

# THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

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# THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

*Staff*



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## the Mounted Rifleman

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Troopers, Families and Friends of the 3d Cavalry Regiment, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! I want to thank each and every one of you for what you do, and all of the accomplishments you have achieved in 2016. It truly was a great year for the Regiment. I am proud to serve with such a dedicated and professional group of servicemen and women.

As our deployment to Afghanistan comes to a close, the Troopers will return home and join their families and the rest of the Regiment at home station. During this time, the Regiment will reset before beginning training exercises again. It is important to remember we must remain a trained and ready force at all times to ensure we are prepared if called upon to defend our great Nation, just as we have for the past 170 years.

With that said, I want to thank all of our Brave Rifles family members. Without you, our mission would not be possible to achieve. You are the foundation for our Troopers, and your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. Your continued support allows us to focus on our mission, and continue to be a resilient and ready force.

As we head in to 2017, do not forget you are part of the rich history of the 3d Cavalry Regiment. Remember the successes you have had and continue to challenge yourself to become



better each day. I also want us all to remember SGT Douglas Riney who gave his life in support of Operation Resolute Support, our wounded Troopers and all those who've lost loved ones this past year. GEN George S. Patton Jr., the 28th Colonel of the Regiment and famous WWII leader, once said, "it is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived." Our Nation is blessed to have so many men and women who've volunteered to serve as Soldiers

in defense of freedom and our way of life. Best wishes to all of you for the New Year, and thanks for all you have done to help keep America safe.

Brave Rifles!  
Veterans!

Kevin Admiral  
COL, AR  
76th Colonel of the Regiment



Troopers,

As we begin a new year, I want to thank you for the commitment and determination that you displayed each day to accomplishing the mission. Whether you are deployed or at home station, you are a valuable member of this team. Every task you complete, regardless of how colossal or minuscule, has a direct impact on the Soldiers, civilians, and family members who are a part of this Regiment. Our many successes as a Regiment are a direct reflection of your loyalty, perseverance, and attention to detail. As our operations in Afghanistan come to a close, continue to stay focused on identifying opportunities to achieve excellence throughout 2017 by continuing to build upon the great achievements of the Regiment. You must remove and overcome the obstacles in your way by challenging yourself to become better at what you do, as a leader and as a Soldier. Identify, plan and commit to the pursuit of a goal, and achieve it.

Additionally, I want to personally thank the families of the Brave Rifles Troopers for your unwavering support. Simply put, you are the rock of our Soldiers. Your sacrifice and encouragement continues to fortify our great Regiment. We, the command team, wholeheartedly encourage



family members to actively participate in the Family Readiness Groups, in which, will help us remain an effective fighting force ready to fight tonight.

Troopers, families and friends of the Regiment, it is an honor and privilege to work and serve with you all as the Regimental Command Sergeant Major. I thank you all for your daily contributions and look forward to working with you

as we continue into the New Year. Remember to keep safety in all of your daily endeavors. Our mission is paramount, remain resilient, and work together as one team--the Brave Rifles Team.

Ai-ee-yah!

Brian Barker  
XXI Regimental Command  
Sergeant Major

# Brave Rifles train for deployment

Story and photography by Staff Sgt. Tomora Clark

**A**n up-armored vehicle crept along a soggy pathway spewing mud as it traveled. Suddenly, a target appeared a few hundred feet from the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle.

Boom. Boom. Boom. Simulated ammunition was fired at the target. The wooden silhouetted-target fell behind a small hill, which it originated from.

Clink. A mechanical latch opened and several Troopers quickly scurried out of the MRAP's rear door to tacti-

cally rush a nearby wooden shack.

Soldiers with 4th Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, conducted mounted and dismounted operations April 25-27 in preparation for their upcoming June deployment to Afghanistan.

The exercise served as one of three training events the squadron conducted.

Capt. Ronald Rice, the commander of Lightning Troop, 4th Squadron, said, "[This training] helps my Soldiers

get a feel for what we may encounter in Afghanistan. A lot of the Soldiers in my unit haven't deployed before and this training just builds upon the skills they already have. It also helps get my Soldiers in the right mindset. Our mission is to ensure the safety of our troops as they advise the Afghan forces; we will provide the security element for an advisor team."

Rice said this will be his second combat deployment and his third overseas tour; he often offers advice to the younger, inexperienced Troopers.

"Situations can change in an instant," said Rice. "You have to be ready and prepared mentally to not only defend yourself but others as well."

