

BLACKHORSE FRONTLINE

Blackhorse 6

Greetings to the Best Damn Regiment!

There is no place I'd rather be than in the desert, with best Troopers in the world, as we enable our Army to be Ready Now to win the First Fight. Beginning with Rotation 19-02, we will publish a digital newsletter highlighting our Troopers' as they challenge and train America's Brigade Combat Teams. With this, you can read stories from our Troopers about what they are doing, what happened during the rotation and what we've learned. Also included will be information to events happening around the Regiment and the installation.



Our efforts here are challenging, rewarding and critical to our Army. The Blackhorse Regiment's lethality, professionalism and mastery of maneuver warfare is unmatched in the world today. We do everything in our power to ensure rotating units leave Fort Irwin having faced their toughest opponent - the BLACKHORSE.

Throughout this past rotation fighting the 4th Infantry Division's Iron Brigade, our Troopers performed brilliantly against a tough Brigade that came out here to prove themselves. We conducted a night air assault into their rear area, conducted more spoiling and limited objective attacks than any previous rotation and set a record for the most surface to air kills ever. The Iron Brigade prosecuted the deep fight against us better than any opponent we've faced recently. They were able to see us and target us at long range. Because of this, we've adapted some new TTPs and will adjust our targeting of critical systems to mitigate this in future rotations.

I could not be more proud of our tenacity, flexibility, and focus on our ultimate purpose to make the Army better. Blackhorse Troopers excel at adapting to changing circumstances, and honing our practice as each rotation passes. Great units continually evaluate themselves and always seek to improve. Keep up the culture of excellence and professionalism that thrives in the Blackhorse Regiment and always try to make yourself and those around you better.

I am proud and humbled to be the 68th Colonel of the Best Damn Regiment. I look forward to sharing future stories of your exploits in future issues of this newsletter.

ALLONS!

68th COL of the Blackhorse
21st COL of the OPFOR

IRONHORSE

On October 28, 2018 at the National Training Center, Blackjack Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was charged with attacking towards the Colorado Wash. Blackjack Troop traveled into the enemy support zone from the Rotational Training Unit from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. They were successful at destroying the enemy outright in their attack.

Demon MIBN, a Mechanized Infantry Battalion, consisting of Blackjack Troop and Dealer Company, relentlessly attacked into the Colorado. Demon MIBN's combat power is split into three separate Mechanized Infantry Companies. The first MIC was tasked with fixing the enemy, the second MIC was tasked with assaulting, and the third MIC was tasked with support by fire. Their mission was a success as one platoon from Demon MIBN was able to maneuver into the enemy support zone.

"Through syncing our combat power and executing the mission as we rehearsed, we were able to push a good amount of our combat power through the support zone close to the RTU's Brigade TOC" said Christian Peralta, Commander of Demon MIBN.

Although Demon MIBN was successful, the odds were stacked heavily in the RTU's favor. The RTU's forces were arrayed in a strong defense. However, Demon MIBN was able to find a solution. "We were able to locate a seam in their defense and exploit it." Said Peralta. "It was remarkable what these MIBN Troopers were able to do being grossly undermanned. CPT Williams and I are extremely proud of these troopers, because we ask them to do the impossible, at which they excel."

The teamwork of Blackjack Troop and Dealer Company resulted in destroying a company of armored vehicles. "Their relentless effort and determination to better our Army was proven that day. Allowing the RTU to identify weaknesses in their plan will better prepare them for future operations," said 1st Lt. Stephen Pavlick, Blackjack Troop Executive Officer. "This perfectly highlights the purpose of the NTC where Brigades are brought in and tested on their ability to execute combat missions in future deployments."



The forces of Demon MIBN, or Mechanized Infantry Battalion, moves out to attack the forces of the Rotational Training Unit at Moose Gardens, National Training Center, Calif.



Cpt. Christian M. Peralta, the Commander of Blackjack Troop, uses his Blue Force Tracker to command the battle near Moose Gardens, National Training Center, Calif., October 28, 2018.

EAGLEHORSE

Upon my arrival to Fort Irwin, one of the most prominent things I heard about was “The Box.” Everyone seemed to have their negative stories and experiences, so naturally, I prepared for the worst as I packed my ruck for what would be my first rotation out there. By day four, I realized that many of the people I spoke to were right, The Box certainly had its negative aspects. I am sure that a majority of Soldiers would rather be sleeping in their own beds, eating their own food, and at home with their families. But on that same day, I realized that there are many lessons that can be learned out in The Box if many of us decided to focus on growth as opposed to being focused on the negative things we have no control over.



