



## Bulldog Soldiers conduct day, night training

Story and photo by Sgt. Jon Heinrich

*1st Brigade Combat Team, Public Affairs*

As the sun rises on a brisk, Spring morning, the sound of helicopters can be heard landing, and in the light of dawn, dozens of Soldiers can be seen Air Assaulting out of them.

For the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the days training has begun.

Three platoons from 1st Bn., 327th Inf. Rgt., individually conducted both blank and live-fire training, during the day and night of April 26-27 at Range 54 here: 1st Platoon, Company B (Bushmasters); 1st Platoon, Company D (Mad Dogs); and Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Headhunters).

Cpl. Jonathan Nguyen, a senior sniper with Scout Platoon, HHC, said the main purpose for the training was to ensure the platoons are proficient in basic fire and maneuver techniques and incorporating assets into those maneuvers.

“For us this week it’s been platoon live-fire,” said Nguyen. “We came out Monday and executed some daytime blank iterations, then we came back out again today [Saturday] and did our daytime blank and live, and now we’re finishing up our nighttime live fire.”

According to Nguyen, each platoon was provided assets such as mortars for indirect-fire, air mobility and a sapper team.

The engineers were used to help



Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), take cover as a UH-60 Blackhawk medical helicopter flies overhead April 26 on Range 54 here.

the platoon in reaching their main objective by breaching through a wall and providing suppressive fire inside to allow the Soldiers to enter and clear their objective.

The training began with each platoon individually conducting a blank-fire mission in the morning by air assaulting into a designated landing zone, then live-fire in the afternoon, blank-fire in the evening and live-fire later at night.

The platoons then moved toward their objective, which was a mock house surrounded by concertina wire with a small wall on the side, which the engineers had to breach.

Along the way to their objective, the Soldiers encountered a hasty ambush with pop-up targets.

To clear the attack, the platoons used their M240 and M249 machine guns to provide suppressive fire while the main squads bounded forward to clear the area.

After the attack, the platoons then maneuvered to their objective, breached through and cleared through more targets.

Once the area was secure, the Soldiers then provided security around the area, only to then be counterattacked from more targets with a tank.

The Soldiers fired at the targets to suppress enemy fire while AT4 anti-tank rockets were employed to take out the tank.

*continued on page 10*



## Message from B6



Leaders, Soldiers, Families and Friends,

The month of May is upon us! Earlier this month Bastogne Soldiers conducted a brigade level training event called the 'Walk and Shoot'.

The training event allowed Company Commanders to integrate and synchronize Fire Support and Aviation capabilities while maneuvering their units.

My confidence in this organization has grown.

This month Bastogne joins the 101st Airborne Division in celebrating 'Week of the Eagles'. The 'Week of the Eagles' tradition started back in 1973 when the Screaming Eagles returned from Vietnam, as an effort to reinvigorate the sense of community, while simultaneously encouraging the local community and Veterans to return to Fort Campbell.

Bastogne will host its Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR) and Honorary Member of the Regiment (HMOR) ceremony during the 'Week of the Eagles' as well.

This is a ceremony in which deserving individuals are appointed, after being selected by a special committee, to be recognized for a lifetime of honorable service and loyalty to the unit, their fellow Soldiers, and to our great nation.

We have many of our Soldiers training away from Fort Campbell. Soldiers from the Battalions and Brigade Staff will travel to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, La., to take part in the Security Forces Assistance (SFA) Academy training and the Leader

Training Program (LTP).

The SFA-Academy training will focus on equipping leaders with the tools to ensure the success of their team and their Afghan counterparts. LTP is a command and staff training program designed to prepare Bastogne for complex environments we may operate in.

As the schedule grows busier, Leaders and staffs are working diligently to provide clarity for future training and deployments.

Potentially, much of the brigade will remain at Fort Campbell while a portion deploys to Afghanistan.

Units have begun to build deployment rosters, which will remain in draft until we get assurance of our mission.

Regardless, everyone in the brigade will train hard in preparation to enter the Army's 'Ready Pool' this fall.

I remain increasingly proud of all that we have accomplished and confident in the Leaders and Families who will carry us through these busy times.

Bastogne!

Air Assault!

COL Rob Campbell

*1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division  
(Air Assault)*



## Message from B7



Soldiers, Families and Friends of the Bastogne Brigade, as we wrap up Week of the Eagles, I want to share a message of “Thanks”.

Let me first start by thanking all of the Soldiers who were identified to provide support for the Bastogne Brigade’s events for Week of the Eagles.

From those who stood on parade fields, set up tents, provided communications equipment, fed our Families and Veterans, ran events across the installation, to the Soldiers who represented our brigade in every Week of the Eagles event, you did an outstanding job.

Your hard work and attention to detail is just one example of the way Bastogne Soldiers set the standards for others to follow.

Let me also send a special congratulations to all our teams that excelled during WoE. From our overall team wins in Combatives and Basketball, to our individual win in the 5K run and second place finish in Soccer and Marksmanship, our Soldiers demonstrated the Bastogne spirit of winning!

I also want to send my appreciation to our Veterans. Your service and sacrifice has given us the foundation from which we build today’s Bastogne Team.

For those who were able to attend Week of the Eagles, the time and messages you shared with our Soldiers has made a lasting-positive impression on the next generation of Bastogne.

Finally, and probably most importantly, I want to thank the Families and Friends of our

brigade and our Soldiers.

Between March of this year and September, your Soldiers have participated (and will participate) in some rigorous and increasingly vital training to prepare the Bastogne Brigade for a future deployment.

That being said, the leaders in this brigade know that our Families provide immeasurable support to our Soldiers and that providing time for our Soldiers to spend with their Families is of the utmost concern.

Our challenge, as leaders, is to help our Soldiers and Families keep and maintain that positive balance.

