



THE RED LETTER



The Official Newsletter of 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery

Pfc. Dustin Caron, number one cannoneer for Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, fires a live M107 high explosive round from M777A2 towed howitzer during gunnery qualification in support of 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regt's., combined arms live fire exercise.



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NEW TO FORT BLISS?



Want to learn your way around and make new friends?

Come join People Encouraging People (P.E.P)
at Army Community Service!

Day 1 – Information Orientation

Day 2 – Tour of Fort Bliss, El Paso & Downtown

Day 3 – Tour of Historic Mesilla, New Mexico

****Childcare free for those registered with CDC****

2013 CLASS SCHEDULE

Class time is 0900 to 1400

Questions, call 915-569-4ACS

Register online at

January 14-16
February 11-13
March 4-6
April 8-10
May 6-8
June 3-5

July 15-17
August 19-21
September 9-11
October 7-9
November 4-6



#25348



4-27 recognized by AUSA

SANDY MOODY

Bn. Family Readiness Staff Advisor

On Jan. 29, 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery Regt. was presented with an award in recognition for their service and participation in the Unit Guardian Program with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) at a reception honoring the Bradley Strong Unit Guardians.

The guest of honor, Gen. (Ret) Gordon R. Sullivan presented the award to Lt. Col. Ronnie Brown, commander 4-27th FA regt., and Command Sgt. Maj. David Osborne. The award honors 4-27th FA along with their community partner, Sierra Providence East Medical Center (SPEMC).

These two partners developed a strong relationship to bridge the gap between the Army at Fort Bliss and the El Paso community.

Within the past few years, SPEMC has partnered with 4-27th FA in several events at the hospital including the annual "Think Pink" walk for cancer awareness and most recently the official Ground Breaking ceremony for Tower 2 at the hospital.

The hospital is also a key player in assisting 4-27th FA with recognizing spouse volunteers. The hospital cafeteria staff often creates a wonderful menu during the semi-annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon.

The Families of 4-27th FA often get to know many of the key players at the hospital, allowing for them to be comfortable seeking care at this location, which for



many, is their primary care facility due to their distance from William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

This award marks the second time in the past year that 4-27th FA has been awarded this honor. 4-27th FA's presence along with SPEMC in the community represents the type of relationship Fort Bliss should have within the El Paso community. The partnership is a model for every Bradley Strong Unit Guardian to follow.

Golf Forward Support Company gets involved in community

CAPT. YAW YAKUBU

Commander, Company G

On Feb. 25 Soldiers from the Forward Support Company G, 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery reg., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, made a visit to the students of Specialist Rafael Hernando III Middle School in El Paso, Texas.

During their visit they participated in a group discussion on how it feels to be a Soldier and the importance of their education.

The Soldiers participated in relays races with the students in which the team-building exercise involved one person sticking a piece of paper under their foot and pushing it from one side of the room to the other.

The idea behind the relay race was to build their confidence in each other and learn that with the right motivation you can accomplish anything you put your mind to.

This exercise demonstrated to the students the importance of working as a team. It was also used as a visual example to discuss team building, motivating peers, and dedication towards a common goal.

After the relays, the Soldiers were divided into groups with the students to discuss their goals and aspirations. Each group shared what their personal goals were with the Soldiers.



Prior to leaving, Golf Company Soldiers left the students with a lasting impression that you can be whatever you want to be as long as you put hard work and dedication into it.

Feb. 24 4-27th FA supported the El Paso Marathon by establishing a Water Point Station at the marathon's 20-mile marker.

40 Soldiers and Family member volunteers as well as members from all battery, company, and battalion command teams were there.

At the water station, the battalion placed a M777A2 towed howitzer on display, provided a live band, and several Soldiers handed out water along the route and cheer the runners.

The battalion not only provided volunteers to the water station, but had some of its own members participating in the race.



The battalion's Family Readiness Support Assistant, Mrs. Sandy Moody, completed the half-marathon race. Also, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Gregory Caywood, completed the full marathon.

As he approached the 20th mile marker, he received thunderous cheers from all of the battalion's volunteers as he carried his guide-on through the water point.

