



# Ready Press

Ready First Combat Team  
1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division  
Covers From 01- 30 June



Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment conduct consistent training to keep their firing skills sharp. Elements of 2-3 FA are currently deployed.

Right: An excerpt from a publication created by 3rd Armored Division veterans. The publication includes various photographs from different wartime eras. 2-3FA originated as part of 3 AD before eventually finding its home within the 1st Armored Division.

Photos courtesy of 2-3 FA

## SPEARHEAD



*For those who have fought for it,  
freedom has a taste  
the protected will never know.*



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## Ready Press



### To the Soldiers and Families of the READY FIRST Brigade



Dear Soldiers, Families and Friends of the Ready First Brigade,

We hope this note finds you well and enjoying summer. Whether maintaining readiness at Fort Bliss or accomplishing the mission in Afghanistan, the Soldiers of the brigade continue to excel in their duties. As July turns to August, the Ready First Combat Team begins its eighth month of deployment across Afghanistan. The brigade continues conducting its assigned missions while starting preparations for the return to Fort Bliss. Although everyone looks forward to reuniting with family, it is essential we remain focused on the mission.

At Fort Bliss, Soldiers from the Rifles, Catamount, and Provider Battalions continue to excel at combined arms and live fire training. Such training events provide realistic opportunities for our Soldiers to remain ready. We're also glad that the Soldiers that have worked so hard training, preparing for deployment, preparing others for deployment, or conducting essential services at Fort Bliss had the opportunity to take leave. Although the last few months brought a degree of uncertainty about the potential for further deployment, the Soldiers of the Ready Detachment carried out their duty with professionalism.

In Afghanistan, the Soldiers of Task Forces Spartan, Buffalo, Dragoon and Gunner continue to train, advise and assist the Afghan Security Forces and support our Coalition partners across the country. Recently, we said farewell to our teammates from the 1st Cavalry Division and welcomed Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division. When not conducting operations, Soldiers continue self-improvement. Over 60 Ready First Soldiers completed the Basic Leader Course over the past month. Successful completion allows Soldiers to transition from the rank of Specialist to that of Sergeant. Additionally, Soldiers continue to take care of each other by volunteering to help improve their battle buddy's educational skills. In turn, increased academic proficiency opens additional career fields to Soldiers.

Soon, the brigade will begin redeployment operations. Although everyone is excited to get home, we still have critical tasks to accomplish every day. Before heading home, we must also set the conditions for our replacement's success. We owe nothing less to them, their families and the Nation. Your loved one will be home soon. It is important that your and your Soldier prepare for reintegration and reunion. We encourage you to participate in your Family Readiness Group (FRG) where they can help prepare you for what to expect when your Soldier returns home. Change and growth over a period of separation is normal but love is not bound by time.

Thank you for your continued support.

**READY FIRST!**

**IRON SOLDIERS!**

CSM EUGENE RUSSELL

CSM, Ready First Combat Team

COL ERIC S. STRONG

Commander, Ready First Combat Team



4-17 IN

## Ready First Combat Team

# “Truth AND courage!”

## Medics

Chimera Company, Task Force Buffalo, is comprised of Soldiers from the Charlie Medical Company, 501<sup>st</sup> BSB, as well as additional Soldiers from the Medical Platoon, HHC, 4-17 IN. Chimera Company currently occupies the Role II Medical Treatment Facility on OB Fenty and is in charge of all Medical Operations in the region; including triage, treatment, and casualty evacuation, as well as normal clinical operations. The 624<sup>th</sup> Forward Surgical Team (FST) is collocated with the Role II in order to provide more advanced life-support and resuscitative capabilities. Together, Charlie Med and the FST work together to provide life-saving treatments and interventions to wounded Soldiers as well as to our Afghan National Army partners.

