



THE TORII



Issue 2 Vol. 1

Wishing you Happy Holidays

December 2011

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(From Left to Right) Jeanne Chandler, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, Capt. Steven M. Gerber, commander, Gulf Company, 626th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Jennifer Turpin.

626th BSB Hosts Logistic Ball

Sgt. Maj. of the Army is Guest Speaker

Hopkinsville, Ky. — Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III was the guest speaker at the 626th Brigade Support Battalion, Rakkasan Logistics Ball December 2 at the James E. Bruce Convention Center.

The night was full of pomp and circumstance following the long traditions of a formal military ball. The colors were posted and “The Star Spangled Banner” played followed by a

moment of silence for the missing and fallen. The tables were full of laughs and at times somber conversation.

With the toasts complete and the meal finished Chandler spoke to the soldiers and family members. He spoke on the great and historic legacy the soldiers of today were upholding. “Remember those who came before you and the great sacrifice that so many have made so that we

can do what we do today,” said Chandler. “At the end of the day it is the legacy that you the American soldier and the soldiers of this great brigade leave behind that will be implanted in and on American society.”

Chandler spoke as if he was talking to old friends, making everyone feel as if he was talking to them individually. He focused

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on the importance of family and remembering that behind each and every soldier there is a family and expressed his deepest respect and warmest thanks for their support.

The evening concluded with Lt. Col. Fredrick Crist, commander, 626th BSB, Command Sgt. Maj. Wade Greene, the

battalion senior leader and the battalion staff opening the dance floor to music provided by Mr. Robert Luke of Robert Luke entertainment.

The soldiers danced until it was time to close the evening.

They bid Chandler and his wife a fond farewell and a thunderous “Assurgam” as they left.



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III speaks to the soldiers and family members during the Rakkasan Logistics Ball December 2 at the James E. Bruce Convention Center.

HOLIDAY GREETING FROM RAK 7

*Command Sgt. Maj. Eric G. Crabtree
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)*

Col. R.J. Lillibridge and I wanted to wish you and your families Happy Holidays.

During this time I encourage you to spend time with your friends and families and enjoy your time off. But in doing so enjoy yourself responsibly, think before you act.

If you are going to be drinking plan ahead and don't drink and drive. It is said at every safety briefing and during this holiday season it cannot be stressed enough.

The weather is always unpredictable and can change at a moment's notice.

Plan accordingly while you are traveling and give yourself some extra time to get where you are going, a little late is better than not getting there at all.

After the holiday's we will be getting back into the swing of things, full force with our road to war, and we need each and every one of you back safe and ready to execute. Every member of this Brigade Combat

Team is essential to our next “rendezvous with destiny.” “Rakkasan!”



Command Sgt. Maj. Crabtree assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Invictus

Black as the Pit from pole to
pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of
circumstance

I have not winced nor cried
aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of
chance

My head is bloody, but
unbowed.
Beyond this place of wrath
and tears

Looms but the Horror of
the shade,
And yet the menace of the
years

Finds, and shall find, me
unafraid.

It matters not how strait the
gate,

How charged with
punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

William Ernest Henley

SPOTLIGHT On Retention

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

He is 90 days away from leaving the Army. His leaders have all talked to him about the pros of staying in the Army. There is only one thing that can change his mind, he wants to be stationed near his home in Monterey, Calif., which happens to be one of the hardest assignments for a soldier to obtain.

The career counselor does whatever possible to meet the soldier's wants. There is one assignment available in Monterey in his career field. The soldier reenlists, receives a bonus and gets closer to home.

It is the happiest day of his Army life. This is why my job is great, said Master Sgt. Jackie Leverett, career counselor, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Leverett has been a career counselor since 2001. She has been working with 3rd BCT for the last six months.

In order to become a career counselor one needs to be recommended by a current career counselor, have been a successful retention noncommissioned officer and show the aptitude to excel at the job.

"Being a career counselor is not just a nine to five job," said Leverett. "You need to be able to work well with people and inform the command in a brief manner."



Master Sgt. Jackie Leverett, career counselor, assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky. is working on gathering information in regards to new retention policies.

We are here to help soldiers view all of their options, said Leverett. Soldiers need to be able to evaluate the job market on the civilian side and understand what the Army can offer. I can help them reclass, receive additional job skills and possibly offer them bonus options such as school and money.

Career counselors have to stay current on anything relevant to reenlisting like reenlistment windows.

Soldiers have to reenlist no later than January 31, 2011 if their service term ends in fiscal year 2012, said Leverett. Soldiers need to start reenlisting March 1, 2012 if their term ends in fiscal year 2013. Also if a soldier meets their retention control point due to reduction in grade they can stay in until their current end of service.

