



THE RAKKADE

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November 2011

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Soldiers assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) stand with veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn in Nashville, Tenn. November 11, 2011.

Rakkasans March in Veteran's Day Parade

*Story and Photo by Sgt. Tricia C. Lear
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)*

Nashville, Tenn. — More than 30 soldiers assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) participate in the Veteran's Day Parade here.

Rakkasan soldiers left Fort Campbell, Ky. at 7:30 in the morning by bus to Downtown Nashville to show their support for past and present veterans.

When they arrived they were greeted with a handshake and a hot meal of biscuits, sausage and gravy provided by Operation Stand Down.

"I feel great, all these people coming up giving

hugs and handshakes, it just makes you feel really good being a veteran," said Spc. Colt D. Sullivan assigned to Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Current Rakkasans who served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom were presented with a coin.

The parade started at 11 minutes after 11 on the 11th day of the 11th year with a fly-over by the Tennessee Air National Guard.

More than a thousand people came out to support the veterans and to watch the parade.

Amongst the crowd stood fellow soldiers who came out to support their brethren and cheer them on.

"I feel very proud," said Spc. Laquisha Brown assigned to 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), "I feel a lot of people out here really support us, they really touched my heart."

Iron Rakkasans visit Liberty Elementary

Students give thanks to veterans

*Story and Photo by 1st Lt. Brant Downing
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)*



1st Lt. Matthew Ward assigned to 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) interacts with a student at Liberty Elementary in Clarksville, Tenn. on November 11, 2011.

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Soldiers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 187 Infantry Regiment “Iron Rakkasan”, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) participated in a Veterans Day event November 11 at Liberty Elementary school.

The school showed its support by “Thanking” the 101st Airborne

Division and other veterans from the area. Students performed a short musical skit and ate lunch with the veterans.

“This is the single most important event the school puts on for the year, every student participates,” said Kim Masters, principal of Liberty Elementary.

“The students made an impressive performance that was obviously a result of very hard work,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Ward. “I really appreciated the student’s time and energy to make Veteran’s Day more special.”

After watching several grade levels perform, Iron Rakkasans sat down with 4th grade students for lunch.

“It was great seeing past and present veterans attend the event and enjoy lunch with the students,” said 1st Lt. Brant Downing.

The soldiers spoke with students, parents, and faculty expressing their gratitude to the school for putting on the event.

“The unit is such an important part of our community, this is our way of saying thanks to all veterans,” said Masters.



Photo by Sgt. Tricia C. Lear

Spc. Erica Wochner assigned to 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) takes Pfc. Erika Espeseth’s assigned to 626 Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) blood pressure at the 3rd BCT aid station November 21, 2011.

Word of Inspiration

Submitted by Brigade Chaplain
Assistant Staff Sgt. Esposito

Christmas gift
Suggestions:

To your enemy,
forgiveness.

To an opponent,
tolerance.

To a friend, your
heart.

To a customer,
service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good
example.

To yourself, respect.

— Oren Arnold

Rakkasans become citizens of the Red, White and Blue

Story by Army Sgt. Tricia C. Lear

3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — Soldiers assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) take an oath of allegiance in a naturalization ceremony November 7, 2011 here at McAuliffe Hall, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) headquarters.

Spc. Shirshore M. Arte and Spc. Azouz Amekouar assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) raised their hands and swore to uphold and honor the tenants by which we live as Americans.

“Citizenship is not just a collection of rights, it is also a set of responsibilities,” said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey N. Colt, Deputy Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, during his speech.

Arte came to the United States as a 4 year old in 1992 with his parents. They originally lived in Mogadishu, Somalia.

“I always felt like I was an American, now I have a piece of paper that says that I am,” said Arte.

Amekouar came to the United States March 2001 with a student visa, working towards his Master’s degree. During that time he and his wife had a daughter.

After the birth of his daughter who is an American citizen, Amekouar decided to call America his home.

“This is my country,” said Amekouar, “It has taken me 10 years to get to this day and I feel great.”