Chimera Company provides medical support and services to over 2,000 personnel on OB Fenty, as well as supporting various entities conducting combat and sustainment operations in the surrounding area. Over the course of five months, the Role II has seen and successfully treated over 1,500 routine patients as well as providing resuscitative care to over 90 emergent patients, ultimately resulting in their successful evacuation to a higher echelon of care. Key personnel at the Role II including MAJ Miletta, SGT Bell, SGT Feliciano, and SPC Carrubba, provide important Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) refresher classes in order to enhance and validate the medical skills of all Soldiers as well as to provide extra hands-on experience with equipment and supplies. They have also trained and certified Task Force Buffalo Soldiers as Combat Life Savers

(CLS), further increasing the medical capabilities provided for Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and civilians throughout Eastern Afghanistan. The Role II is comprised of two sections, the Clinic and the Headquarters elements, with a total of 17 Soldiers in various specialty positions. The clinic team is led by MAJ Miletta (OIC), and SGT Feliciano (NCOIC); while the commander, CPT Doherty, NCOIC, SGT Bell, and Executive Officer, 1LT Scozzafava lead the headquarters and entire Role II team. Some of the specialty ancillary services that provide additional capabilities to the facility include: the dental section, led by CPT Schlenker; laboratory services, managed by SGT Hudson; and the X-ray and radiology services, headed by SPC Saldecke. These additional capabilities allow Physicians and Surgeons to make more accurate diagnoses and provide precise treatments that enable Soldiers to quickly return to the fight. SPC Brinson, SPC Carrubba, SPC Jones, SPC Hanson, and SGT Choi work tirelessly to provide the best possible care in the clinic under the direction from MAJ Miletta and 1LT Washington. 1LT Hand, the Brigade Medical Supply Officer (BMSO), ensures that constant resupply and logistical operations are completed for Class VIII (medical) items, supplies, and equipment for all of Train Advise Assist Command-East (TAAC-E).

It is through the deliberate and concerted efforts of all the Role II sections and their respective Soldiers that make the Role II a successful organization.

Charlie Med, FST, and Dustoff Training Together



SPC Jones Practices Giving IV's





## 6-1 CAV

# Ready Press

The Dragoons have had another very busy month in Afghanistan. The Squadron continued to support the train, advise, and assist mission here at AP Lightning. On a daily basis, this involves the Troopers providing security for Task Force Southeast on AP Lightning, and for the Military Advising Team advisors as they work with their ANA counterparts on FOB Thunder. It also involves Troopers providing the same security and protection for the Police Advising Team as they conduct their mission with the Afghan National Police. The Squadron continues to work as part of Task Force Southeast to help build and support Afghan Security Forces.

The Squadron recently executed a mission off of AP Lightning in support of the MAT for Task Force Southeast. The purpose of the mission was for the MAT Advisors to take their Afghan counterparts out to their subordinates to plan, inspect, and supervise operations. This involves helicopter movement of advisors, Afghan leadership, and security forces to one of the subordinate unit headquarters for the 203<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Troopers from the Squadron, advisors, and Afghan leaders travelled to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 203<sup>rd</sup> Corps headquarters in Ghanzi City, Ghazni province, which borders Paktiya province. This entailed one of the Troops, Blackfoot, moving to the headquarters by helicopter to provide security for the operation. Once on the ground, Troopers provided security for the MAT advisors as they conducted their mission in support of their Afghan counterparts. After several hours of advising at the brigade headquarters, the Troop and MAT Advisors returned to AP Lightning. Throughout the operation at FOB Sultan, your troopers executed at the highest levels, contributing to the success of the Dragoon Squadron and Task Force Southeast.

Task Force Southeast hosted its third physical Fitness Competition to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July on June 30<sup>th</sup>, as well as a 5k/10k/half marathon on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Physical fitness competition was organized and graded by Comanche

Troop and planned by SSG Eric Wiley. It presented a chance for the Troopers of the Squadron to compete as teams and build esprit-de-corps. The winning team came from Apache



CPT Douglas Snodgrass and CPT Timothy Lee at the HHT, 6-1 CAV CoC

Troop, and was made up of 1LT Zach Geesey, 1LT John Afdem, SSG Willard Ruiz, with two Flour employees Jason Montano and Ted Craig. The half marathon was won by CPT John Kasprisin from the PAT, with 1LT Joe Low of Comanche Troop finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and CPT Marilu Wilkinson from the MAT finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>.

June was also a time of transition for the Squadron, as we held Change of

Command ceremonies for three of the four troops deployed forward here at AP Lightning. Comanche Troop was the first to hold its change of command on June 18<sup>th</sup>, transitioning from CPT Douglas Snodgrass to CPT Daniel Brennan. Horseman Troop held its change of command on July 4<sup>th</sup>, transitioning from CPT Tim Lee to CPT Douglas Snodgrass. Finally, Apache Troop held its change of command on July 7<sup>th</sup>, transitioning from CPT Ernie Mannin to CPT Ron Britt. This is a sad time for the Dragoon family as we say farewell to two great leaders, CPT Lee and CPT Mannin, but wish them luck as they continue their service in the Army. It is also very exciting time as the Dragoon's welcome two new members to its family, CPT Brennan and CPT Britt, and we look forward to a new chapter in the Squadron's long history.

