georgia began when the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade ("Sledgehammer") was organized in September 1962, as a distinct brigade to support the Infantry School (now part of the Maneuver Center of Excellence [MCoE]).

This set the precedence of a separate Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) unit being assigned to Kelley Hill on Fort Benning. The brigade was later assigned a worldwide rapid deployment mission as part of the XVIII Airborne Corps. However, the bulk of what is now 3 ABCT reflagged on 18 April 1963, as 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division in Aschaffenburg, Germany, and officially activated on 20 June 1963.

The division had relocated to Germany in 1958, where it remained on constant alert to counter the threat of the Warsaw Pact. Third Brigade continued to serve in Germany until after the conclusion of the Cold War, and subsequently relocating to Fort Benning in 1996. In October 1990, the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade deployed to Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm, attached to the 24th Infantry Division.

The 24th Infantry Division, which was based at Fort Stewart, Georgia at the time, deactivated 15 February 1996, and then reflagged as 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). The 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division was attached to the 1st Armored Division during this conflict. Serving alongside the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade, they jointly spearheaded the Coalition ground attack to the Euphrates River. In June 1991, upon return from Operation Desert Storm, the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade reflagged as the

3rd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division. In 1996, the majority of 3rd ID cased its colors and departed Germany for Fort Stewart, Georgia. On 24 April 1996, 3rd Brigade, 3rd ID, having a separate new home station, unfurled its colors on Fort Benning, thus continuing the lineage of the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade at Kelley Hill. Having been known in Germany as "Phantom," 3 ABCT inherited the tactical moniker "Sledgehammer" from the 197th Infantry Brigade. The 197th Infantry Brigade, having been given a new mission, continued its service on Fort Benning as a training unit assigned to Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

In January 2003, 3rd Brigade deployed to Kuwait in support of the Global War On Terror, and postured for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). On March 20, 2003, the "Sledgehammer Brigade" spearheaded the Coalition ground attack into Iraq, leading the 3rd Infantry Division's attack during three major battles. Over a period of 21 days and 600 kilometers of continuous offensive combat operations, 3rd Brigade's drive culminated in the isolation and seizure of northwest Baghdad, setting the conditions for the removal of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's oppressive regime. Having successfully completed its mission, the Sledgehammer Brigade redeployed to Fort Benning in June 2003, and soon began to reorganize under the Army's new Brigade Combat Team (BCT) construct.

Undergoing the transformation into a BCT, Headquarters, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division reorganized and was redesignated on 16 March 2004 as Headquarters, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry

Division. The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (known as "Heavy" Brigade Combat Team prior to 2012) deployed to Diyala Province in Iraq during January 2005, in support of the 42nd Infantry Division (Army National Guard).

During this deployment, the Sledgehammer Brigade contributed to the success of the constitutional referendum and Iraq's first free national elections in December 2005. After redeploying to home station in January 2006, the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (3 ABCT) again prepared to deploy for the third time in support of the Global War On Terror. Having begun Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training in November 2006, 3 ABCT conducted a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California in February 2007, and immediately began preparations for its third deployment to Iraq.

Deploying approximately two months sooner than originally scheduled, 3 ABCT arrived in Kuwait for training in early March 2007, prior to joining the 3rd ID Headquarters in Iraq by the end of that month. The brigade joined other 3rd ID units, and other American and Coalition Forces to compose "Task Force Marne," also known as Multi-National Division - Central, in April 2007.

Quite different from other recent combat operations, this deployment to OIFV, spanning some 15 months, was part of the "Surge" force, which proved critical to the reversal of insurgent momentum and the stabilization of Iraq amid an asymmetric conflict. In late March 2007, the Sledgehammer Brigade occupied an area of operations where no other American or Coalition units had yet been based,

and established Forward Operating Base Hammer and seven combat outposts or patrol bases and four joint security centers in the Mada'in Qada - an area comparable in size to the Washington, D.C. metro area, and populated by an estimated 1.2 million Iraqi citizens (composed of a mix of both Sunni and Shia Muslims).

The brigade began conducting full spectrum combat operations by the beginning of May 2007. Over the course of the following year, 3 ABCT denied insurgents freedom of movement and simultaneously conducted various Civil-Military Operations to aid the people of Iraq. This marked the transition from focusing on simply providing security to establishing lasting security and prepared Iraq for self-governance. In May of 2008, 3 ABCT conducted a Transition of Authority to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and redeployed home to Fort Benning, Georgia.