Your challenge, as Families and Soldiers, is to make the most of the time that’s provided. Get involved in our local community and experience the great things this area has to offer.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that summer is upon us. Higher temperatures, higher humidity, motorcyclists, barbecue grills, outdoors activities, and increased traffic on the highways are all potential hazards. Be Smart, Be Safe, and Watch Your Battle Buddy. We are all one team here.

Bastogne!

Air Assault!

CSM William Forro

*1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division  
(Air Assault)*

# Army Community Service (ACS) Spouse to Spouse Sponsorship Program



Are you a military Spouse and your PCSing to  
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# Shepherd's Musings

Fourteen years ago I started on this journey that has proven to be quite remarkable. Five days before my fortieth birthday I was directly appointed to Active Duty as a Chaplain. This came after five years of parish ministry and about ten years developing drug and alcohol programs. What started out as a rather random conversation between my wife, Lois, and a family friend has turned into this fantastic adventure.

Today I am writing to you all after nearly 30 months as the Brigade Chaplain for the Bastogne Brigade. As I reflect on my time with the brigade I realize that the First Brigade Combat Team of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) has helped me reach a couple of goals. One of these is a long term goal in my Army career and the other is a personal achievement kind of goal.

I arrived in the Army with no Military experience and was assigned to Fort Eustis, VA as the chaplain for an Advanced Individual Training battalion. As I learned more about Army history one of my goals was to be assigned to a unit that had a deep and vibrant history. I imagined that it would be a fantastic thing to be a part of a deep historical tradition. My imagining was correct; it has been a fantastic experience to be a part of the Bastogne Brigade. Being a part of this storied unit has shaped my perceptions of Patriotism and pride. This is a truly wonderful unit to be a part of and I feel blessed to have my name be a small footnote in the history of the Bastogne Brigade.

The second goal has to do with my own leadership. I desired the opportunity to supervise Chaplains and Chaplains Assistants. As I started I wondered if I was up to the task. I believed that the ways that I would supervise through investing time and energy in those around me was the right way to go. But my belief and my abilities were untested. Today I will tell you that investing in people may be the only sure investment available.

By the time you finish reading this I will likely have PCS'd to Fort Hamilton, NY to serve as the Garrison Chaplain. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to be the Shepherd of Bastogne and I look forward to seeing you all again on the high ground.

Bastogne!

-Chaplain (MAJ) Eric R. Meyners

The Shepherd of Bastogne

## PCS Season

By: Jamie Wilson, FRSA, 1 BCT

And so it begins...the time of year where many Soldiers and Families receive Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders to their next duty station. Moving is a part of life for the military. Luckily, there is an abundance of resources available to help with this transition.

Whether you are outbound or inbound, the Army Community Service (ACS) Relocation Readiness Program can set you on the right path, or at least give you a better idea of what to expect. If outbound, before you leave your current duty station, I encourage you to pick up a copy of the ACS PCS Moving Checklist. This list covers numerous aspects to think about and be addressed; among these items to consider are organizing personal records (birth certificates, insurance papers, and other important documents), obtaining copies of school records (if you have children), notifying your landlord of impending move, taking care of any medical/dental appointments, and scheduling appointments with the Transportation office. And finally, don't forget your pets! Get copies of their records from their veterinarian and ensure all vaccinations are current prior to the move.

On the inbound side, each ACS office should have a Welcome Center where you can pick up information about the area (maps, FAQs, local utilities, etc.). Some installations even host a Newcomer's Orientation that can be very helpful when you are new to an area. If you need household items (pots and pans, dishes, chairs, car seats, etc.) while you wait for your items to arrive, the Lending Closet is the place to go. Additionally, just as Soldiers are assigned a Sponsor, ACS has a Spouse to Spouse Sponsorship program available upon request.

Other checklists and information can be found at Military One Source ([www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)). Search "Plan my Move for details.



In the fall of 2012, Lt. Stephen J. Patterson (Center wearing a suit and tie) was named a Distinguished Member of the 327th Infantry Regiment in a ceremony on 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division's, Memorial Field at Fort Campbell. With Patterson are members of ABU, or A Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Inf. Reg. that served together in South Vietnam in 1968. (courtesy photo)

# In Service to My Men

Story by Sgt. 1st Class John Brown  
1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne  
Division Public Affairs

“My men. . .,” seems to be the way Stephen “Steve” Patterson starts every comment about his service in Vietnam.

He doesn’t boast about his Silver Star or his Purple Hearts, he won’t tell you about his personal accomplishments, and he definitely won’t tell you about the internal struggles he faced as a young lieutenant leading a platoon of Soldiers through the jungles of Vietnam in 1968.

What Steve Patterson will tell you is that “My Men” were the most important thing.

This story really begins in Lewisburg, Penn., at Bucknell University where, as a young freshman, Patterson enrolled in the Reserves Officer Training Corps program.

In recalling those days, Patterson refers to himself as a member of the JFK generation and recites the famous line from President Kennedy’s speech, “Ask not what your country can do for you...”

With a war in Southeast Asia on the horizon, Patterson knew that the need for volunteers to serve would be critical, “I was a citizenship Soldier; however, I always wanted to serve in an elite combat unit and I wanted the challenge of the most demanding training.”

Upon graduation from Bucknell University, newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Patterson was sent to South Korea where he served for four months before voluntarily joining the 101st Airborne Division and deploying to Vietnam.

At 4:30 a.m. on January 23, 1968, Patterson reported to Lt. Col. Charles “Charlie” Beckwith, the commander of 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

During this initial exchange, Beckwith, who later went on to form and command Delta Force, never looked away from Patterson’s personnel file.

“He said that ‘we trained you and we expect a lot of good things from you –

now if we’re wrong, or you prove to be a coward, you’ll be out of the unit in 30 days,’” recalls Patterson.

