



Rain does not deter 1st Lt. Jonathan Pantano and 2nd Lt. Ryan Jesse, engineers with the 326th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), as they perform the “Aussie” rappel during the 2015 Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, April 21, 2015.

Sapper Eagles tackle 2015 Best Sapper Competition

By Sgt. Samantha Parks
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

As the clock rounded over to 4:30 a.m. on April 21, with the sun not even risen and the chilled breath of competitors filling the air, a voice sounded out with “Go!” and Soldiers from across the Army began a nonstandard physical fitness test of pushups, sit-ups, pullups, and a 3-mile run.

The physical fitness test kicked off day one of the three-day 2015 Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The competition took place over more than 50 miles of wooded, mountainous terrain, and ran for 50 consecutive hours. 46 teams made up of

92 Engineer Soldiers all looked to claim the title of being the Army’s best Sappers.

Four of Fort Campbell’s best represented the 101st Airborne Division at this year’s competition.

1st Lt. Jonathan Pantano and 2nd Lt. Ryan Jesse, represented the 326th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, and 1st Lt. Dustin Ballentine and Master Sgt. Christopher McLain, represented the 21st Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

“We didn’t jump on board until a couple weeks prior to the

competition, which made it tough to prioritize what to go over, but I think we prepared as well as we could have been,” Ballentine said.

At a minimum, all contestants had to meet Army Physical Fitness Test standards and meet height and weight standards. Soldiers must also have been a Sapper Leader Course graduate and/or completed advance individual training for an engineer military occupational specialty.

Additionally, competitors must be able to complete the Army

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1-327 IN Battalion Live Fire

By 1st Lt. Anthony Cefalu

1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

“HANG IT!” The call goes down the firing line, spurring Soldiers to release the rounds poised above their mortar tubes. A solid thump issues from the gun tubes as they propel their rounds downrange. Those on the firing line watch the impact area in anticipation, waiting for the mortar round to hit its intended target. A distant rumble and a cloud of smoke in the open field demonstrate the deadly accuracy of a mortar.

On April 24, Soldiers from Bravo and Charlie Companies of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment “Bulldog” executed a mortar live fire exercise on Observation Post 3 in the Fort Campbell training area.

The event was focused on training “Bulldogs” mortarmen on how to effectively employ their assigned 60mm mortar weapon systems as well as well as get hands on time with the battalion 120mm mortar system. In addition to training on firing their mortars, the mortarmen were trained and assessed on their ability to call for fire.

“It was really good training, the only downside is that we didn’t get to shoot more rounds,” said 1st Lt. Langhauser, B Co’s fire support officer.

For the first half of the exercise, Soldiers worked with the battalion 120mm mortar section. This training gave them the opportunity to get experience firing the heavier 120mm mortar which is a battalion level asset and typically utilized by the battalion’s dedicated mortar platoon.

Training on the 120mm mortar system was important because it provides the battalion additional flexibility in combat scenarios. Having more 120mm mortar trained Soldiers provides 1st Battalion with the ability to attach 120mm systems to its Companies while conducting operations, giving that Company a lot more firepower than it usual. It also enables it to keep the battalion mortar platoon fully manned with trained mortarmen as Soldiers leave through permanent change of station or expiration of time in service.

During the second half of the day, training was focused on the company’s organic 60mm mortar system. Training on their organic weapon system ensured that the company mortarmen are proficient at employ-

ing their 60mm mortar system and calling for fire. The organic fires element provides the Company is their most powerful organic indirect fire weapon system and provides the Company with another critical piece of kit that they can employ in support of combat operations.

“Mortar training was excellent, our Soldiers called for fire effectively using their analog tools,” said Sgt. Haferman, a forward observer in the battalion.

Twenty Soldiers in total were trained on both mortar systems, ensuring that 1st Battalion has a ready pool of trained mortarmen.

When asked about the training exercise 1st Lt. Branson, the acting Battalion fires officer, said “I am pleased with 1st Lt. Langhauser for taking the range over so late in the game when the original officer in charge became unavailable. He stepped up to the plate and made it a good training event.”

