

# Iron Brigade

January, 2018, Vol. 1 Issue 2

Magazine



**Special Holiday Edition**



President Trump took time to participate in a Christmas Eve video teleconference with members of the Iron Brigade and other service members from all the other branches of service. Inset, members of the Iron Brigade sit and listen to the President's Christmas message and got a chance to ask a few questions to their Commander-in-Chief.

# Iron Brigade Magazine

January 2018, vol. 1 issue 2.

Editor: SSG Adriana Diaz-Brown

BDE PAO: MAJ Scott McCullough

Commander: COL Charles Lombardo

BDE CSM: CSM Kevin DaGraca

Executive Officer: MAJ Derek Drouin

## Contributors:

2LT Matthew French

2LT Malay Pigford

1LT Caroline Schultheis

CH MAJ Troy Blan

1LT Jacob Ostergard

2LT Jakob Stewart

1LT Jeff Steele

1LT Courtney Corcoran

SPC Tara Kay

The Iron Brigade Magazine is the official magazine of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division and its subordinate commands. It is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Iron Brigade Magazine are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of the Army. The Iron Brigade Magazine is published quarterly under supervision of the 2nd ABCT, 1st AD Public Affairs Officers. To provide information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. Manuscripts of interest to Army personnel are invited to be considered for publication in the Iron brigade Magazine. Direct communication is encouraged by contacting the editor via email at: [adriana.m.diazbrown.mil@mail.mil](mailto:adriana.m.diazbrown.mil@mail.mil). Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copy write items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to the Iron Brigade Magazine and the author. All photographs by U.S. Army except as otherwise credited. The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department.

COVER: Bone Crusher Battery, 4-27th Field Artillery Regiment conducts a fire mission in support of Operations Inherent Resolve (U.S. Army photo)

# Greetings from Strike 6 & 7



As the holiday season comes to an end, we should take time to reflect on the past year and all of the accomplishments that the brigade has achieved. In just the past year the Iron Brigade has gone from the Army's experimental test unit to a fully deployed Armored Brigade Combat Team supporting one of the most dynamic and compelling missions available. From the gated training evolutions, to the crucible of the National Training Center, to the unprecedented physical deployment, the Soldiers of the Iron Brigade continue to fight and win.

We want to thank the Soldiers of the Iron Brigade for their hard work and dedication over the past year. Your immense effort and significant contribution to both

Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve is a credit to your service and we are very blessed to be able to serve with you. Your efforts have gone a long way towards emboldening our partners and providing options to the Central Command Commander since we assumed this mission.

We have learned that peace, freedom and good will must be purchased through the selfless sacrifices of the Soldiers of our U.S. Army. In fact, the recent defeat of ISIS is proof of what can be earned through sacrifice and close cooperation with our allies in the region. With continued partnership and focus on interoperability we can continue to bring these priceless blessings to people everywhere.

With a great deal of personal pride in your accomplishments, we wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a successful and rewarding New Year.

Strike Hard!



# SMA visits Iron Soldiers at Camp Buehring

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Adriana Diaz- Brown, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team

The 15th Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel A. Dailey, visited Soldiers and senior enlisted leaders assigned to the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team to discuss his Army-wide leader development initiatives, talk to the troops, and answer questions for Soldiers at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Dec. 18.

During his visit, Dailey talked to more than 200 Soldiers on upcoming changes to the Army's promotion policy, the new Army Service Uniform and the Army Noncommissioned Officer Education System, while receiving essential feedback from troops.

"I came to Camp Buehring to see how the Soldiers are doing," said Dailey. "It's the holidays, and we have a great number of Soldiers here doing a very important mission."

Additionally, Dailey observed Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment execute Table 5 for tank and Bradley proficiency gunnery. While there, he observed the Master Gunners in the control tower executing a Bradley "run."

"For the SMA to take the time to come out to the range and see our Soldiers in their everyday job, meant the world to them," said Command Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Hankins, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment. "I am honored that the brigade CSM



1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment Command Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Hankins (right) briefs Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey (left) Dec. 18 on the execution of the battalion Table 5 for tank and Bradley proficiency gunnery. Dailey visited the "Iron Soldiers" in Camp Buehring, Kuwait to have an open discussion with the Soldiers and answer their questions.



Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey presents a coin to Spc. Tara Kay, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment Dec. 18 during his visit to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

selected my battalion to host the SMA. The Soldiers are still talking about the visit,” Hankins said. While meeting with Soldiers, joining them for lunch and touring the facilities, Dailey presented coins of excellence to troops who have exceeded the standard with their hard work and dedication.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to have met Sergeant Major of the Army Dailey,” said Spc. Tara Kay, a human resource specialist with 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. “He is very humble and it is obvious he cares about the Soldiers,” she added.

