

YANK

THE ARMY



NEWSPAPER



*By the Soldiers
for the Soldiers
in the service*

JAN. 2015

VOL. 1, NO. 7



Original YANK cover photo,
published March 30, 1945.

A New Year-- A New Era for READY FIRST

YANK

THE ARMY



WEEKLY

5¢ MAR.30
VOL. 3, NO. 41
1945

By the men . . . for the
men in the service



CALLING THE RANGE

The Battle for Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima



Our B. Co. 3-41 IN, 1/1 AD
Soldiers in the field.

Cover photo:

Pfc. Patrick Shola, of Washington, Missouri, Pfc. Troy Hodge, of Christopher, Illinois, and Pvt. James, of Valdosta, Georgia, all three infantry soldiers with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, recreate the original YANK cover photo from March 30, 1945.

Photo by:

Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, 1/1 AD PAO

No Soldiers were harmed in the recreation of this photo.

Table of Contents:

P. 3	~	Memo from R6
P. 4	~	1-36 IN
P. 5	~	3-41 IN
P. 6	~	4-17 IN
P. 7	~	6-1 CAV
P. 8	~	2-3 FA
P. 9	~	16 EN
P. 10	~	501 BSB
P. 11	~	Memo from R7



TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

*Colonel Coffman discusses the
triad of readiness.*

The READY FIRST Combat Team Headquarters Fort Bliss, Texas

January 10, 2015

Happy New Year to the entire READY FIRST family and welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed your well-deserved time off with your family members and loved ones. This is going to be an exciting year in the history of this great brigade.

Over the next six months, the READY FIRST brigade is going from practiced to trained in every Mission Essential Task List (METL) task from company to brigade level to meet our expected readiness level. READY FIRST has developed a technique to sustain our readiness after National Training Center (NTC) by dividing into deployable task force sets through Ready Force Packages (RFPs). We call these readiness sets the triad system.

Habitual enabler relationships are critical to the triad of readiness. The enabler battalion forms the base, and is augmented with enablers so that our assets are divided into thirds. Within the triad of readiness, one-third is focused on individual training during red cycle; another third is focused on collective training; and the last third is focused on regeneration in the regeneration cycle.

Enabler battalions are responsible for providing trained units to integrate with RFPs collective training. Enablers included in collective training are Engineers and Field Artillery at platoon level and above; and Cavalry, Anti-Tank, Military Intelligence and Chemical at the company level and above. Enabler battalions train enabler units while having tactical control for collective training. Enablers may even train Warrior Training Tasks with the aligned RFP.

The triad of readiness will provide our brigade with the ability to maintain and sustain our readiness as a lethal combat unit able to defeat America's enemies at a moment's notice. I look forward to the adventures that lie ahead of us. I am proud to be your commander!

READY FIRST- Iron Soldiers!

Richard R. Coffman
33rd Colonel of the READY FIRST

Spartans impact El Paso school

1st Lt. Kenneth Haynie, 1-36 IN

For 25 years, the El Paso community has partnered with Fort Bliss units to improve quality of education through Soldier involvement, enhancing relations between Fort Bliss and the city of El Paso, to provide role models for students. Griffin Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, has joined the Partners in Education (PIE) program to make a difference in public education in the local area.

"The program will improve morale of the students and show Soldiers the effect they have on a younger generation," said Spc. Akkiaya Williams, a Griffin Company maintenance clerk from Brooklyn, New York.

Williams' company is partnered with the Desert View Elementary School, located on the West Side of El Paso.

Soldiers from Griffin Company have participated in several events to improve the education system and to help keep kids drug-free. One of these events was a drama and poetry contest conducted by the students and judged by Soldiers. During the contest, the students acted out classic children's stories. Others read poetry they had written themselves. The Soldiers graded the performances on a scale of one through five in categories such as clarity, difficulty and overall performance.

"This was a great opportunity to interact with the children," said Pfc. Elmer Rodriguez, a generator

mechanic with Griffin Company and native of Chicago, Illinois.

After the contest the Soldiers commended the students on their work and the students had an opportunity to ask the Soldiers some questions.

The Soldiers also participated in Red Ribbon Week, an annual national drug and violence prevention campaign. The initiative was created after the death of Drug Enforcement Agency agent Enrique Camarena in 1985. After he was found murdered, citizens in his hometown of Calexico, California, donned red ribbons in his honor. The ribbon became their symbol to reduce the demand for illegal drugs.