This mortar live fire exercise played an important part in 1-327 Inf. Regt.’s overall training cycle. With this exercise completed successfully, the “Bulldog” battalion is now prepared to enter into its upcoming platoon live fire exercises which will combine tactical maneuvering by infantry platoons who are engaging targets with live rounds and calling for fire with live rounds in real time. All of this training is key to preparing the battalion for its next rendezvous with destiny.





Barsanti Elementary International Day Promotes Cultural Awareness

By 2nd Lt. Nicholas Larsen

2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Soldiers from 2nd “No Slack” Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division volunteered time and effort towards Barsanti Elementary School on April 21st to put on International Day.

The annual event gives students, staff, and soldiers a look into different people, food, and practices from around the world.

Barsanti’s International Day gave children new insight on cultures worldwide. Barsanti faculty started the event to educate military children in particular due to the numerous cultures they will experience while their parents remain in the military.

Laura Adcock, a Barsanti faculty member, said their “military children travel the world, so our mission is to spread awareness about other cultures.”

The event featured a total of 18 countries, 12 of which had dedicated tables for education and a chance

for kids to sample food. The children also have the opportunity to view and experience different traditional fashions from around the world.

“The fashion show is a simple event that provides powerful education to the children. Children are able to see traditional garb from different nations that they may experience in the future,” says Adcock.

“No Slack” battalion sent six soldiers to assist with running international day. Throughout the afternoon, soldiers handed out food, organized lines, and helped clean up after the event was over. The day was a perfect opportunity for “No Slack” to continue our support and relationship with Barsanti. The children were able to directly interact with soldiers from their sponsor unit.

Spc. Chambers, one of the volunteers, said the best part of the event for him was seeing their reactions and how thankful they were that

we were here serving them.

The day was full of bright eyed children who got to meet the soldiers that many of their parents work with. Concurrently, the soldiers were able to meet and serve the next generation that is currently growing up within the Fort Campbell community.

International Day was also an opportunity for Fort Campbell parents to work side by side with “No Slack” soldiers for the children. Parents in and out of uniform stopped by to assist with working the different stations, giving them an opportunity to see the events their child participates in.

Overall, the event was a success for the kids, school, and community. It was a display of how successful the Bastogne school sponsorship program is, and strengthened the relationship between “No Slack” and the Fort Campbell community. The event set the tone for future cooperation between “No Slack” battalion and Barsanti Elementary.

426th BSB conducts Field Sanitation Team training

By Capt. Danielle Ivenz
C Company, 426th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Soldiers from Charlie Company, 426th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team hosted field sanitation team (FST) training, taught by Spc. Toombs, a preventive medicine specialist, and Capt. Ivenz, an environmental science and engineering officer. This course is intended to certify two FST teams within every company-sized element.

“We teach this class to give Soldiers a better understanding of field sanitation topics including water buffalo inspection, food and water sanitation as well as arthropod and rodent management,” explains Ivenz.

This class certified 22 Soldiers from 426 BSB, 326 BEB, 1-506 IN and several Soldiers from 3rd BCT.

“As instructors we try to make the class as engaging as possible by conducting hands on activities and telling a lot of real life stories, we also strongly encourage Soldiers to tell stories of their own in class so we can all learn from each other,” said SPC Toombs.

During the hands on portion, Soldiers are walked through a water buffalo inspection, Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer (WBGT) use and some water testing. With the weather getting warmer emphasis is placed on the importance of hot weather injury education, risk



Soldiers in Charlie Company 426th BSB learned how to properly use a Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer (WBGT).

factors, and especially how to prevent them from occurring in the first place. The basic intent of the FST is to advise their commanders on how to prevent these types of injuries from occurring to increase combat effectiveness and keep their Soldiers in the fight.



Water Buffalo inspections were conducted during the interactive training. (Photos by Capt. Danielle Ivenz)

“No Slack” prepares to welcome home Soldiers

By Sgt. Samantha Parks
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

“Your Soldier will go through changes; you’ll go through changes,” said Tina Hossfeld, as she addressed spouses at the unit’s reintegration brief at the Family Resource Center April 7. “Each deployment and homecoming is different because you’re at a different place in life every time.”