In October 2009, 3 ABCT was temporarily designated as the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade and deployed to Iraq for OIF VII. The Brigade occupied five provinces in the mid-Euphrates region, covering area of operations roughly the size of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Sledgehammer Soldiers conducted advise and assist operations supporting the Iraqi military, the Iraqi police, and the Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

The Brigade worked tirelessly to provide intelligence, training, and logistic support in order to enable the development of a sovereign and stable Iraq. The brigade conducted a transfer of authority with 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in September 2010, and returned to Fort Benning, as Operation Iraqi

Freedom transitioned to Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

In March 2012, preparing for its next overseas deployment, the Sledgehammer Brigade conducted another training rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. In June 2012, 3 ABCT deployed to Kuwait and assumed the Central Command's Theater Reserve mission. Approximately 2,000 troops from 1-15th Infantry Regiment, 1-10th Field Artillery Regiment, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, and 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, including the Brigade Headquarters, deployed to Kuwait.

After relieving 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the Sledgehammer Brigade conducted training and joint exercises with its Kuwaiti counterparts and continued military cooperation with Kuwait and other regional partners in the Persian Gulf. Having preserved the security of Kuwait and maintained a formidable American ground presence in the region, 3 ABCT was relieved in this capacity by 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. Troops who were deployed to Kuwait returned to Kelley Hill in February and early March 2013.

Today, 3 ABCT's mission is to generate combat power and deploy on order to conduct unified land operations to defeat enemy forces, control land areas, and secure populations and resources in support of U.S. national interests.

The 3rd ID has one of the most successful combat records in the United States Army, and the men and women of 3rd ABCT have contributed to that and share in its legacy. Whatever the brigade's next mission may be, the Soldiers of 3 ABCT will be ready to answer their

nation's call, and serve proudly in a manner honoring their rich heritage. The Sledgehammer Brigade is currently configured as follows:

1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment

2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment

3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment

1st Battalion, 10th Artillery Regiment

203rd Brigade Support Battalion

3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion (includes Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Troops)

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

WORLD WAR I

Aisne
Champagne-Marne
Aisne-Marne
St. Mihiel
Meuse-Argonne
Champagne 1918

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait Cease-Fire

WAR ON TERRORISM

Iraqi Sovereignty
New Dawn
(Additional Campaigns yet to be determined)

DECORATIONS

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2003



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1-15 IN



Lt. Col. Scott Mueller

December was another excellent month for the Can Do Battalion as we moved from a high tempo training environment to the low key holiday break. The break was well deserved due to the rigorous training our Soldiers have been conducting.

The battalion continued preparations to shoot stabilized gunnery in 2014, and the companies continue to work on individual and crew gunnery skills that will set them up for a successful gunnery.

The companies completed diagnostic Gunnery Skills Training in December, putting them one step closer to shooting gunnery in the spring. Gunnery Skills Training consisted of several tests and certifications on individual and crew tasks that will be needed during gunnery.

Additionally, the support crews have been working to ensure all the vehicles are in proper working order.



In addition to this, several Can Do Soldiers were recertified in the Combat Lifesavers Course.

The emergency life saving techniques learned throughout this course will be essential to the morale, readiness, and combat effectiveness of the battalion. With numerous Soldiers certified in emergency medical care the battalion can rest assured that any injuries will be treated promptly and properly.

This last month, the battalion hosted the annual Dragon Ball at the Columbus Ironworks Event Center. Command Sgt. Maj. Barretto and I had the privilege of dining with the Soldiers and loved ones of the battalion during a very memorable evening.

All the traditions associated with the Dragon Ball were in full swing and the evening was a great experience for all in attendance.

Command Sgt. Maj. Barretto and I are never short of praise for this



Command Sgt. Maj. Phil Barretto

outstanding battalion. We salute the Soldiers of families of the "Can Do" battalion as they continue to achieve excellence.

CAN DO!!

Dragons' Ball

Story by: 1st Lt. Cliff Parsons

The Soldiers, spouses and dates of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment had the privilege to dine together at this year's Dragon Ball. Dec. 7, marked the annual gathering for 1-15 IN of celebrating its heritage and remembrance its past Soldiers.

As a part of the ceremonies during the ball, the illustrious service of the 1-15 IN was highlighted. Established in 1798, the 15th Infantry Regiment took part in its first engagement during the War of 1812. During the Civil War, The 15th fought 22 major engagements to include Atlanta, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, and Murfreesboro.

In 1911, the 15th was sent to China and acted in a peacekeeping role to protect civilians during the Chinese Revolution. The Dragon on the Regimental Crest and the motto "Can Do" represent the unit's 27 years of service in China. Joining the 3rd Infantry Division in 1940, 1-15 IN served in World War II from 1942-1944. The 15th also served in the Korean War, in Europe as a peacekeeping force, and deployed multiple times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. With the 15th 215 years of continuous service to our nation, the ball attendees had much to celebrate throughout the evening.