During Red Ribbon Week, Soldiers participated in several activities like jump rope, ring toss and a dance with the kids. The purpose of the activities was to show students there were fun drug-free activities. During this time with the students, Soldiers also talked to them about the negative influence drugs can have on their lives.

"This week I feel like I have helped these kids and community to become drug free," said Spc.

Kayla Randolph, a supply clerk with Griffin Company, and a native of Slidell, Louisiana.

Griffin Company will continue to support the program in multiple ways, including conducting a meet and greet with a group of students. During this time, Soldiers will talk to students about their experiences in order to influence them to stay violence and drug free.



Top: Pfc. Joya Bullock, a heavy wheel vehicle operator from Chicago, Illinois, Spc. Joanne Torres, a heavy wheel vehicle operator from San Antonio, Texas, and Spc. Kayla Randolph, a unit supply specialist, from Slidell, Louisiana, all Soldiers with 1-36 IN, 1/1 AD, close out the day with a group of first graders from Desert View Elementary School.

Above left: Children from Desert View Elementary School prepare to go to lunch with READY FIRST Soldiers after learning drill and ceremony positions.

Above right: Children from Desert View Elementary School demonstrate a dance to Soldiers after learning the Army Song.

(Photos by 1-36 IN)

Rifles host family fiesta

1LT Christopher A. Rabichaud, 3-41 IN

Beast Company, 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, sprinted through an aggressive and rigorous training schedule ranging from Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox this past summer, to an intense range and live fire density from September through November. The company also conducted a change of command and moved organizational footprints within that time frame. Therefore, the Beasts deserved some organized fun prior to the Thanksgiving weekend.

Since taking command of Beast Company in mid-September, Capt. Leo Krystof, a native of Oak Lawn, Illinois, led Beast Company into completing a range density to requalify each infantryman on their assigned weapon, team and squad live fire exercises and a leader gunnery density.

It was only fitting that the company conduct an overdue organizational day full of friends and family to have some fun. The day occurred at Biggs Park, Nov. 26. It consisted of plenty of food on the barbeque, jump houses for the kids, horseshoe and volleyball tournaments and topped off with the main event-- the Annual Beast Company Turkey Bowl.

The Turkey Bowl consisted of the company football tournament. A trophy was awarded to the winning team of the Turkey Bowl, 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon. The team was led by its team captain and squad leader, Sgt. Cirk Brown, from Memphis, Tennessee.

"It's always good to foster the competitive spirit already instilled in the infantryman, especially when it comes to competitive sports, but to also get the families together for an event this close to the holidays was something equally important," said Krystof.

What started as a small Family Readiness Group event thought of by the FRG leader, Ms. Jessie Taylor, turned into a full company event that everyone contributed and enjoyed themselves before the long holiday weekend.

For the company and Rifles battalion, this event was just the first of several FRG events and company Christmas parties as the the final event prior to block leave and beginning of a demanding training schedule upon return from leave to prepare for the National Training Center.

These events were just part of the small things that build unit cohesion but also raise morale and pride. It serves as reminder for the Beasts that for as hard as we work every day, we must play just as hard!



Photos: Soldiers from Beast Company, 3-41 IN, 1/1 AD participate in a family day, consisting of a barbeque and a Turkey Bowl. The winners of the Turkey Bowl were 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon. (Photos by 3-41 IN)

Buffalo Soldiers make a difference

1st Lt. Ramiro Carmona, 4-17 IN

November was a month in which the "Buffalos" of the 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, at Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted Network Integration Evaluation 15.1 recovery operations.

In addition to NIE 15.1, the Buffalos participated in Old Ironsides Week, with events that included ultimate Frisbee and 10 km run.

The most memorable- and most rewarding- event came in the form of Buffalo Soldiers volunteering at Kohlberg Elementary School, located on the west side of El Paso. The Buffalo battalion continues to support the 1st Armored Division's Partners in Education Program, an opportunity for Fort Bliss to give back to the El Paso community.

Two events took place in November. Soldiers of 4-17 IN were invited to attend a Military Appreciation Breakfast at the school, Nov. 7. The faculty, staff and parents hosted this breakfast for all military personnel to attend. Buffalo Soldiers, as well as other Fort Bliss Soldiers attended as a small token of appreciation for our men and women in uniform. The event also allowed for the Soldiers to plan and prepare future events that the school will be hosting.

