



# READY NOW



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and so much more!



(Cover) A 155mm projectile is fired from the M109A6 Paladin in support of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiments Table VI Certifications (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ramirez, 1-7 FA)

(Above) Redlegs from the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment conduct crew drills in support of their Table VI Certifications.

Issue 2, August 2015

Informing the Dagger Community on the issues and events throughout the brigade

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2ABCT Commander  
Col. Miles Brown



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Capt. Ed Alvarado

2ABCT Command Sergeant Major  
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## “Dagger” Brigade Medics Undergo Trauma Training



Spc. Jose Morales, a medic with 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., assesses a simulated casualty with his team during the Brigade Combat Team Trauma Training June 19 at the Medical Simulations Training Center at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Soldiers are honing their combat lifesaving skills as preparation for the brigade’s deployment later this year. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dana Moen)

By Sgt Dana Moen  
2ABCT Public Affairs

More than a hundred medical Soldiers from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, battled a grueling 100 degree Kansas heat to hone their lifesaving skills June 16 to 26 at Fort Riley in preparations for an upcoming deployment.

“Brigade Combat Team Trauma Training is a pre-deployment trauma training for medics,” Capt. Robert Levesque, the BCT3 officer in charge from 187th Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade said. “It is developed to provide an intense and in-your-face training to ensure its combat medics are ready to preserve life at a moment’s notice.”

According to the Levesque, a documented 15 percent of battlefield deaths were due to

uncontrolled hemorrhage, tension pneumothorax, airway obstruction and hypothermia.

“As a line [unit] medic, we are on the ground and in the mix,” Spc. Jose Morales, a medic with 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd ABCT said. “If and when a Soldier gets injured, we must be able to stop the bleeding and save that Soldiers life.”

During the intense two-week training, broken down into two phases, medics had their skills validated by instructors from 187th Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade from Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

“We received refresher courses in a classroom environment,” Cpl. Steven Upham, senior medic with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd ABCT said. “But hands on is where it all

comes together and it sticks.”

Days three and four were about muscle memory, Upham said. Repetition, repetition and again repetition. It helps that we all know our jobs.

The final day of the training served as a culminating event; designed to be physically and emotionally demanding.

“Teamwork and communication are important in the medical field,” Morales said. “Too much of them both can lead to major success in the field.”

Levesque said that trauma management is a perishable skill that tends to be lose without repetitive practice.

“We expect Soldiers to sharpen their trauma management skills,” said Levesque. “A lot of its reactive, as the correct intervention at the wrong time can kill a casualty. These realistic lanes the soldiers underwent help to build the necessary confidence medics need in order to save lives.

Satisfied with how the training went, Levesque said, “At the end of the day, the objective is to bring our brothers and sister home.”





## “Daggers” Welcome New Team Members with History, PT

By Capt. Ed Alvarado  
2ABCT Public Affairs

Reporting to a new unit can be a stressful experience for Soldiers, so to help ease this stress, leaders of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conduct Newcomer’s Historical Runs through parts of historic Fort Riley.

“Dagger” brigade officials welcome new members to the team by inviting Soldiers and leaders on a running route around Fort Riley, stopping at meaningful and historic sites while explaining their historical context and performing physical training exercises.

“The history here is rich,” said Pfc. Eric Gorin, a newly assigned combat medic in the 299<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd ABCT. “I didn’t realize how much history was here at Fort Riley. It actually made me feel a part of the ‘Big Red One’ already, it being my first day here.”

Stops included on the tour are Artillery Parade Field, Tuttle Park, Sturgis Stadium, the Old Trooper statue, the Global War on Terrorism memorial and the Fort Riley museums, where Soldiers take time to view the exhibits.

“I’ve never experienced anything like this,” said 1st Sgt. Carlton Smith, senior noncommissioned officer of Company B, 299<sup>th</sup> BSB. “The historical run is outstanding. The camaraderie builds and it makes everyone feel a part of the team.”