Fort Bliss Group Exercise Schedule

For class descriptions or additional information,
visit www.blissmwr.com/aerobics.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0630 - 0730	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto & Stout)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto) (Stout) *0600-0700*	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto & Stout)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto) (Stout) *0600-0700*	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto & Stout)	PT Classes Active Duty Soldiers in uniform have priority
0900 - 1000	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Stout) Power Pump (Soto) Rockin' Aerobics (Stout) Gravity (Milam) Zumba (Logan Heights)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto) Rock Hard G.A.L. (Soto) Body Sculpt (Stout) Gravity (Milam)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Stout) Rockin' Aerobics (Stout) Power Pilates (Soto) Gravity (Milam) Zumba (Logan Heights)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto) RIPPED (Soto) Pilates (Stout) Gravity (Milam)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Stout) Power Pump (Soto) Rockin' Aerobics (Stout) RIPPED (Logan Heights) Gravity (Milam)	Turbo Kick (Stout) 6th, 13th & 20th Canceled 27th Keiser Indoor Cycling 0900-1030 (Soto) *0930-1000* Beginners Vinyasa Yoga (Milam)
1000 - 1100	Zumba (Soto) *1015-1115* Pilates (Stout)	TRX (Soto) Zumba (Soto) Aqua Zumba (Replica Pool)	Kick Boxing (Soto) RIPPED (Stout) *1000-1130* Yoga (Milam)	*1015-1045* Beginner Keiser Indoor Cycling (Stout) Zumba (Soto) *1010-1125* Hatha Yoga (Milam)	*1030-1130* Zumba (Stout)	ZumbAtomic (Soto) Vinyasa Yoga (Milam)
1145 - 1245	RIPPED (Soto)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Stout) Rock Hard G.A.L. (Stout) RIPPED (Soto) (1130-1230) Yoga Basics (Milam)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto) Zumba (Soto)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Stout) Zumba (Stout) RIPPED (Soto)	Sentao Zumba (Soto)	
1600 - 1700				Cardio Tai Chi (Milam)		
1730 - 1830	*1700-1800* Vinyasa Yoga (Milam) Gravity (Milam) Ultimate Conditioning (Soto) Power Pilates (Stout)	*1700-1800* Vinyasa/Hatha Yoga (Milam) Hard core *1700-1730* (Soto) Kettleworks (Soto) TRX *1800-1900* (Stout)	*1700-1800* Vinyasa Yoga (Milam) Gravity (Milam) Hard core 1730-1800 (Soto)	*1700-1800* Vinyasa/Hatha Yoga (Milam) Hard Core *1700-1730* (Soto) TRX/Circuit (Soto) TRX *1800-1900* (Stout)	*1700-1800* Vinyasa/Hatha Yoga (Milam) Gravity Burn at Full Force (Milam)	
1830 - 1930	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto) RIPPED (Stout) TurboKick (Soto) 1st, 8th, & 15th Canceled 22nd & 29th Gravity (Milam)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto & Stout) Zumba (Soto)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Stout) RIPPED (Stout) Gravity (Milam)	Keiser Indoor Cycling (Soto & Stout) Zumba (Soto)		

APRIL



THE RED LETTER



Artillery Soldiers qualify, provide maneuver support

SGT. BRIAN FORE

More than 100 rounds were fired by Battery B, 4th Bn. 27th Field Artillery Regt., during gunnery qualification while supporting a maneuver mission at Doña Ana Range Complex, N.M. Feb. 4 through 8.

In preparation for the upcoming Network Integration Evaluation 13.2, the Soldiers of 4-27 FA certified their artillery proficiencies then qualified during a live fire exercise in support of 1st Bn. 35th Armor Regt.'s Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX).

Two platoons from Battery B, each with three M777A2 towed howitzer gun sections, were certified by Cpt. Stephen Warde, commander, during the dry fire portion of the exercise.

Battery B then qualified with live ammunition firing a series of low-angle adjust, fire for effect, and high-angle missions, firing 16 rounds per howitzer gun section.

