

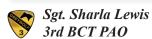
Vol. III, Issue VI

3rd Brigade Combat Team's Monthly Newsletter

June/July 2012

Greywolf hails one commander, farewells another

Change of command ceremony at Cooper Field bittersweet



3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division experienced a change of command on the division's Cooper Field June 21 where Col. David Lesperance assumed command from Col. Douglas Crissman.

Many members from the surrounding communities and Fort Hood attended the ceremony to see the transfer of command take place.

Angela Ierardi, the division commander's wife, presented red roses to Carolyn Crissman, thanking her for her continued service to the brigade over

the last 26 months and yellow roses to Kelly Lyn Lesperance, welcoming her and her family to the unit.

Maj. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, commanding general of the 1st Cav., and the two colonels mounted horses and conducted a mounted troop inspection before transferring the colors.

The transfer of a unit's colors is significant in many ways.

With the transfer, the brigade's legacy is passed as a building block for future performance and achievement. Historically, the colors served as the point around which the Soldiers of the organization rallied as they moved into

> battle. The colors remained at the side of the commander and were carried forward even when commander fell in combat.

Cooper Command Maj.

mand sergeant major of the 3rd BCT, initiated the transfer of command by passing the brigade's colors left to outgoing commander Col. Douglas Crissman, signifying the unit's appreciation for his leadership and guidance. Crissman relinquished command of the Greywolf Brigade by passing the colors to Ierardi who accepted the colors and passed them and command of the unit to Lesperance.

Finally, the new commander returned the colors to Metheny, signifying his trust and confidence in the leaders and Soldiers of the organization.

Lesperance has a long and dedicated relationship with the 1st Cavalry Divi-

As a captain, he worked as an air operations officer and twice as a company commander with 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment between 1996 and 1999.

and General Staff College in 2002, Lesperance returned to the division and served as the operations officer for 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment and

After graduating from the Command In a circle on Field. Sgt. Timothy later as the executive officer of 1st Bricom-

Metheny,



Col. Douglas Crissman and his (from left) son Garrett, wife Carolyn and daughter Haley, pose after the change of command ceremony

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'Warhorse' Battalion zeroes in on success

1st Lt. Richard Vogt 3-8 Cav. Regt.

After a raft of personnel changes and a rotation as III Corps' crisis response battalion, the 'Warhorse' Battalion is once again heading to the range as they begin their next training cycle and prepare for collective, high-intensity training and future missions.

During the week of July 16, the battalion zeroed and qualified on their individually assigned weapons. Companies also sent machine gun teams to zero and qualify.

In addition to getting a tight shot group, the ranges provided an optimal environment for new team members to get to know each other and get comfortable working together. Members of the fires and effects cell arrived at the House Creek Urban Assault Course as a platoon and took the time to gel as a team.

> Pfc. Eric Boydston said he enjoyed going to the range with his platoon.

> "It helps you to stop thinking about stuff that bothers you. It helps relax you because you have to control your breathing. It takes your mind off of reality."

> Pvt. Travis Mann, a fire support specialist from Georgetown, Florida, said he liked how the platoon leadership emphasized safety and technical know-

> "They went over a lot of safety issues," Mann said.

> He said he learned a lot about how a range is conducted. "I didn't know how to zero my sights until they showed me."

> The platoon zeroed iron sights, close combat optics, and advanced combat optical gunsight, helping Mann zero on the first attempt.

> "It's awesome," he said, "getting paid to shoot a weapon all day. It's fun."



Spc. Michael Strausbaugh makes adjustments to the front sight post of Pvt. Jacob Quaintance's

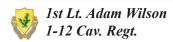


Pvt. William Brown loads his next magazine as his platoon zeroes their weapons.



Spc. Nicholas Timms uses a radio while 1st Lt. Spencer Griffin provides directions

Apache Company Change of Command



More than a year since taking command of Apache Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, outgoing commander, Capt. Micah Shockley left a position that he has always dreamt about throughout his military career during a change of command ceremony May 31, 2012 at the battalion motor pool.