The evening began as Soldiers and their dates, arrived at the Columbus Ironworks Event Center. The venue was stunning and the dates, in their finest evening wear, added to the allure of the event. As the social hour wound down and seats were taken, the formal portion of the evening began with the posting of the colors

by the 1-15 IN Color Guard and a welcome speech from 1-15 IN Commander Lt. Col. Scott Mueller. Soldiers from every company participated in the set-up of the POW/MIA table which symbolizes the absence of fallen and missing comrades who, though lost, will never be forgotten. The traditional Grog Ceremony took place in which various drinks that represent an event in the history of the 1-15 IN were mixed together into a large bowl. Each drink's relation to 1-15 IN history was explained and then poured into the mixing bowl.

When completed, the Grog bowl represented the entire meritorious history of 1-15 IN. This year the Grog Ceremony was given a new twist with the introduction of the "Can Do Spouses Grog." Several spouses participated in the mixing of the Spouse Grog Bowl; adding their own unique touch to the normally all-military tradition.

Immediately after the retirement of the colors and benediction, the DJ had Soldiers and dates stream-

ing to the dance floor as "The Wop" blared from the speakers. Couples took their jackets off and let their hair down, dancing the night away as the music got louder. At the conclusion of the Ball, several Soldiers took the celebration out of the Ironworks and into downtown Columbus.

In addition to current 1-15 IN Soldiers, there were also former members of the Regiment in attendance. Among them were Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Mark Baker, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Michael Horn, and Mr. John Burke, a veteran of the Korean War; all of whom attended as the honored guests of 1-15 IN.

1-15 IN would like to recognize the "Can Do" spouses and all the Soldiers involved in planning, coordinating, and executing a very successful Dragon Ball. When told to relax, kick back, and have a good time the Soldiers of 1-15 IN naturally have one reply..."CAN DO!"



The social hour was alive with fellowship before the Dragon Ball. Professional pictures and various drinks were available to all 1-15 IN Soldiers and their dates to kick off the evening's events.

Dragons' Ball





Lt. Col. Dominick Edwards

The month of December saw our Speed and Power leaders and Soldiers training hard for the upcoming battalion training event, known as “Panther Focus”, two company changes of command, and celebrating the holidays. Able, Bayonet, and Dealer Companies conducted company-level field training exercises (FTX) as part their preparations for Panther Focus while Cobra Company conducted recovery operations from their training.

Able and Dealer Companies deployed to the field at the beginning of the month to conduct training focused on reaction Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) events along with battle drills such as how to correctly enter and clear a building and react to different forms of contact in limited visibility. This in preparation for the upcoming Panther Focus, the culminating annual battalion level FTX to evaluate platoon proficiency on tasks trained over the past year in week long rotations.

Bayonet Company conducted their company FTX in November but seized an opportunity to expand on their training with a short

2-69 AR



FTX that focused on entering and clearing buildings in different environments.

On Dec. 3, Bayonet Company changed commanders. Bayonet Company bid farewell to Capt. Jese A. Sladek, as the privilege of command was passed to Capt. Paul P. Cheval. During his command, Capt. Sladek led his company to new heights. He created the team building tradition known as the “Crucible” and of the 79 Expert Infantry Badges (EIB) awarded to Ft. Benning, Ga and Ft. Stewart Infantrymen this past September, nine came from his company. We would like to thank Capt. Jese A. Sladek for his outstanding leadership and service that will endure as a legacy. Bayonet Company Commander Capt. Paul P. Cheval looks to continue and build upon that legacy of excellence in every aspect.

On Dec. 4, Renegade Company changed commanders. Renegade Company said farewell to Capt. Chemitra M. Clay and welcomed Capt. Kia S. Booker. During Capt. Clay’s tenure, she led her company to conduct the first Field Support Company (FSC) Buddy team live-fire exercise this past April and



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Reed

was passionate in her care for her Soldiers and their families. Renegade Company Commander Kia S. Booker looks to further develop her Soldiers’ standards of performance and continue their outstanding FRG, raising standards to promote increased effectiveness and efficiency.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate Renegade Company’s basketball team for their win in game one of the Commander’s Cup. Command Sgt. Maj. Reed and I are proud of what our great ‘Speed and Power’ Soldiers and families have accomplished in the past month as the Panthers continued to excel in their daily duties with the holidays on their minds. Following a well-deserved break for the holidays, we are looking forward to a busy and exciting 2014 with Panther Focus in January and battalion gunnery in the spring.

Speed and Power!

Operation Homefront toy distribution

Story by: Sgt. Jacob Stauber

Operation Homefront and Soldiers assigned to 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Family Readiness Support Assistants, and spouses hosted a holiday toy distribution at a local Holiday Inn, Columbus, Ga., Dec. 6. This event was for Soldiers and families of Fort Benning, along with, local area Post 9/11 Wounded Veterans.