Dailey’s visit furthered the “Iron Brigade’s” initiative to communicate for success by allowing Soldiers and opportunity to provide essential feedback and voice their insight on how to improve the Army as a whole for years to come.

Right: Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey and Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment pose for a photo Dec. 18 during his visit to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



# Happy Holidays from 1-1 CAV



Story and photos by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Caroline Schultheis,  
1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment

Happy Holidays from the Troopers at the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment!

While the Blackhawks were spread across the Middle East and unable to celebrate as a whole, each troop held holiday celebrations to spread cheer and ring in the New Year.

Apache Troop, Bandit Troop, Comanche Troop and Demon Troop all spent their holidays working hard to support the operations of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Bandit Troop held a Christmas dinner for the 1-1 CAV command team during their battlefield rotation, where the Squadron Commander, LTC Jonathon Genge, and Troop Commander, CPT Ryan Griffin, served each meal to their Troopers. 2nd Platoon, Platoon Leader, 1LT Joseph Pervall, shared his holiday tradition of watching Home Alone 2 with the rest of the team.

Demon Troop stayed warm by having a fire for the Soldiers to relax and unwind around. HHT, Dakota Troop, and Desperado Company all celebrated the holidays from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, where they participated in the Brigade Organiza-

tion Day and holiday dinner at the dining facility.

The Squadron staff held a White Elephant party, with snacks, hot cocoa and holiday movies. The gifts ranged from mini speakers, to a pack of napkins wrapped in newspaper. Being away from family and friends during the holidays is not ideal, but the Troopers of 1-1 CAV came together, celebrated, and created lifelong memories and friendships.



# *Twas the Nightstalker Christmas...*

Story and photos by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Matthew French,  
1st Battalion, 184th Infantry



The 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Battalion "Nightstalkers" enjoyed a festive Christmas dinner, complimented with decorations, music, and traditional holiday dishes. The dining facility staff worked tirelessly most of the day in preparation of the holiday dinner.

The Nightstalker Food Service section were meticulous in their preparation for the holiday. Every Soldier, Sailor, Marine and civilian were appreciative of the extra time and energy spent making the holiday meal feel like home.

Service members from all different branches eagerly awaited the holiday sights and decor of the dining facility. Decorations included; a ten foot Christmas tree, dimmed lights, balloon bouquets, buffet tables, appetizers and shrimp pyramid. Service members were also presented with head scarves and chocolates by the dining facility staff.

At the main line, senior leaders from the Nightstalker Battalion happily served guests roast beef and turkey. Filling in the remainder of their plates were options such as mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, and cornbread.

Throughout the night, Soldiers unwrapped gifts received from loved ones back home. Many troops took part in video chats with family, as they watched their children eagerly wake up and tear open presents with excitement.

As the day ended, we were all thankful for our Army family here and our family back home who helped us make this a memorable Christmas in Jordan.

# Iron Thunder Celebrates the Holidays as a Team

Story and photos by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jacob Ostergard,  
4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery



December was a busy month for the Soldiers of Iron Thunder. 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery conducted Table VI Certification from December 18th to the 21st on Udairi Range. Completing table VI was necessary to certify eighteen gun crews and six Fire Direction Centers (FDCs). It is a critical step towards building lethality through live-fire.

During the certification gun crews, Forward Observers, and Fire Direction all worked together as a team to deliver accurate cannon fires. This certification readies our crews and batteries to support of Operation Inherent Resolve and any follow-on operations. The battalion fired over 370 rounds during both day and night iterations honing these veteran gun crews and FDCs.

After days of training and ranges the "Iron Thunder" battalion was getting ready to celebrate the holidays as a team. Soldiers partic-



ipated in the brigade's first annual organizational day, where they had the opportunity to compete against their peers in friendly competition and challenges in order to build unit moral and esprit de corps among the battalions.

Meanwhile, Bravo Battery continues with their preparation to support Iron Union as part of efforts to consolidate their bilateral relations and exchange training and military expertise.

# 47th BSB Gets in the Spirit of the Holidays

Story and photos by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Courtney Corcoran  
47th Brigade Support Battalion

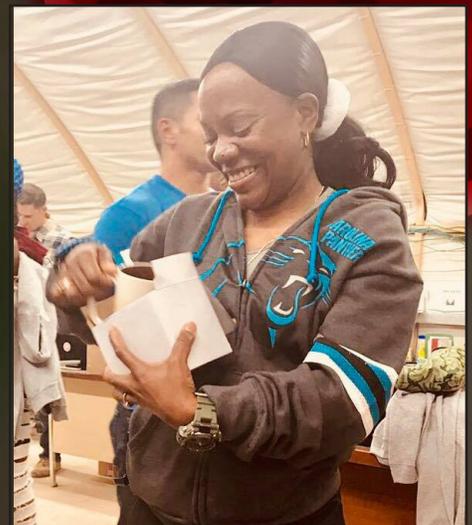
The 47th Brigade Support Battalion celebrated the spirit of Christmas and the holidays in many different ways.