At the conclusion of the run, while standing at the footsteps of the Duty Memorial, Col. Miles Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> ABCT commander, stresses the importance of living up to the Big Red One’s values: being brave,

responsible and on point. “Having been in the Army going on 17 years, welcoming Soldiers and building a team from the get go starts a Soldier in the right path,” Smith said. “I truly believe this run is in spirit of being a Big Red One Soldier.”

After the run, newly arrived Soldiers, like Gorin, are released to their respective battalions to meet their leaders.

“I’m ready to start,” Gorin said. “I can’t wait to start.”

Unit leaders within the 2<sup>nd</sup> ABCT took the concept of the history run and utilized it as a way of providing leadership development to their formations, such is the case with Co. C, 299<sup>th</sup> BSB.

“Platoon leaders shared responsibilities as they briefed the historic significance of the various sites, hence development for the platoon leaders as well as the company,” said Capt. David Draper, Co. C commander. “Additionally, Soldiers were able to see that not all PT has to be according to a manual. It is acceptable, in fact, encouraged, to step away from the norm and experience new things.”

Part of the leader development was the total unit cohesion in doing the run: NCO’s led the cadences, officers gave the historical briefs at each stop and Soldiers left their comfort zones from regular PT at Custer Hill, Draper said.

The Dagger Brigade Newcomer’s Historical Run is conducted every Tuesday, and starts next to King Field House. 🏠



**Soldiers with 299 BSB, 2ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., douse A Co. 1st Sgt. Gerald Sydnor with iced water July 16, 2015 at Fort Riley, Kansas. An ice bucket challenge amongst the Battalion's leadership was one the Single Soldier Day activities. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dana Moen)**

## “Lifeline” Single Soldiers Beat the Heat

By Dana Moen  
2ABCT Public Affairs

Single Soldiers with 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, had a day of fun for themselves July 16, 2015 at Fort Riley.

“I really liked the day, it was something fun, something different,” said Pfc. Faatauva Fereti, a truck driver with A Company. “We got to hang out with soldiers from other companies and meet new people.”

Lt. Col. CJ King, 299<sup>th</sup> BSB commander, came up with the idea for a single Soldiers event to reward their selfless contributions to the unit and the family functions they support. He then gave the unit representatives' free reign to plan the event.

“We got together as a group and we would throw out ideas and come up with some plans,” said Pfc. Clayton Caldwell, truck driver with A Company. “Then we'd take the main two or three ones that we liked to the commander.”

According to Caldwell, the group's ideas included going to the zoo and zip-lining in Kansas City. Transportation and cost concerns eventually kept the event on post at the Colyer Forsyth Community Center.

“We having everything from small wedding receptions to birthday parties to baby showers to coffees & tea's”, said Kassandra Mailhot, assistant manager for Covias. “We appreciate our partnership with the Army and that is what the

[center] is for.”

The Colyer pool was a welcome relief for the Soldiers from the 94 degree heat of the day.

“I know there were a few hiccups in the beginning,” said Spc. Sammy Villarreal, a personnel clerk with Headquarter and Headquarters Company, “But, I think overall it turned out to be a pretty successful event.”

Other activities available at the center were billiards, basketball, video arcade games, television, a workout room, and baseball fields for kickball.

“We're getting ready to be in close quarters with one another as a Battalion,” said Caldwell, a Frankford, Missouri native. “I think it's really good that [the commander's] given us not just a day for the soldiers, but also the chance to form a bond with one another.”





## 2015 “Lifeline” Battalion Ball



**PV2 Griffin, Command Sgt. Maj. Toby Grisham, Lt. Col. CJ King and Staff Sgt. Pass cut the Lifeline Battalion Cake at the 2015 Lifeline Battalion Ball.**

By 2nd Lt. Courtney Koskela  
A Co., 299 BSB

Fort Riley, Kansas--- On the 18th of June, the 299th Brigade Support Battalion celebrated their Battalion Ball at Riley’s Conference Center at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Steeped in military tradition, guests experienced the posting of the colors followed by an acapella of the American National Anthem performed by SPC Bliven Ayala of Charlie Company. Additionally, there were toasts, a cake cutting, and a separate table was set in remembrance of fallen Soldiers to honor their sacrifices.