Sergeant 1st Class Anthony Mariscal, platoon sergeant, explained qualification as members of a gun team displaying their knowledge of performing crew drills, so they can safely conduct live fires.

1st Lt. David Galusha, platoon leader and Battery B executive officer elaborated the reasons for conducting these tables:

"The reason we do it is to get our Soldiers trained and proficient in their MOS tasks: 13B (field artillery), 13D (fire direction center) and 13F (forward observers), and be ready to call rounds in and deliver fires accurately and on time for our maneuvering brethren," he said. "The NIE supports a larger maneuver mission for the 2nd BCT...and the artillery battalion moves to support the infantry and armor forces," he added.

During NIE 12.2, which took place during summer 2012, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, traveled more than 100 kilometers throughout the Doña Ana Range Complex to White Sands Missile Range while supporting missions conducted by the 1st Bn., 35th Armored Regt., the 1st Bn., 6th Infantry Regt., and the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regt.



PHOTOS BY SGT. BRIAN FORE

(Above) Spc. Daniel Davis, assistant gunner, elevates the tube of an M777A2 towed howitzer to the designated quadrant for a live fire mission during battery gunnery qualification Feb. 5.



(Above) Spc. Shane Dantes, right, gunner, sites onto a point designated by Pvt. Daniel Uchendu, center during emplacement while Staff Sgt. Joshua Kee, left stands by to verify their accuracy.

(Right) Soldiers from first section load a high explosive round into an M777A2 towed howitzer during gunnery qualification in support of 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment's combined arms live fire exercise Feb. 5.



Fire support Soldiers deliver steel on target

1ST. LT. BRYAN D. HENSON

Company Fire Support Officer, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division

A Soldier scans the battlefield as his heart pounds

with excitement.

Suddenly, the sound of artillery fills the air as

120-millimeter and 155-millimeter rounds destroy

enemy targets directly in front of a tank platoon.

1-6 Infantry Battalions' high-intensity Combined

Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) took place at

Range 88 last week.

"In the artillery world, if we do not get lead down

range accurately, Soldiers could die", states 1st Lt.

Chance Panter, 1-6 inf. Bn. fire support officer.

On today's modern battlefield the key to success

is being able to coordinate a variety of assets to

maximize effects and capabilities of the field artillery

with maneuver elements.

The CALFEX allows Soldiers to train and master

requesting lethal fires in a scenario that is both realistic and challenging.

Additionally, the Platoon CALFEX is one of the best

training exercises for fire support Soldiers to enhance

their critical skill sets that include developing

company indirect fire plans.

In the past two weeks, assigned forward observers

(FOs) have planned platoon-level fires in which

each platoon attacks in sector while coordinating for

indirect fire support in order to destroy, neutralize,

or suppress preplanned targets and targets of

opportunity.

In order to do this, the FO understands the operations

of the artilleryman and maneuver element and must

integrate both elements.

This also broadcasts the effects of Fires to the

maneuver company, leaving a wealth of knowledge

of how artillery can be utilized as an asset and

demonstrating why artillery is the "King of Battle."



Every weekend in

April Month of the Military Child



Bldg. 2949 Carter Road
568-6272



Buy one game, get one free for all children!
(Valid military ID is required)



Present

Veteran, Military & Family Resource Fair-
El Paso Texas
ARNG Armory
11701 Montana Ave .
FRI April 12 1-4

Join us April 12, 2013 from 1:00-4:00PM, for a resource and benefits fair for veterans, military members, and military families of all branches of armed services at the ARNG Armory at 11701 Montana Ave El Paso, Tx. 79936.

If you are in the military or are affiliated to anyone that has served in any branch of service please come to this free event to learn on different services, resources and benefits.

Local community organizations and Veterans Support Organizations will be available to provide information and assistance on a variety of topics: Employment, Education, Health, Dental, Mental Health, Legal Aid, Financial Counseling, Housing & Transportation, Emergency & Crisis Support, Family Services, Faith Based Services



Joining Community Forces-Texas seeks to maximize the impact of community resources (civilian and military) to Service members, Families and Veterans in order to build resilience and foster a community network that is both sustainable and relevant.