The ceremony was presided over by The Honorable W. David King, United States

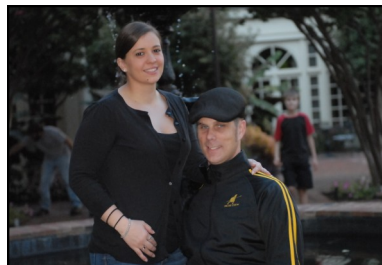


Photo by Michele Vowell

From left to right is Spc. Shirshore M. Arte and Spc. Azouz Amekouar assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) singing the Army Song after becoming citizens in a naturalization ceremony November 7, 2011 at McAuliffe Hall, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) headquarters, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Magistrate Judge. King is retiring and this was his last official act as a judge.

“I treasure these opportunities,” said King. “It is hard to please everyone in the audience all the time, but this is one of those moments.”



To see more action photos and photos of friends and family check out 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) Facebook page.

3-187 CELEBRATES HALLOWEEN WITH RAKTOBERFEST

*Story by Sgt. Tricia C. Lear and Sgt. 1st Class Jorge L. Vera
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)*

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldiers, veterans and family members celebrate Halloween with a bang by sponsoring Raktoberfest Saturday here at the Iron Rakkasan motor pool.

More than 300 people came in spite of the variety of events offered on and off post.

“The turnout was very strong from the battalion soldiers and their families,” said 1st Lt. Brant M. Downing the assistant battalion S1, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-187 Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT).

To start off the festivities adults and children alike came dressed in some impressive costumes to take part in the best costume competition hosted by Delta Company, 3-187 Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT).

A couple of the winners were 1st Lt. Cameron Friscia, assigned to Delta Company, 3-187 Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT), who dressed as Justin Bieber and Mara Work who came dressed as Snookie from Jersey Shore.

The prize for best costume was a \$10 dollar gift certificate and a bag of Rakkasan goodies.

The Raktoberfest also featured hay bale rides in the back of a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle around the Iron motor pool, with a few ghoulish figures lurking around to inspire some great Halloween spirit.

“Watching the excitement on my 6 year old son’s face while enjoying the hay ride was the most enjoyable experience of the night,” said Sgt. Gareth L. McDonald, HHC, 3-187 Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) chaplains assistant.

Fox Company, 3-187 Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT), created another festival favorite, the haunted house



Photo by 3-187 Inf. Reg.

The winning pumpkin carved by Staff Sgt. John Guin assigned to "Choppin" Charlie Company of 3-187.



set up in the truck bay, using tents, fog machine, corn stalks, Halloween music and scary costumes. They did a stupendous job.

Many children and their parents dreaded walking past the house but the temptation to get a good scare couldn't be ignored.

Several soldiers to include Lt. Col. James P. Work, commander, 3-187 Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT), used their vehicles to pass out candy or popcorn balls.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Oliver, HHC, 3-187 Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT), designed his vehicle to resemble a mobile cemetery.

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What is a Family Readiness Group?

By Renee M. Brooks

3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Family Readiness Support Advisor

A family readiness group is a command sponsored organization of family members, volunteers, soldiers and civilian employees. They belong to a unit or organization which provides an avenue of mutual support and assistance. It is a network of communication for family members, the chain of command and community resources.

The mission of a FRG is to help families become more knowledgeable. They advocate more efficient use of community resources.

Family readiness groups work towards reducing stress and promoting family readiness. They provide opportunities for families to meet and build bonds amongst each other. Family readiness groups also contribute to the well being, morale and esprit de corps of the unit by helping families to cope with common issues and challenges of the military life while deployed or state side.

Raktoberfest Cont. from pg. 4

and posed as a scary curator passing out candy while attending to his tenants. A miniature van was also transformed into a hearse with the undead giving kids a trunk or treat.

However, the winning trunk of the night was the bleeding chainsaw victim decorated by HHC, 3-187 Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT). The winners were given a \$25 car basket.