Soldiers within the Lifeline Battalion were dressed to impress, donning their finest military threads, including bow tie and the Army Service Uniform for the evening formal. This highly anticipated event provided an atmosphere rich in unit tradition and history.

The ball, organized by 2LT Courtney Koskela, served as a base for building esprit de corps, cohesion, and unit pride within the 299th Battalion prior to the upcoming Dagger Brigade’s deployment.

Colonel Miles Brown, commander of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, First Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas graciously served as the guest speaker.

Accompanied by his wife Jamie, who is the Senior Advisor for the Family Readiness Group for the 2nd Armored Brigade, Colonel Brown spoke about his personal journey and inspiration into the rewarding profession that is the American Soldier. He focused on the responsibilities of leadership, expressing significant gratitude toward the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps for serving as the Army's backbone.

Recognition was also given to the battalion, acknowledging the support supplied to all other battalions within the brigade and its successes at the National Training Center. His speech made Soldiers feel Brave, Responsible, and On Point as true “BRO” Soldiers. Not only was this felt in relation to our Nation, but towards the unit and Families as well. Pride in being an American Soldier filled the room.

Colonel Brown's presence and speech helped ensure every Soldier felt satisfaction in serving for the Nation’s greatest Military, the Army.

Aside from the guest speaker, the evening was filled with plenty of entertainment. Soldiers from each company (HHC, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie) conducted skits, displaying creative presentations impersonating various leaders within command.

Bravo Company obtained the loudest applause as their Soldiers performed a skit impersonating Battalion Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Toby Grisham during a motivation-filled physical training session. Laughter and smiles filled the room as everyone enjoyed the musical stylings of DJ (SPC) Ashley Ardiana from HHC. The music kept many Soldiers, Families, and guests on the dance floor until late in the evening.

As tradition dictates, the oldest and youngest Soldiers cut the cake at a service ball. This year, SSG Randy Pass and Soldier PFC Jihad Griffin were asked to partake in this tradition. Alongside CSM Grisham and the 299th BSB Commander, LTC CJ King, the cake was promptly cut with the battalion saber.

Overall, the ball was a huge success, serving as a great opportunity to showcase to the Soldiers' Families the work their loved ones do. It also provided an atmosphere to build relationships with other Family members, as 299th nears its deployment. The event helped showcase a side of the military that isn't frequently seen, and allowed the Soldiers to "let their hair down", enjoying one another's company and brother- and sisterhood.

In total, there were 227 attendees this year, with each one helping to boost camaraderie within the Lifeline Battalion.

The 2015 Spring Ball would not have been a success without the contributions from the following people: Guest Speaker Colonel Miles Brown; The Color Guard Soldiers: SGT Nik Sweger, SPC Conor Pickens, SPC Christopher Hill, SPC Gerald Simpson, and PV2 Antoine Travis; Master of Ceremonies 1LT Daniel Snyder; the DJ SPC Ashley Ardiana; the Ball NCOIC MSG Douglas Whitaker; the National Anthem Singer SPC Bliven Ayala; special helpers SGT Kassie Cook and SGT Sarah Saucedo; and all the Soldiers who contributed to the company entertainment. Thank you for your efforts in ensuring the military ball was not only a special evening, but an overall success. A special thanks to all of the Families and guests that attended the event as well. 🍷



**Sgt. Sweger leads his Color Guard Team: Spc. Pickens, Spc. Simpson, Spc. Hill and PV2 Travis in posting the colors at the 299th BSB Ball.**



**Bravo Company Soldiers reenact standing in formation, as Sgt. 1st Class Exantus impersonates the battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. as entertainment at the 299th BSB Ball.**



**Lifeline Soldiers post for a picture to capture the moment at the 2015 Lifeline Battalion Ball on June 18, 2015.**



## Education Is Paramount in C Co., 299 BSB

By Cpl. Brown  
C Co, 299 BSB

Education is paramount to a well-rounded and highly functional organization. Charlie Company, 299<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion is taking extensive measures to ensure that all soldiers are able to partake in all programs that will enhance their personal and professional well-being.

