



THE IRONHORSEMAN

1st Brigade Combat Team 1st Cavalry Division



The Ironhorse Brigade went
on a rampage in November

Special edition:
2013 Year in Review

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1st Brigade Combat Team
1st Cavalry Division
Fort Hood, Texas



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Saber engineers know no obstacles



Pvt. Devonte Haggins, a Sabre combat engineer, retrieves a grapnel hook he threw to make contact with a wire obstacle and check for mines during an offensive and defensive breaching exercise, Oct. 24, at Fort Hood, Texas.



Staff Sgt. Michael Petitta (left), an Austin, Texas, native, and Spc. Steven Wolfe, a Pringle, Pa., native, both Sabre combat engineers, place simulated explosives to clear a wire obstacle during an offensive and defensive breaching exercise Oct. 24, at Fort Hood, Texas.

Story and Photos By Pfc. Paige Pendleton
1BCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – While deployed, Soldiers must be prepared for any obstacle, situation or conflict they may encounter on the battlefield, making it important to train while at home.

Company A Engineers assigned to the 91st “Saber” Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division honed conventional warfare techniques during an offensive and defensive breaching exercise here Oct. 21 to 30.

Seventy-five Saber Soldiers practiced the three tasks of combat engineers: survivability, countermobility and mobility. Each platoon ran back-to-back breaching missions in a simulated minefield scattered with concertina wire obstacles.

Survivability is essentially the ability for units to survive adverse circumstance on the battlefield. Demonstrating this task, the equipment platoon dug fighting positions concealing tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles later providing security during breaching exercises.

Before engineers executed breaching missions, they built obstacles from concertina and barbed-wire framed by pickets simulating their countermobility mission, which aims to reduce or control enemy movement.

In a deployed environment, obstacles would normally be attached to restricted terrain features like tree lines or rocky cliffs. The “disrupt” obstacles are designed to slow enemy movement and direct or keep them into an engagement area.

Soldiers demonstrated mobility by breaching the obstacles built for the countermobility task. Back-to-back missions aimed to complete breaches in less than 10 minutes.

“Breaching is probably the single most (important) aspect that everyone really relies on us for,” said 1st Lt. Christopher Rojewski, the executive officer for Co. A. “If we don’t make that breach, the task force fails.”

The first step in breaching is getting fire support elements in place to provide security for combat engineers approaching the

obstacle.

To advance on an obstacle, a Soldier throws a grapnel hook, lays flat on his or her stomach and pulls it back, checking for mines or booby traps. The process is repeated until reaching the obstacle.

“This is the most dangerous part of the breach for a Soldier,” said Rojewski, a St. Louis native.

Once establishing a clear route a dismounted team moves up, neutralizing the obstacle by either cutting the wire or setting explosives.

After clearing the obstacle, an armored vehicle moves in to “proof the lane,” ensuring no remaining threats are present.

The last step in breaching is marking. Another team places cones or other devices marking the safe route.

“Once (everyone moves past the obstacle) the engineer mission for that specific obstacle is complete, and the mobility task has been accomplished,” said Rojewski.

Sgt. 1st Class Vervener Astorga, a Saber combat engineer, said the quarterly training ensures engineers remain mission ready, which is important because new Soldiers are always arriving.

“The less experienced Soldiers right now are the ones getting employed,” said Astorga, a native of Oakland, Calif. “They’re the ones actually doing the drill.”

Astorga said each Soldier gets experience driving engineer vehicles or conducting ground-level tasks like throwing the grapnel hook by swapping roles during breaching missions.

To achieve maximum safety, engineers are highly trained on explosives and demolitions. During breaches there is always one Soldier whose main job is to double check explosives once they’ve been set, Rojewski added.

“Safety and accomplishing the mission is something we just can’t fail,” Rojewski said.

To build muscle memory, engineers ran missions throughout the day and into early morning.

Rojewski said he believes the Soldiers would improve throughout the training, becoming more efficient after each successful breach.



Santa's Workshop brightens holidays for Dragon Families

Story and Photos by Pfc. Paige Pendleton
1BCT, 1CD PAO

Elves have transformed the former Fort Hood Tax Center into Santa's Workshop, where military Families are greeted with snacks, hot beverages and a giving spirit.