The 47th BSB has been busy supporting the maintenance, transportation, dining facility, and medical support for 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team. It has been important to the BSB to not only continue to provide support to the brigade's mission, but to also take a moment to enjoy one another during the holidays.

Each company received Christmas stockings for all of their Soldiers from different organizations on Camp Buehring or from the states.

The day before Christmas and Christmas morning, each company had a holiday get-together to remind Soldiers they aren't alone and that they had their Army family to celebrate with.

On December 25, the Battalion Chaplain provided an opportunity for the staff to attend the Radisson Blue in Kuwait City for a Christmas dinner buffet following a visit to the Boat Museum and an outdoor mall.



# Battering Rams Spread Holiday Cheer

Story and photos by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Jakob Steward, 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion

Task Force Rams spread holiday cheer throughout Kuwait Naval Base, Camp Patriot on the Christmas Eve and Christmas holidays.

On Christmas Eve, the Battering Rams introduced holiday cheer by way of singing Christmas Carols beginning with a small concert lead by the battalion chaplain 1st Lt. Euy Suk Cho.

Shortly following the concert, the Chaplain provided gift boxes from a variety of support organizations for the soldiers of the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion which contained small gifts, snacks, candy, and "Thank You" cards. After the gift boxes were given to Soldiers, the Chaplain and other Soldiers traveled throughout Camp Patriot and sang Christmas Carols to all the housing quarters within.

On Christmas Morning, Task Force Rams provided Christmas dinner to the Soldiers lead by Headquarters and Headquarters Company. The dinner included VIP guests from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team out of Camp Buehring.



# Bandits End 2017 Strong

Story and photos by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jeff Steele,  
1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment

Since deploying to the Middle East, 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, has maintained the same rapid tempo of operations that they had become known for at Fort Bliss.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company has elements operating in both Iraq and Kuwait. The Tactical Command Post, Scouts, and Mortars have been conducting security force operations in Iraq.

Back in Kuwait, the Tactical Operations Center has been facilitating the maneuver companies train up and readiness in preparation for the exercises with regional partners such as Oman, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. Alpha Company, in addition to numerous small arms ranges, just qualified their first four M1A2 Abrams crews during the most recent iteration of gunnery. Of the qualified crews, two scored over 900 of 1000 possible points earning themselves Distinguished Honors. Bravo Company also had three M1A2 crews qualify during the gunnery. Two of their three crews qualified as Distinguished and Banshee 22, commanded by Staff Sgt. Cory Atkinson, achieved the highest score within Strike Brigade at 954.

Charlie Company hit the ground running from the moment they put boots on the ground. Following the execution of numerous ranges, including M4 qualification, Advanced Rifle Marksmanship, and Machine Gun qualification, the dismounted infantry teams culminated their initial set of training with the execution

of both team and squad live-fire exercises. In addition to dismounted training, Charlie Company qualified four M2A3 Bradley Crews, two tallying Distinguished Honors, in preparation for future training opportunities throughout the region.

In support of this rigorous training regimen, Hotel

Forward Support Company has been burning the midnight oil in order to ensure that all operations occur without a hitch. Between the fuel and ammo support, gunneries and other training

exercises, and ensuring that the battalion's fleet is combat ready. The Soldiers within H FSC have served as a vital support system.



With the year closed out, and new, exciting adventures on the horizon, Bandit Battalion doesn't look to be slowing down anytime soon. Regardless of the situation and the tasks demanded of them, they will rise to the occasion and accomplish the mission.

# 1-35 AR Celebrates the Holiday Season

Story and photos by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Malay Pigford, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment



While Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment have been busy conducting mortar training and evaluation program, ranges, and continue to support the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, they also have enjoyed the holidays this year.

The battalion took part in many events during the brigade's first annual organizational day beginning with a cheerful run with fellow battalions. "Conquerors" took the win during the combative competition showing both their mental and physical skills.

The holiday season gave leaders and Soldiers a great opportunity to interact as the battalion leadership served the Soldiers during the Christmas dinner.

The dining facility displayed beautiful food artwork, showing their skill, craftsmanship and dedication to our Soldiers.