Shockley took command of Co. A while deployed to Iraq and was relieved by incoming commander Capt. Daniel Vallone.

Vallone, a former West Point graduate and 10th Mountain Division officer just like the outgoing commander Shockley, is ready to take the responsibilities and duties as Apache Compa-

ny's newest commander and stated that he and his wife Allison are excited and happy to be a part of the Apache family.

"I am just excited to be here, I heard great things about Apache Company and I cannot wait to start training," said Vallone, the incoming commander as he enjoyed refreshments with his new platoon leaders and fellow company commanders.

During the ceremony, Shockley said that it was the Soldiers and leaders that made Apache Company the best.

"I will always think of these Soldiers as my guys, if one of them gets hurt it will affect me as well, I care about them all," said Shockley.

With only a few weeks left in the Army, Shockley will be leaving his suc-

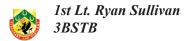
cessful career as an infantry officer and starting his transition into the civilian world. He is looking forward to moving up to Dallas to begin managing his gym, and welcoming their third child. However, the fast paced lifestyle as an infantry officer will always remain within him during his civilian life.

"It's interesting, I feel like I have nothing to do, I was made to be a leader," said Shockley. "Everyone who joins the Army wants to be a leader and leading is what I am proud of doing," he said as he walked away from the ceremony with wife Shana, son Landon, and daughter Adalynn.



Capt. Micah Shockley continues the exchange of the guidon tradition by handing it to incoming commander, Capt. Daniel Vallone. Vallone is leaving his career as an infantry officer to manage a gym in Dallas.

3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion hosts organizational day



On June 29, 2012, the 'Gladiator' 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division held their first organizational day since their return from Iraq at the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area.

The event afforded the battalions leadership the opportunity to meet the Families of the 'Gladiator' Soldiers and allowed for a fun day of activities for the group of nearly 600 people that included over 200 family members.

HEB store 581 sponsored the day's events and provided generous food and beverage donations including hundreds of hamburgers, hotdogs and soft drinks. Company C provided the cooks and food handlers to ensure all attendees were supplied with an abundance of edibles.

In addition to the plentiful amount of food and confections, Soldiers and families were afforded the opportunity to participate in several organized activities throughout the day. These activities included volleyball, softball, football, tug-o-war, horseshoes and more.

The overall victor of the day was Company C, winning all activities but volleyball, which was dominated by Headquar-

ters and Headquarters Company.

Along with these organized activities, family members enjoyed what the lake itself had to offer such as fishing, sunbathing and bringing their dogs to play in the water. For the kids, a bouncy castle was on site and a water balloon fight was organized in the heat of the afternoon.

This was the first organizational day put on by the new 3rd BSTB command team and assembled the largest gathering of Soldiers and family members to a battalion event in recent memory.

"I truly appreciated the new command team's effort to meet and greet their Soldiers and families," said Sgt. Siphra Tchoua, the chaplain's assistant for the battalion.

Soldier comments regarding the event were positive and many stated that they would like to see more events like this take place more frequently. All in all, the day proved to be a great time for Soldiers and families to get to know each other and the new command team.



Soldiers and families from Headquarters and Headquarters Company enjoy the sun and talking with family and friends.



Photo by SGT Tchoua

Children dive for apples at the Battalion Organizational Day.



Photo by SGT Tchoua

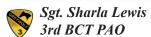
Charlie Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company battle during a friendly tug-o-war competition.



Photo by SGT Tchoua

Pfc. Yolanda Galicia and Spc. Katherine Heredia, join the Gladiators for fun in the sun. Soldiers arrived with family and friends for lunch, sports, and a meet and great with the new command team.

UAV upgrades increase mission readiness



Soldiers with 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division recently conducted a week long training exercise on new equipment at Fort Hood.

The platoon trained on RQ-7B "Shadow" Unmanned Aerial Systems, which are tactical intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance platforms. The Shadow provides near real time full motion video to commanders to help them understand their operating environments.