Operation Homefront brightened the holidays of more than 300 children of approximately 120 families. Each child received one premium toy, six stocking stuffers, and three children's bikes being raffled off.

"My dad had to take out a loan every year to pay for Christmas gifts that took the entire year to pay off," said Liz Fichtel, a program manager for Operation Homefront. "We would like remind our service members and their families that we love them and appreciate their service."

Soldiers from 3-1 CAV, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, volunteered their time to unload the donated toys and some spouses worked hard through the night to prepare for the holiday toy distribution, making the event a success. Soldiers from 2-69 AR, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID volunteered their time to finish unpacking and distribute the donated toys. The Soldiers were personal shoppers for each family putting a smile on every face with holiday cheer. "Being a personal shopper and giving out toys felt better than opening presents on Christmas," Pvt. Martinez, 2-69 AR, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID.

Operation Homefront is a nonprofit organization with 22 field offices nationwide. They provide emergency financially and other assistance to the families of Service Members and Wounded Warriors. Toys distributed were donated or purchased with the generous donations of sponsors to include Dollar Tree, Walmart, and Veterans United Foundation. If you wish to donate or volunteer, please visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.operationhomefront.net/holidaytoys"](http://www.operationhomefront.net/holidaytoys) <http://www.operationhomefront.net/holidaytoys>.





Lt. Col. Paul Gunnison

The Blackhawk Squadron enjoyed a great month in December! The Squadron successfully executed block leave with 100% of our Soldiers returning to work safely.

This somewhat relatively benign accomplishment translates directly into unit readiness, supporting our ability to execute missions successfully. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and had an opportunity to relax and spend quality time with Family and Friends.

Our medics won the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion's Painkiller Challenge, boosting the morale of the entire Squadron and setting the standard for the Sledgehammer Brigade.

For the first two weeks of December, the squadron conducted M4 group/zero and qualification ranges in order to ensure Soldier small arms qualification. In preparation for potential missions, the squadron also conducted an emergency deployment readiness exercise to test the effectiveness of the squadron and troop recall systems and update Soldier emergency data.

3-1 CAV



Troops conducted riot control and civil disturbance training along with traffic control point training to ensure that they are ready for any type of mission while honing their individual Soldier skills.

The squadron also began preparing for three troop changes of command. Headhunter, Bonecrusher, and Comanche Troops started the arduous process of inventories before heading out onto block leave.

In other news, I would like to congratulate Bonecrusher Troopers Staff Sgt. Giberti and Staff Sgt. Tollberg for graduating second and fifth respectively in their Advance Leader Course class. Congratulations also go to Assassin Troopers Staff Sgt. Doty for graduating Scout Leaders Course, and Sgt. Hooper and Sgt. Digiulio for graduating Advanced Leader Course. Job well done to all graduates! They continue the history of great noncommissioned officers in the Blackhawk Squadron!

The Troops conducted their family readiness group holiday parties



Sgt. Maj. Stevie Jones

which proved to be good times for the Soldiers and families of the squadron. Santa was even out and about making appearances at the parties!

Additionally, congratulations go out to Spc. Lerma, Sgt. Smith, Spc. Lahr, Sgt. Segier, Spc. Muller, Spc. Chapin, Spc. Pagala, and Sgt. Lites who all reenlisted in December. These are some of our best Soldiers who are dedicated to the squadron, the brigade, and the Army. No doubt they will continue to serve with distinction!

For future events, the Squadron Ball is just around the corner! We'll hold this event at the Ironworks on February 28, 2014. See your troop's ball representative or Capt. Bass in our S3 Section now for your tickets! Looking forward to seeing you all there!!

As always, thank you for your continued support and for what you do for our Soldiers every day.

Courageous and Faithful!!

A Different Kind of Rain



Story by: 2nd Lt. Brian Baier

The rain fell hard for the mortar-men of Blackhawk Squadron, with their focus intense as they prepared their own version of “rain” on an enemy tank more than a mile away. Their rain would drop six 30 pound high explosive rounds of indirect fire within a 50 meter circle, devastating the tank target and any accompanying Infantry that might be in the vicinity during a real combat situation.

3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment “Blackhawks” executed their collective Mortar Readiness Exercise Program (MORTEP) at Kelley Hill and Red Cloud Range complex Nov. 25 – Dec. 5. This demanding training program included: fire support call-for-fire training, examinations that evaluated the ability of Troop mortar sections to successfully perform gunnery and fire direction center requirements, and collaborative live-fire training between Troop mortar sections and their respective Fire Support Teams (FiSTs).

Mortar operations in the Cavalry community are somewhat distinct from the mainstream usage by Infantry and Armor units across the Army. In most combined arms units, mortar platoons of four vehicles trail or use dismounted systems that provide responsive indirect fires for their respective battalions.