As Patterson recounted this story to students and alumni of Bucknell University as part of a speech he gave after being honored as a Significant Sig in the Sigma Chi Fraternity, Patterson said, “He (Beckwith) went on to say that when you’re killed in action, because of the training you have had, your family won’t be notified that you were killed in action because you were a dumb son of a bitch, but that you were just killed in action.”

“At this point, I’m thinking to myself ‘and I’m going to work for this guy?’” remembers Patterson.

But Patterson explains that Beckwith’s evaluation wasn’t far from the truth, “The life expectancy of platoon leaders in Vietnam was two weeks and I’m not embellishing this; in a firefight, it was seven seconds.”

As fate would have it, Patterson soon found out just how true that was.

Just two hours after his meeting with Beckwith “I fast roped to join the com-

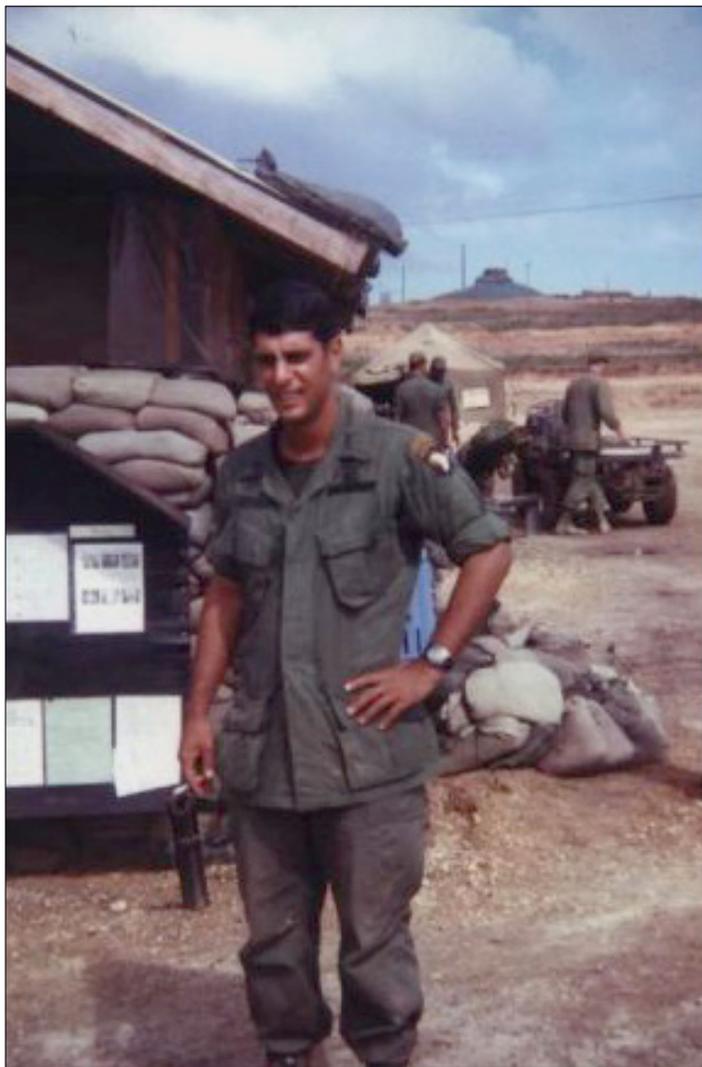
pany (Alpha Company, 1st Bn., 327th Inf. Reg.) in their jungle location along the Cambodian border,” said Patterson.

As Patterson recalls, this was merely six days before the North Vietnamese Army began the Tet Offensive. “Four hours later we made contact with an NVA battalion; we were outnumbered 4-to-1.”

“In the two-day engagement, the three other platoon leaders were casualties,” said Patterson. “So after day one, I was now the senior platoon leader.”

For most people, it would be hard to imagine any other event having a greater impact on their life, but for Patterson, something else that happened during his service in Vietnam would shape the rest of his life.

“In early 1968, a young sergeant under my command (Joe Artavia) wrote home to his sister (Linda) asking that she prompt the city of San Mateo (Calif.) to formally adopt our



Lt. Stephen J. Patterson, A Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, served as a platoon leader for two platoons and A Company’s executive officer in South Vietnam in 1968. (courtesy photo)

combat company of about 150 men,” said Patterson.

Patterson noted that it was only through the persistence of Artavia’s sister that in March of 1968, the city of San Mateo became the only city during the Vietnam War to formally adopt a forward deployed unit.

“Three weeks later I lost Linda’s brother in a firefight; he was killed in action,” said Patterson.

Patterson shared that the loss of her brother and the relationship between Linda and the members of his unit had a profound effect on her.

“In late December of that year, Linda traveled to Vietnam and I was assigned as her military escort,” said Patterson.

“We whisked her away when she landed . . . close to Saigon, and flew her to the northern part of South Vietnam, further than any civilians were allowed to travel. This was necessitated by the fact that this is where our men were located and Linda’s purpose in traveling to Vietnam was to see and meet the men her brother had served with,” continued Patterson.

Patterson said that the Soldiers were recalled from the field to meet with Linda over the course of two days, and that the trip would forever impact both their lives.

Forty six years later, during his speech at Bucknell University, Patterson explained that his military service lasted for only two years, but that the service of his wife, Linda, is entering its 47th year.

As the founder and president of the non-profit organization Americans Supporting Americans, Linda has been responsible for linking over 100 cities with deploying units around the country, but for Patterson, it’s done more than that.

“I’m sure I would have kept in touch with a few of my men, but Linda is the glue that holds us together,” said Patterson. “The ABU (Alpha Company) Soldiers call her ‘Sis’ because she is one of us, she was there.”

Though Patterson gives all of the credit for the success of ASA to his wife, at least one Alpha Company Soldier, who served with Patterson in Vietnam, believes Patterson should share in the credit.