Hossfeld, who is preparing to welcome home her husband, Lt. Col. Christopher Hossfeld, commander of 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), from their fourth deployment together, said there’s a wealth of resources out there for families to tap in to, they just don’t always know how to find them.

With the help of Task Force Always First chaplain, Chaplain (Maj.) Dan Urquhart, and several military and family life consultants from the Bastogne brigade, Hossfeld, who is also the “No Slack” family readiness group leader, put together a reintegration brief for spouses to give them the information on agencies on Ft. Campbell that can help make the transition smoother.

“This meeting was brought up by one of my FRG leaders who had done reintegration [briefs] and asked if we do this here,” Hossfeld said. “I think it’s a great idea, I just didn’t know Ft. Campbell did it.”

Hossfeld explained that she knew the Soldiers deployed were doing one of their side after talking with her husband, so she wanted to do something similar here.

“I want the [spouses] to be more prepared,” Hossfeld said. “I



Spouses of Soldiers currently deployed with 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, gathered at the Family Resource Center April 7 for a reintegration brief. The brief brought spouses agencies on Ft. Campbell together in hopes that spouses would walk away with tools to help make the redeployment process easier for their family. (Photo by Sgt. Samantha Parks)

think if we can give them more tools for their toolbox they will better and that’s going to be the best asset you can give them or provide for them.”

Both Urquhart and Hossfeld told spouses to remain flexible, have patience, and most importantly, to not feel alone.

“We are here to help the families know what to expect during the deployment, but also during the welcome home ceremony and the transition in their reintegration back home.” Urquhart said. “I hope spouses walk away with a positive attitude knowing that this can be a good experience and not a negative experience.”

Urquhart added that he hopes that they realize there are resources out there to help them through this process of reintegration.

Hossfeld said that there are more than 500 spouses going through the reintegration process, so no one should feel alone.

“This brief is giving spouses information so that they know they aren’t alone and that what they are

feeling when the guys come back is something that 90% of the people there are feeling too,” Hossfeld said.

Spouses walked away from the reintegration brief with numerous outlets and agencies across Ft. Campbell that can help them with issues ranging from warning signs for underlying problems, what to expect when children are involved and when to seek help.

“You’re not going to be able to deal with every crisis that comes along, but at least you know that there are people out there that can help you,” Hossfeld said.

Urquhart added that hopefully the families know that the battalion, the brigade, the division and the Army support them because it doesn’t always come across that way.

“Doing this sort of training at the Family Resource Center lets spouses know that the command cares about them,” Urquhart said. “It’s just one way of showing that we do care, we’re here to help you; you are not alone.”

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Combat Water Survival Test and complete a 12-mile foot march – typically called a ruck march – carrying a minimum of 40 pounds of equipment within three hours.

Ballentine said they conducted several ruck marches and reviewed the Sapper Handbook and Soldier’s Manual of Common Tasks to help them prepare.

“I think we did a great job considering the preparation time we had,” Ballentine said. “We may have been cut in the first round, but we gave it our best and didn’t quit.”

Jesse and his teammate, Pantano, made similar preparations to what the 3rd BCT “Rakkasans”

did, but he said for any future competitors, there’s one thing to really focus on.

“Ruck!” Jesse said. “Ruck a lot with heavy weight and consistently consider what would make your train up more difficult because that is exactly how the Sapper instructors develop the events.”

Adding to Jesse’s advice, Ballentine said start training five or six months in advance.

“The level of endurance the Best Sapper Competition requires is extreme,” Ballentine said. “Rehearse each expected event with your teammate as much as possible. I would say with reasonable certainty that all those signature skills you learned in the general subjects

phase of Sapper school will show up in the competition in one form or another.”

Ballentine got some great refresher training on some technical Sapper tasks and made some great connections with other Sapper leaders across the force, he said.

“It was a fantastic training event with some stellar Sappers from across the Army,” said Ballentine. “I’m glad I was able to be a part of it.”