Not only have the Commander, CPT David Draper, and the First Sergeant, 1SG Kent Smith, expressed their support in Soldiers participating in civilian education, but are making efforts to increase military education throughout the unit.

Charlie Company's command has vehemently expressed their support in Soldiers taking advantage of local and distance learning colleges. As a result, many Charlie Company Soldiers are enrolling in college courses. Some Soldiers are taking online courses, while others are enrolled in night or lunch time classes. 1SG Smith and CPT Draper work with Soldiers enrolled in on campus courses in order to ensure their attendance at these classes, while still not missing vital hours of their work days. 1SG Smith routinely pushes out information of college courses offered on post and encourages all Soldiers to participate in these courses. In return, most Charlie Company Soldiers are pursuing a civilian education and are taking steps in developing their personal goals and career plans.

While civilian education is prominent in our ranks, Charlie Company also emphasizes the importance of military education and growth. Soldiers are given the opportunity to broaden their MOS specific knowledge by shadowing PAs or nurses in their field of study.

This includes cross training between the various medical fields to expose Soldiers to different specialties. Above all, Military schools such as Air Assault, Warrior Leader Course, Advanced Leader Course, Brigade Combat Team Trauma Training and Expert Field Medical Badge are highly sought after and encouraged for Soldiers to attend. Soldiers are able to volunteer for these courses and are

emboldened to complete for more than one at a time. 1SG Smith and the Commander are driven to help Soldiers succeed in these endeavors and volunteer their time to plan training events for these courses such as ruck marches, combatives training, and NCO support for those planning on attending career enhancing schools.

The basic military schools such as Field Sanitation Team, Bus Driver, JCR and CBRN are also encouraged since they are vital to an overall understanding of military practices. The importance of these courses is that they provide the necessary skills for day to day operations within a normal Army unit. Charlie Company's command is determined to provide all Soldiers the opportunity to engage in these courses and benefit from the knowledge gained during these classes.

Both civilian and military education is of great importance to the command of Charlie Company, 299<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion. Not only does education aid in a Soldier's individual accomplishments, but aids in the accomplishment of a units overall mission. 1SG Smith and CPT Draper are shaping the Soldiers of Charlie Company to take action in becoming a valuable asset to the United States Army and successful members of the civilian world. 🏆







# “Lifeline” In Action





## World War II and Occupation of Germany – the “Lucky 7th”

Part of a Historical Series on the 1-7 FA

By 1LT Lawrence Divine  
HHB, 1-7 FA

The unit was reorganized on 1 October 1940 as Battery A, 7th Field Artillery Battalion and later as the 7th Field Artillery Battalion. In World War II the 7th Battalion first saw action in Africa with the 1st Infantry Division.