For 15 years, Santa's Workshop has provided Christmas gifts to Fort Hood Families, and Soldiers. This year Soldiers of 1st "Dragon" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division shopped for their little ones during a visit Dec. 5.

Santa's Workshop is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization providing toys to Fort Hood's active-duty Families in need of a little extra help during the holidays. Toys, games and funds provided by civilian and military donors make the program possible.

"We actually received a phone call yesterday from a Soldier who came through earlier in the day," said Lisa West, president of Santa's Workshop. "He was so incredibly grateful that we were here, and it just brought tears to my eyes. That's the reason why I'm involved in Santa's Workshop."

Families apply to receive gifts from



Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Nichols, a San Jose, Calif., native and Dragon motor transport operator compares toys while choosing a gift for his daughter at Santa's Workshop, Dec. 5, at Fort Hood, Texas.



Rosemary Jacobs (right), a Leavenworth, Kan., native and a Santa's Workshop elf, helps Staff Sgt. Russell Sanchez, Fayetteville, N.C. native, and Dragon field artillery automated tactical data systems specialist pick out toys for his three children at Santa's Workshop, Dec. 5, at Fort Hood, Texas.

Santa's Workshop through their unit command financial specialist. Once approved, each unit is given a shopping time when Families select two toys, stocking stuffers, and a book for each child and a board game for the Family.

"Hopefully people who are having financial difficulties during the holidays (can) get toys here for their children (and) focus their financial resources on other issues that are going on in their lives," said West, a New York native.

Pfc. Chris Williams, a cannon crew-member assigned to Battery B of the Dragon Battalion picked out footballs for his son.

Williams said he is grateful for the program because money can be tight this time of year.

Santa's Workshop stocks everything from games and Family movies to bikes and fishing poles. The shelves are periodically replenished, ensuring every shopper has a wide range of quality toys to choose from.

"I felt like I was in a toy store," said Williams, a Shelby, N.C., native.

Smiling elves guided shoppers like Williams through many rows of toys categorized by age group and gender, while

offering parents gift suggestions based on their children's interests.

Pfc. Byron Hooker, also a cannon crew-member assigned to the Dragon Battalion, said the elves were helpful in the process and showed him what was available as he shopped for his six-month old son.

"It's a lot greater than what people really let on," said Hooker, a Somerset, Ky. native. "It's really nice here."

Hooker said he would recommend Santa's Workshop to other Soldiers who may be hesitant to apply next year.

Of the 2,400 applications Santa's Workshop received in October, they were able to assist 1,970 Families across the installation.

This program helps Soldiers put gifts under the tree during adverse circumstances. West said Santa's Workshop even provided Christmas gifts to a Family whose home had been destroyed by a fire.

"We're very appreciative this year of all of the help that the military and the civilian communities have given us," West said. "We really see (how) the community cares this year, and it really helps our Soldiers and Family members."

For more information about Santa's Workshop, visit: www.swsforthood.com.



29 Stallions continue Army service at mass reenlistment ceremony

Photos by Pfc. Paige Pendleton

1BCT, 1CD PAO

(Right) Stallion Soldiers stand at attention on the stage of Howze Auditorium during the Stallion's mass reenlistment ceremony, Oct. 30, at Fort Hood, Texas. Twenty-nine Stallion Soldiers were reenlisted by Tampa, Fla., native Lt. Col. Felix Perez, Stallion commander. "It's an extreme honor for me to reenlist the amount of Soldiers that we did," Perez said. "Being prior enlisted and going through enlistments myself ... I know how it feels for each Soldier." Families attended the event, and spouses received flowers and a Certificate of Appreciation for their support. Perez said spouses are the backbone of the military family. "Without them we would not be able to accomplish our missions," Perez added.



(Left) San Bernardino, Calif., native, Sgt. Julio Beccera (left), a Stallion human resources specialist, stands with his wife, Anna Beccera, and daughter, Leilani Beccera, at Howze Auditorium before receiving his Certificate of Reenlistment during the Stallion's mass reenlistment ceremony, Oct. 30, at Fort Hood, Texas. When he first joined the Army in 2010, Julio set a goal to become a noncommissioned officer within his first three-year enlistment, and he met that goal. Julio, 22, said he is proud to be reenlisting with other Stallion Soldiers he has worked with over the years.