In the Cavalry community, due to the special challenges posed by the dispersion of reconnaissance and security missions, smaller two gun sections are attached at lower echelon Troop formations, providing Troop Commanders internal supporting fires but complicating the massing of effects against key targets.

To address some of these challenges, the Fire Support Element and Mortarmen of the 3-1 Cavalry developed a training plan that incorporated cooperative section fire missions and a combined fire direction center to process missions from different Troop FiSTs in rapid succession.

While the flexibility of the live-

fire range was restricted due to safety considerations, the ability of the three different Troop sections to work together supported the development of new standard operating procedures and deepened the bonds and esprit de corps between Troops.

“This MORTEP will prove instrumental to our future execution of collective training and operations, as it will prepare the sections to work together as a cooperative team and mass fires on key targets on the battlefield” stated the squadron operations officer, Maj. Nathan Hubbard.

In that Cavalry Troops and sections sometime operate outside the range of other Brigade Indirect Fire assets, the massing of fires to support small teams remains vital to the cavalry mission.

As the mortar sections completed their training, the smell of burnt cordite lingered in the air - a telltale reminder of the long-range killers of the Blackhawk Squadron.

Blackhawks day of service

Story by: Sgt. Stephanie Woodson

Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division participated in a Habitat for Humanity home repair effort to develop team building skills, give leaders an opportunity to bond with their Soldiers and allow soldiers to exercise one of the seven Army values, selfless service, in Columbus, Ga., Dec. 6.

"Community service is in line with Capt. Jonathan Proctor, our commander. When I came to the troop, he came in right after me," said 1st Lt. Chip Glass, an infantry officer assigned to Blackhawk Troop, 3-1 CAV, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID. One of the things we discussed was team building and cohesion, not just with my platoon but within the troop as well.

Not being 'voluntold' or having an incentive, more than 20 Soldiers decided to do a 'day of service' in the rain during their day off.

"The last 'day of service' we did it was just with my platoon, this time it was an opportunity for the entire troop," he said.

Having served in different ranks throughout his nine year Army career, he was familiar with the process of volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, added Glass.

Once he became platoon leader, he saw this as an opportunity for the soldiers to bond away from work.

The Soldiers will be working on roofing or decking then some frame work, possibly dig holes for plumbing, Glass added.

"If the rain becomes more than a drizzle we will still work to complete the mission but have to come down off the roof for safety reasons," said Spc. Tim Jenson, a cavalry scout assigned to 3-1 CAV, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID. Besides taking home some good blisters, I'm glad to be giving back to the community.

The rain continued to fall sporadically throughout the day, but not enough to keep volunteers from working. Jenson and others did not let the wet conditions affect their motivation to complete the day.

"This project is home for me," he added.

This was Jenson's first time volunteering but he plans to continue.

Glass remembers a time volunteering when it was pouring down rain. He and others had to set the foundation for a driveway. The homeowners, who were there, came

out, spoke with them and showed their appreciation. It was a really great feeling, added Glass.

"I look at the time of the year we are doing this project, it's Christmas time," he said. "They would like to see this house done by Christmas. Then a family will have a house for Christmas."

According to their website habitat.org, it's through the work of Habitat that has made it possible for the organization to provide thousands of low-income families' affordable housing.

Today, Habitat has helped build or repair more than 800,000 houses and served more than 4 million people around the world. Their mission is seeking to put God's love into action. Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.



Soldiers assigned to 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division nail down the top of the roof during their 'day of service' with Habitat for Humanity, Columbus, Ga., Dec. 6. In addition to helping others, community service gives Soldiers a chance to enhance team building skills.

1-10 FA



Lt. Col. Kevin Capra

We finished the year strong by continuing our aggressive training plan. Training included an intense and effective Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDRE) with 100% participation across the battalion with Alpha and Bravo Batteries as well as our Charlie Company and 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion attachments.

Furthermore, the battalion concluded the year by attending the celebration of the patron saint of the Field Artillery, St. Barbara. Finally, we came together one last time for a holiday party complete with a visit from Santa.

On Dec. 5, the Battalion celebrated Saint Barbara's day in style. Our ball at the Ironworks was a fantastic success with our guest speaker, Col. O' Grady the Commander of 42nd Fires Brigade, and special guests from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5228.

Prior to block leave, we had our last hail and farewell of 2013 with "Tacky/Festive" Christmas sweaters and an amazing Christmas party. With more than 500 Soldiers and



families in attendance at the Christmas party, it was an incredible event and certainly would not have been so great without the support of our unit partners. The Dollar Tree stores donated toys for the children and the VFW Post 5228 made all of the sides and desserts as well as volunteered to serve at this spectacular battalion party.

The Headhunters conducted a variety of training events during this short month. They kicked off with drown-proofing and combat water survival training at Smith Physical Fitness Center.

