



READY NOW



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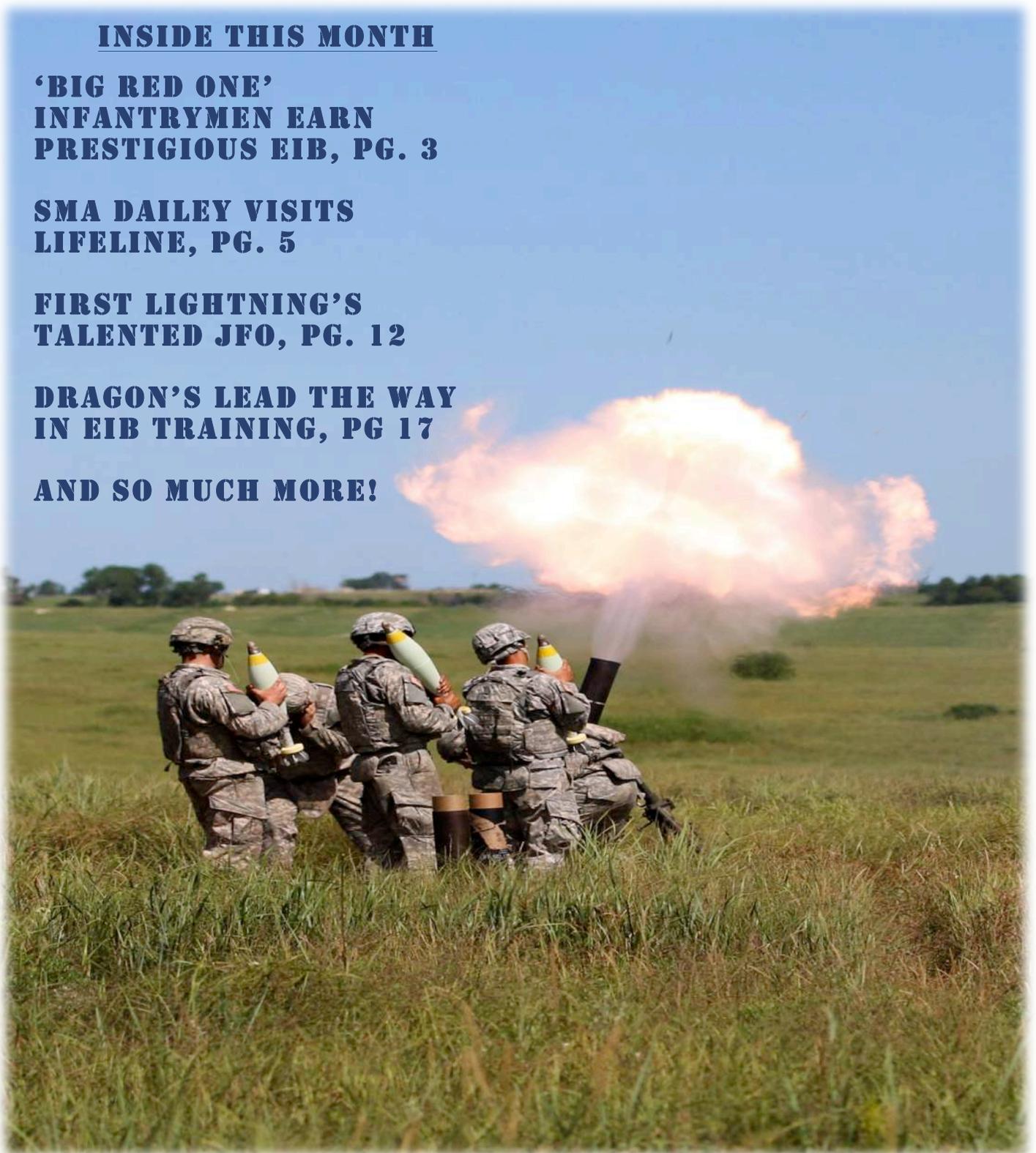
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Issue 3, September 2015

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

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'Big Red One' Infantrymen Earn Prestigious EIB



Sgt. Zachary Harper, team leader with Battery B, 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt., 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., is presented the prestigious Expert Infantry Badge by Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston (right), 1st Inf. Div. command team, during an awards ceremony Aug. 28, 2015 at Fort Riley. Harper was one of only 18 Soldiers to complete the rigorous EIB testing, which was hosted by the 2nd ABCT. (Sgt. Dana Moen, 2nd ABCT)

By Staff Sgt. Tamika Dillard
2ABCT Public Affairs

FORT RILEY, Kan. – Of the 415 Soldiers to compete, only 18 rain-soaked and exhausted 1st Infantry Division infantrymen were left standing to receive the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge during a ceremony Aug. 28.

The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., hosted the competition, with past EIB recipients providing guidance and testing oversight.

The EIB is awarded to Soldiers who hold infantry or Special Forces military occupational specialties and have mastered the tasks of being an

infantryman, which include completing more than 30 different events and a 12-mile foot march.