Rice is one of many combat veterans within his unit. Staff Sgt. David Wall, a cavalry scout and squad leader in Lightning Troop, also offered his advice to his Soldiers.

"Train as you fight; I always tell my Soldiers to take it



Troopers with Lightning Troop, 4th Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, prepare to clear a wooden shack April 27 during a live-fire training exercise at Pilot Knob Multi-Use range at Fort Hood, Texas.



seriously because you have to prepare yourself as if you are on the battlefield,” Wall said.

Both Rice and Wall said they look forward to deploying with their Troopers and unit.

“I’m so proud of my Troopers,” Rice said. “My Soldiers have come a long way since they started training seven months ago and will do well with any mission they’re placed on during the deployment.”

“I’m happy to help train less experienced Soldiers, and I look forward to deploying with them,” Wall added.

Once again, the training area roared to life as the dismounted Troopers approached the wooden shack.

Rat-tat-tat. Live ammunition was fired inside the shack. The Soldiers cleared the makeshift building and swiftly navigated back through the swampy, knee-high grass field returning to their vehicle.

Clink. The mechanical door on the MRAP shut. The vehicle rumbled to life and continued to traverse down the muddy road in search of more targets.



Troopers with Lightning Troop, 4th Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, tactically move through grassy terrain toward their target April 27 at Pilot Knob Multi-Use range Fort Hood, Texas.



Troopers with Lightning Troop, 4th Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, quickly exit from a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle April 27 during a mounted and dismounted training exercise at Pilot Knob Multi-Use Range at Fort Hood, Texas.



A Trooper with 3rd Cavalry Regiment walks toward a staging area to receive a briefing before daytime live-fire training inside the Fort Hood training area.

# Afghanistan

## 3d Cav. Regt. on the ground

Story and photography by Capt. Grace Geiger

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment assumed responsibility of the Train, Advise and Assist Command-East mission during a transfer of responsibility ceremony at Operating Base Fenty here June 7.

The ceremony exemplified the spirit of partnership in every way. Members of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police forces sat alongside their U.S. Army and NATO coalition force counterparts to farewell 3rd Brigade Combat Team “Patriots,” of the 10th Mountain Division, and welcome the 3rd Cav. Regt. “Brave Rifles.”

After casing his unit’s colors, Col. Guy Jones, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander, thanked his soldiers for their teamwork during the deployment. Partnership is about working together to establish

U.S. Army soldiers stand together with an Afghan National Army soldier during the Train, Advise and Assist Command-East mission transfer of responsibility ceremony at Tactical Base Fenty, Afghanistan, June 7, 2016. The ceremony transferred responsibility of the TAAC-E mission from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division to 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

brotherhood between the Afghan forces and U.S. soldiers, said Jones.

As the morning summer heat began to build, Col. Kevin D. Admiral and Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Barker, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment command

team, uncased their regimental colors signifying the official start of the unit’s mission here.

“The 3rd Cavalry Regiment is no stranger to Afghanistan,” said Admiral. “Today, we begin another chapter of our 170-year history of the Regi-

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**“The 3rd Cavalry Regiment is no stranger to Afghanistan. Today, we begin another chapter of our 170-year history of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen.”**

**-Kevin D. Admiral**  
76th Col. of the Regiment

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Col. Kevin D. Admiral and Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Barker, 3rd Cavalry Regiment command team, uncase the regimental colors during the Train, Advise and Assist Command-East mission transfer of responsibility ceremony at Tactical Base Fenty, Afghanistan, June 7, 2016. The ceremony transferred responsibility of the TAAC-E mission from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division to 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

ment of Mounted Riflemen.”

Brig. Gen. Michael Howard, the commanding general of TAAC-E and deputy commanding general of 10th Mountain Division, attended the ceremony and thanked the Patriots team for their hard work and progress made throughout their deployment.

“I will never stop owing each of you a debt of gratitude,” said

Howard of the 10th Mountain Soldiers. “Going forward, we are going to honor your accomplishments by carrying on your work.”

Howard also welcomed the Brave Rifles team and reminded those in attendance the reason we are here is to partner. The 3rd Cavalry Regiment takes on the responsibility of training, advising and assisting the Afghan National Defense

Forces counterparts in providing security for the people of eastern Afghanistan.

“I’m not worried,” said Howard of the transition. “You (Brave Rifles) have already picked up where the Patriots left off.”

This is the Brave Rifles second deployment to Afghanistan in support of the TAAC-E mission.

# Shoulder to Shoulder

I WILL NEVER QUIT ON LIFE



U.S. ARMY

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PG 9

# Third Cavalry Museum



## MUSEUM HOURS

Mon-Fri:

9a.m. - 4p.m.