They were also instrumental in ensuring the success of the EDREs conducted by the line batteries through mission command and inspection team support.

The Spartans also finished up their unstabalized gunnery, with a couple of crews earning a "Distinguished" score during qualification.

Also, THE Rock Support graduated six Soldiers from the Air Assault Course here at Fort Benning. Warrant Officer 1 Taylor, Staff Sgt.



Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Wilson

Wahlers, Sgt. Young, Pfc. Davis, Pfc. Francis, and Pfc. Parker all pinned on their Air Assault Wings on Dec. 13.

At the same time, Sgt. Halbur of Bravo Battery graduated the Rappel Master course. Golf Battery's Sgt. Huggins and Sgt. Ashley also graduated from the Army Recruiter School and the Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic Advanced Leader's Course, respectively.

Finally, THE Rock's Support welcomed three new additions to our family this month. On Dec. 13 Sgt. Keith and Khalefah Lacey had a daughter, Evelyn, and Spc. Mason and Kayla Jones had a daughter, Sophia Anne-Marie. Spc. Charles and Ivy Baise rang in the New Year with their new son, Jayden Curtis, on Dec. 31. Welcome all to The Rock's Support family!

THE Rock's Support!

THE Rock's Support Conduits an EDRE



1st Sgt. Toris Knight of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment briefs his Battery on the mission during the formation Dec 11.



Sgt. First Class May, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment inspects a Soldier's barracks room during the EDRE Dec. 11.

Courtesy Story and Photos

December 11, 17, and 18, 2013, Bravo and Alpha Batteries, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment and Charlie "Chaos" Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion executed their Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDRE) respectively.

The purpose of these EDREs was to prepare the units to rapidly deploy in support of U.S. missions around the globe.

The units were alerted in the early hours of their respective training days and were 100 percent assembled within three hours. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Golf Battery, 1-10FA also alerted and assembled to assist the deploying unit as "pushers". After assembly, the unit conducted barracks closeout, assisted by Golf Battery, and storage of privately owned vehicles for the single Soldiers.

HQB facilitated last minute updates to and storage of personnel records as well as provided mission command for the exercise. After drawing personal equipment from the unit, Golf palletized baggage and prepared vehicles for movement to the airfield.

All told, each unit managed to alert, assemble, and arrive at the airfield ready to board departing aircraft in less than seven and a half hours.



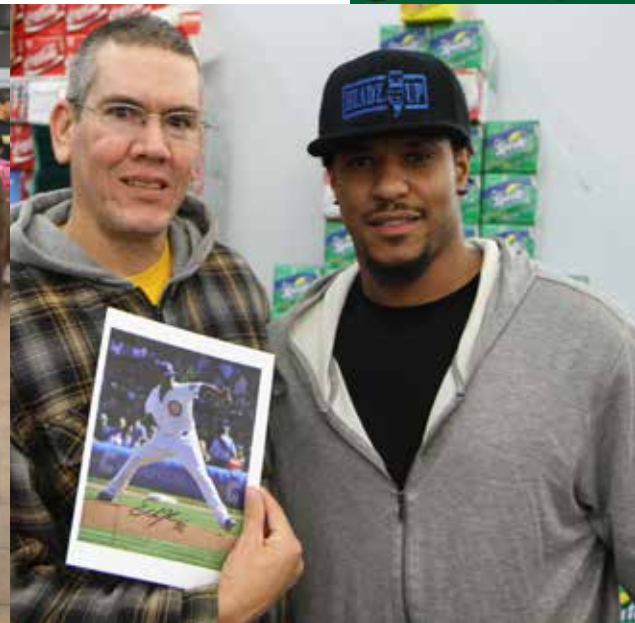
First Lt. Centeio of Golf Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, conducts a joint inspection with Air Force loadmasters of a baggage pallet during the Dec. 11 EDRE.



Sgt. Spears issues Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear protective masks to Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Soldiers during the Dec. 11 EDRE.



Sledgehammer Soldiers Meet Chicago Cubs Pitcher Edwin Jackson





Lt. Col. Lenard Thomas II

BSTB



Command Sgt. Maj. Carmelo Cruz

Command Sgt. Maj. Cruz and I would like to extend a Happy New Year to the Buffalo Family. We hope everyone enjoyed their much deserved holiday leave period and recharged their batteries for the coming year.

Our training operational tempo is quickly gaining speed as the battalion has scheduled several small arms and machine gun weapons qualification ranges throughout the month of January and we will also be conducting our Buffalo Focus Field Training Exercise (FTX) during the last week of January and ending the first week of February.

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT) Soldiers will focus on establishing and validating the brigade's tactical command post, Alpha Company (Military Intelligence Company) will train on their specialized equipment and conduct Unmanned Aerial Surveillance SHADOW flights, Bravo Company (Signal Company) will provide the communication architecture and Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) will provide

sustainment support. While the battalion staff will focus on refining standard operating procedures and conducting the Military Decision Making Process.