(Right) Greeley, Colo., native, Sgt. 1st Class Rocky Kunkel, an Stallion M1 armor crewman, cuts a cake with a saber during the Stallion's mass reenlistment ceremony, Oct. 30, at Fort Hood, Texas. At 31, Kunkel was the oldest reenlistee who took the oath for a third time and continued his Army career of 10 years for a potential 16 more years. He said he has been in the military for so long, it just felt right. Initially, Kunkel joined the Army at age 21 in 2003 to provide for his family. "Reenlistment is a big part of thanking the spouses," Kunkel said. "I couldn't have done any of this without my wife."



(Above) Greeley, Colo., native, Sgt. 1st Class Rocky Kunkel (left), an M1 armor crewman, and Fayetteville, N.C., native, Spc. Dalton Lane, an infantryman, both assigned to the Stallion Battalion, take the oath of enlistment along with 27 other Stallion Soldiers during a mass reenlistment ceremony, Oct. 30, at Fort Hood, Texas. Opposites on the spectrum of their Army careers, Kunkel and Lane are the oldest and youngest reenlistees at ages 31 and 21.



Ironhorse chaplain fulfills higher calling through Army service

By Pfc. Paige Pendleton
1BC7, 1CD PAO

Soldiers choose to serve for any number of reasons, whether to support their families, to follow in a relative's footsteps, to make a better life for themselves, or simply to ensure a better life is possible for other Americans.

One Ironhorse Soldier chose the path of service for a different reason.

Maj. Marshall Coen, the chaplain for the Ironhorse Brigade, decided to pursue a career in the Army, because he felt a higher power needed him to serve not only as a Soldier, but as a chaplain.

"The Lord led me in this direction," said Coen. "It was a call."

Initially, Coen was not interested in pursuing a life involved with the ministry or the military.

"The Lord began to really instill in my heart and in my life that he had a higher calling

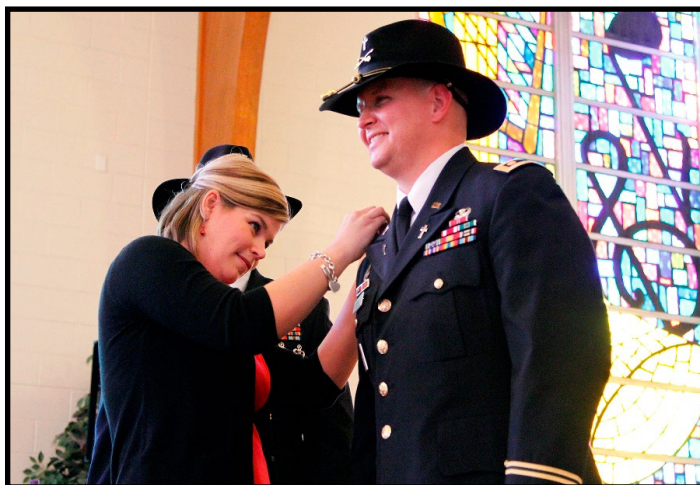


Photo by Pfc. Paige Pendleton

Maj. Marshall Coen (right), a Killeen, Texas, native and chaplain for the Ironhorse Brigade gets pinned by his wife, Jill, also a Killeen native, at his promotion ceremony, Dec. 3, at Fort Hood, Texas.

for me," Coen said.

After his freshman year of college, Coen decided to work on a degree toward ministry. Upon finishing his undergraduate degree, he served as the youth minister at the First Baptist Church in Killeen.

During that time, Coen reconnected with a young lady in the congregation he knew

from high school and married her in 2000.

Marshall's wife, Jill, felt they had a comfortable life.

"(The chaplains) just started talking (to us) about the chaplaincy," Jill said. "We started thinking something new was coming."

Marshall and Jill felt as though their lives were being

pointed in the direction of the Army.

After Marshall decided to join the military, he resigned his position at the church and took steps to become an Army chaplain.