“The EIB identifies an infantryman as an expert in his field,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Gentry, senior noncommissioned officer for 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “Making it through this competition definitely sets them apart from their peers and helps further their careers.”

These infantrymen started their journey Aug. 24 at one of Fort Riley’s training areas, where they had to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test, a day and night land navigation course and three days of lane testing.

The lanes included proficiency

testing on all infantry weapons, rifles, machine guns and hand grenades. Participants were also tested on communications skills, rendering first aid, calling for fire support and making tactical decisions under significant duress. They completed the competition Aug. 28 with a 12-mile foot march, wearing their combat kits and 35-pound loads.

“You have to be mentally and physically capable of performing your job as an infantryman,” said Staff Sgt. Jose Varat, an EIB testing cadre member with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “This process requires you to pay attention to the small things during the short time that you have because one misstep could cause you your EIB chances.”

Varat said the badge was a mark of excellence and wanted his fellow infantryman to wear their newly pinned badges with pride. It’s about leadership, excellence and readiness, he added.

This was their second or third time testing for many participants, but for one candidate, it was a new experience.

“This was my first attempt at competing and I am proud to wear the badge today,” said 1st Lt. William George, the executive officer for Co. A, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor Regt., 2nd

ABCT, 1st ID. “To be able to wear it is an honor and a privilege. I am a bonafied expert infantryman.”

The EIB was used to identify those who are masters in the infantry branch, Gentry said.

“The skills tested, while not geared to a specific deployment, enhanced the Soldiers’ ability to shoot, move and communicate on the battlefield. The skills tested are seen in every environment that we will find ourselves fighting in. The individual Soldier

going through the training may not have earned the EIB, but still gained and refined the skill sets that will prove lethal to our enemies.”



Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division competed last week for the opportunity to earn the coveted Expert Infantryman Badge at Fort Riley. Of the 415 Soldiers to compete, only 18 were pinned with the blue tab during an Aug. 28 ceremony. (Staff Sgt. Tamika Dillard, 2nd ABCT)



Testing at the M-240B machine gun station, 1st Lt. Michael Lapadot, deputy secretary of the general staff, DHHB, 1st Inf. Div., competes for the opportunity to earn the Expert Infantryman Badge on Aug. 27 at one of Fort Riley's training areas. During the timed individual tactical test lane, candidates were evaluated on their abilities to demonstrate their tactical and technical proficiency of individual infantry tasks to standard. (Sgt. Dana Moen, 2nd ABCT)



Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston, (right), 1st Inf. Div. command team, award 1st Lt. William George, executive officer for Co. A, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor Regt., 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., with the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge on Aug. 28 at Fort Riley, Kansas. Out of 415 candidates, George was one of 18 to earn the Expert Infantryman Badge. (Sgt. Dana Moen, 2nd ABCT)



SSG Park intently listens to SMA Dailey during his visit to the A Co, 299th BSB Supply Support Activity. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jin Nakamura, HHC, 299 BSB)

SMA Dailey Visits the 299th Brigade Support Battalion

By 2nd Lt. Christopher Burtner
A Co, 299 BSB

When the Sergeant Major of the Army visited Fort Riley, Kansas on 7-9 July 2015, the 299th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) Motorpool was one of the few locations that he was shown.

The goal was not to show off how clean or well-parked the vehicles and equipment were. The 299th BSB wanted to showcase the best Supply Support Activity (SSA) in III Corps.

An SSA is responsible for providing Classes II (Expendables), IV (Construction Materials), VII (Major End Items), and IX (Repair Parts) to customer units throughout the Dagger Brigade, and walk-up service throughout the 1st Infantry Division.

These classes of supply include everything from office supplies and tents, to major end items and repair parts. These materials get distributed to over 140 different customers.

SGT Jennifer Bogacki and SPC Marrie Corona were the two Soldiers chosen to brief the SMA with an overview of the excellent work the SSA does on a daily basis.

They gave a brief summary of operations, then went further in depth when they discussed the Turn-In, Receiving, and Issue Sections. The

Turn-In Section receives all the inoperable parts and equipment from across the Brigade, and then verifies the paperwork and correct packaging.

Once these tedious steps are complete, they close-out the turn-in by moving it to either the Logistics Readiness Center or the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services.

Depending on the type of item, SSA personnel have only a few days to get the unserviceable item to one of these agencies. This process is key, as it earns the Brigade a dollar value credit, saving the units money and enhancing readiness across the brigade

The other areas highlighted for the SMA were the Receiving Section and the Issue Sections. They work together to unload freight trucks and parcel service trucks (UPS, FEDEX, etc.), process the parts, and either cross dock them into a customer bin or move them to the Supply Section where they replenish the Authorized to Forecast (ATF).

The ATF is a list of approximately 2,000 line items of parts that are kept on hand to repair common vehicle problems. The Issue Section properly accounts for and distributes all items that need to move forward to maneuver battalions.