Another competition that night was the pumpkin carving contest hosted by Charlie Company, 3-187 Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT). They were able to obtain the pumpkins from a local farmer, Tim Meizes, who runs Cumberland Hills Farms.

Charlie Company won the competition with their pumpkin the "Charlie Choppin Demon". The pumpkin had torriis on both sides and a demon face carved into the front. They also mounted a rhino mount on top of it. At the very bottom the words Choppin were carved into it.

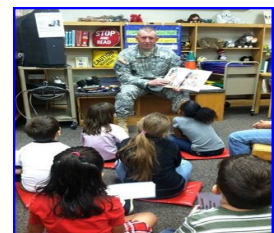
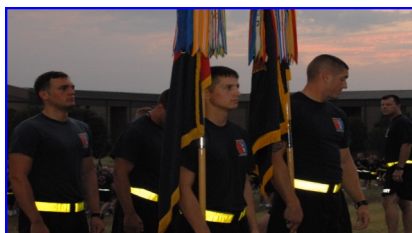
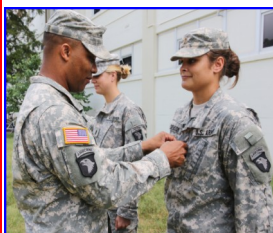
"The best part of the evening was seeing how creative and artistic people were in carving their pumpkins," said Downing.

Jennifer Line, Family Readiness Group leader for 3-187 Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) sponsored a competitive cake walk. A cake walk is very similar to musical chairs, but instead of chairs the contestants have to step on a numbered plate. When the

music stops a number is called and whoever is standing on the matching number wins a cake.

By the end of the evening it was collectively agreed that through the efforts and overall turnout of everyone the Raktoberfest met and exceeded expectations.

"It's important for our officers and senior noncommissioned officers to get to know their soldiers and their families," said Work, "It's also important that the families and soldiers get to know their platoon level leadership as we build a team for combat. This family leader bond isn't born of training on range 54."



VIOLATION OF THE UCMJ TO POSSESS ,USE SYNTHETIC FORMS OF MARIJUANA

By Mr. Ralph Stuck

3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Currently Fort Campbell is experiencing a severe problem with soldiers utilizing synthetic forms of Marijuana with an average of 30 soldiers per month being apprehended for possession and use.

The synthetic forms of marijuana/herbs can be sold legally off post in any smoke shop or even in potpourri/fragrance stores.

K2 is purchased in the form of herbal incense and is normally smoked using a pipe or a bong.

Two synthetic cannabinoids, JWH-018 and JWH-023, found to be in K2, closely resemble the psychoactive effects of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the active ingredient in marijuana.

On March 1, 2011, Drug Enforcement Administration placed JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47, CP-497, and Cannabicyclohexanol, in

Schedule I, of the Controlled Substance Act.

Although it can be purchased in many different variations, authorities report that K2 Blonde, K2 Summit and Spike 99 have been the most popular locally.

K2 Summit is said to be the strongest of these four varieties. Sources describe K2 effects as a more intense high when compared to marijuana. It comes on strong as well as quickly and lasts for an average of 45 minutes. When the effects begin wearing off, users describe a sudden awareness of extreme exhaustion and/or hunger.

The cost of purchasing K2 is more expensive than marijuana due to the internet marketing campaign that you will not become a positive for THC during a urinalysis testing. In fact the truth is the use of K2 will cause a drug test to appear abnormal resulting in a positive

urinalysis test.

Little is still known about the long term effects of this herbal substance other than users become extremely nervous and intense resulting in abnormal behavior. When mixed with alcohol the user loses touch with reality and becomes unstable, with several users becoming violent.

Local drug dealers have been selling K2 at inflated prices to soldiers based off the myth that you will not test positive during drug testing. Several cases have occurred where soldiers have purchased K2 at higher prices but were actually sold marijuana.

Synthetic forms of marijuana is considered a mind altering substance.

It is a violation of post regulation (camp reg 210-1 & UCMJ Art 92) to possess or use a controlled mind altering substance.