The Shadow was recently upgraded to improve maintenance turnaround time, increase flight endurance and provide extended communication range for radio equipment. Additionally, the system has an updated engine.

The training prepares the Soldiers for future deployments and introduces the troops to the new components.

"This training is allowing us to progress our people to get ready to deploy," said Sgt. Shawn Kentch, a native of Werrensburg, Mo. "Hands on experience is the only way to learn the equipment, which we don't get unless we go to the field, so being able to come out here really brings it back to the surface."

Those that helped launch an aircraft June 18 said it was a cool experience; one that they enjoyed.

"It went pretty good," said Pfc. Thomas Arnette, from Knoxville, Tenn. "It makes you a little nervous the first few times you do it." Besides providing valuable education for troops in the battalion, the training fosters cohesion and a sense of camaraderie. Each person had a job to do, whether it was monitoring video surveillance, keeping lines of communication open or clearing the airspace.

The atmosphere was light while the Soldiers worked on the equipment. They swapped stories of previous days in the field and watched as the team on the airstrip readied the UAS for launch.

"This brings the platoon together and provides real life experience," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Armer, from Alpena, Ark. "I couldn't ask for a better platoon than what I have now."



Photo by Sgt. Sharla Lewis

Soldiers ready an unmanned aerial vehicle for launch during a training exercise. The platoon trained on "Shadow" Systems, which are tactical intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance platforms.

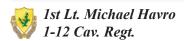


Photo by Sgt. Sharla Lewis

An unmanned aerial vehicle takes off during a training exercise on Fort Hood June 18, 2012.



'Chargers' fire up Mortars and FIST



"Maniac Main, this is Bonecrusher 14. Adjust fire, over." This radio transmission signified the beginning of a two day, dry fire training event by 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division July 17 and 18 in the battalion's motor pool on Fort Hood.

The training was designed to prepare company level fire support teams and mortar platoons for certifications that take place next month.

Fire support teams and mortar platoons teamed up and trained concurrently to simulate more realistic call for fire and mortar crew drills. Their certifications, and subsequently their training, require a variety of fire missions including adjust fire, mark center sector, registration and coordinated illuminations.

By conducting a training exercise prior to their certifications, the Soldiers have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the upcoming requirements.

2nd Lt. Michael Kim, the fire support officer of Company C said, "This training was a great head-start because it allowed us to practice setting up (communications) on our

Bradley fire support vehicle and seeing how the whole process worked without the pressure of certification."

The fire support teams conducted several rotations, providing calls for fire via radio as well as making adjustments for each mission using a map. The mortar platoon received the calls for fire and utilized their equipment to calculate the positioning and adjustments of their mortar tubes. Then, the mortar gun crews conducted crew drills to make the necessary corrections on the tube.

Throughout the exercises, the teams were able to perfect their techniques in preparation for the certifications.

"We also got to note any weaknesses or deficiencies in any area of our team's calls for fire so that we can review and train up before the certification to be able to exceed the standard," said 2nd Lt. Dennis Tria, the fire support officer for Company D.

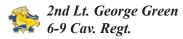
With another dry fire training event scheduled a week before their certifications, both the company fire support teams and the mortar platoon of the 'Charger' Battalion agreed that they will have no problems exceeding the standards.



Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Havro

1st Lt. John Heath sets up two radios in a Bradley Fire Support Vehicle. Heath's Soldiers are preparing for their fire support certifications by conducting dry fire missions training in conjunction with the battalion's 120mm mortar platoon.

Soldier represents 'Saber' Squadron at Air Assault School graduation



Recently, Saber trooper Pfc. Erick Hernandez marched across the Division West Parade Field as part of the first Fort Hood Air Assault School graduating class.

Hernandez, a medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, initially enrolled in the school alongside several other Soldiers from the brigade.

Ultimately however, Hernandez was one of only four GREYWOLF Soldiers to earn the coveted Air Assault Badge by successfully completing the course.