For their excellent overview of the SSA, the SMA recognized SGT Bogacki and SPC Corona with his coin.



SMA Dailey Visits the 299th, cont.

SPC Corona stated that she was, “honored to be selected out of 22 other Soldiers, to speak with him [SMA Dailey], and also quite nervous to meet someone so important.”

Afterwards, she was glad to have the opportunity to meet such a "friendly and nice" distinguished visitor and leader. Even though he is a VIP, and his time is in such high demand, she was impressed that he took the time to listen and ask thoughtful questions of both her and SGT Bogacki.

SPC Corona only wishes that she could have spent more time with the SMA in order to learn more about his leadership experiences. 🇺🇸



SGT Jennifer Bogacki and SPC Marrie Corona brief SMA Dailey on the daily operations of A Co, 299th BSB's SSA. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Burtner, Supply Platoon Leader, A Co, 299 BSB)





B “Bandits” Co, 299 BSB



Bravo Company, 299th Brigade Support Battalion proudly executed major shift work operations in conjunction with a Battalion Range Density.

Throughout the month of August, the company has kept its foot on the gas with lateral transfers, property book splits, container pack-out, and daily maintenance operations.

Our Bandit Soldiers have shown their professionalism in executing a daunting mission throughout this month in a safe and efficient manner. Their actions have contributed directly to the readiness of the Battalion and aided in the Battalion’s preparations for the upcoming deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

The Bravo Bandits utilized a 24 hour shift work plan to ensure that services in the month of July and August were completed prior to the deployment. This operation challenged the company and the maintenance sections to complete over 115 services while at the same time executing pack-out and property book splits.

The leadership and drive of the Soldiers in the Field Maintenance and Ground Support Equipment sections was unmatched throughout this month. Their dedication to

their trade and support to the Brigade directly impacted the company’s readiness to assume a forward mission set.

In addition to shift work, the company simultaneously executed a Battalion Range Density. The Bravo Bandits planned, coordinated and executed ranges on the M2 (.50 Caliber Machine Gun), M240B (7.62 MM Machine gun), and the M249 (5.56 Squad Automatic Weapon).

Overall the company trained and qualified over 40 personnel from four companies across the 299th Brigade Support Battalion. The Non-Commissioned Officers on the range not only executed lane safety duties, but also provided preliminary marksmanship instruction to the Soldiers who were previously un-trained on the weapon system.

This attention to detail and professional knowledge was key to the safe and doctrinally correct qualification of all personnel who fired.

The actions of the company are in keeping with being the most “Lethal Support Battalion in the United States Army” as stated by Colonel Brown (Dagger 6). This is an identity and a mentality that our Soldiers live every day, and always strive to achieve in training. 🏆



Molding mentally and physically fit leaders and Soldiers into the “Trusted Professionals” our nation demands.



A Co, 299 BSB Supply Support Activity (SSA)



SPC Faley and SPC Graham of Alpha Company, 299th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) conduct a joint inventory for a line that is being issued to a customer as an 02 high priority walk up. The SSA recently completed a 100% inventory and achieved an inventory accuracy rate of 98%. The SSA stocks 1,987 lines valued at \$21,386,508.23. (U.S. Army photo by CW2 Uriah Hunter, A Co, 299th BSB Accountable Officer)

By CW2 Uriah Hunter
A Co, 299 BSB

299th Support Battalion 2ABCT, 1st Infantry Division Supply Support Activity (SSA) fielded the Global Combat Support System Army (GCSS-A) in February of 2015.

During the fielding, 18 Soldiers of the 299th BSB SSA received 40 hours of New Equipment Training in the classroom and 30 days of over the shoulder training from the GCSS-A fielding team.

This training provide personnel with the basics needed to operate on the supply system and gave the Soldiers their first look at GCSS-A in a garrison environment.

The challenge that the Soldiers faced was the upcoming National Training Center (NTC) rotation, which only allowed the Soldiers moving forward to NTC one week's worth of experience utilizing GCSS-A prior to deploying.

NTC Rotation 15-06 was the first time that the system was used to order CL IX (Repair Parts) for the 1st Infantry Division. 11th ACR has been on full solution GCSS-A for quite a few years.

However, the system was still in its infancy for

rotational units. Deployments to the National Training Center provide real world scenarios of what supply personnel can expect in an austere deployed environment.

The Soldiers in the SSA were forced to learn quickly and adapt to an op-tempo that challenged them physically and mentally on a daily basis. With less than 50% of the MTOE personnel assigned, the Soldiers processed and retrograded more than 2,500 requisitions of CL IX with a total value of over \$15 million, utilizing the GCSS-A system.

This translated to an exponential increase in combat power and sustainment item availability throughout the brigade's 14 day decisive action rotation.

The lessons learned thus far have allowed the SSA to receive a commendable rating on their first Command Supply Discipline Program inspection under the new system.