Soldiers took part in a secret

santa, giving gifts and expressing affection. "Conquerors" along with the "Iron Brigade" enjoyed the New Year playing volleyball, playing poker and celebrating as a family.





# The Regulars, Iraq and I

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Adriana Diaz- Brown, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team

In the past decade, more than a thousand troops have returned from Iraq, with many thousands still to come. I am one of them. Many Soldiers have even made the trip multiple times, but for me, I was making the trip for the first time. It was only a few days. When I say a few days, I mean it. It was only for five days.

As a public affairs noncommissioned officer, it is my job to tell the story, our story. This week, the story was about Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

It was a cold early morning in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. It was time to wake up. The sound of the alarm clock



was all I could hear after a long night of packing for my first trip to Iraq. I am not going to lie, I was nervous at the uncertainty, but at the same time, I was excited to experience something new.

Along with me was the 1-6 Inf. commander, Lt. Col. Jason Kniffen, 1-6 Inf. Command Sgt. Maj George Elsaesser, Battalion Chaplain Maj. Taiwo Arowosegbe, 1st Sgt, Jared Heisler, Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant. and Spc. Josh Shewell, the battalion human resource specialist.

The time to go was approaching fast. As we arrive to the airfield, Elsaesser said “Staff Sgt. Diaz, have you ever flown on a C-130 before?”

Did I mention that I hate flying? Perhaps that was not the moment for me to think about that. “No, Command Sgt. Maj.,” I replied.

Fortunately, I was traveling with the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. In my mind, who better than the infantrymen to take care of me?

There is nothing more rewarding than to be able to see the hard work and dedication of our Soldiers, and that was the reason for our visit.

“Regulars” Soldiers are forward to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Working with the U.S. Marines and partners from sev-



I just got here.” After a short disparity, I was able to find it and settle in with everyone else.

“Western Iraq is a challenging environment to operate in and I was impressed at how resilient the Soldiers and leadership in Bushmaster Company are,” said Elsaesser. “Their ability to adapt to an ever-changing environment is remarkable and I am proud of all of them,” he added.

As the days went by I realized that it was actually a good place to be. Al Asad Air Base has a 24-hour fitness center and the United Service Organization. The USO was one of my favorite places to be. Soldiers and I would sit there for hours to watch movies as we interact and share different experiences.

Seeing the hard work, dedication and drive the Soldiers had every day as they smile, definitely makes my job worth it. They were welcoming and made it easier for me to tell their story.

After being in the military for nine years, I have to say that my first experience in Iraq was amazing. I would definitely go again. I have had the opportunity to work with amazing people who I can trust and always made me feel at home. The strength of a family, like the strength of an Army, is in its loyalty to each other. That is exactly how the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment made me feel.

eral European nations, the infantrymen from 1-6 Inf. provide fixed site security and a quick reaction force for the area and their mission is vital to the success of the operation.

As we land in Al Asad, Iraq, I really didn't know what to expect. It was time to in-process. I was still trying to process the thought of being in Iraq, thousands of miles away from home.

“Can we please get everyone's ID?” I heard. I knew I had my ID minutes prior. In that instant I couldn't find it. Lt. Col. Kniffen looked at me, waiting for me to provide it. In my head I thought, “yeah, I am definitely in trouble and



# New Years Message

## CHOOSING THE GOOD PART

On one occasion during the Lord's three year ministry, He entered the home of Mary and Martha who were sisters. The Bible states that Mary "sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, you are careful and troubled about many things; but one thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (See Luke 10:38-42)

There was nothing wrong with Martha worrying about the house being straightened up. In some ways I wish my daughter was like Martha when it comes to doing chores. But because Martha's priority was her care for her home, it kept her from having a meaningful relationship with God. What are our priorities in life? What do we care for most? Is it an education? Is it technology? Perhaps your focus is on making lots of money?

There's actually nothing wrong with any of these things. Education is important to set us up for success in the future. Technology allows us to stay connected to friends and to be more efficient in our places of employment like never before. And money allows us to provide for ourselves and families and to enjoy what this earth has to offer. But do we put these cares ahead of those things of eternal value?

One day an expert in time management was speaking to a group of business students and used an illustration those students will never forget. As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a 1 gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar and set it out on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?" Everyone in the class said, "Yes." Then he said, "Really?" He

reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel in, shook the jar causing the pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. He asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?"

By this time the class was onto him. "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in; it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?" "No!" the class shouted. He said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was full to the brim. He looked at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One student raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!" "No," replied the expert, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all." What are the 'big rocks' in your life? As we begin this New Year, I encourage each of us to follow this wise counsel from the Apostle Paul: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:2)

- Chaplain Blan