"The school was extremely beneficial and taught me many interesting skills that I would not have learned anywhere else," said Hernandez, a Houston native who joined the Army in 2011.

The notoriously arduous 12-day

Air Assault School challenges Soldiers through exacting standards and a variety of physical and mental tests. Shortly after in-processing, Soldiers faced the first of these challenges during Day Zero; a two-mile run followed immediately by one of the Army's most strenuous obstacle courses.

Soldiers who successfully complete this initial gut-check procede to the first of the school's three phases. This first phase consists largely of classroom instruction on topics including aircraft safety, medical evacuation, pathfinder operations, hand and arm signals, and rotary wing aircraft familiarization.

The second phase covers sling-load operations and evaluates students' abilities to inspect and correct sling load malfunctions, culminating in a practical exercise requiring Soldiers to sling load a 15 by 15 foot cargo net under a hovering UH-60 Blackhawk.

The final phase instructs students on basic and combat rappelling techniques – by the end of this phase, Soldiers complete more than 10 rappels down a 55 foot tower and a combat rappel from a Blackhawk helicopter poised more than 80 feet above the ground. Soldiers who successfully pass all three phases are subjected to a 12-mile road march carrying a 35-pound rucksack, with only three hours to complete the march.

In this first class at Fort Hood, a total of 91 Soldiers graduated.

"You definitely graduate with a sense of accomplishment," said Hernandez, who is enthusiastic about future opportunities to attend Army schools such as Ranger and Airborne.

"It is a very mentally and physically challenging school, and I would like to attend more courses like it in the future to try to take my career to the next step."



Photo by 1st 2nd Lt. George Gree

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burnette with 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regimen and Col. David Lesperance the commander for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division pose with Pvt. Erick Hernandez after Fort Hood's first Air Assault School graduation.

Continued from page 1

gade Combat Team until 2005.

In 2008, Lesperance returned to 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. and commanded the battalion until 2010.

Most recently, Lesperance graduated from the United States Army War College.

In his speech, Lesperance said he and his wife were honored to come to the brigade and looked forward to the upcoming years.

"We understand our responsibility to care for the Soldiers and families of Greywolf, enabling mission accomplishment, as a member of the First Team," he said. "We will do our duty."

Crissman's next assignment will be at the University of Texas in Austin where he will complete a Senior Service College Fellowship.

Crissman said his time as commander of 3rd BCT was filled with challenges and opportunities.

"I recall some days where I felt like all I had to do was sit back and watch this talented team make miracles happen," he said in his speech. "Then others where I felt I was drawing upon every single day of my 24 years in uniform and my almost 46 years of life to carefully assess the battlefield we were navigating."

The highlight of Crissman's time in command was overseeing the brigade's rotation in southern Iraq.

Greywolf was assigned an area of operation that encompassed the four southernmost provinces of Iraq; Basrah, Maysan, Dhi Qar and Muthanna. The brigade conducted stability operations to strengthen Iraqi Security Forces and to enable strategic military and civil transitions while securing the international highway for United States Forces withdrawal to Kuwait.

At dawn December 18, 2011 Greywolf Soldiers were the final American forces out of Iraq.

Crissman said that previous to arriving at Fort Hood he had never worn a Stetson, didn't own a pickup truck and hadn't ridden a horse since he was a kid but leaving the cavalry traditions behind was a bittersweet experience.

Crissman said, "After 26 months as the Greywolf command team, I think it's safe to say that Carolyn and I now bleed black and gold as we've become full-fledged members of the First Team."



Photo by Sgt. Sharla Lewis

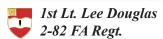
Col. David Lesperance, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, accepts the unit's colors and command of the brigade from the Division's Commander Maj. Gen. Anthony lerardi at a change of com-



Photo by Sgt. Sharla Lewis

Maj. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, Col. Douglas Crissman, former commander 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and Col. David Lesperance, commander of the 3rd BCT, prepare to conduct a mounted troop inspection before transferring the brigade's colors.