For instance, The Box gives us a chance to learn and develop with the people we work closest with. In the experiences I had throughout my life, it has been made apparent that the teams that work best together are the ones that bond together on a personal level, creating shared experiences and understanding. For that reason, I used this rotation, my first as a new Platoon Leader, to make sure that I got the chance to sit down and converse with each one of the Soldiers in my Platoon. This effort was made, because I feel that it is not only important to know WHO my Soldiers are, but it is just as important to know WHY they are, meaning their purpose here on Earth. As a team, the members of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment should strive to use the down time we have in The Box, to learn about the men and women to our left and right. Although it seems like a minute task, it will help the overall performance of the unit as a whole, by creating a team that is founded on trust. We can also learn why it is important for us to take advantage of the training opportunities we are provided each time we roll out to the box. At least ten times a year, Rotational Units from all over show up to Fort Irwin. This means that ten times a year, we are offered the chance to compare and contrast our unit tactics to that of the RTUs. It may not seem that exciting, but as a new Platoon Leader, I believe it is important for me to see what works and what does not work for the RTU for two reasons. The first encompasses the fact that we are the OPFOR, so picking up on their tendencies can help us stay one step ahead of them. More importantly, I know that I have soldiers that will PCS to those units one day, and I feel that is my job to prepare them and make sure they at least have a solid foundation of knowledge upon arrival to their next unit. The Box provides plenty of opportunity for growth and development personally, and as a unit. It is on us to take advantage of the change of pace from Garrison life, and to implement a culture that see's going out to The Box as a positive occurrence instead of a nuisance we must deal for nine days each month.

PACKHORSE



(Left) SPC Dixon adopts a prone dismounted firing position with an M240 machine gun to engage the RTU Soldiers in the pass complex



(Right) SPC Johnson adopts a firing position with a rocket propelled grenade to engage the RTU's tracked vehicles

Wind whips across the desert as the three M113A3 Armored Personnel Carriers and a single M1097 HMMVW of Task Force Vapor roll through the hills and wadis of the National Training Center. Their mission; to replicate the signature of a Mechanized Infantry Battalion, and threaten the mountain passes that protect the northern flank of the Rotational Training Unit. By moving across the expanse, TF Vapor will kick up enough dust that, from a distance, will appear to be an entire battalion on the move.

The Taskforce, drawn from the RSS's Regimental HQ and Headquarters Troop and Maintenance Troop, had been given their mission less than a week before execution. Carrying out missions with minimal preparation time is something the RSS excels at.

Led by CW2 Steven Gill, TF Vapor rolled ahead towards the RTU. As they entered the pass complex, they discovered a blocking obstacle. CW2 Gill crept slowly ahead to decipher the obstacle, noticing a deployed Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge spanning the road and rendering it impassible.

Although this sealed the pass, CW2 Gill ordered the force to move through a secondary pass to bypass the obstacle. As the Task Force was negotiating the final turn needed to exit the canyon, they encounter a mechanized infantry company stringing concertina wire across the mouth of the pass with two Bradleys pulling security.

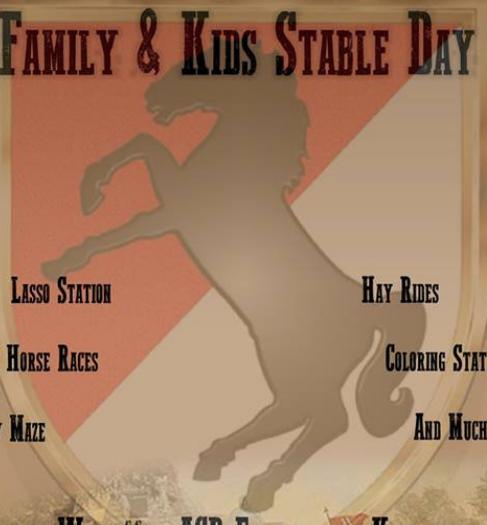
Before the RTU's realized what was happening, the 50 Caliber Machine disabling Soldier after Soldier. CW2 Gill positioned his HMMVW for SPC Johnathan Johnson Jr. to engage the tracks with his RPG. SPC Johnson has scored a direct hit on one Bradley disabling it forcing the last Bradley to withdrawal. With the enemy armor gone, the gunners of the three M113A3s were able to freely engage the RTU Soldiers as they too attempted to break contact and withdraw.

TF Vapor learned that they destroyed one Bradley, one HMMVW, and eliminate 10 RTU Soldiers without taking any casualties themselves. Furthermore, the RTU had responded to their attack by dispatching two infantry companies to guard the northern passes, taking pressure off the rest of the 11th ACR as it decimated the RTU's main attack.

TF Vapor had fought hard and well. Their eagerness to respond to challenges, improvise, and take the initiative when put in an alien situation are indicative of the cavalry spirit that still resides in the Troopers of the RSS, 11th ACR.