For more information, contact JCFTexas@gmail.com or visit
www.facebook.com/joiningCommunityForcesTexas



THE RED LETTER



Starlight MOVIE NIGHT

Featuring: **HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON**
Take in a movie under the stars!
APRIL 12 6-9PM

*Food and drinks available for purchase

The Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club
3730 Roy Johnson Lane • 565-4867
Northeast El Paso

ROD & GUN CLUB

blissmwr.com/rodandgun

9th Annual

MCCASA

WALK

Bringing awareness to
Month of the Military Child - Child Abuse
Sexual Assault - and Victims of Crime

Saturday, April 13
Kelly Park : 10am-2pm

Free Registration

★ *Teddy Bear Clinic*
Bring your stuffed animal for check-up

★ *T-Shirts to the first 500 in attendance*

★ *Food, Fun & Games*

★ *Music*

★ *Poetry & Art Contests*
* To enter contests please visit website

★ For contest rules, registration & additional info visit blissmwr.com/mccasa
569-4ACS (4227)

4-27 pilots new MRT, teams with Caldwell Ranch

SGT. BRIAN FORE

Six Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment underwent a Master Resiliency Trainer pilot program at Caldwell Ranch, Texas from Feb. 18 to 24.

Under the supervision and mentorship of Maj. Aaron

Leonard, Army Training Support Center, Fort Eustis, Va., Soldiers hiked just over 19 miles and used their camping, cooking, and land navigation skills in a student-leadership environment to learn how to teach the five pillars of resiliency to Soldiers.

Leonard, a volunteer outreach coordinator for Project Rebirth, said he teamed up with Project Rebirth, the Sierra Club, Outward Bound Veteran's Program, and Will and Pam Harte of Caldwell Ranch to "show how



PHOTOS BY SGT. BRIAN FORE

From left to right, Sgt. Francyne Kennedy, Staff Sgt. Justin Cardoza, and Staff Sgt. Mark Stewart shoot a reverse azimuth and use terrain features to identify their location on the map.

From left to right, Staff Sgt. Harold Waterman, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Reynolds, and Staff Sgt. Mark Stewart share a freshly prepared pizza cooked on a pan using a gas stove.



to use nature as part of a Unit resiliency program."

Leonard added, "my intent is to have the Army recognize this type of program as a legitimate component of the MRT program."

Leonard mentored the Battalion's chosen resiliency leadership (Staff Sgt. Jeremiah

Reynolds, Staff Sgt. Harold Waterman, Staff Sgt. Justin Cardoza, Staff Sgt. Mark Stewart, and Sgt. Francyne Kennedy) on how to apply the five pillars of MRT (physical, emotional, social, family, and spiritual) throughout the trip as well as how to identify which Soldiers in a Unit may benefit from the resiliency course.

During extreme winds, below-freezing temperatures, and even occasional rain, Soldiers camped under tarps, cooked with gas stoves, and planned their daily hikes to water supply waypoints using a topography map and a compass.

During the course, Staff Sgt. Harold Waterman, a platoon Sgt. for Battery B, shared how the course helped teach MRT, "there are certain parts of it that are physical, but...really it's a mental thing. It's giving you that mental component to help yourself out so that you can relieve some of that stress so you can sleep better at night, so you can perform better at your job."

Unsure what the course had in store, the Soldiers said that by the



end of the course they were all pushed beyond their comfort zone both physically and mentally.

After the course, Staff Sgt. Mark Stewart, Forward Support Company motor sergeant for 4-27th's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, shared his thoughts about his experience and how the MRT principles applied, "it breaks the routine of whatever you're doing back at your unit, the fast-paced environment, dealing with issues, politics...family issues...you name it.

You push yourself to learn new skills, you push your body to a different level that you're not used to, find more about yourself and be more confident in your abilities and be more optimistic."

Will and Pam Harte of Caldwell Ranch shared that they were extremely happy to show their support of the



The group adds to a previous traveler's cairn, a stack of rocks that indicates the way of the previous path.

nation's Armed Forces and have agreed to provide support for future MRT courses.