In a letter to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Bossi, the regimental command sergeant major of the 327th Inf. Reg., former Sgt. Rick “Wild Bill” Smith recommended Patterson be named a Distinguished Member of the Regiment.

Smith stated in the letter that, “1st Lt. Stephen J. Patterson has put all his talents as a businessman and leader into the total support of ASA, . . . founded by his awesome wife and our beloved ABU ‘Sister’, Linda Patterson.”

*continued on page 8*



1st Lt. Stephen “Steve” Patterson (right) shakes hands with the commander of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division at Camp Eagle in South Vietnam. Between the two men is Linda Artavia-Patterson during her visit to A Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment in December, 1968. This is where their love story began. (courtesy photo)

*in service continued from page 7*

Smith went on to describe Patterson as a natural born leader of troops and said, “We considered Lt. Patterson a Soldier’s Soldier.”

Smith concluded his recommendation by saying, “We would have followed Lt. Stephen J. Patterson to Hell, as many times as he would have wanted to make the trip.”

In the fall of 2012, Patterson was recognized as a Distinguished Member of the 327th Inf. Regiment at a ceremony on Fort Campbell.

Following the ceremony, Patterson spoke to current members of ABU Company and his Vietnam Era Soldiers about what their service means to him.

As a point of reference, Patterson explained that combat troops in World War II, on average, spent 36 days in a combat environment; the average infantryman in Vietnam spent 245 days in constant preparedness for contact with the enemy; but that the Soldiers of this brigade spent exactly 356 days in an environment where they could potentially be in

contact with the enemy during their tour in Vietnam.

“In our day, I didn’t think anything of it,” said Patterson, “Now, as I look back, I don’t know how you did it; always on the hunt, day in and day out, humping those mountainous jungle trails.”

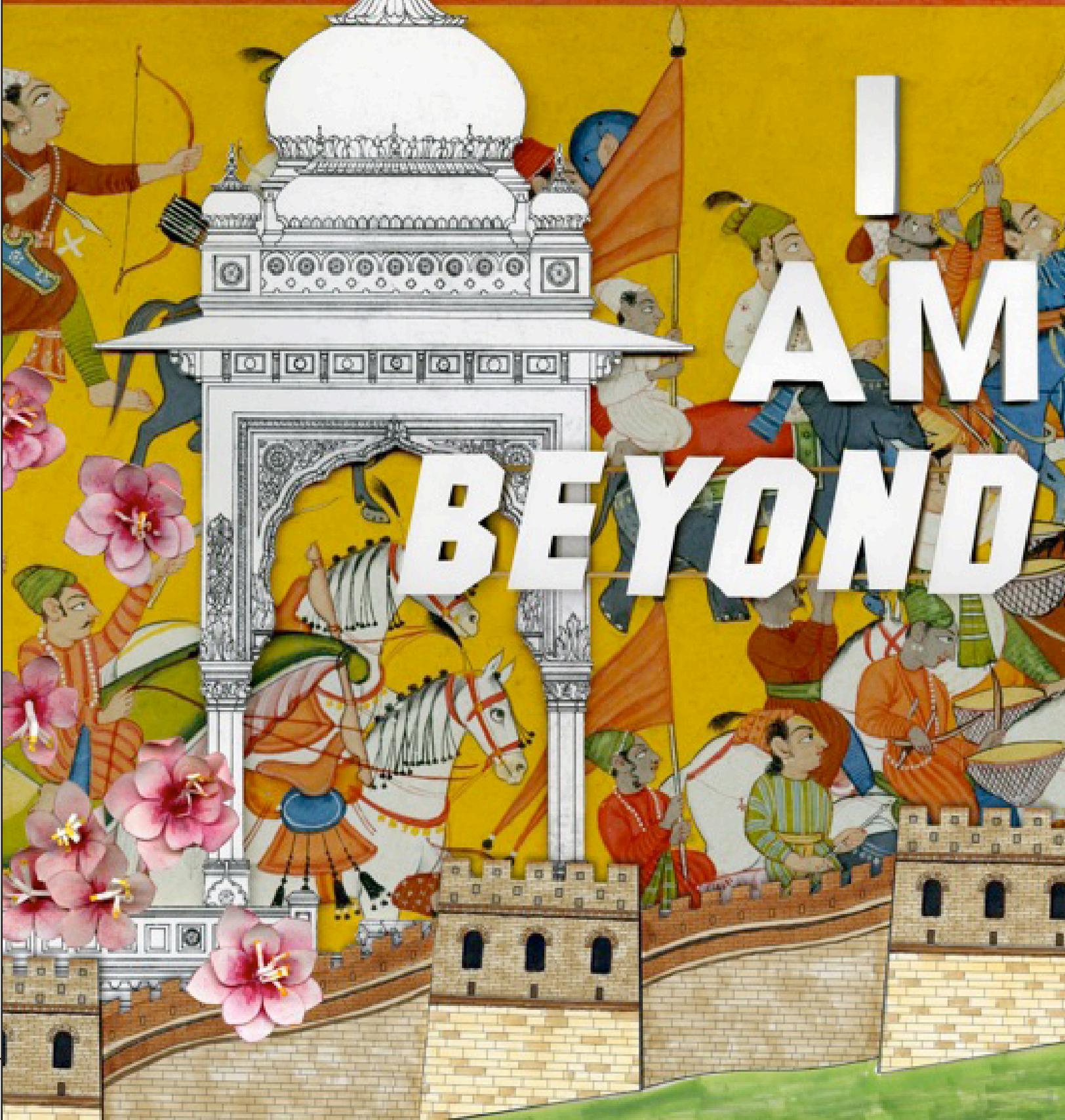
“As well as I can tell, A Co. lost 35 men and another 150 were wounded in March and April,” continued Patterson, “Combined, we were pretty close to 100 percent casualties; yeah, we got bruised but that enemy suffered more, much more, to the tune of almost 10 times our casualties.”