"It's a great opportunity to give back to the El Paso Community," said Spc. Tyler Zipper an infantry Soldier with Baker Company, 4-17 IN, and a native of Houston, Texas.

Soldiers from B. Co., 4-17 IN, attended the Kohlberg Elementary School Thanksgiving lun-

cheon, Nov. 19, serving parents and students. As the students entered the cafeteria and they noticed the Soldiers standing behind the serving line giving an early Thanksgiving lunch. Their eyes lit up.

"People get to see the personal side of a Soldier," said Spc. Zachary Howard an infantry Soldier with B. Co., 4-17 IN, and a native of Brooklyn, New York.

The Soldiers engaged in conversation with the students, parents and teachers as they passed by the serving line with pilgrim hats on their heads. The event started with the kindergarten kids making their way through the line with all sequential grades to follow.

"It is awesome, the opportunity to do something different and help the kids," said Pfc. Daniel Young, an infantry Soldier with B. Co., 4-17 IN, and a native of Warsaw,

Missouri.

As the lines drew to close and parents and children and eaten their fill of turkey, the school staff in-turn served lunch to the Soldiers, with everyone enjoying an early Thanksgiving meal.



Above: From Left to Right Pfc. Daniel Young, a native of Warsaw Missouri, Spc. Troy Preedom, a native of Gulfport, Mississippi, and Spc. Zachary Howard, a native of Brooklyn, New York, all infantry Soldiers in Baker Company, 4-17 IN, 1/1 AD, serve Thanksgiving lunch to the students of Kohlberg Elementary, Nov. 19.

Right: Spc. Zachary Howard, an infantry man with Baker Company, 4-17 IN, 1/1 AD, and a native of Brooklyn, New York, serves 3rd Graders an early Thanksgiving lunch at Kohlberg Elementary School, Nov. 19.

(Photos by 4-17 IN)

Family Spur Tradition continues with Blackhawks

1st Sgt. Willie Richardson, 6-1 CAV

Family members of the 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, "Blackhawks," participated in a Family Spur Ride, Nov. 25. This Spur Ride is a representation of the traditional Spur Ride Soldiers participate in to obtain their spurs.

In the United States Army, Soldiers in cavalry units are known as troopers. Troopers earn the right to be inducted into their cavalry unit, known as the "Order of the Spur," in two ways. The trooper either serves in combat as a member of a cavalry unit, or they must successfully complete a Spur Ride. The Spur Ride, a time-honored cavalry tradition, tests the troopers' physical and mental fortitude.

The Spur Ride is a multi-day event where a trooper performs tasks, testing their mental and physical leadership ability. These tests consist of being able to operate under high levels of stress, work as part of a team, perform tasks in both day and night conditions and perform tasks demonstrating their technical and tactical proficiency.

Upon successful completion of these tasks, the order of the Spur recognizes the trooper's superior skills by awarding them spurs in the cavalry unit.

This time-honored tradition traces back to times of knighthood where spurs were granted to knights inducting them into the fraternity of mounted warriors.

While it is unclear when the tradition was started in the United States Cavalry, the intent of honoring and rewarding superior skills is the same.

The Family Spur Ride consisted of eight sta-

tions. They were Individual Movement Technique Drills (IMT), Humvee pull, Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), weapons station, medical station, Stryker ride, observation post operations and a team relay.

Crystal Dominguez, a native of San Jose, California, and the wife of Spc. Julian Dominguez from 2nd Platoon, Attack Troop, 6-1 CAV, said the most difficult station for her was pushing the Humvee.

Ashley Swift, a native of Rancho Cucamonga, California, and the wife of Spc. Rodney Swift from 2nd Platoon, Attack Troop, 6-1 CAV, said the hardest part for her was the APFT station.

"I felt good, I was glad to be a part of something my husband has done before," said Ashley. "Everybody was motivating me and planning the tasks to complete faster. Knowing my husband was pushing me at each event kept me motivated."

While the Family Spur Ride was not as rigorous as what troopers experience, it allowed family members to experience some of what their Soldiers experience. The event provided an opportunity to increase morale and spirit of the entire unit.

"I felt like I was a part of my husband's unit. It was a good to have a Family Spur Ride," said Crystal. "We had a team leader and worked from her guidance. The children and other wives and knowing that other spouses were doing it also and my husband by my side kept me motivated."