Competitors went through several phases that put their knowledge of engineer skills to the test. Day one consisted of a physical fitness test followed by a water event, ruck and an all-day round robin event with eight stations covering



2nd Lt. Ryan Jesse assists his teammate, 1st Lt. Jonathan Pantano, is getting on his feet to complete a five-mile ruck march during day one of the Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, April 21, 2015. Jesse and Pantano, both engineers, represented the 326th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), in this year’s competition.

various subjects like rappelling, medically treating casualties and knot tying.

The competition progressed with a night land navigation course, more technical skills events, a 20-mile ruck march, followed directly by a six-mile run and a written exam.

Jesse said motivation was key in getting through each challenge.

“You had to accept that even though it hurt, the quicker you completed each event, the closer it was to being over,” he said. “Having a teammate with a really good sense of humor helped alleviate some of the ‘suck.’”

While the competition originated in 2005 as a means for Sapper Soldiers to showcase their technical skills, it has progressed to not only determine the next Best Sapper team, but to challenge and test the service members’ knowledge, physical strength and mental fortitude.

“The event was definitely harder than anticipated,” Jesse said. “I feel that we still have some unresolved issues with the Best Sapper Competition and can’t wait to get back next year to show the Engineer Regiment what the 326th BEB is really all about.”

(Right) 1st Lt. Dustin Ballentine and Master Sgt. Christopher McLain, engineers from the 21st Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, near the top of the Sapper tower while 1st Lt. Jonathan Pantano and 2nd Lt. Ryan Jesse, engineers with the 326th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, prepare for their climbing portion of the 2015 Best Sapper Competition. The four Sapper Soldiers made up the two teams representing the 101st Airborne Division in this year’s three-day competition. (Photos by Sgt. Samantha Parks, 1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)





Baker Co Conducts FRG Meeting, Band of Babies at Wilkes Park

By Capt. Mark Lewis

1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Soldiers and families of Baker Company, 1-506th Infantry Regiment recently conducted their family readiness group (FRG) meeting and Band of Babies event at Wilkes Park.

Soldiers and families of Baker Company conduct regular FRG meetings in order to distribute information, build unit moral, and improve family understanding of the training their Soldiers conduct. Band of Babies is a regular event to celebrate the birth of new Currahee Babies into the Red Currahee Nation.

The FRG meeting was informal with children playing while Capt. Gantz briefed Soldiers and families of training conducted and future events planned. The FRG meeting helped to also encourage possibly new points of contact to transition into the volunteer positions opening up within the company.

Baker Company has truly been the FRG standard bearer for 1-506IN REG with their proactive approach and outstanding FRG Leader and volunteer support.

Baker Company also regularly executes a “Band of Babies” event that includes distributing baby orders, a Psalm 91 book, and a certificate of initiation into the Red Currahee Nation. The orders have a report date of their birth date and with an assignment to their parents.

The most recent “Band of Babies” included 13 new initiations into the Currahee Nation. Babies initiat-

ed into the Currahee Nation are: Ayden James Golden, Kai Draven Malsit, Liam Austin Higgins, Anya Marie Jaskolka, Annabelle-Leigh Evelyn Eisenberg, Amaya Jean Mendiola Cruz, Kalon Calla, Aengus Frederick Blake, Sloan Ryan Schwitzgebel, Layla Angel Daly, Finley-Mae Savage, Cayden Henry Newman, and Teagan Prugar. Lt. Col. Water’s Wife Mrs. Shelene Waters helped to present the Certificates along with Baker Company Commander CPT Gradzik, FRG Leader Ashly Johnson, and FRG CO-Leader Jennifer Lawless.

These ceremonies help to express the importance of family members from the Baker Company leadership.

Capt. Gradzik said, “Wilkes Park is a great location to hold events like these. The park provides multiple playgrounds to help Families with entertaining their kids. It is much better than holding these meetings in the company area.”

Jennifer Lawless brought a multitude of baked goods for the event and said “I just love the Soldiers and Families of Red Currahee!”