Sat: 10a.m. - 4p.m.

Sun: Noon - 4p.m.

Created in 1930, the museum has followed the Regiment to every location it has called home. In 1986 the museum was officially staffed with professionals, charged with the responsibility of keeping the Regiment's history alive.



This animated picture frame is of Pvt. Timothy Cunningham, the first Trooper to lose his life during the battle of Vera Cruz, Mexico. After 164 years, his memory lives on as he welcomes each visitor who enters the museum.



3d U.S. Cavalry  
Association Gift Shop  
located inside the museum



# Brothers in Arms

Story and photography by Capt. Grace Geiger

At first glance, the sight of the two U.S. Army infantry staff sergeants discussing upcoming operations around a map seems like just another common occurrence here. With a closer look, however, a person could think their vision is playing tricks on them.

“This isn’t the first time this has happened,” explained Staff Sgt. Mark Szyman, a squad leader in Heavy Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment. “Our first sergeant used to think we were messing with him by wearing the same name tapes.”

Across from him, nodding his head in agreement, sits Staff Sgt. Nicholas Szyman, also a squad leader in Heavy Troop. The two are brothers, and natives of San Antonio, Texas, but currently they find themselves on a small tactical base in eastern Afghanistan.

“This also isn’t the first time we’ve found ourselves overseas together,” said Nicholas. “We were stationed together in Hawaii, and deployed together to Iraq from 2007-2009.”

For the brothers, the military is a

family profession. Their younger brother, Travis Szyman, was also in Heavy Troop with them before getting out of the Army, said Nicholas, and their father also served in the military.

“Our parents are supportive of us,” said Mark. “I think it’s better for my mom to know that we are together and can look out for one another.”

Approximately halfway through their 9 month deployment, the brothers agree being together is a great experience. They also agree this deployment is different than their deployment to Iraq. Their troop is supporting Train, Advise

and Assist Command-East and the advising mission here.

Mark, the oldest, is a squad leader in the ground defense zone platoon. His mission consists of providing force protection for the area immediately surrounding the base.

Nicholas is a guardian angel team leader. As a guardian angel, he facilitates the train, advise and assist mission by providing security for the advisor teams when they conduct engagements with their Afghan counterparts.

“I think I have the better mission,” said Nicholas, half-joking-



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Szyman shakes hands with Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning during his visit to Train, Advise and Assist Command-East in eastern Afghanistan Sept. 16, 2016.





U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Szyman (left), and his brother Staff Sgt. Nicholas Szyman in front of the Train, Advise and Assist Command-East headquarters in eastern Afghanistan Sept. 10, 2016. The brothers are currently deployed together with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

ly. “But, he [Mark] does get to ride around in helicopters a lot more than I do.”

Capt. Russell Huebner, former Heavy Troop commander, enjoyed the added sense of family spirit having siblings in his troop.

“The good thing about having brothers in the unit is they bring others in to the family bond they have,” said Huebner. “They really raise the troop’s morale.”

“The best thing about being together during our deployment is being able to vent to my brother when I can’t talk to anyone else,” said Nicholas. “He knows and understands what’s going on here already.”

“We have gone through literally everything together,” said Mark.

When they aren’t in Afghanistan, the brothers are stationed together at Fort Hood, Texas. They admit they don’t spend as

much time together back home because of their busy schedules. Nicholas is married to Rachel Syzman, and they have two children, Trinity and Liberty. Mark is married to Mary Kate Szyman, and the couple lives near Austin, Texas.

This deployment is also a bitter-sweet time for the brothers, as Mark plans to leave the Army after the deployment. But, for now, they are enjoying every moment together.



# In Memoriam

*3d Cavalry Regiment remembers the Troopers  
who now gather on Fiddler's Green.*

*PFC Stacy Hardy*      Beaverton, Oregon

*SPC Korey James*      College Park, Georgia

*PVT Kevin Paulino*      Bronx, New York

*SGT Douglas Riney*      Fairview, Illinois

3d U.S. Cavalry Association  
*“Connecting the Veterans of today with the Veterans of yesterday.”*

The 3d U.S. Cavalry Association was formed to preserve the history, traditions and heritage of the storied 3d CR. As an active member you will be able to provide input in all activities that support the Regiment and keep cavalry tradition alive. Membership information can be found at:

[www.braverifles.org](http://www.braverifles.org)



*Harvey Reed*

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**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
AI-EE-YAH  
ON**