Iron Thunder lessons in financial freedom

CPT. ANSELMO BRILLON
Battalion Chaplain

Approximately 40 Soldiers and Spouses from 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery Regt. attended a voluntary self-help financial management luncheon held Jan. 31.

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Team covered important topics such as credit reports,

budgeting, and judging financial risks.

Many Soldiers were interested in credit reports and many had questions concerning clearing and payment of past debts.

Soldiers and spouses enjoyed pizza provided by the Chaplain Corps. during the class and were provided with the opportunity to speak with the financial advisors after the class.

Soldiers and Spouses agreed the event provided plenty of information to reflect on and apply, and look forward to more self-help style classes from the Battalion in the future.

PHOTO BY SANDY MOODY / Bn. FRSA



Month of the Military Child

Let's Play Mini-Golf



Time: 0945
Date: 13 Apr 13
Location: Adventure Zone on Redd Rd

The Sunrise Rotary Club is hosting a MOMC Mini-Golf Tournament for Military-Connected Families. The families will be sponsored by a local organization.

Spaces are limited and the first 10 teams of 4 players (child and adult combination, children must be 8 years old or older) are guaranteed a spot so please RSVP early. The event is open only to registered teams.

To Register Contact the Youth Education Support Services Director at:
 915-568-2784

The tournament includes a free t-shirt, cost of mini-golf, prizes, and pizza for lunch.

Commander's Cup Event

Paintball

2013 Post Championship

BIGGS PARK
 11506 Sargent Major Blvd

April 20

On-site registration from 8-8:45am
 Play begins at 8:00am

Open to active-duty military assigned to Fort Bliss
 Company level teams only (5 players per team)

Look us up on Facebook!
[facebook.com/teamblissports](https://www.facebook.com/teamblissports)

For More Info: 744.5794

POSTWIDE YARD SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 8AM-2PM

Residents of Fort Bliss housing may simply display items during the designated time; no formal permission is required. Shopping is open to the El Paso community. License, registration and insurance required to enter base.

LIVE OFF POST? NO PROBLEM!

Sell your stuff at the Trading Post (Bldg. 1717 Marshall Road, at the old commissary location). \$5 gets you a space and a table. Available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 568-1712.

2013 Racquetball Post Championship Tournament

April 23-25 / 6pm
 Registration closes April 19

Stout APC
 2330 Cassidy Road

Active Duty
Free
 \$15 all other participants

Open to active duty,
 Family members 18+, retirees
 & DoD/OA civilians

[facebook.com/teamblissports](https://www.facebook.com/teamblissports)
[facebook.com/teamblissports](https://www.facebook.com/teamblissports)

Info: 915.744.5794



THE RED LETTER



Soldiers prepare for convoy live fire, qualify M2

SGT. BRIAN FORE

Over 8,000 rounds were fired from M2 .50 caliber machine guns by 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery Soldiers at McGregor Range Complex on March 4.

As part of semi-annual qualification, Soldiers from all 4-27th's Batteries and Company attended the range at Range 27.

Additionally, in preparation for NIE 13.2, 4-27th's Forward Support Company G qualified 30 Soldiers for 15 gun crews to support a future convoy live-fire mission.

1st Lt. Richard Miller, Battery B, 4-27th FA, range officer in charge, confirmed that all firers shot approximately 246 rounds each and that all firers throughout the Battalion had qualified.

Sgt. 1st Class Eric Alejandro explained the importance of familiarizing and qualifying his gun

Pfc. Julio Martinez fires while Pvt. Andy Amezcua, both of Battery B, assists with feeding ammunition and target spotting.



PHOTOS BY SGT. BRIAN FORE

Staff Sgt. Michael Hidalgo, left, assists as Spc. Alberto Cabrera, right, both of Forward Support Company G, fires the M2.

sections, "it gets Soldiers ready to go down range... to familiarize them [with] how a live-fire should look down range."

"Since it is an area weapon, the more rounds in a target area...[and] the more rounds you put on the target with less rounds [fired]...[then the weapon] is more effective," he added.

Soldiers qualified by shooting a series of targets placed at different distance intervals with two canisters of ammunition each.