Lawless has been the FRG Leader with Baker Company since March 2013 and will be leaving Red Currahee in the next month. Jennifer will be missed but she has mentored Ashly Johnson Wife of 1st Lt. Johnson to take over. The Johnson’s used to be with Red Currahee while enlisted and has come back to the unit as a commissioned officer Family.

326th BEB Soldiers participate in school Career Day

By Sgt. Jonathan Crawford

326th Brigade Engineer Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

The Soldiers of 326 Brigade Engineer Battalion visited Jackson Elementary during their recent Career day event. 326 BEB visits Jackson Elementary on a regular basis as part of the Ft. Campbell Adopt a School Program.

The event, held on the 15th of April was a huge success due in part to the Soldiers participation. The six Soldiers coming from a variety of Military Occupational Specialties volunteered to come out and speak to the Students about their daily duties.

Most of the volunteers were able to bring in props to show the Students. The Soldiers from Alpha Company brought in Night Vision Goggles and a metal detector. They allowed the children to get hands on experience with them in a darkened classroom.

A couple of the Soldiers brought in cameras in order to photograph the event for the Battalion Facebook page. These Soldiers allowed the Students to handle the cameras and a few lucky individuals were able to utilize the cameras the take photos of the Soldiers with other students. One Soldier in particular was a big hit with the Students.

SPC Wright from Headquarters & Headquarters Company was able to bring in a Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to show the Students.

When asked why he decided to volunteer for this event SPC Wright had this to say, “When I heard about career day at the elementary school I was interested because it’s nice to get away from work every now and then to go out and interact with the community.”

He went on to speak about the most rewarding part of volunteering for this event. “For me the most rewarding part of Career Day was seeing the kids get so excited to hear about what we do. All of these kids have or have had parents in the Military and it’s exciting for them to learn more about what we do.”

SPC Wright visited four classes during this event. “I began by introducing my MOS but, then I pretty much just let them ask questions the entire time. I think kids learn best when they can lead the learning process. We brought in a few visual aids (metal detector, night vision goggles and SUAV) and they were a big hit. Over all it went very well and the kids were very polite and also excited to be able to just ask questions freely.”

All of the students were excited to hear him speak about his job. The Faculty at Jackson Elementary were very pleased to have the Soldiers participate. They look forward to working with the Soldiers from 326 Brigade Engineer Battalion in all of their upcoming events.



Blackjack Soldiers Conduct Flag, Cannon Ceremony Detail

By 2nd Lt. Jordan Holmlund & 2nd Lt. Joshua Kock
B Company, 426th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Several Soldiers from Bravo Company “Blackjacks” spent the last two weeks supporting the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) Flag and Cannon Ceremony Detail. Soldiers assigned to this detachment were responsible for raising the American Flag at Division Headquarters every morning during the reveille ceremony and retrieving it every evening during the retreat ceremony.

The flag and cannon ceremony originated as a way to signal to troops outside the fort or base that the duty day had ended, and that they should travel back to base from their individual missions. In recent years, reveille and “To the Color” have been broadcast on each Army Base’s Mass Notification System, but before more advanced technology, the playing of those songs was the responsibility of a single bugle player. The bugle calls, as well as drum calls, were established at the inception of the United States Army, circa the Revolutionary War, as a notification system which was faster in those times than sending a runner across the battlefield.

These ceremonies have become such an integral part of Army operations that they have their own paragraph in an Army Regulation publication.

SGT Slover of 2nd Platoon, who served as the NCO in charge of the detail, remarked, “I read the regulation line by line to ensure that everything was done according to custom—it was important that we do this to perfection.”

When asked what he thought of being tasked on the flag and cannon support detail each day, SGT Rasokat of 1st Platoon responded, “I think it’s a very prestigious thing to do here at the 101st Airborne Division. It’s something I thought I’d never be able to do and I am very glad to have the honor to raise and lower the flag for Fort Campbell Kentucky and the historic 101st Airborne Division.”

SPC Kronfeld of 1st Platoon said “This was something I have seen done here on Fort Campbell and never really thought about. But when I was on this detail I felt a great pride and strived for perfection because of all the things the flag stands for and represents. I felt proud to be a part of this detail showing up every morning and evening when lowering our nation’s flag.”