“You are great men, you are unique and very special; you are literally 1 in 10,000,” continued Patterson. “I always felt it was a great opportunity and a great honor to go to battle with you.”

After a short pause, Patterson went on to say, “We never had the opportunity to mourn our losses; it was always on to the next trail, the next hill, the next firefight.”

“So what happens?” Patterson asks. “We mourn for them the rest of our lives.”

# ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



I  
AM  
BEYOND

*Bulldog training continued from page 1*

During the engagement, a Soldier simulated being wounded and had to be medically evacuated outside the objective by a UH-60 Blackhawk.

Once training was complete, the platoon then conducted an After Action Review and exited the training area, to allow the next platoon to begin.

“I thought it was good training,” said Pfc. Jarmarcus Douglas, an ammunition bearer with Weapon Squad, 1st Platoon, Company B. “It let me see what doing platoon attacks, moving out using two squads, other than doing what I was used to doing coming from Basic Training.

“It puts the whole platoon in with the weapon squad assets,” continued Douglas. “You get to see the suppressive fire from the weapon squad, you get to see the indirect fire from the mortar team. It all comes together.”

Douglas enlisted into the Army August 2013 and arrived to his unit December 2013.

“We have a lot of new lower enlisted Soldiers in the battalion so getting them up to speed with just the basics has been a work in progress,” said Nguyen.

“I think the day fire went just how we wanted it to go,” said Douglas. “We came out and did the blank-round day-fire and they told us we did an excellent job with that.

“I thought the night fire went well also,” Douglas added. “We layed down good suppressive fire the same way; our assaulting elements moved pretty good through the terrain and we got to the objective and accomplished the mission.”

Douglas said he enjoyed training with his platoon and coming together as a group in preparation for future deployments.

“I just want to keep training, keep learning, move up in the ranks, get closer to my platoon, so one day when it’s time for us to go down range we will have each other’s back and we all know what we are supposed to be doing,” Douglas said.





326<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion stands ready and prepared to transform into the 326<sup>th</sup> Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB).

## 326<sup>th</sup> Brigade Engineer Battalion transformation ceremony



LTC Borders, Commander of the 326<sup>th</sup>BEB speaks to the Soldiers, families and friends of the battalion on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the 326 BEB Transformation ceremony.

LTC Phillip J. Borders, 326<sup>th</sup> Commander, and MAJ James Kreuger , 326<sup>th</sup> Executive Officer, inspects the troops during the 326<sup>th</sup> transformation ceremony.

# CPT Terrance Williams promoted to Major

Story by CPT Earl Wilson, 426<sup>th</sup> BSB PAO

On a beautiful April 9, 2014, Charlie Company, 426<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion held a promotion ceremony for CPT Terrance Williams to promote him to the rank of Major. The ceremony took place in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Conference Room with Major Williams surrounded by his family and Taskmaster Soldiers. His parents and mother in law were able to travel to Ft. Campbell from Michigan for the special occasion. COL Campbell had the honor of conducting the promotion ceremony. During the ceremony COL Campbell explained the significance of the promotion. "There is a reason that they call them Iron Majors. The rank of Major is a challenging time. Majors are the Officers that roll of their sleeves up and make things happen." Mrs. Williams and her children pinned the newly earned rank onto Major Williams' shoulders. The pride in their husband and father shined through their smiles. "I always wanted to come to a Brigade Combat Team," Major Williams said during his speech. "That is where you can really make a difference. I want to thank my Coldblooded and Taskmaster Family. They are the reason that this job is enjoyable." The promotion ceremony was followed by a reception at the Ft Campbell Museum. Major Williams is the Environmental Science Officer for 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and his scope includes identifying, evaluating and recommending the course of action to control potential health hazards; assessing weapons, equipment, clothing and material systems; developing environmental health and industrial hygiene criteria/standards; and promoting policies, programs, practices and operations for the prevention of disease, illness and injury. He has been with C Company since September, 2011. Major Williams deployed with C Company on their last deployment to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) XII-XIII and served as the Environmental Science Officer working closely with SGT Roberson, the preventive medicine specialist to service 13 Forward Operating Bases. Major Williams has exceptionally represented Charlie Company by earning his Expert Field Medical Badge and by graduating Air Assault School.



CPT Terrance Williams from the 426th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division is promoted to MAJ in the 1BCT conference room by COL Campbell. His family helps in the honors.



# 426th Brigade Support Battalion Update

Story by CPT Earl Wilson, 426<sup>th</sup> BSB

## Bravo Company

The Blackjacks successfully completed Operation Eagle Flight II from 17 to 21 March. Their mission was to establish and defend the Battalion Support Area (BSA), conduct recovery Situational Training Exercise lanes (STX) and provide maintenance support throughout the entire exercise.

1<sup>ST</sup> PLT automotive section not only conducted maintenance and security operations they also replaced a damaged engine in one of Charlie Company's M997 Field Litter Ambulances (FLA). In order to remove the damaged engine from the vehicle, the automotive section used a 10-ton Atlas (forklift) in a clever and unconventional way to complete the task. The total operation was a success and C Co. was able to drive their vehicle from the FTX.



Automotive Section using a forklift to remove engine

2nd Platoon conducted service and recovery drills, as well as convoy operations in order to certify the recovery teams on their standard operating procedures and current training proficiency. The recovery teams conducted both hasty and deliberate recovery missions to test their training and validate the company's Mission Essential Task List.



Service and Recovery Section conducting recovery operations.

The proficiency and professionalism of the Service and Recovery (S&R) section was on full view for all of those observing training. SGT Kendall, the NCOIC for S&R stated, "These Soldiers are very well trained and seasoned, yet remain open to criticism and critiques to refine and maintain their fighting edge."