One of the biggest changes is the visibility that GCSS-A provides to commanders on parts status and critical items, which affects the entire brigade's readiness. The brigade is currently preparing for the fielding of wave 2 GCSS-A, replacing SAMS-E and PBUSE.



A Co, 299 BSB (SSA), cont.

In adapting to the new GCSS-A system in such a short time and at such a high op-tempo, the 299th BSB SSA proved that they are more than capable to deploy GCSS-A to an austere and immature theater and provide the brigade with the logistical support needed to sustain combat power and support operations. ▾



(Left) SSG Calle, the SSA NCOIC, and SGT Tooley of Alpha Company, 299th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) process a part utilizing a new Hand Held scanner. These scanners were provided to eliminate manual procedures and allows the Soldiers to scan the barcodes and process the parts in a timely manner. (U.S. Army photo by CW2 Uriah Hunter, A Co, 299th BSB Accountable Officer)

(Right) SGT Hall, the retrograde NCO, explains to SPC Dolph and SPC Sewell of Alpha Company, 299th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), how to properly inspect and process a turn received from customer units. The retrograde section is responsible with ensuring all items received are processed the same day. The retrograde section has processed over 700 items since february and aided in saving the brigade \$9,913,777.60 in funds. (U.S. Army photo by CW2 Uriah Hunter, A Co, 299th BSB Accountable Officer)





“Lifeline” In Action





Vietnam – the “Pheons”

Part of a Historical Series on the 1-7 FA

By 1LT Lawrence Divine
HHB, 1-7 FA

The battalion returned stateside to Fort Riley, Kansas on 30 July 1955. In February 1957, it was inactivated but immediately reorganized as Headquarters Battery, 1st Howitzer Battalion of the 7th Artillery Regiment.

On 20 January 1964 the unit was again re-designated as 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery under the new army system. On 25 June 1965 lead elements of the battalion arrived in Vietnam, becoming the first soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division to set foot on Vietnamese soil.

Operating in support of 2nd Brigade, the battalion closed on Vietnam in July and established positions vicinity of Bien Hoa and Cam Rah Bay. The battalion again made history as Charlie Battery, supporting 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, fired the first American artillery rounds of the war.

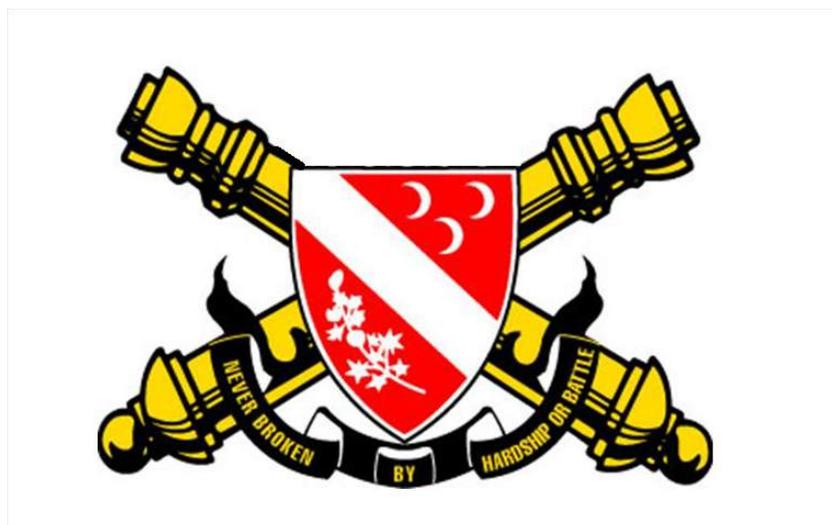
The battalion served in Vietnam until 19 March 1970 when it returned to Fort Riley, Kansas. During its Vietnam tour the 105mm howitzers of the battalion fired more than 1,250,000 rounds in 55 months of continuous combat.

The battalion carried the nickname “Pheons” during its Vietnam service for the three pheons, or arrowheads that adorned the unit crest during this period symbolizing the battalion’s three beach landings during World War II. In Vietnam the battalion earned eleven campaign streamers, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, and three Republic of Vietnam unit awards, and provided fire support in such areas known as the Iron Triangle, Thunder Road, and Hill 714.

On 1 September 1971, the battalion was re-designated as the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery.



Next Month: Part IV – First Lightning’s Service Outside the Big Red One





1-7 FA's Talented JFO Trainer



(Left) SGT Stineman receives assistance running through an AC-130 mission during pre-JFO Training



(Right) SGT Schaller leads a class on the CAS 9-line during pre-JFO Training

Joint Fires Observers (JFO) are some of the deadliest Soldiers on the battlefield. These 13F Forward Observers are trained to “request, adjust, and control surface-to-surface fires, provide targeting information in support of... Close Air Support terminal attack controls and perform autonomous Terminal Guidance Operations.” (ATTP 3-09.36)

In preparation for 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team's deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS), 1-7 Field Artillery has been sending observers this summer to JFO School in Fort Sill, Oklahoma to become trained to deliver joint fires from both artillery and aviation assets.

