

# THE POWDER RIVER REVIEW

The voice of the Wild West Division's Headquarters Company

"Powder River, Let'er Buck"

## Editor's Note

We are endeavoring to start a new series of newsletters to report on the activities of the 91<sup>st</sup> Division Headquarters Company. If you have an event or something that you would like to have covered please contact 1st Lt. Kevin Braafladt [kevin.d.braafladt.mil@mail.mil](mailto:kevin.d.braafladt.mil@mail.mil) or Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hudson [jason.v.hudson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jason.v.hudson.mil@mail.mil) for story submission requirements. All stories are subject to editing by Public Affairs Office staff. In addition we also hope to include details of our Division's history as well as historic items of interest.

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## Company Commander

First off, I would like to thank all of you for your dedication and hard work in accomplishing all of the tasks that were asked of you during this Battle Assembly. We were able to accomplish several mission essential requirements; completing mandatory training in the classroom and online, weapons qualifications for M16 and M9, SRP and other section driven requirements. Despite challenges, we were able to continue to execute the mission and complete these tasks. With the completion of this



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jay Christ Obusan

Battle Assembly, we end another training year. However, there is still a lot of work to be done to prepare for the new training year and the next CSTP exercises. I look forward to working with all of you and will see you again in November. Powder River!

## Qualification Range



With the midday sun scorching the earth and skin, Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 91<sup>st</sup> Training Division endured a long day of rifle and pistol qualification, Sept. 19, 2015. As part of their annual training and requirements, Soldiers fired M-16A2 service rifles and M-9 pistols at pop-up targets to qualify with their designated weapons. Headquarters, Headquarters Company had 45 Soldiers qualify on the rifle and 40 on the pistol.

Above left, Sgt. 1st Class Acevedo, HHC, observes the shooters for safety as they settle into their firing positions during rifle zeroing. Above right, Sgt. 1st Class Kathryn Balvage and Sgt. 1st Class Anita Crusoe-Bellas, both from HHC, check their shot groupings at the rifle zeroing range.

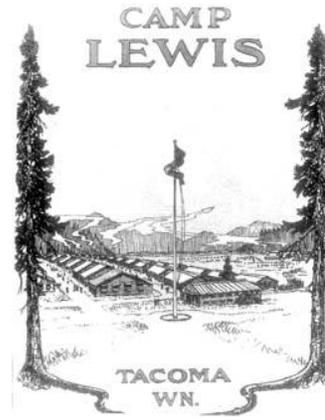
## Giving Back to the Community



On September 5<sup>th</sup>, soldiers of the 91<sup>st</sup> Training Division HHC conducted an independent effort to give back to the community by making bag lunches and handing them out to homeless living in the city of Monterey. The effort was started by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Larel Bonner, his wife Melinda, as well as their children Nick and Brielle. Maj. Jesus Cruz as well as his wife Dianna, as well as their children Taylor and Rylie also participated in making bag lunches consisting of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, bananas, potato chips and a bottle of water. If you would like to help please contact 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bonner or Maj. Cruz for more details.

## 91<sup>st</sup> Division Centennial

As we complete this September Battle Assembly it is important for us to remember that 98 years ago this month marks the date when the first soldiers began to arrive at what was then Camp Lewis, Washington to activate the 91<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and to begin their basic training for combat in Europe in World War One. In a short two years we will begin to mark these important dates for our Division's history. August 5, 1917 was the day that the 91<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division was officially activated at Camp Lewis. We hope to coordinate with the Joint Base Lewis-McChord museum to arrange a joint centennial event. The current 91<sup>st</sup> Division Historian is also currently planning events commemorating our founding here at Fort Hunter Liggett as well. The 91<sup>st</sup> Division League, an association which has supported the Divisions soldiers past and present, is planning a large event in 2017 to celebrate the founding of the Division. The event will be held in Burlingame and is expected to attract as many as 1500 people. Please continue to check future newsletters or contact the 91<sup>st</sup> Division Historian 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kevin Braafladt for additional details.



## Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jonathan S. Mason Retirement/ Award Ceremony



On Sunday September 20, a joint retirement/ award ceremony was held to both celebrate soldiers' accomplishments as well as to celebrate the career of one of our fellow soldiers. The soldiers honored during the award ceremony were Sgt. 1st Class Lafond Alijuah who received an Army Commendation Medal, Staff Sgt. Armando Zaragoza who received an Army Achievement Medal, and Staff Sgt Zackary Rooney who also received an Army Achievement Medal. The retirement ceremony was held for Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Sterling Mason who served a total of 23 years in service. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal 2nd award, Army Achievement Medal 4th award, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal 6th award, National Defense Service Medal w/ Bronze Star device, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/ Campaign Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ 20 year device - Silver Hour Glass, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ M device and numeral 2, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon w/ Numeral 2, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon 2nd award, NATO Medal, Driver Badge, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge w/ Rifle Bar, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation Award. Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Sterling Mason intends to further his education, start a family and to keep moving forward. We join in wishing Sgt. 1st Class Mason the best of luck in his future endeavors and it has truly been an honor to know and work with him through the years! Congratulations on your retirement! Powder River, Let'er Buck!