Building blocks toward the future



On July 19 2012, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conducted an M4 rifle range at the Pilot Knob Firing Range on Fort Hood, Texas.

Their mission was to zero their M4 rifles, but there was a greater purpose; building confidence and proficiency in in-

Zeroing is a term used to describe adjusting the weapon until the aiming point becomes the point of impact. It is the first step towards qualifying on the weapon. Before zeroing can happen Soldiers are given classes and exercises to teach the fundamentals of marksmanship.

Preliminary marksmanship instruction or PMI is the name of the training that benefits the Soldier and helps them remember the principles of marksmanship enabling them to successfully zero and then qualify at the range.

The training which included classroom instruction and



Spc. David Olshove teaches Spc. Jeffrey Hill and Pvt. Jonathon Ehred how to properly adjust a collimeter.



Staff Sgt. Antonio Perez helps Pvt. Robert Gomez adjust the sights of his individually assigned weapon.

hands on drills took place the day before the Soldiers zeroed their weapons and was facilitated by Sgt. 1st Class London Mason of Btry A.

Field artillery core competencies were conducted as concurrent training to the zero range and are used to refine the Soldier and help them become a more lethal artilleryman. They are beneficial to the Soldiers who will, in turn, understand their role, job and equipment more thoroughly. The understanding gained will also instill a feeling of both skill and confidence within the Soldiers.

"Getting back to core competencies is exactly what we need to prepare the newer Soldiers for future leadership and refresh the older leaders on FA (field artillery) basic skills as well as advanced skills." said executive officer 1st Lt. Brian Shepherd.

48 Soldiers qualified with their individually assigned weapons and expended more than 1,200 rounds of ammuni-

Qualification on every weapon system that an individual or team uses is a non-negotiable requirement. In order to be prepared to support the brigade combat team, members of Btry A. and 2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt. as a whole, must achieve complete qualification on all weapons from rifles to machine guns to vehicles.

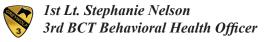
After individual and automatic weapon qualifications have been met, the next phase for Btry A. will be training and qualifying on Paladins.

The Paladin is a self-propelled 155mm Howitzer, which put simply, is a powerful cannon on tracks instead of wheels. This is the weapon that supports 3rd BCT when conducting decisive operations. None of this would be possible if proper training was not conducted.

"These exercises are excellent due to fact that these men are going to deploy and find themselves, at times, in dangerous situations. It is reassuring that they will know exactly what to do given the circumstance in which they are faced," said Sgt. Shawn Thomas.

Training and qualifications are pivotal to a well conducted mission. The Soldiers of Btry A. are also in agreement that all of the training performed was timely and essential. The Army is getting back to force on force operations. The efficacy of all operations begins with the basics and these come from training conducted by leaders at all levels. Training and qualifying help to integrate a disciplined and professional unit, prepared to mobilize, into any operation in order to decisively win engagements.

"At the end of the day our job (artillery)...wins the war!" said 1st Lt. Ryan Tucker, officer in charge of the range.



The combat stress team from 1st Medical Brigade assisted 3rd Brigade 3rd BCT Behavioral Health Officer Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in meeting the behavioral health needs of Soldiers coming home from deployment.

This was accomplished through coordination by the behavioral health officer and combat Stress control commander.

The imbedded behavioral health (IBH) team was assigned to the brigade's combined arms battalions, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment and 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, to do walkabouts and teach classes.

Over the course of three months, the team spoke with nearly 1,000 Soldiers. The top behavioral health issue reported within the units was occupational stress, followed closely by marital problems, anger management concerns, insomnia, and post traumatic stress disorder.

Prevention and resiliency classes were also taught, including healthy relationships, anger management, and sleep hygiene. The IBH maintained a presence in the motorpools, doing regular walkabouts and sometimes participating in unit training in order to help gain rapport. They also stayed in regular contact with the chain of command.

The IBH Team recommended that in the future, it would be helpful to have actual temporary orders to the unit so that they could concentrate fully on this mission instead of being pulled for additional duties and taskings within their unit.