SGT Schaller, the Brigade's JFO Evaluator, has planned and executed the pre-JFO certifications for every Soldier this summer.

SGT Schaller has been JFO qualified for over two years and has been the subject matter expert for the Dagger Brigade, managing all JFO re-certifications and packets – an additional duty above his rank.

During that time, he has been selected to participate in multiple training events with Air Force Joint Tactical Air Controllers (JTAC) in Smoky Hills Live Fire Exercises in Salina,

Kansas and has also integrated joint fires during National Training Center and Joint Readiness Training Center rotations.

SGT Schaller also remains an integral Non-Commissioned Officer in the Brigade Fires Cell and the First Lightning Battalion as a Non-Lethal Effects Fire Support Sergeant.

This summer, with the need to send 21 Soldiers through the school, SGT Schaller organized a two-week program to train everyone going to school that includes a classroom session as well as training in the Call For Fire Trainer, preparing them for the simulations that students are evaluated on during the course.

In addition to the standard artillery Call For Fire, these missions include Close Air Support, Close Combat Attack, Suppression of Enemy Air Defense and Naval Gunfire. SGT Schaller has led his students through all possible scenarios that they will encounter at the school house and has painstakingly put together their school packets, combing through a checklist that ensures they will be prepared for their course.

Over 95% of Soldiers that attended this pre-course have graduated from the school. SGT Schaller has put the success of his fellow Soldiers and unit above his own needs truly embodying what it means to be Brave, Responsible and On Point



“First Lightning” In Action



Alpha Battery, 1-7 FA conducts Howitzer Table VI live fire on August 17th and 18th from TA 98.



1-7 FA BN’s radar section conducts displacement drills during the AN/TPQ-53 NET.



During the New Equipment Fielding (NET), 1-7 FA BN’s Radar section completed PMCS on the AN/TPQ-53. These pictures depict the radar crew removing the radome cover of the radar. The crews also performed removal and installation procedures on other sections of the radars.



“Vanguard” EIB Training and Brigade EIB

From 17-21AUG2015, the Vanguard Battalion conducted train-up for its Infantry Soldiers in preparation for the Brigade’s Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) testing from 24-28AUG2015. During the train-up week, Vanguards who were already EIB-qualified taught candidates fundamental Infantry skills needed to earn the EIB. The events included demanding skills, such as weapons operation and inspection, patrol lane operations, and land navigation during both day and night. During the certification week, Soldiers put their mental and physical skills to the test beginning with the APFT and Land Navigation staggered throughout 24AUG. The rest of the week consisted of Soldiers testing on Infantry skills honed during training. Finally, in the early hours of Friday 28AUG, the remaining EIB candidates conducted the 12-mile ruck march. The Vanguard Nation had all eight of its remaining Soldiers finish in under three hours; earning them the coveted EIB certification and the right to wear the Expert Infantryman Badge for the remainder of their Army careers. Particularly noteworthy, two Vanguards received special recognition from Major General Grigsby for their exceptional performance. 1LT Robert Fuqua received an ARCOM and the Division Commander’s coin for being the only Soldier in the Brigade to receive “True Blue” EIB honors. Also, 1LT Jimmy Costello received recognition for finishing the 12-mile ruck with the fastest time of 2 hours, 44 minutes, 30 seconds.



SGT Dillon instructs EIB candidates on the functions check process for the M4.



1LT Cordes and 1LT Green conduct CLS lane testing.



COL Brown, MG Grigsby, and CSM Grinston participate in the APFT run with Vanguards SSG Donovan and SGT Boykins (right of COL Brown in order).



Vanguards prepare for the night phase of the land navigation test.



“Vanguard” Tank Companies Conduct Mounted Qualification Gunnery

On 14-16AUG2015, Chaos and Dog Companies conducted Mounted Qualification Gunnery with M2 .50 caliber machine guns mounted on HMMWV platforms to prepare for their upcoming deployment to Operation Spartan Shield. Although the vehicle crews in the companies were already expert operators of the M1A2 SEPV2 Main Battle Tank, vehicle crews conducted the mounted qualification to ensure proficiency on the vehicle platform they are most likely to use while in theater. On Friday 14AUG15, Chaos and Dog Companies conducted dismounted firing from the tripod; ensuring all Soldiers were proficient with the M2 machine gun and also ensuring that tank crews fostered the essential camaraderie to operate as cohesive teams. On Saturday 15AUG15, Chaos and Dog Companies conducted mounted gunnery on the HMMWV. Operating in their organic tank crew teams, Soldiers maneuvered their vehicles downrange, engaging multiple targets while negotiating the range.

This range enabled Soldiers to operate as teams while facing challenges that were unfamiliar to the majority of the traditionally tank crewmen. Judging by the observed performances, Vanguard Soldiers are highly prepared to execute any mission and problem set they may potentially face in the upcoming deployment to southwest Asia.