While attending seminary to work on a master's degree in divinity - a requirement necessary to be an Army chaplain - Marshall's father swore him into the Army as an officer at his commissioning ceremony in April of 2004.

Maj. Rich West, the 1st Cav. Div. Family Life Chaplain, said he believes most chaplains share the same sense of calling Marshall felt.

"They feel like God has led them and guided them ... to join the military to care for Soldiers who are deploying and to provide religious support," said West.

West said Marshall is passionate about caring for Soldiers, and in his supervisory role that includes caring for



Photo courtesy of Maj. Marshall Coen

Chaplain continued

chaplains in the battalion's he oversees.

When Lt. Col. Addison Burgess, the 1st Cav. Div. chaplain, needed a chaplain to serve the Ironhorse Brigade, West said he was looking for two qualities in particular.

"Marshall is one of those unique Army chaplains that has a really good balance of the professional military officer skill set coupled with strong pastoral personality and skill set," West said. "Chaplain Coen has both of those qualities excellently balanced and in high measure, and that's what Chaplain Burgess was looking for."

Through his charismatic, approachable and energetic personality, it really shows that Marshall cares for his Soldiers, West added.

At the beginning of his career, Marshall said his goal was to be true to his roots and calling, and to make sure his family was taken care of.

"My father modeled for me what was important which are faith, family, then career," Marshall said. "I see some of the

sacrifices that are required, and I understand what's important."

Along the way, Jill has remained supportive of Marshall's career even when times were tough.

The biggest challenge for Jill is when Marshall can't be home, adding that flexibility and her military upbringing helps get her through those times.

Jill said her most rewarding moment was during Marshall's second deployment to Iraq in 2010. She was ready for him to be home, but had a change of heart after seeing a photograph.

"I remember seeing a picture of him baptizing a Soldier in Iraq and thinking, 'That's what this is all about,'" She said, tearing up. "He's away, (and) it's for a greater purpose, so I can handle it. It made it a lot better. It made it worth it ... I think that was my proudest moment to see the fruit of all of his work on a spiritual level."

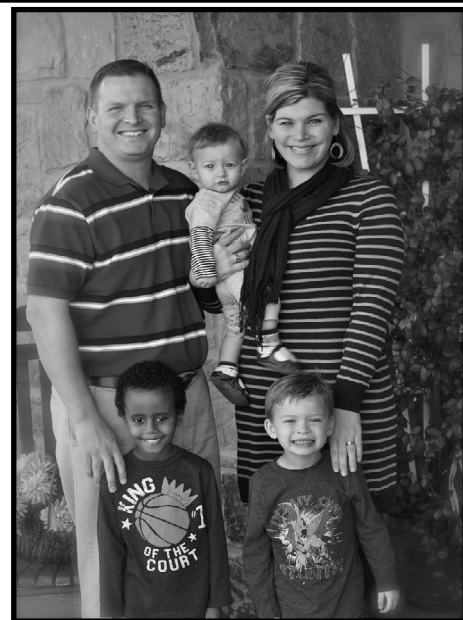


Photo courtesy of Maj. Marshall Coen

Maj. Marshall Coen (left), a Killeen, Texas, native and chaplain for the Ironhorse Brigade, smiles for a family photo with his wife, Jill (right), and sons, Silas (lower left), Jude, (lower right), and baby Ira (center), Nov. 28, in Killeen, Texas.

Hon. Ashton Carter visits Dragon Soldiers

By Sgt. Bailey Kramer

1BCT, 1CD PAO



(Above) The Hon. Ashton Carter (right), the Deputy Secretary of Defense, speaks to Soldiers of 1st "Dragon" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in the Dragon motor pool, Oct. 28, at Fort Hood, Texas.

(Right) The Hon. Ashton Carter, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, speaks to Soldiers of 1st "Dragon" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in the Dragon motor pool, Oct. 28, at Fort Hood, Texas. The visit was part of Carter's farewell tour, "We are proud of everything you are doing," Carter said on behalf of his comrades in the Pentagon.



Ironhorse Brigade moves forward on road to readiness

By Capt. Angel Jackson
1BCT, 1CD PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas –The 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division completed Ironhorse Rampage conducted Nov. 4 to 22, here.