426th BSB hosts NCO induction ceremony

By Sgt. Samantha Parks
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power,” Abraham Lincoln said.

These were the opening words friends and family heard at the 426th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, noncommissioned officer induction ceremony at Cole Park Commons March 27.

The ceremony symbolized the empowering of 16 newly promoted NCOs.

“The NCO induction ceremony is a celebration of the newly promoted NCO’s who have proven themselves to be worthy of the title, a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Burney Jr., the ceremony’s guest speaker. “Every military organization around the world

would like to possess a professional NCO Corps such as ours. It is a time honored Corps with a great history, also known as the ‘backbone’ of the Army.”

Burney stressed to the young NCOs that, while many say leadership is the most important combat multiplier, without Soldiers there is no need for leadership; so it is imperative that they make sure to take care of the Soldiers entrusted to them.

“You must lead from the front, setting the example and never, I stress this, never ask them to do anything you have not done already or will not do yourself,” Burney said. “Follow this simple principle and your Soldiers will go anywhere and accomplish any mission or task you give them.”

Burney also reminded the leaders that they are responsible for

whether their Soldiers succeed or fail. The two basic leadership responsibilities are to be accountable and responsible for the Soldiers assigned to their care.

“You cannot be the type of NCO that when Soldier succeed, you take the credit, and when Soldiers fail, you blame it on them,” Burney said. “If they failed, you as the leader probably failed to provide that purpose, direction and motivation. You must be accountable for always training to standard.”

As he looked at each individual sitting before him, Burney reminded the newly inducted NCOs of one thing.

“NCO’s set the standards both ethically and morally; this is now your charge,” Burney said. “I want to congratulate you on being inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer Corp. I am proud of you, and I know that you will make us proud in the years to come.”



During the 426th Brigade Support Battalion noncommissioned officer induction ceremony at Cole Park Commons March 27, Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Macon, command sergeant major for 426th BSB, Sgt. Philip Thomas, a NCO inductee in 426th BSB, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Burney Jr., the ceremony’s guest speaker, cut the ceremony cake for friends and family to enjoy. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Sarah Hutchison, 426th BSB Unit Public Affairs Team)



“Bandit” Soldiers graduate Path Finders School

By Sgt. Mike Diehl

1st Battalion, 32nd Cavalry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

1st Battalion, 32 Cavalry Regiment had ten soldiers complete Path Finder School. U.S Army PathFinders are a elite force making up less than 1% of the total army. Path finder’s school is a three week course where soldiers will learn numerous skills that will better equipped them in their army career. Specifically soldiers will learn to navigate cross country on foot, provide air traffic control, conduct slingload operations, air craft rappelling, and day/night parachute drop and helicopter landing. Those are just an example of some of the skills a soldier will learn.

Within these trainings you will gain confidence in your leadership skills and a sense of pride. Coming out of Path Finders you will find yourself in being a specialist in navigating through foreign terrain and being able to establish safe landing zones for Airborne and Air Assault soldiers and Army aircraft. The ten soldiers who completed this course

in 1-32 Cav were, SFC Enfield, 1LT De Leeuw, 1LT Lane, SSG Lloyd, SPC Hayes, SSG Pemberton, SGT Wilson, SSG Heald, SGT Estes, and 1LT Bright.

Completing this course you will receive the PathFinders winged torch. This winged torch symbol comes from ancient Greece where runners opened up the Olympic Games bearing the Olympic Torch. The PathFinders torch signifies the Pathfinders function to ‘‘Light the Way’’. Given the chance to attend PathFinders you would greatly benefit and the course would do nothing but enhance your life. This course is positive skill builder. Giving you elite skills that not very many people have. Giving your hands on training to better prepare you for real life situation. If ever the opportunity were to occur you would be ready thanks to PathFinders and its Skills.

“No Slack” Boosts Medical Readiness with CLS Training

By 2nd Lt. Nicholas Larsen

2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Soldiers from 2nd “No Slack” Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division completed a week of instruction, training, and testing on April 17th in order to become combat life saver certified.