Once Eagle Flight II was complete, Bravo Company conducted a recovery of all equipment used while in the field. All vehicles and tents were cleaned and PMCSd and all TA-50 was both accounted for and inventoried, ready to start Eagle Flight III.

*Always Bet On Blackjack!!*

## Charlie Company

Coldblooded Soldiers conducted a successful training exercise during Eagle Flight II, which took place 17-21 March 2014. Charlie Company established a Role I Aid Station in the Taskmaster Brigade Support Area, with a primary focus on treating notional patients evacuated from the surrounding area. The Role I Aid Station consisted of four trauma beds with teams of medics and two Physician Assistants, CPT Rogers and 1LT Bucholz. Headquarters platoon

set up and exercised the Company Command Post, providing Medical Mission Command as well as providing the base security for the Coldblooded sectors of fire. Evacuation Platoon focused on using their Forward Line Ambulances to evacuate patients to the Aid Station from Ambulance Exchange Points.



Medics working on a patient in the Role I Aid Station

Eagle Flight II allowed the company to lay down the foundation of training needed to establish a Role II Aid Station during Eagle Flight III. A Role II Aid Station will include a patient hold area, behavioral health, physical therapy, dental, X-ray and lab capabilities.

## Promotions

On April 1<sup>st</sup> four hardworking Coldblooded Soldiers were promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and Sergeant, greatly increasing the number of Noncommissioned Officers within the company. SGT Christopher

*continued on page 14*



SFC Gisler promoting SGT Callahan to SSG

Callahan was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. "I want to thank all of the NCOs in Charlie Company that have taught me so much. I especially want to thank SGT Cochran for being my battle buddy and always being there for me. He helped me get to where I am today." SSG Callahan's hard work made him the perfect candidate for the new Evacuation Platoon's Platoon Sergeant.

SPC Rose, SPC Rojas and SPC Webster were all promoted to the rank of Sergeant. SGT Rose and SGT Webster are also members of Evacuation Platoon. As NCO's within the Evacuation Platoon they are responsible for providing Medical Support with Forward Line Ambulances throughout the entire Bastogne Brigade as well as Fort Campbell.

SGT Rojas is a member of Headquarters platoon and she is responsible for managing the orderly room at Charlie Company. She ensures

that all administrative actions for the company are completed on time and to the highest standard possible. She also ensures that the Company Command Post is fully operational.

The hard work and dedication of SSG Callahan, SGT Rose, SGT Rojas and SGT Webster serves not only as an example to Charlie Company but also to the entire Taskmaster Family. As they continue to mentor and lead the Soldiers around them, these NCOs continue to be the heart and muscle of Charlie Company.

### *Air Assault School*

Charlie Company Soldiers have been working hard to prepare for their chance to attend the Sabalauski Air Assault School. We would like to congratulate SPC Douglas, PV2 Gonzalez, SSG Peggins and 1LT Tarasova for their recent graduations. We could not be more proud of their hard work and determination to represent Charlie Company amongst the rest of the division. SGT Roberson



1SG and Mrs. Mack

and SGT Burns have taken the lead on the establishment of a strenuous Air Assault PT program in order to help train all future candidates.

### *Coldblooded Farwell*

With heavy hearts we bid farewell to 1SG Robby Mack and his wife, Tiffany Mack. He has served as the 1SG for Charlie Company since 2009. Without his endless hours of hard work and dedication to the Coldblooded and Taskmaster Soldiers, Charlie Company would not have been as successful during two deployments to Afghanistan and during our time in garrison. The Mack Family will truly be missed by Soldiers and families alike. We want to wish them luck with whatever their future brings. There will be a farewell dinner for the Mack Family on April 16, 2014 at Woody's Restaurant.

### *Upcoming Events*

Eagle Flight III is the next major training event that is quickly approaching. Charlie Company will be in the field from 23-27 April with the battalion for brigade support area training. Charlie Company will establish a Role II Aid Station as well conducting aeromedevac training.

Shortly following Eagle Flight III is Week of the Eagles. Charlie Company will be participating in a number of activities ranging from sports competitions to the Division Pass and Review.





# 326th Brigade Engineer Battalion Update

Story by 326th BEB, photos from varied sources

For the 326<sup>th</sup> Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB) April has been filled with milestones as we look toward our next rendezvous with destiny! We left another mark on history as we transformed to a Brigade Engineer Battalion. The battalion trained hard as we transitioned and prepared our companies to support the Brigade in upcoming training opportunities.

Over the last 30 days, HHC has been focused on Air Assault training, change of command activities, and BEB transformation preparations. While conducting daily staff operations, HHC had 9 Soldiers graduate from the Air Assault School, bringing the total Air Assault qualified percentage to 64%. HHC has also started the transformation process to the 326 BEB. The S4 section handled dozens of lateral transfer directives to fill the new MTOE. The new CBRN platoon has taken shape with the arrival of its new platoon leader and platoon sergeant, 2LT Jonathan Young and SGT(P) Cassandra Brown. The section has already executed individual, team, and section STX lanes during the most recent battalion FTX. The CBRN platoon also resourced and conducted training with 63rd chemical company to train on HAZMAT equipment and response operations. Looking into May, HHC, leading the way for battalion will focus on preparing for the Brigade Validation

exercise (VALEX) in June.

FSC spent time recovering from an intensive field exercise in April. 1LT Strayhorn and his Maintenance Platoon completed three vehicle services and 15 unscheduled services, while the Distribution Platoon, headed by SSG Field, conducted over 15 LOG-PACS, providing sustainment support to three outlying units. Upon completing recovery, the company began focusing on core competency training and establishing maintenance support teams aligned with each company. The NCOs got back in touch with battalion history by spending time at Pratt Museum listening to a historical presentation given by CPT Reid, the HHC commander.