A Dog Company crew fires the M2 while the TC observes round point of impact for adjustments



A Chaos Company Humvee fires from its defensive position.



SPC Ray sits in a pile of links after engaging multiple targets with his M2.



A Dog Company crew conducts final checks before its first firing run.



“Vanguards” In Action





'Dragons' Lead The Way As They Compete For The Expert Infantry Badge

By 2nd Lt. Joseph Honeycutt
1-63 AR

Five Soldiers from the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment were presented with the Expert Infantryman Badge on Friday August 28th as part of the Dagger Brigade's EIB ceremony. 1LT Charles Cox, 1LT Jonathan Curran, SGT Zachary Harper, SGT Joseph Seline, and SPC Alvaro Chavez received their badges from MG Wayne Grigsby, the First Infantry Division Commander.

SPC Chavez, a Team Leader in 1st Platoon, Able Company, was honored as the only junior enlisted Soldier in the Dagger Brigade to receive the badge.

Given since 1943 to Infantry Soldiers who demonstrate outstanding proficiency in each of the key Infantry skills and tasks, the Expert Infantryman Badge is a prestigious and exclusive award.

Tested skills include day and night land navigation, "expert" qualifications on assigned weapons, calling for indirect fire, first aid, map reading, and radio communication. The competition culminated with a 3 hour, 12 mile ruck march while carrying a rifle and a 35 pound load.

The five exhausted Soldiers emerged from a group of over 120 Dragon Battalion Infantrymen who competed for the honor of wearing the badge.

After five long days of testing and weeks of preparation, these Soldiers received the admiration and respect of their peers and leaders. Their support was evident on Friday morning as Soldiers from 1-63 AR gathered to

cheer on their fellow Dragons through the last leg of the ruck march despite pouring rain.

"We are extremely proud – not only of the Dragons who received their badge, but of all of our Infantrymen who trained and competed in the event over the last few weeks," said LTC Anthony Murtha, the 1-63 AR Battalion Commander.



(Top) 1LT Charles Cox receives the Expert Infantryman Badge from MG Grigsby, 1st Infantry Division Commander, as COL Brown, CSM Grinston, and CSM Orvis look on.

(Bottom) 1LT Duncan of HHC calls up a 9-Line MEDEVAC Request as part of 1-63 AR's Expert Infantry Badge Training





“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



As Deadly Company and their support package from Juliet and Hannibal companies wrap up their National Training Center rotation, I believe it's only fitting to recognize and highlight the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of our Soldiers, especially our mechanics. Often times they are the unsung heroes that go unnoticed. I wanted to personally recognize them and thank them for their outstanding efforts in keeping Deadly Company in the fight. Without their effort, our organization would not be capable of dominating our enemies on the battlefield, as we consistently do. On behalf of LTC Stewart, I say thank you, well done, and we cannot wait to welcome you all home. Strike Swiftly!!! T7 (US Army photos by: CSM Terry L. Vaughn)



"Crusher Company" conducted a First Sergeant leadership handoff from SFC Timothy C. Taylor to 1SG JC Culbertson on August 5, 2015. SFC Taylor acted as C CO's First Sergeant since its creation last year. He has truly been an asset to this Battalion and is directly responsible for the successes of his Company. We look forward to welcoming 1SG Culbertson to the team. "Crushers!!" (US Army photos by: 2LT Joshua M. Witherell)



“Thunder” In Action



Assault Company, 2-70th Armor held a Change of Command Ceremony August 11, 2015. "Assault Company" bid farewell to its first commander, CPT Thomas J. Rohr, who led A CO since its creation. The Company welcomed CPT Riley W. Emter as its new commander. CPT Emter will lead Assault Company as we begin EIB and move forward towards deployment. "Strike Swiftly!" "Assault!" (US Army photos by: 2LT Joshua M. Witherell)



Four Soldiers from Delta Company received Army Achievement Medals for their outstanding performance and demonstrated potential during the National Training Center Rotation 15-08.5. The medals were awarded to them by their supported unit, 5-20 IN BN. From left to right: PFC Wallyn, PVT Vaughn, PV2 Laferriere, and SPC



2-70th AR would like to highlight the actions of Assault Company, 2nd Platoon's, PFC Lynn A. Cain. PFC Cain has been working tirelessly during the Company's deployment packout during EIB train-up. His ability to take charge of the small detail to move bags from the Company to motor pool has ensured Soldiers participating in EIB had their bags moved for container packout. He has also aided in the inventory and packing of Bradley BII. PFC Cain continues to be a go-to Soldier when tasks need completed in the motor pool. 'Strike Swiftly!'



5-4 CAV History

By Capt. Cody Buck
HHT 5-4 CAV

INTRODUCTION

The 4th Cavalry Regiment is one of the most famous and most decorated regiments in the United States Army. Since its activation in 1855, the 4th Cavalry has continuously served the United States of America in peace and war.