Ironhorse Rampage, a brigade-wide field training exercise, served as a venue to certify or recertify company-level units on essential tasks needed prior to a rotation to the National Training Center in February.

Maj. Matt Hopper, the Ironhorse Brigade operations officer, said it’s important to get through company-level situational training exercises prior to NTC so that the brigade can focus on battalion certifications.

“Our (situational training exercises) are going to be task-force level (situational training exercises) and task-force level live fires, and then we’ll go into a brigade level force-on-force,” Hopper said. “So when we go into NTC we’re not worried about certifying companies and company live fires, we’re going in at the task force level, a step up from where we are now.”



Photo by Pfc. Paige Pendleton

Thunderhorse Soldiers play simulated villagers and reporters during a Soldier Leader Engagement scenario led by the Stallion Battalion Nov. 14, at Fort Hood, Texas. The exercise simulated a deployed environment and adapted to the decisions and actions of Soldiers who interacted with villagers during their patrol.



Photo by Sgt. Bailey Kramer

A Muleskinner combat medic treats a simulated casualty during a mass casualty exercise during Ironhorse Rampage, Nov. 14, at Fort Hood, Texas. During the exercise, Soldiers with simulated wounds were treated to test medics on properly treating wounds.

The Brigade spent months training prior to Ironhorse Rampage. The brigade’s combined arms battalions, the 2nd “Lancer” Battalion, 5th Cav. Regiment and 2nd “Stallion” Bn., 8th Cav. Reg., as well as the 1st “Dragon” Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Reg. conducted several gunnery exercises throughout the year prior to the start of Ironhorse Rampage.

1st Squadron, 7th “Garryowen” Cav. Reg. of the Ironhorse Bde. conducted certification exercises throughout the year as well as platoon certifications going into Ironhorse Rampage.

The brigade’s 91st “Saber” Bde. Engineer Bn. conducted three platoon certifications, and the 115th “Muleskinner” Bde. Support Bn. led a brigade support area exercise and certified its units through field logistics exercises.

Col. Steve Gilland, commander of the Ironhorse Bde., said the successful completion of Ironhorse Rampage meant the brigade is better prepared for not only NTC, but possible future operational deployments.

“With our regional alignment to the European Command and the NATO Response Force for a calendar year, we offer unique capabilities as a brigade combat team that we have to exercise through training,”

Gilland said. “Every Ironhorse leader and Soldier must be trained and confident in their ability to engage the enemy, operate all vehicles and weapons systems effectively, and be a member of a team that can execute small unit drills instinctively. We need to be able to operate in complex environments and complete any mission required of us.”

Multiple and simultaneous live-fire exercises, stability operations, aerial resupply missions, unmanned aerial surveillance, reconnaissance missions, and casualty operations were a few of the many tasks Soldiers conducted during Ironhorse Rampage.

“This has been very good training,” Hopper said. “Previous rotations that I’ve been in at the National Training Center, we haven’t gotten through platoon-level certifications. So for Ironhorse this time, we’ve gotten through company, battery and troop level certifications, all simultaneous and exercising mission command from the platoon all the way to the brigade level.”

In order to ensure units received the best possible training during Ironhorse Rampage, the brigade enlisted many outside resources to include Company A, 1st Bn, 44th Air Defense Artillery Reg. and the 64th Military Police Co. of 720th MP Bn.

Soldiers from 2nd Bn, 20th FAR and Battery A, 26th FAR (Target Acquisition



Ironhorse Brigade moves forward on road to readiness

Battery) of the 41st Fires Bde., 1st Cav. Div. provided ground support for the exercise, and 3rd Bn., 227th Aviation Reg., 1st Air Cav. Bde. of the 1st Cav. Div. provided air support.

Ironhorse Rampage may be complete, but the exercise is only one of many lanes on the brigade's road to readiness. The Ironhorse

Brigade recently completed Steadfast Jazz 2013, a NATO exercise to certify the NATO Response Force, and, following NTC, the brigade is preparing for Exercise Rochambeau 2014, a major land force exercise in May.