Throughout the week of April 13th, “No Slack” completed week long combat life saver (CLS) and emergency first responder (EFR) training in an ongoing effort to get 100 percent of the battalion certified. The main focus of training was classroom training followed by practical exercises, all in preparation for a written test and field exercise at the end of the week.

“The most important aspect of the entire course is that soldiers come away with the confidence and knowledge to be a first responder. They’re the first ones on the scene, and they have to be ready,” said SGT Best, the NCOIC for the course.

SGT Best and his team gave instruction on numerous combat injuries soldiers may experience. However, all instruction was given with the emphasis that personnel are soldiers first and combat life savers second. To implement this, the start of the course is instruction on the different phases of combat casualty care. With each phase, classroom lessons were followed by hands on instruction supplemented with real life examples.

The tourniquet was a primary focus for hands on training throughout the course. SGT Best emphasized the importance of the tourniquet by conveying to students that if you could only use a tourniquet and a tension pneumothorax, you could save 70 to 90 percent of preventable deaths on the battlefield. SPC Darius Duke,

a member of SGT Best’s team, said of all the hands on exercises “the tourniquet portion was the most important. This is because hemorrhaging is the number one leading preventable cause of death in a fight.”

Time and again students were set against the clock in a race to put tourniquets on their fellow soldiers. The drills were performed in full gear and tourniquets applied to arms and legs. This type of training had multiple benefits. Not only did the students discover the enormous pain tourniquets induce, but the applicator of the device develops muscle memory that will aid the soldier when the task is done in a stressful environment.

The course culminated into a practical field exercise designed to test what students learned. Students had to overcome stress and race the clock as they received simulated enemy fire in the evolving scenario. What started as a simple mission quickly erupted into chaos as numerous factors hit the students. The training they received though, allowed students to

make order out of the chaos.

“The biggest obstacle during the field exercise was adapting to a realistic and stressful situation. It can make a lot of people freeze up,” said SGT Best.

Students were able to put what they learned into practice to treat wounds, evacuate casualties, and deliver them to the next level of care. Successful completion of the scenario was a direct result of the intensive, step-by-step training students received throughout the week.

SGT Best is an advocate on constant implementation and readiness for medical training.

“Usually CLS classes happen every month or two during the training cycle. Outside of dedicated training for CLS or medics, medical training doesn’t happen very often at all. Hopefully, training like the CLS field exercise is a prompt for leaders to constantly implement medical training in their operations.”



Soldiers from 2nd “No Slack” Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, prepare their equipment and finalize their plan for the CLS practical field exercise on April 17 in order to pass the final phase of CLS training.



During the best squad physical fitness competition, Soldiers in Company D, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), linked together to complete their mandatory 300 sit-ups April 10. Each squad had to complete a two and a half mile course with challenges such as transporting a casualty, reacting to contact and weapons assembly.

Only the best for Maddogs

By Sgt. Samantha Parks
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Over the course of a week, Soldiers of Company D “Maddogs”, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), conducted squad level training that ended in a two-day competition to figure out the best shooter and best squad within the company.

Modeling the crawl, walk, run phase style of training, Soldiers in the company had to score at least marksmen during weapons qualifications on April 6. The days that followed encompassed training at the basic and advance levels of rifle marksmanship.

“It started off with our Soldiers getting trained in dynamic breaching techniques with shot-guns,” said Sgt. 1st Class Micheal Dufault, first sergeant of the “Maddogs.” “It also included a walk and shoot that culminated the training conducted throughout the week into a competition which involved a 300 meter flat range with a plethora of different types of apparatuses that they had to move.”

During the best shooter competition, Soldiers bounded from one barrier to another while moving various challenges such as a Skedco litter, a life-size dummy and water cans, all while shooting five rounds at targets increasing at 50 meter increments.

Following the best shooter competition, squads took on each other in a two and a half mile course carrying various military equipment, conducting various military skills.