The regiment has fought gallantly in the Indian Wars, the Civil War, the Philippine Insurrection, World War II, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. In the Global War on Terrorism all 4th Cavalry active elements have served with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq.

For its wartime service, the 4th Cavalry has been awarded 61 campaign streamers, three Presidential Unit Citations, three Valorous Unit Awards the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation and the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star.

5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment traces its lineage back to E Troop, 4th Cavalry which was organized in 1855, as E Company, 1st Cavalry. Over the last 152 years, E Troop, 4th Cavalry has served the Nation as both a Cavalry Troop and a Reconnaissance Squadron, earning 44 Campaign and Battle Streamers and 4 unit awards.

THE EARLY YEARS: 1855- 61 (as 1st CAVALRY)

At the end of the Mexican War in 1848, the U.S. Army had only three mounted regiments, the 1st Dragoons, the 2nd Dragoons, and the Regiment of Mounted Rifleman to protect settlers moving westward.

By 1855, Congress realizing the number of

mounted soldiers was not sufficient to protect the rapid western expansion authorized the raising of two more regiments, the 1st Cavalry (later re-designated 4th Cavalry) and the 2nd Cavalry (later re-designated 5th Cavalry).

The 1st Cavalry Regiment was constituted on 3 March 1855 and organized at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri on 26 March 1855 under the command of Colonel Edwin Voss Sumner. The military aptitude of the twenty-eight officers selected for the 1st Cavalry was conclusively proven during the Civil War when twenty-two of them became general officers in either the Union or Confederate armies.

Among them were Captain George B. McClellan, (Major General, Commander, Army of the Potomac and the inventor of the famed McClellan saddle), and 2nd Lieutenant James E.B. (Jeb) Stuart, (Major General, CSA, Commander of the Confederate Cavalry Corps).

Upon completion of the organization of the regiment in August 1855, the 1st Cavalry was assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Its mission was two-fold; to maintain law and order in the Kansas Territory between pro and anti-slavery factions and to protect the settlers from attacks by the Cheyenne Indians.

During the following year, the regiment was engaged in keeping the peace in "Bleeding Kansas" between the pro- and anti-slavery factions until the people could settle the issue with a vote.

The regiment's baptism by fire occurred on 30 July 1857 on the north fork of the Solomon River, in present day Norton County, Kansas. At this engagement, the regiment overwhelmed a well-armed and mounted band of Cheyenne warriors.

Drawing their sabers, the Troopers charged in a sudden surprise attack sending the Indians in

disorderly flight. In the subsequent pursuit LT David Stanley (later to rise in fame as a Union General) had his horse shot from under him and was caught dismounted among the Indians.

LT JEB Stuart, Commander of G Company, was seriously injured while saving Stanley from certain death. The Regiment achieved a decisive victory in its first combat and returned to camp victorious.

In 1857 the regiment was split with half taking up new quarters at Fort Riley, Kansas and the rest maintaining small garrisons scattered throughout Kansas.

On 3 March 1861, Colonel Robert E. Lee assumed command of the 1st Cavalry only to resign his commission a month later to lead the Confederate Army in the Civil War. 12 officers and a handful of Troopers from southern States would leave the regiment to fight for the Confederacy. 🏳️

Next month: Part II, The Civil War





5-4 CAV Trooper's of the Month

Longknife Trooper of the Week		5-4 CAV Trooper of the Week	
	DISTRO/D/5-4 CAV		Blackfoot FMT/D/5-4 CAV
	Our Trooper of the Week is SPC Shaun Wright, a 88M Heavy Equipment Operator in the Distribution Platoon. He excelled during the Squadron's "Operation Staked Plains" Unstabilized Gunnery by distributing Class V in an expedient and efficient manner, allowing the gun crews to focus on the task at hand. SPC Wright kept the ammo pad in good order and maintained accountability throughout the training event. SPC Wright is a leader in the platoon who demonstrates on a daily basis that he is <i>On Point</i> for the Troop, Squadron and the Nation.		SPC Fancher is a member of Blackfoot FMT. The lead 91M in his section, SPC Fancher specializes in recovery and M88 operations. Rising above his peers, SPC Fancher was selected as the Squadron Soldier of the Month at the 5-4 CAV Soldier of the Month Board for August. Day to day, SPC Fancher is a quiet, hard-working professional and teammate who embodies what it means to be "Brave, Responsible, and On Point."
SPC SHAUN WRIGHT	5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment <i>Prepared and Loyal</i>	SPC Nathan Fancher	5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment <i>Prepared and Loyal!</i>
		Hometown: Auburn, Georgia	