"If a soldier is on the fence he or she needs to think not just of themselves but also of their family," said Leverett. "The economy is weak and soldiers need to make sure they have a concrete plan before they get out."

Leverett plans to continue serving soldiers as a career counselor.

"I love my job," said Leverett. "What I get out of it is when they say thank you."



(From left to right) Michaela Larson student of New Providence Middle School, daughter of Spc. Zechariah Larson, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Arianna Reiley student at West Creek Middle School, daughter of Staff Sgt. David Reiley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT).

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. -

Writing an essay in school as an assignment is difficult even with a familiar subject.

The daughters of two Rakkasans tackled this difficult task. Arianna D. Reiley and Michaela Larson competed against 616 other high school and middle school students in the 12th annual "Interview a Veteran" essay contest, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Clarksville.

Daughters of Rakkasans

Story and Photo by David C. Reiley
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Reiley a student at West Creek Middle School and daughter of Staff Sgt. David Reiley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) wrote about her uncle Staff Sgt. Mitchell Messer who is assigned to

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 626th Brigade Support Battalion, 3 BCT, 101st ABN Div (AASLT).

"I mainly concentrate on the mission at hand. It is an unbelievable feeling to know that you are directly involved with providing freedom to a society that has never experienced anything like it," said Messer. "The people that we have freed from

tyranny have never experienced the freedoms that we have here in the United States. They are seeing the benefits of the freedom that we enjoy."

Larson a student at New Providence Middle School and daughter of Spc. Zechariah Larson, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 101st ABN (AASLT) wrote about her father's combat experiences.

"War is not a fun game like most boys imagine it to be," said Larson. "It is not an adventure and it is not like how video games portray it. It is a rivalry between countries as they fight for beliefs, territory and more."

Both Reiley and Larson won first place for their school. They were awarded a plaque and \$100.

The girls families are very proud of their achievements and have encouraged them to continue writing.



Brigade Chaplains support Rakkasans for the Holidays

*Staff Sgt. Eric Esposito
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)
Chaplain Assistant*

As the holiday season comes upon us, the chaplains of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) spend their time ensuring Rakkasans are being cared for.

The Unit Ministry teams worked together with each chain of command to lend a helping hand to soldiers over Thanksgiving. The brigade received gift cards to the Commissary each worth \$50 which were given to more than 20 soldiers.

The 626th Brigade Support Battalion's unit ministry team helped provide gifts for 41 children in their battalion by putting together an Angel Tree.

3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment's unit ministry team provided over \$1,200 in Christmas presents to 60 children from the battalion by organizing a program called

"Iron Angel Tree."

In addition 45 families were able to take advantage of the Holiday House, another program which provides gifts to families.

This is just some of the Christmas giving our Chaplain's have conducted this season.

There will be services held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve Catholic Mass will be held at 4 p.m. and a Protestant candle light vigil will be held at 6 p.m. On Christmas Day there will be a Catholic Midnight Mass, 9:30 a.m. Mass and a 11:00 a.m. Protestant service

Please come out and join us this holiday season. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



Mr. Stuck's Safety Bite

PREVENT A DUI, DRIVE SOBER

*Mr. Ralph Stuck
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)
Safety Manager*

Over the next several weeks during the holiday season, drunken driving normally increases by 40% and with marginal weather conditions vehicle accidents and fatalities occur.

To prevent this increase in drunk drivers law enforcement will increase their presence to help reduce this annual occurrence.

The key thing to remember is to never drink and drive and always drive defensively to prevent being a victim of a drunk driver.

When you are planning on having a few drinks or being around friends that have been drinking a few key things to remember are:

Be responsible and don't risk it you will be caught; or worse, you'll injure or kill someone!

If you plan to drink, choose a designated driver before going out.

Take a taxicab, or ask/call a sober friend for a ride home.

Spend the night where the activity is held.

Never let friend's drive while intoxicated or walk out the door alone.

Always buckle up - it's your best defense against an impaired/drunken driver.

Can you live with yourself knowing you could have prevented the accident – possibly resulting in the injury or death of another!

Having a battle buddy from your company or platoon on call for a ride is always a good idea.

It is critical to understand the effects of consuming alcoholic beverages on your mental and physical abilities, your life may depend on it:

Blood alcohol content levels between 0.08 - 0.15 will result in:

- Gross motor impairment and lack of physical control.
- Blurred vision and major loss of balance.
- Euphoria is reduced.
- Judgment and perception are severely impaired.
- Behavior may become exaggerated and emotions intensified.
- Speech will be slurred.
- Reaction time and hearing will be impaired.

Rule, for every drink consumed, it takes over a hour for the effects to wear off: 4 drinks, 4-5 hours!

Have a good time this holiday season, be responsible and take responsibility for friends who are not.

Brigade Commander

Col. R.J. Lillibridge

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Facebook

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