Pvt. Andy Amezcua, left, and Sgt. Daryl Collins, right, Battery B, demonstrate how to perform a headspace and timing check on the M2 prior to firing.



El Paso Zoo hosts Military Appreciation Day-

SGT. BRIAN FORE

-for the Fort Bliss community Sunday March 10 by inviting over 400 military Families to enjoy free lunch, games, and zoo exhibits.

Using grants from the El Paso Zoological Society and the El Paso Community Foundation, the zoo provided military Families with an afternoon of fun with free face painting, a climbing wall, obstacle course, bounce house, and basketball toss.

Renee Neuert, executive director of the El Paso Zoological Society, expressed her gratitude to the nation's Service Members, "We want to partner more and more with Fort Bliss...welcoming these Soldiers and their Families."

She added, "As Soldiers come back from Afghanistan, we want to reintegrate them with their families in a wonderful environment where they can spend time together."

Members of the Fort Bliss Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers/Parents volunteered to help organize and set up the event by setting up the activities, setting up and cleaning tables, supervising events, and other tasks that were needed for the event to run easily and safely.



PHOTOS BY SGT. BRIAN FORE

Pfc. Brendan Sneed, 212th Fires Brigade, volunteers during Military Appreciation Day at the El Paso Zoo and shows support for Fort Bliss Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers/Parents by getting the BOSS logo painted on his face.



(Above) Steve Marshall, left, El Paso Zoo director, and Richard Behrenhausen, right, retired Brig. General from Fort Bliss and current El Paso Zoological Society board member, receive a banner of thanks from Families that participated at Military Appreciation Day.

(Below) Family members participate in the many events at the El Paso Zoo in support of Military Appreciation Day and the Fort Bliss community.



Albertsons Presents
Party for the Planet 2013

Celebrate Earth Day & Biodiversity at the El Paso Zoo!

You're Invited!

Sunday, April 21
11am - 3pm

EL PASO ZOO

facebook.com/elpasozoo

4001 E. Paisano • 915-521-1850 • www.elpasozoo.org

AGES 8 & UP **USA WRESTLING SANCTIONED EVENT**

FREESTYLE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

SOTO PFC
20761 CONSTITUTION AVENUE

APRIL 27 // 9:30AM
REGISTRATION 7:30-8:30AM
\$10 ENTRY PER PARTICIPANT

744.5784

DUELING PIANOS

Join Family and MWR for a High Energy, All Request, Sing Along, Clap Along, Rock n' Roll, Comedy Piano show where the audience is just as much a part of the show as the entertainers.

**Friday,
April 26 • 8pm**

**Centennial Banquet
and Conference Center**
11199 Sergeant E. Churchill St.
East Fort Bliss

Call 744-1171 for
more information

Tickets available at Centennial Banquet and
Conference Center or at www.ticketbully.com
Tickets will go on sale Monday, April 1

\$5

LET'S GET DIRTY

APRIL 20
for Assault Course
9am-1pm

**Old Ironsides
Mud Challenge**
4-mile course with 15+ obstacles

Early registration closes April 17
Registration at Soto or Stout Snack Bar, and on active.com

Late registration is on-site only from 7:30-11:00am

**FIRST 500 TO FINISH
GET A T-SHIRT**

Participants under the age of 18 must participate with a parent

Active-Duty Military - Free
Fort Bliss ID Card Holders = \$25
El Paso Community = \$30

All participants pay an additional
\$10 late fee for day-of registration.





4-27 would like to congratulate Sgt. Daryl Collins (left) for winning the NCO of the Month Board as well as Pfc. Patrick McLoughlin (right) for winning the Soldier of the Month Board both for the month of March, 2013.

Easterfest 2013

Battalion gives back to Families

SGT. BRIAN FORE

Family Readiness Group leaders teamed up with 4-27th Field Artillery to show the command's gratitude to the Families and Soldiers that continually support the unit and its mission by hosting 4-27 Easterfest 2013 at the 2nd Brigade Combat Team field on Sun. March 23.

After two months of planning, the volunteers set up a bounce house, face painting booth, coordinated and hosted several competitive events, and offered snacks and refreshments to participants.