The month of April marked the start of Alpha Company's enabler integration into the Platoon Field Evaluations for 1-327 IN BN "TF Bulldog" and 2-327 IN BN "TF No Slack". During these training events, Sappers from 1st and 2nd platoon provided squad level support during simulated and live fire lanes by executing conventional and expedient breach operations on obstacles ranging from triple standard concertina wire to cinderblock walls.

During April, the Light Equipment (LE) Platoon provided support to both Bulldog and No Slack. The



LE platoon built protective berms and emplaced grey water pits in a field environment. They have been busy as they also prepared to provide support to 2-320 Field Artillery Battalion with survivability support during training. A Co grew by 24 Soldiers that were quickly integrated into the Assassin way of life. Currently we have has 12 Soldiers graduate from Air Assault School with an additional 8 attending soon.



Bravo Company's month began exactly where their motto states,

*continued on page 14*

“At the Breach!” For two days on Demolition Range 39, Bravo Company’s sapper platoon conducted training focused on breaching mine wire obstacles, explosive urban breaching techniques, and cratering operations. On 14 April, the sapper platoon (1<sup>st</sup>) along with attachments from 2nd and 3rd platoon trained on MOUT operations, specifically room clearing using blanks and UTM simulation rounds. Bravo Company continued to work and improve on marksmanship with a qualification range where soldiers zeroed and qualified on their assigned M4. The Light Equipment (LE) Platoon continued to develop equipment operator’s skills with a dig exercise in mid April. The LE platoon also supported 426 BSB’s battle space owner (BSA) operations on 24-25 April which assists in strengthening their habitual relationship and operator skills. Our route clearance element, 2nd Platoon, is in the process of training with new Buffalos and Huskies. Bravo’s COIST team completed training on OSRV, BAT/SEEK, KLE, TIGR and district stability framework in support of developing a team capable of accurately analyzing the company operating environment.

The Cannibals of Charlie Company closed out four months of CS-14 training this April! The company spent time preparing for a field training exercise to validate the Soldiers on basic air assault and leadership skills. They also conducted several team building exercises to focus on bringing the company together as a highly motivated and ready unit. One such exercise was

the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cannibal Meat Grinder. It was a physically and mentally challenging physical training session that involved tasks such as water can relays, tire flips, and log PT. In addition to collective training, the company had some individual achievements as well. We also were able to conduct a re-enlistment that became a family affair! SPC Tarber’s mother, CPT Campbell, flew in from Virginia to conduct her re-enlistment ceremony as the administering official.



Furthermore, 1LT Behrendt supported the BN FRG Easter event as Peter Cotton Tail. His appearance was the highlight of the day for all of the children. Cannibals will be closing out April with Signal Warrior Leader Course.

This month Delta Company began to provide support to other Battalions in the Brigade and conducted training using their major intelligence equipment. Soldiers from our Multi-Function Team (MFT), consisting of both Human and Signals Intelligence Soldiers, participated in 1-327 Bulldog’s Situational Training Exercise (STX), working with Platoon Leaders

to help them understand their operational environment. The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Shadow Platoon flew over 12 hours of missions in support of Bulldog.



The Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Platoon, along with the Signal Company Intelligence Soldiers from MFT, conducted tests and validations of their significant equipment in preparation for Brigade exercises and JRTC. The Intelligence maintenance section provided key support to both platoons during this time, helping troubleshoot and order new equipment. Finally, Soldiers from ISR worked with their counterparts at the brigade intelligence section and presented products to the brigade commander, COL Campbell, at his bi-weekly intelligence brief.

At the end of April both UAS and MFT Platoons will be supporting No Slack, 2-327, during their STX. The Company’s next focus is preparing for the Brigade Validation Exercise in June.



# 426th Brigade Support Battalion Update

Story by CPT Earl Wilson, 426<sup>th</sup> BSB

## *Eagle Flight Two; Taskmasters Hard at Work*

426<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion “Taskmasters” deployed to training area 10 in support of Eagle Flight Two while conducting training preparation for Eagle Flight Three, the 1st Brigade Combat Team validation exercise, and a Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in August.

The Taskmaster Battalion hit the ground running setting up the Brigade Support Area (BSA) and their individual Tactical Operations Center (TOC) and Command Posts (CP) throughout Training Area 10.



## *“Highrollers”*

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company primary mission during Eagle Flight 2 was to support the battalion command team along with the battalion staff, establish and defend the BSA, provide their field feeding section in support of the battalion, and

conduct mission essential task list training for the company.

The Highrollers exercised and refined their field feeding procedures by serving over 2360 hot meals throughout the week. CPT Garner, “Highroller 6” said “Our field feeding section is a young section that was a very important key to the Soldiers’ morale throughout the exercise. They did a great job”. In addition, the Taskmaster Battalion Staff conducted classes on the military decision making process and operational art and design to build a cohesive staff and fine tune the staff’s ability to adequately plan. This preparation will pay dividends with the Battalion’s future training events, culminating with the unit’s rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center.



The Highrollers also provided the brigade support area with a quick reaction force. SSG Wheeler spear headed the training for the QRF conducting classes such

as react to and improvised explosive device, react to contact, react to an ambush, and react to indirect fire to name a few. HHC Soldiers put their training to the test when the opposition force probed the BSA during the war games. This proved them to be tried and true as they gained invaluable experience.

Over 40 Highrollers were trained as Eagle First Responders with Charlie Medical Company.

## *“Workhorse”*

Alpha Company’s primary mission during Eagle Flight 2 was to provide distribution support to the BSA, establish and defend the BSA, and conduct mission essential task list training for the company.



*continued on page 18*

The Workhorse company set up a helicopter landing zone (HLZ), ammunition transfer holding point (ATHP), while the sling load inspection certification (SLIC) personnel were hard at work rigging different loads and training Soldiers. 1LT Barker, the supply support activity platoon leader said, "The Soldiers have done well with air assault operations and have a good grasp of how to set up a helicopter landing zone for night ops with different light configurations". They rigged a single 500 gal fuel blivet, M149 water buffalo, M1097A1 high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle, and a 5K cargo net to train the Soldiers and ensure proficiency. 1LT Barker set up the helicopter landing zone with the capability of two different touchdown points, one for a helicopter to drop off an external load and another for a helicopter to land.