At the end of the Family Spur Ride, the individuals who successfully completed the events were given The Order of the Spur and a Blackhawk Squadron coin. The activities concluded with a Meal-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) lunch and a Family Spur Ride Ceremony.



Top left: Staff Sgt. Cameron Barnett, of Charlie Troop, 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, demonstrates how to conduct a functions check on the M4 rifle to his daughters, Kierstin and Krystal.

Top right: Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Chipix, of Alpha Troop, 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, demonstrates how to assemble and disassemble an M4 rifle to his son, Aaron.

(Photos by 1st Lt. Angel Collado, 6-1 CAV)

Gunners lead charge for Iron Strike

2nd Lt. Thomas Johnson 2-3 FA

The Gunners of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division Artillery, completed its most rigorous firing exercise in recent months by participating in Operation Iron Strike, a multi-echelon, joint live-fire exercise.

Executing out of the Dona Ana firing complex, the Headquarters and Alpha batteries deployed eight M777A2 155mm howitzers to train Soldiers and support a variety of the Division Artillery's (DIVARTY's) fire missions: massing the division's guns for a time-on-target mission, suppression of enemy air defense missions and counter-fire missions.

Nearly 200 Soldiers supported the 1st Armored Division's major winter exercise. Joining 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division Artillery, and the 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1/1AD, the mission included a communication exercises involving multiple brigades and battalions, full-scale logistics across the entire length of the Fort Bliss training area, field maintenance, and, of course, observing and shooting artillery.

Iron Strike began Dec. 3, lasting eight days before the Gunners returned to their motor pool, Dec. 10.

"The Soldiers were just absolutely outstanding," said Capt. Shane Weddle, battalion maintenance

officer, Fox Company, 2-3 FA, and a native of Abingdon, Virginia. "I've now been in the 501st [BSB] and here with Fox, and during Iron Strike I spent time forward and in the rear to see just how well these guys executed."

Gunners conducted live-fire operations for four



days, shooting a total of 200 rounds throughout three unique sets of fire missions. Several fire missions proved intricate: shooting while helicopters conducted air assault operations of field artillery and infantry elements, engaging targets while Air Force A-10 (Warthogs) flew in the same airspace and massing fires with infantry mortars.

"That's an impressive amount of firepower," said 2nd Lt. Matthew Stull, executive officer, Fox Company, 2-3 FA, and a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico. "From where we're sitting it all just looks like a battle in the sky."

Iron Strike is the third live-fire exercise in the last six weeks for the Gunners, who have spent a total of twenty days in the field since early November. The continuing high operation tempo is part of a series of exercises that will culminate with Iron Focus in March 2015.

The Gunners, along with the READY FIRST brigade, will deploy to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, in May 2015.



Above: Sgt. Antonio Hinojosa, a section chief with 2nd Battalion 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, DIVARTY, leads his section through crew drills in between live fire shoots during gunnery in December.
Left: Soldiers from 2-3 FA, DIVARTY fire from Firing Box 2 at the moment the projectile leaves the Muzzle Break during Gunnery in December.
(Photos by Spc. Victor Mercado, 2-3 FA)

Catamounts on the prowl

Capt. Kenneth King, 16 EN

The 16th Engineer Battalion was assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Nov. 16, 2013. Since that date, the battalion has grown from a small staff to a living, breathing organization with nearly 600 Soldiers. The battalion's November field training exercise (FTX) was in many ways a culmination of the period between inception and The exercise allowed Lt. Col. Mark Nadig, the battalion's commander, to lead and observe his battalion's movement to the field for the first time as a member of the READY FIRST brigade.

He was able to observe his seven companies, each with unique capabilities, maneuvering within Fort Bliss, focusing on their mission essential collective tasks. He was able to see the camaraderie between Soldiers and problem solving by leaders as they figured out what decisive action operations looks like for their organization.

The FTX was a focused 96 hour exercise in which the battalion established an expeditionary tactical assembly area through the use of a quartering party, conducting reconnaissance of the area with the battalion's organic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) platoon. The battalion established security and a command post to maintain communication with its subordinate companies. Each company was then allowed to focus on its key team and squad collective tasks.

The two engineer platoons worked the minefields, both emplacing and breaching, during the exercise. These operations required repetition at the squad level because every engineer must be efficient in construction or deconstruction of obstacles as quickly as possible. Both engineer companies got plenty of repetitions during a short period of time.

"My Soldiers out here have been working really hard," said Capt. Thomas Wichman, commander of Bravo (Engineer) company, 16th EN, and a native of Green Bay, Wisconsin. "We've been doing things many of them have never done before or haven't done in a long time."