1LT Zach Geesey competing in the TF Southeast PT Competition





16 BEB

Ready First Combat Team

# Catamount Cup Competitions

16<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, held its Second Annual Catamount Cup June 15 2017 at Biggs Park at East Fort Bliss, Texas.

The purpose of the Catamount Cup was to build esprit de corps through intense competition and to reward Soldiers and their families for months of hard work.

The event included 4 games in which each of the seven companies within the battalion would compete against each other. Ultimate football, basketball, volleyball and a 1mile sprint were fiercely contested on this hot Texas Day. Soldiers and family members also got to participate in multiple bounce houses, dunk tank, balloon animals, face painting and a vehicle petting zoo.

At the conclusion of all the intense competition the company that took home the cup was Echo Forward Support Company. Regardless of whether you won or lost the event was an immense success and brought the unit closer together.



1Lt. Adrian Bradley, company commander, Company E, 16<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, is awaiting his fate in the dunk tank at the Catamount Cup June 15 2017.

Soldiers from 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, are all smiles 15 June 2017.

U.S. Army photos by Spc. Nicholas J. Acierno Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.





**501 BSB**

Ready Press

## West Point Cadet Invades the Provider Battalion!

### 1LT Wilson Cheng, BSB UPAR Officer

West Point Cadet '18 Vanessa Wesley from Port St. Lucie, FL. had the opportunity to serve in a platoon leader position during Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) when she was assigned to Alpha Company, 501<sup>st</sup> Brigade Support, Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Fort Bliss for three weeks.

Cadet Wesley shadowed West Point '16 Alum and Transportation Platoon Leader, 2LT Nicholas Mendenhall from Gig Harbor, WA from May 29, 2017 - June 17, 2017. She was a convoy commander for a Logistical Package (LOGPAC) mission to provide fuel, water, and ammunition to the FSCs. While she learned how to lead Provider Soldiers in convoys, Cadet Wesley learned the importance of maintenance, fuel/water, and warehouse operations as well as property accountability to prepare and develop her as a future Logistics Officer.

In addition to experiencing the life of a Transportation Platoon Leader in a Distribution Company, the young West Point cadet had the opportunity to explore the medical sustainment are with another West Point '16 and the BDE Environmental Science and Engineering Officer, 2LT Kelly Redmond from Brighton, MI.

Cadet Wesley inspected dining facilities, water buffalos/hippos, and barbershops and learned how the BDE Environmental Science and Engineering Officer plays an important role in Soldier health and care.

Cadet Vanessa Wesley is a senior at the United States Military Academy at West Point. She majors in Environmental Science and Engineering, a member of the volleyball team, and the Public Affairs Officer. Upon graduation, Cadet Wesley aspire to either branch Transportation or Medical Service.

501st BSB Single Soldiers experienced great resilience training and fun at today's Single Soldier Training Event! June 3, 2017

(Photo courtesy of 501st BSB Facebook page)





3-41 IN

## Ready First Combat Team

Soldiers assigned to Cobra Company, participated in a combined arms live fire exercise during the Combat Aviation Brigade's gunnery certifications. Air assaulting onto the objective, Soldiers maneuvered and conducted live fire engagements against a notional opposing force at the Range 83 mount site.



Below— Soldiers assigned to Cobra Company, participated in counter- improvised explosive devices (CIED) training here, June 22. The training was in-depth, hands on and provided Soldiers with realistic scenarios to test their skills. IEDs are one of the biggest threats the insurgency holds against American forces.





1-36 IN

## BATTLE COMPANY

The month of June has been a full of activity for the Soldiers of Battle Company. Since our last newsletter, we were honored to host COL Eric Strong who stopped by to visit our Soldiers. SPC Vazis, one of our exceptional Battle Company Medics, was personally recognized for his extraordinary and continued efforts. Colonel Strong's presence was greatly appreciated and served as a re-reminder that all of our Soldiers are being genuinely cared for throughout the entirety of our formation.