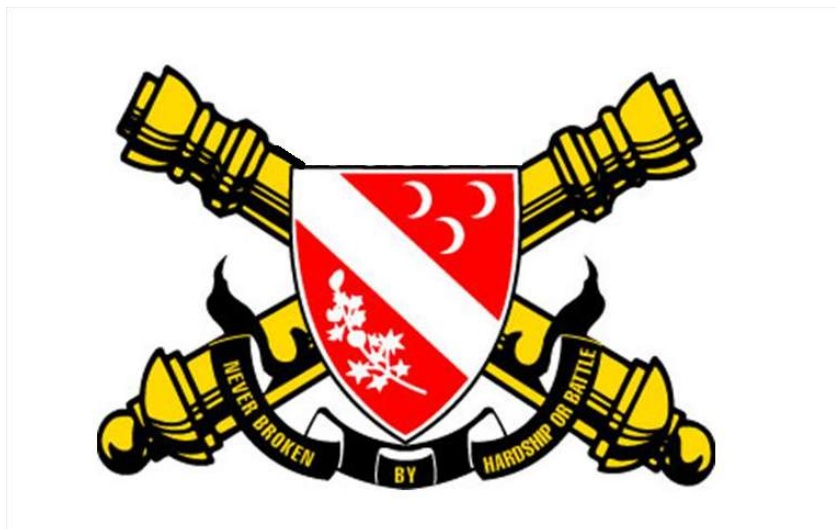
The battalion made three assault landings during the war including Algeria on 8 November 1942, Sicily on 10 July 1943, and on 6 June 1944 (D-Day) on Omaha Beach at Normandy, France. Battery C, 7th Field Artillery Battalion was the first unit to fire a land-based artillery mission on the Normandy beaches.

The battalion fought sustained combat operations in France, Belgium and Germany, culminating in Czechoslovakia in 1945.

Throughout the war, the unit distinguished itself in the battles of Kasserine Pass, Mons, Huertgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge.

The “Lucky 7th”, as the unit was known, earned eight campaign streamers and was awarded the French Croix de Guerre twice and the Fourragere in the colors of the Medaille Militaire (Military Medal). The Belgian government cited the 7th Field Artillery Battalion twice in the “Order of the Day” and awarded it the Belgian Fourragere. After the war, the 7th Field Artillery remained in Germany, operating throughout Bavaria as part of the occupation force until July 1955. 🇩🇪

Next Month: Part III – Vietnam and the “Pheons”





## “First Lightning” Strengthens Family Ties with Molly Pitcher Day



Family Members and Soldiers with 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., engage a simulated target at the call-for-fire trainer July 10 at Fort Riley, Kansas. The trainer was one of the activities the unit hosted during its Molly Pitcher Day. (Sgt. Dana Moen, 2nd ABCT)

By Sgt. Dana Moen  
2ABCT Public Affairs

Family members got a glimpse into the daily lives of their 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Soldiers July 10 at Fort Riley, Kansas.

"My Soldiers have spent a lot of time in the field and returned recently from (the National Training Center)," said Lt. Col. James Collins, 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., commander. "Taking a break and spending the day with their family is what the Molly Pitcher Day is all about."

According to an internet source, one version of the Molly's story has her receiving a noncommissioned officer warrant from then General George Washington after the June 1778 Battle of Monmouth for taking over her wounded husband's cannon duties. She subsequently became known as "Sergeant Molly" until her death in 1822. She was granted a \$40 annual government pension for her service by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1832.

"Molly Pitcher is an important part of our lineage," Collins said. "The families and spouses are an important part of our group."

The day's activities began with Reveille, a one-mile battalion fun run with family members and physical readiness training exercises.

"We had beautiful weather and a really great turnout," said Renee Fletcher, spouse of Capt. Douglas Frazier. "Wives and kids and spouses and everybody ran together as a group."

Family members got to fire simulated weapons at the post's engagement skills trainer.

"I think the weapons simulator was the best part," said Lauren Roshek, fiancée of Capt. Joshua Herzog. "Everybody got to go in and sit behind a gun and see what it's really like to pull the trigger."

During the "First Lightning" football game, Soldiers and family members partnered for some friendly competition and team building.

"I enjoyed watching them play football," said Ashley Cordero, whose husband is Pfc. Carlos Cordero. "It's nice to see them getting along and playing together as a team."

Additional activities included the call for fire trainer, a military vehicles display, a bounce house and water balloons for the children. Each battery provided a barbecue lunch for attendees.