We would be amiss if we did not discuss some of the Company Training Highlights since the last newsletter. In December, HHT conducted Electronic Warfare Forward Observer training in order to maintain their critical skills necessary to operate within the contemporary operational environment.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) conducted "Combat Life-Saver", Modern Army Combatives training and the military police platoon conducted civil disturbance training. Alpha Company (Military Intelligence) participated in their Raptor Focus. This training offered the opportunity to have the different military intelligence platoons and the Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) platoon to work together as a collective military intelligence unit.

Bravo Company (Signal) execut-

ed their "Beast Focus" exercise in order to train and become more efficient on a variety of signal systems. Chaos Company (Engineer) continued "Ready Reaction Force" training with 1-10 Field Artillery Battalion.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cruz and I would like to express our gratitude for your continued support. Remember to mark your calendars, on Feb. 27 we will host the Buffalo Battalion "Military Ball" scheduled at the River Mill in Columbus, Ga. We hope to see you there!

Vigilance And Honor!

Buffalos Go to School...Again



Spc. Jason Moore, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Kelley Hill, Fort Benning, Ga. helps a Blackmon Road Middle School student with homework.

Story by: 1st. Lt. Stephanie Haynes

The Soldiers of 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Fort Benning, Ga., participated in the Partners in Education (PIE) program.

Through PIE, the Soldiers of 3rd BSTB have forged a bond with the students and faculty of Blackmon Road Middle School in Columbus, Ga. Soldiers served as role models and spend numerous hours tutoring and mentoring the students.

The unit's overall goal is to inspire the students to develop team bonding and to create a sense of honor and responsibility to help the student's developmental growth.

1st Lt. Robert Perez-Aleman serves as the liaison between 3rd BSTB and the Blackmon Road Middle School. He has worked with the principal, Marty Richburg, and the rest of the faculty since 2012 to schedule numerous activities throughout the academic year.

This holiday season, Soldiers from across the Battalion has donated gifts to be presented to a number of children and families of Blackmon Road Middle School to share the holiday spirit.

Perez-Aleman said, "The relationship with Blackmon has certainly been a big hit with the students and we want to continue that enthusiasm for as long as possible".

Planning events such as an obstacle course, first aid

classes, career days and tutoring have not always been easy. The Army does come with the requirement to make changes to the plan at the last minute and PIE is not an exception to the rule.

Perez-Aleman has had the difficult task of rescheduling events due to weather knowing that the students would be disappointed. However, the safety of the Blackmon Road Middle School students has always been the main focus when planning exciting events.

Soldiers of all five companies of 3rd BSTB have donated their time to participate in the various PIE activities.

The students visited Fort Benning to experience the Air Assault Obstacle Course. They climb into the tanks, and learn first aid from the Battalion's medics.

Perez-Aleman has also scheduled the Soldiers of 3rd BSTB to attend a career day at Blackmon Middle School in April as well as hosting a tour for the students at the National Infantry Museum in the spring.

The Soldiers of 3rd BSTB are excited to continue to strengthen the relationship between the Battalion and Blackmon Road Middle School.



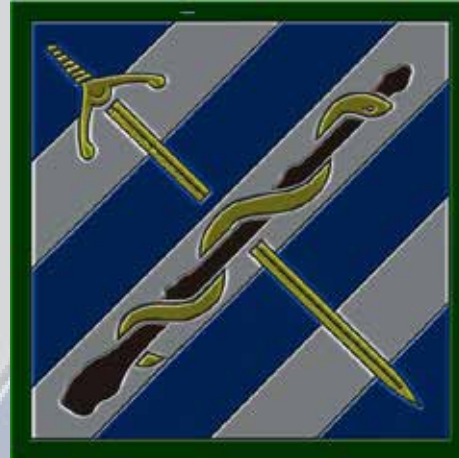
Lt. Col. Brent Coryell

Welcome back from the holidays! It gives Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and I great pleasure to greet you at the start of a new calendar year. Whether you traveled out of state or stayed local, we are glad to see everyone back safely. We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends and used the time to relax and regroup.

It is always encouraging to begin January with a "Year in Review". It is important to reflect back on all we have accomplished as a support battalion. So here goes – these are just a few statistics for the battalion since we started tracking last July. Bear in mind this is only six months of data. Charlie Company Troop Medical Clinic treated 13,528 patients.

The HHC Dining Facility (DFAC) served 138,749 meals. Bravo Company mechanics completed 8,544 repairs on everything ranging from small arms to night vision devices. The HETT Platoon completed 292 HETT missions transporting heavy tracked vehicles back and forth to gunnery. Alpha Company's transportation platoon completed 78 distribution missions. Alpha Company's distribution platoon is-

203rd BSB



sued 150,548 gallons of fuel. Alpha Company's supply support activity issued more than 80,000 items and processed over 12,000 turn-ins.