This month, we also say goodbye to our Executive Officer 1LT Tyler Burke. Our Company's high morale is largely due to the great care he had for all of his Soldiers. He was a crucial part of this Company's success and will be greatly missed by all of his Soldiers. Replacing 1LT Burke, will be myself, 1LT Sean Paradise, as the new XO from our sister company Able, where I served as a Platoon Leader.

This month also serves as a reminder that our Soldiers are one month closer to returning home. While our mission here is on-going and unwavering, our Soldiers dearly look forward to being at home with their friends and loved ones.

-1LT Paradise

28 Jun 1SG Jones presents BDE WOM award to SPC Vazis for actions conducted above and beyond his scope of duties.

Also pictured CPL Montelongo PV2 Hernan



Class on M240B conducted by SSG Hunt held on 28 June

Also pictured PFC Rabanes, SPC Zavala, PFC Cross, SPC Leon





2-3 FA

## Ready First Combat Team

# Bulldog Battery, 2-3 FA shows West Point Superintendent their Iron Thunder

Article By: CPT Sam Litz

Deployment sometimes affords the rare opportunity for Soldiers to interact with visiting senior leaders. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Lt. Gen. Caslen, superintendent of the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, visited TB Gamberi with a team of West Point coaches. While their primary purpose for visiting was to visit West Point graduates and meet leaders interested in serving as faculty. Caslen spent some time in the gun pit with Bravo Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment.

Captain Patrick Saxby, commander of the Bravo Battery “Bulldogs” and West Point graduate, was proud to have the superintendent visit his battery.

“As a cadet at West Point, the Superintendent is almost like a fictional character; you would see him at special events and on the sidelines at football games, but rarely do you get the opportunity to speak with them one-on-one,” Saxby said. “Hosting Lt. Gen. Caslen and his guests at TB Gamberi, and further having the delegation shoot our Howitzer meant the world to my Soldiers, and even more to me as a graduate of West Point.”

The experience was beneficial for all involved. Bulldog Soldiers spoke both with the Superintendent and faculty members, learning more about the opportunities they have to serve at the USMA and help develop cadets into future officers.

Caslen’s staff also fired several rounds from the Bulldogs’ M777 Howitzer. The rare opportunity to shoot artillery in a combat zone will surely be a memorable experience for them all. According to Captain Saxby, however, it is their discussion with the Soldiers that is most important.

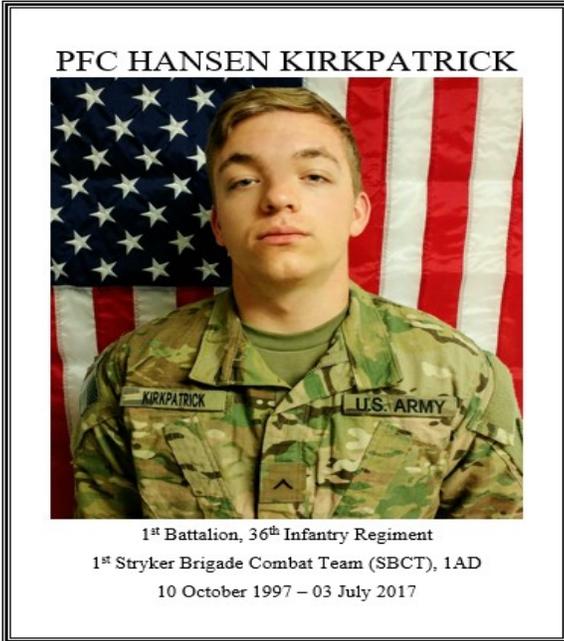
“Lt. Gen. Caslen and the distinguished visitors got to speak with my Soldiers, and they will take these experiences back to the cadets that will one day lead these Soldiers in combat,” he said.

Captain Saxby and his Bulldogs stand united in their hope that their actions and knowledge can be used to develop West Point cadets. Bravo Battery, 2-3 FA continues to strike fear in the enemies of Afghanistan as they support the Train, Advise, Assist Command – East in Operation Resolute Support.





In honor and loving memory of PFC Hansen Kirkpatrick.



Attack Company, 4-17 IN held a Company level re-enlistment ceremony while forward deployed to Afghanistan



Ready First held it's 2nd Combatives (Level I) Course



Right:  
Area 1A  
DFAC wins  
Field Connelly  
Competition

Task Force Spartan trains Afghan National Army soldiers

Questions or comments? Email:

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