“I think a lot of military kids don't always understand exactly what their moms and dads are doing,” Fletcher said. “Having an opportunity to come out and see the guns and the call-for-fire simulator and things like that is going to give them a really good understating of what their parents are doing.”



**Above: 2nd Lt. Stephen Motta, distribution leader with Btry. F., runs with his wife pushing his children in a stroller during the Molly Pitcher fun run.**

**Above: Family Members of Soldiers with 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., 2ABCT fire simulated weapons at the Engagement Skills Trainer as part of the Molly Pitcher Day.**

**Below: Family members enjoy the military equipment displays by 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., 2ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. The unit displayed six military vehicles as part of the Molly Pitcher day activities.**

**Below: Children play in a bounce house as part of various Molly Pitcher Day activities for the families.**





# “First Lightning” In Action





## “Vanguards” In Action



Lt. Col. Sanchez and the leaders of the Vanguard Battalion begin a new Leader Development Program series, beginning with the Army Operating Concept July 27, 2015.



Dog Company conducted a re-enlistment ceremony for Staff Sgt. Vincent at Fort Riley, Kansas July 1, 2015.



The Vanguards welcome and congratulate 1st Sgt. Brown on her new promotion and new role as Guardian 7 July 10, 2015.





# 1-63 Armor Change of Responsibility

**1-63 AR conducted a battalion Change of Responsibility between outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Figueroa and incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Pingel on July 28, 2015. (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Jin Nakamura, 299 BSB)**





## “Dragons” In Action

**Soldiers with Mortar Platoon, HHC, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division conduct mortar live-fire training July 30, 2015. (U.S. Army Photos by Sgt. Dana Moen)**







## “Thunder” In Action



'Thunder Battalion' Soldiers continue to receive quality training and instruction. To prepare soldiers for the challenges of unconventional warfare, PFC Travis C. Bondurant instructs a familiarization class on metal detectors used to detect mines and other hazards. Soldiers from across the Battalion also received training on

Tactical Site Exploitation. The training, often referred to as Crime Scene Investigation, was hosted by professional instructors from the CI2C program on post and taught soldiers methodology and procedures for collecting & processing evidence, interacting with civilians, and assisting investigations. (US Army photos by: 2LT Joshua M. Witherell)



Bravo Company reenlisted (from left to right) SSG James C. Kinsey, SSG Stephen R. Giles, SPC Jonathan A. Crocker, SPC Stephen A. Munding, SPC Bradley L. Olin, SPC Matthew P. Chrobocinski, and SPC Darryl L. Jones in a mass ceremony at Kapaun Chapel. The 'Thunder Battalion' is proud of these soldiers and their decision to extend their service to their country. Strike Swiftly! (US Army photos by: 2LT Joshua M. Witherell)



# “Thunder” In Action



2-70th Armor hosted Intermediate Level Education (ILE) students visiting from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. The students were able to have lunch with Platoon Leader / Platoon Sergeant leadership teams, as well as visit Charlie Company's Unstabilized Gunnery Qualification. (US Army photos by: 2LT Joshua M. Witherell)



"Deadly" Company with attachments from all over the Battalion left Fort Riley in order to support 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division during NTC Rotation 15-08.5 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. (US Army photos by: 2LT Joshua M. Witherell)



2-70 AR highlights the actions of Specialist Lucila Y. Salgado (C CO). SPC Salgado is Charlie Company's senior medic and has shown remarkable work effort gathering medical information and increasing our medical readiness with little to no guidance. She is a recent WLC graduate, where she earned a spot on the 'Commandant's List'. She is a highly respected soldier in the unit and will soon be promoted to Sergeant for her outstanding leadership and technical skills.



## 5-4 CAV Spouse's Spur Ride



By Capt. Cody Buck  
HHT 5-4 CAV

Spouses of the 5<sup>th</sup> squadron 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment were given an opportunity to earn the coveted spur pins symbolizing their dedication to the Squadron and the fact that they conquered a day full of obstacle courses, trench warfare, and learning to fire some of the Army's most advanced weapon systems.