"We wanted to do something for the families, they support us all they time, we wanted to do something for the family and for kids and show our appreciation for them and for all of the work that they do for us because we couldn't do the things we do without them," spoke Lt. Col. Ronnie Brown, commander, 4-27th FA.

The first event was an Easter egg hunt where participants were divided by age group and the winners were awarded Easter gift baskets and lucky parents were even surprised to find four-day passes stuffed inside some of the plastic eggs.

An egg toss was next where parents teamed with their children and tossed eggs to one another and moved further back until only three



PHOTOS BY SGT. BRIAN FORE

1st. Lt. Gregory Spraley, left, Battery A, and other Family teams partake in the first event of Easterfest, the egg toss.
teams were left.

The egg relay followed the egg toss, where participants placed an egg on a spoon in their mouths and ran to a waypoint, spun eight times in a circle, then ran back to the start and the next teammate followed suit, and a three-legged race followed afterward.

April Foss, wife of Spc. Lindsey Foss, Battery A, and son of Bradley Foss who won the three-legged race, egg relay, and egg toss, expressed her experience and appreciation of the event, "It was good seeing all of the families having fun and all of the kids laughing and running around like crazy...it was good, I liked the whole event."

Following the competitions, the winners were given certificates and gift cards from Lt. Col. Brown, and Soldiers got to enjoy members of their command take whipped cream pies to the face.



(Above) Bradley Foss heads back to the start after rounding the waypoint during the egg relay.

(Below) 1st. Sgt. Gregory Caywood, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, takes a whipped cream pie to the face from daughter Abby.



BOSS Long Range Calendar

Updated on: 11 March 2013

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ❖ We will be helping run the Ft. Bliss Special Olympics. Date is to be determined and more information will follow as we get closer to the date.
- ❖ 3-5 Weeks: Flash mob
 - We will be putting on a flash mob at Freedom Crossing to help the Recycle Center to promote their ban on using plastic bags.
- ❖ 27 March: 6th Annual James Butler Springs Games
 - Will take place at the Socorro Activity Center from 0900-1630.
 - All Soldiers must get a background check done prior to volunteering at this event.
 - Volunteers will be assigned to a student and will watch over/cheer them on during competitions.
- ❖ 30 March: Easter Day Parade
 - We will be helping MWR out by providing Soldiers to put on costumes:
 - Frog Prince: Average size male
 - Tooth Fairy: 6' 1 280 Lbs male
 - Big Bad Wolf: adult- male or female
 - Dorothy: large size 14-16 female
 - Scarecrow: adult male
 - There will be a parade, then a concert and arts and crafts and pics w/the Easter Bunny and roaming characters.
- ❖ 6 April: 6th Annual Clint Fallen Heroes Gathering
 - Will take place in Clint, TX starting 0800 at Mamacita's Restaurant and ending at Livery Stable & Saloon.
 - BOSS will be attending the rally. BOSS bus will meet at Pacific Audio to drive Soldiers over. We will then participate in the rally.
 - We are looking to get around 14 Soldiers to help out with the rally.
 - They will also be putting in a flag pole
- ❖ 13 April: Military Tribute Concert
 - Freedom Crossing
 - More information will follow on what the jobs are for volunteering as the date gets closer.
- ❖ 14 April: Major Country Artist Concert
 - Biggs Park
 - More information will follow on what the jobs are for volunteering as the date gets closer.
- ❖ 19 APRIL: 1st Annual Army-Air Force Golf Tournament
 - BOSS will be hosting and helping run the 1st Annual Army-Air Force Golf Tournament.
 - More information will follow on what the jobs are for volunteering as the date gets closer.
- ❖ 1 MAY: MDA Lock-Up
 - Business owners, business managers, etc. sign up and will be "arrested" by BOSS Soldiers to be escorted to "jail". They will call friends and family to raise money for their "bail" and that is the donation to the program. The "jail" location will be at Carino's(Westside) in El Paso.
- ❖ 9 MAY: Recycling Center hosts students
 - We will be hosting between 50-75 5th graders around post to show them what kind of jobs we do. We will also eat lunch with them at a DFAC or another location.