SASMO completed 312 work orders and maintained a FTP failure rate of less than .03%. The ammunition section issued 1.7 million rounds of ammunition. Let's not forget our deployed movement control team in Afghanistan, who have processed more than 17,000 trucks and have recently started the transition to a more intricate and technically challenging transportation mission.

On top of all of the support missions, we also had to keep up on our own training. We qualified 49 crews with their unstabilized weapons systems on a variety of mounted platforms. According to the Maneuver Center of Excellence, it was the best unstabilized gunnery they have ever observed from a BSB.

We went from 238 licensed drivers in June to 390 in December. All company Army Physical Fitness Test averages went up at least 10 points. All companies completed company field training exercises. All in all, 2013 was a year for us to



Command Sgt. Maj. Kent Galvin

be proud of. Perhaps our biggest achievement was welcoming 27 new babies to the Eagles.

Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and I will host a town hall event at the Kelley Hill Recreation Center on February 18 at 6 p.m. to discuss upcoming events. We will also inform you of the latest Army drawdown information. In addition, we are also having a family fun run on Friday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 a.m. The run will be in support of the American Heart Association, so make sure to wear red!

Once again, welcome back from block leave. We are truly a team that believes in and care for each other; professionals that understand our call to duty and aspire everyday to be the best American Soldier possible. Make no mistake about it, our success, commitment and dedication are because of the many sacrifices that you and your Families make. For your committed, and loyal support to your soldier and our organization, we say thank you!

Support and Defend!

Man Alerts Fellow Soldier's Family to Fire

Story by: Ben Wright
Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Ga.

1st. Sgt. Michael Ascott is thankful for a Fort Benning soldier who ran through woods and jumped fences in the dark to warn his family of a fire at their Smiths Station, Ala., home.

Ascott, a member of the 362nd Engineer Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, had never met Spc. Pristen Perez of the 203 Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team before the 9:30 p.m. fire ignited Ascott's garage on Dec. 14.

Quick thinking by Perez gave Ascott time to get his family outside and battle the fire until the Smiths Station Volunteer Fire Department arrived.

"The most I would have expected was people to pick up the phone and dial 911," Ascott said Thursday. "Really, if someone had just done that my house would have burned down.

I'm incredibly grateful that his house is 150 yards on the other side of the woods from mine." Perez said he did what he would expect someone to do for him.

"Honestly, I feel like if I was in that situation, I'd want them to react the same way I did," Perez said. Perez said he and his wife were watching TV when he saw flames in the house from his back yard.

"At the time I saw a flame, my first instinct was somebody was having a barnfire, but once I went outside,



Spc. Pristen Perez, at left, of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team and 1st. Sgt. Michael Ascott of the 362nd Engineer Company, 11th Engineer Battalion at Fort Benning had never met before a garage fire at Ascott's home Dec. 14 in Smiths Station, Ala.

I saw it was on fire," he said. "I grabbed my cell phone and flashlight. I began jumping fences until I made it to the house."

Perez banged on the first door he found as flames were shooting from the garage. Ascott was almost passed out watching TV on the couch while his son, Johnathan, was in bed and his wife Rachel was getting ready for bed.

That's when he heard banging in the back of the house. "My first thought was it was coming out of the garage so I opened the garage," Ascott said. Finding the garage full of smoke, Ascott went around to the other side of the house and found Perez who was letting them know the house was on fire.

"We were lucky," Ascott said. "We didn't know anything was going on until he came and warned us.

If he didn't let us know when he did, it would have gotten into the

house and we probably would have lost the whole house."

Ascott ran into the house and found two fire extinguishers to battle the blaze in the garage. Perez helped Ascott's wife and son get out of the house, then grabbed a garden hose to control the fire until firefighters arrived.

"It didn't take long once I got to house, got everybody out and started working on the fire," Perez said. "The fire department came very fast. They took care of it from there." A fire investigator is fairly certain the culprits in the fire are squirrels. They apparently had built a nest around some security lighting on the back of the garage, Ascott said.

Ascott credits Perez with saving their home. "There is no way for me to thank him enough," he said. The ending couldn't have been better for Perez. "I'm just glad everybody was OK," he said.

FRSA

Family readiness support assistants serve as a vital link between the unit commander, the Soldier assigned to the unit, their families and community resources. FRSA duties include coordinating Family Readiness Group events, monthly meetings, childcare, and informational briefings to family members. FRSA's provide information on activities, trainings and events on post and the surrounding area. We assist Soldiers and families when making referrals to local agencies to include but not limited to ACS, Tri-care, and Family Advocacy.

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