Although the spouses were told they wouldn't have to attempt any events they weren't comfortable with, the motivation was palpable as they conquered station after station with zeal and vigor.

Teammates pushed each other through the difficult events set up by the Squadron's headquarters, boosting each other over walls, cheering each other on through sand pits, and covering each other from danger while they entered and cleared a trench of cardboard enemies.

The three teams of spouses were guided from event to event by members of each Troop in the Squadron as their dotting Troopers followed them, cheering them on as they went.

The event was organized by CPT Kallan Ryan from the Squadron's Operations shop. When asked about the importance of the event, CPT Ryan stressed that it was far more significant than just the test of strength and agility he created.

In between shouts of encouragement to the teams he said, "Events like this help to truly integrate our spouses into the Squadron by showing them some of the challenges we face (learning to clear a trench, or shooting Bradley gunnery) and letting them work through them. It allows them to not only have a better understanding of what their spouses do, but also to make new friends in the process from all over the Squadron."

As Mrs. Aleah Hansen, SFC Hansen's wife explained, "I met an awesome team of ladies from Blackfoot Troop, and a couple more from HHT. The Squadron spouses are all great. I loved everyone's personality. It was nice to have us all working and helping each other like a mini Army family."

After completing six obstacles at the obstacle course, clearing the trenches of all enemies, and completing a gunnery firing iteration in a Bradley simulator, the three teams of spouses all came together at Custer Hill Parade field.

For the last event of the day, spouses had a heads up race between all three teams while carrying a loaded down skedco litter to a set of cones 30 meters away and back. The teams worked closely together, game planning the event to figure out the most efficient way of carrying the weighted sled. When the signal was given, all three teams tore off leaving a trail of dust in their wake.

The crowd all yelled encouragement as each team rounded the cones and started back for the finish

line. At the last second, team two pulled ahead for the win and they were taken up in their Troopers' arms with congratulations and true respect for their effort. The OIC for the event, 1LT Brian Elfering was, "Very impressed with their determination and competitiveness."

With the conclusion of the final event, all of the spouses moved to Longknife field where Lt. Col. Bradford Duplessis, the 5-4 CAV Squadron Commander, gave them his thanks and respect for coming out to enjoy the day with the Squadron.

Lt. Col. Duplessis then gave out the well-deserved Spur pins to 5-4 CAV Troopers who in turn pinned their spouses and gave hugs and gratitude for the determined spirit demonstrated throughout the day.



After the pinning ceremony came the real treat with a full lunch meal provided by the All American Beef Battalion and family fun including a bounce house, a dunk tank, and other activities water activities.



At the end of the day, everyone left happy, full, and proud of their accomplishments and the friends they made. 🍷





# 5-4 CAV Trooper's of the Month

Longknife Trooper of the Week		Longknife Trooper of the Week	
	<u>HQ/B/5-4 CAV</u>		<u>HQ/C/5-4 CAV</u>
	<p>SGT Thompson, the Blackfoot Troop Commander's Gunner and the Troop Legal Representative, is the Longknife Trooper of the Week. He has proven himself as a capable NCO ready for much greater responsibility.</p> <p>As the Troop's Legal Representative he assists both the command team and Soldiers on all legal matters and proceedings. In this capacity, SGT Thompson continually distinguishes himself through his actions as he guides, mentors, and assists Soldiers throughout challenging personal situations. He has selflessly taken the initiative many times to ensure Soldier welfare at personal cost and time, both helping to resolve situations and maintain Soldier morale and welfare in the process. These actions demonstrate the 11D creed of <i>"Brave, Responsible, and On Point!"</i></p>		<p>CPL Zachary Myers was instrumental in revitalizing the Troop's Arms Room. He has continually refined the Troop's MAL, organized the Troop's system for armament storage, and reassigned all of the Troop's weapons. During the Comanche Stress shoot he worked tirelessly to ensure proper equipment allocation for all participants. In addition, on the last four Comanche Troop ranges, CPL Myers has handled all ammunition operations, ensuring the successful completion of the Troop Marksmanship Density. CPL Myers' actions this week proved his <i>"Contributions as a Teammate Matter."</i></p>
SGT Matthew Thompson	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Prepared and Loyal!</i>	CPL Zachary Myers	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment: Prepared and Loyal!</i>