EVENTS AROUND POST

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT FAMILY & KIDS STABLE DAY



MINI HAY MAZE **STICK HORSE RACES** **LASO STATION** **HAY RIDES**
AND MUCH MORE! **COLORING STATION**

WHO: 11TH ACR FAMILIES AND KIDS
WHAT: HORSE DEMONSTRATION AND CHILDREN'S GAMES
WHEN: NOV. 19 3:30-5:00 P.M.
WHERE: HORSE DETACHMENT STABLES
WHY: CAVALRY FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

THE HORSE DETACHMENT IS LOCATED ON MAN O'WAR ROAD PAST THE
 MWR OUTDOOR RECREATION OFFICE ON GOLDSTONE ST.
 CLOSED TOES SHOES ARE REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION.
 POC: CPT ERIN LEMONS (ERIN.M.LEMONS2.MIL@MAIL.MIL)

FORT IRWIN FAMILY AND MWR
NOVEMBER
CALENDAR

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Nov. 3	Inscription Canyon Desert Discovery Meet at Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m.	Come with us as we explore areas of historic and natural beauty! From Native American petroglyphs and historic buildings to geological wonders, there is something for everyone on this trip. Cost is \$300/vehicle (seats 4); this is an all-day trip. Register by October 27, 6 p.m. Call Outdoor Recreation about participant size requirements.
Nov. 10	Owl Canyon Hike Meet at Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m.	Explore Owl Canyon with us on this moderately-easy hike. All experience levels are welcome as we explore the natural beauty of Owl Canyon. Cost is \$10/person (includes transportation). Register by November 8, 6 p.m.
Nov. 10	Family Climb 3-5 p.m. at the Resiliency Campus	Family Climb at the Resiliency Center is an alternative way to spend time with your family. Belayers must be certified prior to the event. Cost is \$10 per family (covers all gear needed plus use of the facility). Register by November 9, 6 p.m.
Nov. 15	Tiefort Mountain Climb Meet at Outdoor Recreation at 7 a.m.	Join us as we climb one of the tallest peaks in the area. Cost is \$15 per person (transportation included). Register by November 13, 6 p.m.
Nov. 16	Arizona Hot Springs Hike Meet at Outdoor Recreation at 7 a.m.	We're headed to some hot springs! Pack a lunch and towel as we'll soak in some natural hot springs at the midway point of this 6-mile hike. Cost is \$30 per person (transportation included). Register by November 14, 6 p.m.
Nov. 17	Joshua Tree Day Trip Meet at Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m.	Pack a lunch and join us as we explore one of the closest National Parks to Fort Irwin. Cost is \$20 per person (transportation included). Register by November 15, 6 p.m.
Nov. 24	Open Laser Tag 1-5 p.m. at Jackrabbit Park	Come try our new state-of-the-art laser tag equipment! Never before offered at Fort Irwin. You bring the cash, we'll bring the gear. Cost is \$1 per person per game

FOR MORE TRIP DETAILS CALL OR VISIT:

 Goldstone Rd., Bldg. 4100
 760-380-4327
 irwin.armymwr.com




HOLIDAY MARKET

& TREE LIGHTING

NOV 30
4-8PM





SAMUEL ADAMS
BLDG. 37, GOLDSTONE ROAD




EVENTS AROUND POST

DESERT WINDS BOWLING CENTER

SUNDAY'S 11-9pm

FAMILY FUNDAYS

EARN FREE GAME TICKETS FOR STRIKES WITH A COLORED HEAD PIN.
*LIMIT 1 PER PERSON/PER GAME

BOWLING SPECIAL:
\$20 PER LANE/HOUR
(INCLUDES UP TO 4 SHOE RENTALS)
ADDITIONAL LANES
\$10 PER HOUR/LANE
FOUNTAIN DRINKS #1

BLDG. 905
LANGFORD LAKE RD.
760-380-4249

irwin.armymwr.com

UNITED STATES ARMY
CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES
CYS

Instructional Program Presents: Winter Wonderland

Child and Youth performances at Ingalls Recreation Center.

December 6th | 6-7:15 p.m.

Come be a part of this free event.

Enjoy an array of performances: ballet, vocal, guitar, solos, and more.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Seating availability will be on a first come first serve basis.

For more information call 760.380.7751

irwin.armymwr.com

Story TIME

at the **POST LIBRARY**
Wednesdays & Fridays
10am

All toddlers and preschoolers are welcome!

Make Crafts Sing Songs

Play Games Make Friends

Listen to Storys

armymwrlibrary
imagine • discover • connect

Bldg. 331 Second St.
760 380 3462

irwin.armymwr.com