“This was a huge culminating event,” said 1st Lt. Daniel Sullivan, company executive officer. “It was designed to challenge the Soldiers on tasks all the way up to squad level. They ran to different stations, where the first was a react to contact, followed by individual movement techniques, moving tactically, and transporting a casualty.”

Once the squad returned to the start point, they had to work together to complete 100 push-ups, 300 sit-ups and 50 pull-ups, followed by the first sergeant’s mystery event.



(top) A Soldier in Company D “Maddogs”, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), shoots at a 200 meter target during the best shooter competition April 9. Soldiers had to maneuver around barriers when shooting, then transport various challenges to the next barrier.

(bottom) Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), work as a squad to complete their tire flips during the best squad physical fitness competition April 10. Those who had already finished the competition showed their support for the Soldiers still completing the challenge. (Photos by Sgt. Samantha Parks)

“They really pulled together,” Dufault said. “It wasn’t about just beating the guy to their left or right, it was about picking them up and motivate them through to the end.”

Sullivan said the competition gave each individual an idea of what skills they needed to work on, and at the same time, pulled the company closer.

“The amount of cohesion out there when they are being pushed to their personal limits is phenomenal,” Sullivan said. “The company you have now is much more cohesive and stronger than the company that went into it.”

The best shooter and best squad both came from 1st platoon, but Dufault said he was proud of everyone’s effort throughout both competitions.

“I have so much faith and trust in this company that I am calling out any company in this division,” Dufault said. “If you want to try to take our best of the best Mad-dog belt come see me, any time.”



1-327 IN FRG Members Attend Volunteers Luncheon

By 1st Lt. Anthony Cefalu

1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Members of the “Bulldog” 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team Family Readiness Group attended the brigade-hosted volunteers luncheon at Cole Park Commons April 23. The event provided members at the various battalion level Family Readiness Groups to get together and recognize team members for their hard work. During the event attendees were provided a lunch buffet and were able to participate in a raffle where prize baskets provided by each battalion were awarded to the raffle winners. Representatives from each battalion also sold apparel and gifts emblazoned with individual battalion and brigade logos. The unit gifts enabled attendees to show their pride in their battalions and the Bastogne brigade.

The event was opened with an invocation from the Task Force Always First chaplain, Maj. Dan Urquhart, which was followed by half an hour for lunch. Once lunch was complete the event transitioned into a ceremony dedicated to recognizing the efforts of the Family Readiness Group volunteers.

Lt. Col. Bergmann, the commander for Task Force Always First, took to the podium and opened with some remarks from the Task Force Bastogne and 1st Brigade Combat Team Commander, Col. Campbell, who is currently deployed.

“To our dedicated ‘Bastogne’ Brigade Volunteers,

Congratulations on this special recognition. Volunteerism is one of the essential pillars of a great

family readiness program. Family readiness simply cannot survive without the dedicated work of our volunteers. You are part of a special, patriotic, compassionate and generous group of people who make not only our Brigade, but our Army great.

Your support is making a positive and long-lasting difference in the lives of other which has a value that can never be adequately repaid. All the members of the Bastogne Brigade and I are incredibly grateful for your efforts.

With my deepest thanks—
Bastogne!”

After the opening remarks the attending Family Readiness Members were recognized by their battalion and the brigade. Ten members of 1-327th Inf. Rgt.’s Family Readiness Group were recognized for their efforts.

Ms. Chelsea Mooberry, Ms. Stacy Burkepile, Ms. Leslie Coffey, Ms. Julia Flint, Ms. Ann Hammond, Ms. Lori Jenkins, Ms. Miranda Redd, Ms. Cheryl Retzer, and Ms. Sonya Beaty were all awarded the Brigade Volunteer Appreciation Award for all the support they have given the brigade and the “Bulldog” families.

The luncheon is one of many family readiness events in which the battalion has participated. The family readiness program is the heart of a unit. The “Bulldog” battalion and the brigade has a deep understanding of the key role the family readiness program has in keeping Soldiers happy and healthy. Above all the Bulldog battalion recognizes that without the selfless efforts of its volunteers it would not have the strong foundation that makes its Soldiers “Above the Rest”.







Around the





the brigade