During the exercise, the mine-clearing line charge (MCLC) and Volcano Scattered Mine Delivery System were utilized for the first time by an organic READY FIRST unit. In addition to minefield operations, the companies also worked on the digging of fighting positions.

The intent for the FTX was to train and validate collective tasks prior to integrating with other units of the brigade January through March. Thus for the battalion's Military Intelligence (MI) and Anti-Tank (AT) Company, they worked together to iron out some of the bugs in integrating enablers into operations with the MI Company providing a low level voice intercept (LLVI) team to the AT Company while it was conducting offensive and defensive operations with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1/1 AD.

"Most of us 11Bs [infantry] are not used to being an enabler to a maneuver force," said Capt. Michael Patti, commander of Echo (Anti-Tank) Company, 16th EN, and a native of Patterson, New Jersey. "We're used to being in the maneuver force so the FTX was a good experience to develop ourselves for future integration."

Bravo Company validated their route clearance patrol operations with 3rd Battalion, 364th Engineer Regiment, 5th Armored Brigade, Division West, receiving input of how best to work with other units. The battalion's Forward Support Company, working with the battalion's other units, really got to test their ability to sustain the battalion.

"The Catamounts will be spread across the entire battlefield supporting different echelons within the brigade," said Capt. Nick Ross, commander of Echo Forward Support Company, 16th EN, and a native of Beckley, West Virginia. "This FTX forced Echo, FSC to really stretch its systems, and all of us learned a lot about sustainment planning and execution."

The exercise not only helped Soldiers learn their collective skills but increased the level of camaraderie of Soldiers within and between different companies- a hallmark of the Catamount ethos. Camaraderie is important to this battalion that will be spread across the battlefield during upcoming training exercises.

"We've done something this week that hasn't been done in a long time, taking our equipment out into an expeditionary environment and making them work, training on skills that we haven't spent a lot of time training since I got into the Army," said Staff Sgt. Justin Brown, an all-source analyst of the Intelligence Collection Platoon with Delta Company, 16th EN, and a native of Portland, Oregon.

The Catamount Pride are proud of their accomplishments and deservingly so.



Delta Company (Military Intelligence), 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, assembles at the end of the 16th Engineer Catamount's first battalion Field Training Exercise. The exercise brought all of the Soldiers in the Catamount Battalion closer together and closer to becoming proficient in their mission essential tasks.
(Photo by Capt. Michael Beck, 16th EN)

Providers engage in Iron Strike

1st. Sgt. Leland Cannon, 501st BSB

Recently Bandit Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division participated in Iron Strike. The Soldiers of Bandit Company trained in all aspects of conducting field maintenance in an austere environment. Their first priority was the security of the Brigade Support Area (BSA) including the construction of the Entry Control Point.

Once security was established the Soldiers of Bandit Company started setting up their area of operation to enable them to do what they do best within the BSA. The first step in the company area of operations is with shop office led by 1st Lt. Herman Flowers and Sgt. 1st Class Sandor Spain.

These Soldiers set up connectivity via the VSAT which allows them to communicate with the SSA and perform all functions as if they were still operating in Garrison. The shop office duties include but are not limited to dispatching equipment, ordering, processing and issuance of class IX parts and maintenance work order requests.

The next step is with the Soldiers of the service and recovery section. These Soldiers perform vehicle recovery operations, participate in tactical convoy operations and the allied trades specialists fabricate anything necessary to accomplish the mission.

The allied trades technician, service and recovery makes it happen, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jacob Deshay.

The next stop along the line is with the first of the commodity shops and the ground support equipment Soldiers led by Sgt. 1st Class Victor Magana and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carlton Gordon. These Soldiers are some of the most sought out Soldiers in the BSA.

Some of the equipment the Soldiers of GSE repair is all power generation equipment, engineer equipment, water purification and fueling equipment, heaters and environmental control units.

The armament section is the next stop led by

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Towne and Sgt. Andrew Glenn. Their duties include small arms and crew served weapons, artillery repair and provide pass-back maintenance from the Combat Trains.

The electronic maintenance section is led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Pablo Melendez (communication equipment), Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Denny (missile maintenance) and Sgt. 1st Class Justin Cruz



(senior electronic maintenance supervisor). These Soldiers are responsible for radio, night vision devices, optics, blue force tracker, computer automation and missile repair.