Longknife Trooper of the Week		Longknife Trooper of the Week	
	<u>1/C/5-4 CAV</u>		<u>2/C/5-4 CAV</u>
	<p>SPC Donovan Lee is this week's Trooper of the Week. SPC Lee shot expert and completed all tasks above standard during Comanche Troop's advanced rifle marksmanship range. After proving his competence, he immediately looked to better those around him through shared knowledge. SPC Lee tirelessly worked to instruct his peers and the Troop's new soldiers, ultimately ensuring all Troopers qualified on their weapons. His knowledge, skill, and determination shows he is <i>Prepared and Loyal</i> for his teammates and unit.</p>		<p>SPC Joshua Ramos is this week's Trooper of the Week. SPC Ramos was an instrumental asset to his platoon through the multiple tasks required this week. SPC Ramos took it upon himself to personally lead his platoons command maintenance effort on Monday to allow others to complete competing requirements. Individually, SPC Ramos was a first time go for all BATTs gunnery tables before qualifying expert at the M4 range excelling in all events through the week. SPC Ramos' actions this week proved his <i>"contributions as a teammate matter"</i> and hard work shows he continues to be <i>Prepared and Loyal</i> for his unit.</p>
SPC Donovan Lee	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment: Prepared and Loyal!</i>	SPC Joshua Ramos	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment: Prepared and Loyal!</i>
Hometown: Westford, MA		Hometown: North Highlands, CA	



## “Longknife” In Action

With the Squadron back from leave, 5-4 CAV took the opportunity to build momentum for the deployment with Squadron PT. Planned and executed by SGM Heath Trost and CPT Cody Buck, teams completed a four-mile round-robin movement and various exercises including rope climbing, tire flipping, Pullups, and Litter carries. Upon completion, teams were greeted by a marmite breakfast at the COFs. Congratulations to the winners of the event from Comanche Troop.





## 82d Engineer Battalion Hosts Civil Air Patrol Visit

Soldiers of all ranks of the BLUEBABE Battalion have been at the forefront of the Brigade in various community outreach projects. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, the 82d Engineer Battalion hosted cadets and senior members from the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron and the Smokey Hills Composite Squadron. The necessity of vast knowledge was fulfilled as the “Titans” of Delta Company, 82d Engineer Battalion provided a lesson on the Army’s unmanned aircraft systems, which included the Shadow, Raven, and Puma.





## “Blue Babe” In Action

82 Engineer Battalion 'Blue Babe' Soldiers enjoyed a Battalion 'Ox Pull' platoon competition July 24 at Fort Riley, Kansas. The events included a run with equipment, wall climb and litter carry. A sprint between the two fastest platoons determined the winner (U.S. Army photos by 2ABCT Public Affairs)





## Around the Brigade



Battalion executive officers and operation officers accompany Col. Brown on a mounted trail ride through Fort Riley June 25, 2015.



Over 95 medics through out the Dagger Brigade conduct Brigade Combat Team Trauma Training from June 16-19, 2015.



Lt. Col. Collins throws the first pitch at the Junction City Brigade baseball game July 13, 2015.



SMA Dailey visits Soldiers of 1-18 IN July 8, 2015.



1-7 FA Command Team presents a token of appreciation to the Kansas States Men's Basketball team for their partnership.



Lt. Col. King prepares to take the ice bucket challenge during the 299 BSB Single Soldier Day July 16, 2015.