The transportation platoon conducted numerous convoys

to ensure gunners, and crews were not only trained but had the understanding of how important communication was on a mission. They continued to develop the way they work together as a team reacting to several scenarios that they could possible face during the upcoming deployment.

Distribution of petroleum, oil, lubricants, and water were the pulse to everyday missions as Workhorse manned their fuel trucks and provided two water storage containers to support the BSA.

Over 40 Workhorse Soldiers were trained as Eagle First Responders with Charlie Medical Company.

CPT Fryson, Workhorse 6, said "The training exceeded my standards considering that we have a lot of new Soldiers. I couldn't be more proud of the work they have done in preparation for upcoming training events and deployment. She said "This training has better postured us in our mission to support the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team."

### ***"Blackjack"***

Bravo Company's main mission was to establish and defend the BSA, conduct their mission essential task list training for the company, conduct vehicle recovery crew training while automotive, communication and electronics, missile armament, and ground support equipment conducted real world maintenance.

The automotive shop was hard at work as they installed a new engine in one of Charlie Company's Field Litter Ambulances. In addition they conducted services on vehicles

as part of their daily activities.

The communication and electronics cell fixed broken night vision goggles and radios while simultaneously conducting normal services.

The missile and armament section trained on the Improved Target and Acquisition System, conducted small arms repair, and were assigned a section of the BSA security.

Blackjack Soldiers recovered many vehicles due to the muddy terrain on the BSA. This posed as a great training experience.

58 Soldiers were trained on Eagle Flight Responder. CPT Arrington, Blackjack 6 said "Soldiers are having a lot of fun. You can see the transition point going from what they know, to understanding the mission and the standard operating procedure".

### ***"Coldblooded"***

Charlie Company's main mission was to establish and defend the BSA, conduct their mission essential task list training for the company focused on medical evacuation of casualties, and to provide real world medical support and health care protection to all personnel on the BSA in addition to the support area.

Charlie Company set up a role 1 medical treatment facility postured to support all Soldiers who were injured or sick. They conducted Eagle First Responder training consisting of buddy aid and self aid teaching Soldiers how to stabilize themselves and other Soldiers. Over 150 Soldiers were

trained.

The preventative medicine team provided a BSA medical threat analysis and brief to ensure all Soldiers understood their environment.

Evacuation platoon provided support and taught classes on proper procedures for medical transport while supporting the ongoing missions. They planned and executed a mass casualty training event in which casualties exceeded the medical treatment facilities maximum capacity. They sent ambulances to get injured soldiers providing enroute care bringing them back to the medical treatment facility for care or evacuation.

Another highlight from Charlie Company was suture training. Medics practiced suture training on pig's feet providing them with unique training experience on something comparable to the human skin.

Throughout the exercise the battalion command team constantly checked on Soldiers, integrating themselves into many of the training events. LTC Wyles, "Taskmaster 6" said "The occupation, establishment, and defense of the support area gave the battalion the opportunity to tests its individual and collective tasks of building a defense. Overall, the training was fantastic as it enabled the unit to focus on expeditionary sustainment skills, which have atrophied over the last decade. The leaders look forward to building on the lessons learned from the training and implementing them in the next battalion training exercise."



## 1-32 Cavalry Update

The Bandits of 1-32 Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne division, train hard and must be evaluated on their ability to perform their individual Military Operational Specialty (MOS) specific tasks and be proficient on their equipment. This past month the 13Fs in 1BCT were certified with their fire support tasks and equipment. The Squadron's Fire Support Teams (FiST) participated in FiST Certification from 09APR -16APR. FiST Certification commenced with an eight mile ruck march to the first event site where the Troopers were tested on fire support tasks (occupying an OP, use of equipment such as an LLDR, etc). They, then, had to Land Navigate to the next event site where they were tested on other fire support tasks. There were six sites in all. FiST Cert also requires the Troopers to satisfactorily complete a Call for Fire (CFF) in a CFF simulator and take a written examination.

Troopers are not only expected know their MOS specific tasks, but must be able to apply them to the way they fight in the only Air Assault Division in the world; so they must be able to integrate rotary winged aircraft into their operations. In order to do that Troopers are trained at The Sabalauski Air Assault School. The purpose of Air Assault School is to train Soldiers in Air Assault operations, sling-load operations, and rappelling. 1-32 CAV is proud of the 44 Troopers who graduated from the Air Assault School since the beginning of March.

While Air Assault School teaches the basics of Air Assaulting equipment and personnel, the Sabalauski Pathfinder School teaches more advanced skills. Pathfinder trains students to provide navigational aid and advisory services to military aircraft in areas designated by supported unit commanders; as well as, **provide** advice and limited aid to units planning air assault or airdrop operations. 1LT Gray graduated from pathfinder school this past month. With few chances for Troopers to go to this school and the high level of difficulty 1-32 CAV is proud his performance.

The Cavalry doesn't just train hard; they also have a lot of fun. On 25APR, 1-32 CAV with their Family Readiness Group (FRG) put on an Easter egg hunt for the Troopers and their families in order to celebrate the holiday. With many forms of entertainment, from face egg relays to a bounce house to the hunt itself, the event was fun for the whole family.

Scouts Out!



*Congratulations to all who participated in Week of the Eagle!*

**Commanders Cup Final Standings:**

1st Place: 3rd Brigade Combat Team  
"Rakkasan"

2nd Place: 1st Brigade Combat Team  
"Bastogne"

3rd Place: 2nd Brigade Combat Team  
"Strike"