The final stop is with the Soldiers of the automotive maintenance platoon led by Staff Sgt. Christopher Falcon, Staff Sgt. Ricky Serrato and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Weis. These Soldiers are responsible for performing scheduled, unscheduled and pass-back maintenance for all wheeled vehicles and Stryker platforms.

The mission of the Soldiers of Bandit Company is as diverse as the many jobs with the company. The Soldiers of Bandit Company truly keep the 501st BSB and the READY FIRST Brigade running strong while shooting, moving and communicating on the modern battlefield.



Top: Pfc. Sanford Wilkins, a mechanic with Bandit Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, provides overwatch on the entry control point to the BSB's field site during a field exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas. All Soldiers in the field must take their turn on security away from their primary mission.
Bottom: Mechanics from Bandit Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, provide support from a Forward Repair System (FRS) during a field exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas. The FRS is a mobile tool room that contains tools, welding supplies, air compressors, a light crane and many other support features built into an easy transportable system.

(Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike Carrigan, 501st BSB)



TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

Command Sgt. Maj. Biggs raises awareness on the importance of the leader development program.

The post-National Training Center (NTC) timeframe will be the most challenging time for leaders in the READY FIRST Brigade Combat Team (RFCT). The time following any major training event always has the potential to promote a false sense of security that readiness is infinite. Yes, NTC will result in the brigade and all subordinate elements that are supported by a Mission Essential Task List (METL) to achieve a "T" rating. The issue becomes maintaining that highest capable readiness capacity.

Ready 6 writes about the readiness triad and the ability to build tailorable packages that can meet the needs of geographical combatant commanders (GCCs). The brigade will conduct adhoc task organizations so that the battalion teams are always ready to deploy, ready to support and preparing to assume the next mission.

The key to this process from the individual, crew and small team perspective is for subordinate leaders to continue to treat every day as Sergeant's Time and keeping their teams, crews and sections proficient in the individual tasks necessary to support higher collective tasks.

Exercising the principles of mission command will be critical following the post recovery set from NTC. Leaders at all levels must have the shared understanding to exercise the disciplined initiative to meet the commander's intent. Mutual trust at all levels and the acceptance of the prudent risk involved is the only manner in which platoons, companies and battalion will maintain readiness as units move from Quick Reaction Force (QRF), Ready Reaction Force (RRF), training and support mission sets.

The key for noncommissioned officer corps is not to allow your organization to fall off the readiness cliff in individual, crew and team tasks. Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) is a major training event that will focus the 11-series MOS' in the formation; but junior leaders must ensure that proficiency is maintained amongst all grades and within all MOS's.

Ready 6 and I trust that leaders at echelon will support the commanding general's directive to be READY FIRST.

Paul E. Biggs

CSM Paul E. Biggs
Ready 7

Want a voice in the YANK?
Send all questions, comments
or suggestions to our
public affairs office. We
want to hear from YOU!
Private message us through
the Brigade Facebook page or
email us directly.

READY FIRST Commander:
Col. Richard Ross Coffman

READY FIRST Command Sgt. Maj.:
Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Biggs

Public Affairs Officer:
Maj. Alain M. Polynice

Public Affairs NCOIC:

Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus

Public Affairs Broadcasters:
Sgt. Sarah Goss, Sgt. Mary Lopez

Contributing writers:

1st Lt. Kenneth Haynie, 1-36 IN
1st Lt. Christopher Rabichaud, 3-41 IN
1st Lt. Ramiro Carmona, 4-17 IN
1st Sgt. Willie Richardson, 6-1 CAV
2nd Lt. Thomas Johnson, 2-3 FA
Capt. Kenneth King, 16th EN
1st Sgt. Leland Cannon, 501st BSB

Contact the READY FIRST PAO:
readyfirstpao@gmail.com

Facebook:

1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division
COL Ross Coffman

DVIDS:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/1SBCT-1AD>

Twitter:

@ReadyFirst6

You tell us WHERE and WE
will take the photos.
Send your photo
suggestions to the
editors!

YANK, the Army Weekly, was a magazine published by the United States military during World War II. The first issue was published with the cover date of June 17, 1942. The magazine was written by enlisted rank Soldiers only for service members stationed overseas. YANK was published at facilities around the world, for a total of 21 editions in 17 countries. It was the most widely read magazine in the history of the U.S. military, achieving world-wide circulation of more than 2.6 million readers.