Given the concerns with suicide rates and domestic disturbances after returning from deployment, having extra eyes and ears trained to respond to behavioral health crisis may be beneficial to the health and sustainment of the force.

ARMY RETENTION CONTROL POINTS



Soldiers not serving on an indefinite reenlistment who reach their retention control point (RCP) during their current enlistment agreement through length

of service, reduction in grade or by removal from the promotion list (either voluntary or involuntary) will perform active service until their contract expiration term of service, unless they are separated earlier under applicable administrative, physical disability, or uniform code of military justice separation provisions.

Soldiers serving on an indefinite reenlistment who exceed their RCP as a result of a reduction in grade, may perform active service until the RCP as the result of a reduction in grade, may perform active service until the RCP for the lower grade or minimum retirement eligibility, whichever occurs later, unless they are separated earlier under applicable administrative, physical disability or UCMJ separation provisions. A soldier who has between 18 and 20 years of active federal service may not be separated unless the convening authority recommends discharge and the as-

sistant Secretary of the Army has made a final determination in such cases.

GRADE TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE IN YEARS PVT/PFC 5 CPL/SPC 8 CPL/SPC (PROMOTABLE) 12 **SGT 13** SGT (PROMOTABLE) 15 **SSG 20** SSG (PROMOTABLE) 26 SFC 26 SFC (PROMOTABLE) 29 1SG/MSG 29 1SG/MSG (PROMOTABLE) 32 CSM/SGM 32



The GREYWOLF Howl

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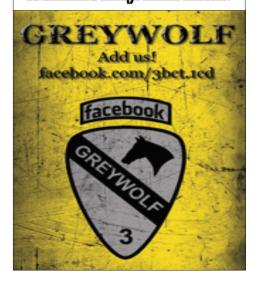
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PCS Stress



Sgt. 1st Class Quatrun Nesbit 3rd BCT SHARP Representative

The Sexual Harassment Assault Response Program was established to define the Army's sexual harassment and sexual assault policies and prevention strategy. The intent of the program is for leaders and Soldiers to recognize potential sexual harassment behavior and sexual assault behavior, and apply techniques to safely intervene to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault. We want Leaders and Soldiers to be fluent in identify reporting options, procedures, and the importance of reporting and understand the role of commanders, managers, Soldiers, and civilians in preventing sexual violence.

Harassment includes but is not limited to any offensive conduct such as slurs, jokes, or other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct that has the purpose or effect of unrea-



sonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment.

Sexual assault is a crime. To defeat sexual harassment and sexual assault, it's up to Soldiers and civilians to take a stand. The Army needs you to:

- Treat all Soldiers and civilians with dignity and respect
- Recognize that the Army's SHARP policies apply without regard to a person's rank, age, gender and sexual orientation. A person's sexual orientation is a personal and private matter
- Take ownership for eliminating the "enemy within our ranks"
- Intervene to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Encourage Soldiers and civilians to report incidents
- Make the Army the DoD leader and "blueprint for the nation" Approximately 1/3 of all reported sexual assaults within the Army are preceded by sexual harassment.

Approximately 1/3 of all reported sexual assaults within the Army are preceded by sexual harassment. Soldiers and civilians who are aware of a sexual assault incident should report it immediately (within 24 hours).

Sexual assault is incompatible with Army Values and is punishable under the UCMJ and other federal and local civilian laws.

The Army's SHARP policies apply without regard to a person's rank, age, gender and sexual orientation neutral. A person's sexual orientation is a personal and private matter.

All victims of sexual assault will be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect. It undermines the strength of our Army and fundamentally goes against the Warrior Ethos, the Soldiers Creed, and Army Values. It is your responsibility as a Soldier or civilian, Intervening supports Army Values, the Warrior Ethos and the Army Civilian Corps Creed, To prevent a criminal act, To protect your battle buddies, Safety of all civilians and Soldiers, To maintain unit readiness and cohesion, To enable mission accomplishment, It is the right thing to do!