Longknife Trooper of the Week		Longknife Trooper of the Week	
	MED/HHT/5-4 CAV		MAINT/D/5-4 CAV
	Private Mckenzie Prindle has excelled as member of the Evacuation Section of the Medical Platoon. Recently she acted as a squad leader during a tactical training event where she successfully led a group of medics through dense terrain and who performed life-saving interventions to multiple casualties of a "downed" aircraft, along with a successful air evacuation. She accomplished this mission with minimal guidance from NCOs and Soldiers senior to her. PV2 Prindle's expertise, dedication, and professionalism is of the highest caliber.		This week's Longknife Trooper of the Week is SPC John Jones. SPC Jones is from Virginia Beach, Virginia and enlisted in the Army on June 23rd, 2009 as a 91B, Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. SPC Jones is currently assigned to Comanche Field Maintenance Team, and oversees all wheeled vehicle maintenance and services. He recently supported Comanche Troop during the Gunnery at Range 18 and also played a key role during change of command inventories. SPC Jones consistently serves as a mentor to his junior enlisted peers, displays high level of motivation and dedication to duty, and desires greater levels of responsibility. SPC Jones was recently attended the August Promotion Board where he was recommended for promotion to the Non-Commissioned Officer ranks.
PV2 Mckenzie Prindle	5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment <i>Prepared and Loyal!</i>	SPC JONES, JOHN	5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment <i>Prepared and Loyal!</i>
		Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA Wife: N/A Children: N/A	UNCLASSIFIED #FOUO

5-4 CAV Trooper of the Week	
	DISTRO/D/5-4 CAV
	SGT Addington was selected as the Dakota Troop Rear Detachment Property Book Hand Receipt Holder. During change of command inventories, SGT Addington conducted simultaneous inventories with the incoming commander and worked late hours updating paperwork, finding shortages in all corners of the motorpool, and assisting sections with layout preparation. Additionally, he is currently cross-training with our Supply Section to assist with lateral transfers on Rear Detachment in support of the Division's Unit Equipment Reutilization Working Group
SGT Bradley Addington	5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment <i>Prepared and Loyal</i>



“Longknife” In Action



A Week in the life of a Longknife Trooper



Longknife Troopers cheer on 1LT Michael Lapadot during the 12 mile ruck march for EIB



A Week in the life of a Longknife Trooper



Dakota Troop Change of Command from CPT Joseph Bower to CPT Heath Bergmann





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 17th 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



Apocalypse Company received the newest equipment from the Army’s fielding initiative the Urban Ops Kits. The urban ops kits will be a force multiplier in future combat operations. The kit includes breaching tools, communication equipment, mountaineering supplies, and reconnaissance equipment. Apocalypse company sent two Soldiers who will be able to bring back their Knowledge to the platoons and train other Soldiers on the capabilities.



Apocalypse Company conducted Bradley tables II-VI of Bradley Gunnery on the M2A3. The day range was conducted at DMPTR and the night range was conducted at DMPRC. All A CO crews have qualified on the M2A3 and are prepared to support the Dagger Brigade. The gunnery would not have been possible without the help from BAE systems who conducted the NET for the Bradleys. The BAE Systems’s instructors were very professional and provided expert advice on all aspects and capabilities of the M2A3. The Soldiers of A CO conducted the ranges with professionalism and a sense of purpose. They were able to achieve results on table VI with 4/9 achieving a Superior rating.



“Blue Babe” In Action



E/299 BSB focus for this week was deployment load out and gunnery support. 32 mechanics were sent to Douthit to provide maintenance support for stabilized gunnery. Rock Company also sent four crews through unstabilized gunnery at Range 18. Soldiers not involved in gunnery packed three connexes and prepped 11 vehicles, 17 trailers, and 10 generators for inspection. The hard work of our FMTs was critical keeping 12 Bradleys operational and the success of stabilized gunnery. Four crews completed unstabilized gunnery, instilling confidence in their weapons and capabilities prior to deployment. Successful execution of RFI, container and vehicle load out leave the staged and prepared for movement to the rail head on 31 AUG 15.



A CO and B CO conducted Urban Operation Kit Training at Bldg 1820 with Project Managers. Project Managers trained Soldiers from Apocalypse and Brave Bull Soldiers in order to properly utilize the new equipment assigned to their units. The knowledge given to the Soldiers will allow for the trained team to teach and train the remainder of their unit to identify and use the new assigned MTOE kit. The new kits will allow for the Sapper Companies to conduct urban operations training and real world mission effectively and efficiently.



Around the Brigade



Professors and Graduate Teaching Assistants provide lectures to Dagger Soldiers during the Dagger University. The lectures provide shared understanding of the Middle East.



The 82nd Engineer Battalion conducted a TOW Missile Live Fire, the culminating event from training that started in June.



1-7 FA said farewell to CSM Jose Barajas in a Change of Responsibility ceremony held September 3, 2015.



Leaders of the Dagger Brigade participated in the Adopt-A-School Meet and Greet with their partnered school to set the conditions for the upcoming school year.



The Dagger Brigade welcomed MG Wayne Grigsby, Commanding General of 11D and Fort Riley on the Dagger Orientation Run.



Motivational speaker Jared Estes spent two days with the Dagger Brigade. He spent one day telling his remarkable story and the other rucking with EIB candidates.