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Couffer

(Above) Saber Engineers fire a simulated mine clearing line charge at an obstacle during a combined arms live-fire exercise with Stallion tankers as part of Ironhorse Rampage, Nov. 12, at Fort Hood, Texas. Soldiers of the Ironhorse Brigade participated in Ironhorse Rampage Nov. 4 to 22, conducting various training exercises in preparation for an upcoming rotation to the National Training Center.



Photo by Pfc. Paige Pendleton

Stallion Soldiers meet with a simulated French reporter played by a 2nd "Thunderhorse" Bn., 12th Cav. Reg. Soldier, 1st BCT, during a Soldier Leader Engagement scenario, Nov. 14. Soldiers interacted with simulated villagers, local police and other local personnel during the exercise.

Photo by Pfc. Paige Pendleton

(Right) Lancer Soldiers respond to a mass casualty incident during Soldier Leader Engagement training during Ironhorse Rampage, Nov. 18, at Fort Hood, Texas. During the exercise, Lancer Soldiers treated simulated villagers, played by Soldiers with 2nd "Thunderhorse" Bn., 12th Cav. Reg. of the Ironhorse Brigade.



Saving time for Christmas

By Sgt. Bailey Kramer
1BCT, 1CD PAO



(Left) Carmen Mayberry (left), family readiness group leader for Troop D of Garryowen, and Debbie Duffus, wife of Spc. Andre Duffus of Troop D, add the finishing touches to a bicycle during the gift wrapping fundraiser at the Warrior Way Exchange, Dec. 12, at Fort Hood, Texas. Gift wrapping was a free service provided by the family readiness group, while accepting small donations.



(Above) Pfc. Ambrochous Bell, a Garryowen fueller prepares ribbon for gift wrapping at the Warrior Way Post Exchange, Dec. 12, on Fort Hood, Texas. Garryowen's family readiness group helped shoppers save time this holiday by providing gift wrapping services at the entrance of the Post Exchange.



(Above) Pfc. Ambrochous Bell (left), a Garryowen fueller, and Debbie Duffus, wife of Spc. Andre Duffus assigned to Garryowen, wrap gifts during a family readiness group fundraiser at the Warrior Way Exchange, Dec. 12, at Fort Hood, Texas.

Cav Families strengthen bonds

Story and Photos by Sgt. Bailey Kramer
1BCT, 1CD PAO

TEMPLE, Texas – Due to military training, temporary duty assignments and deployments, married Soldiers and their spouses can often spend more time apart than together, testing even the strongest of marriages.

To help Soldiers from the Ironhorse Brigade's 1st "Dragon" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment and the 115th "Muleskinner" Brigade Support Battalion reconnect with their spouses after months of extensive training exercises, Soldiers and their spouses attended a marriage retreat Dec. 6 in Temple, Texas.

Capt. Kevin McCarty, the chaplain for the 2nd "Lancer" Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment of the Ironhorse Brigade, addressed the unique challenges the Army presents to married couples.

"(Ironhorse) couples have been separated by the field, and their Soldiers are about to leave for (the National Training Center)," McCarty said.

Over coffee and croissants, he talked to the couples about the importance of trust, communication, love and commitment.

McCarty selected an English-speaking spouse from the group and began a conversation with her — in Spanish. He later used this to demonstrate some of the difficulties of communicating.

"If you don't talk to someone in a way they can understand, you might as well be talking in a different language," McCarty explained.

Using a drawing game to express the importance of effective communication, McCarty instructed spouse's from each couple to attempt to draw a picture based on their significant other's description.

When finished, McCarty asked if the couples felt the exercise was difficult or easy. The majority found the exercise to be difficult.

"The (drawing game) was probably my favorite part of the event," said Cpl. Cody Lance, a cannon crewmember assigned to Battery A of the Dragon Battalion. "We came hoping to learn how to better communicate, and I believe the (retreat) helped accomplish that."

Natasha Lance, Cody's wife of more than three years, said she



Ashley Hollis (left), wife of Pvt. Desmond Hollis, an ammunition distributor assigned to FSC F of the Dragon Battalion, play a game of air hockey during the marriage retreat in Temple, Texas, Dec. 6. also enjoyed the communication test and believes it will be easier to communicate with each other in the future.

"Many young couples don't know what right looks like when it comes to a relationship," said McCarty. "Then they are expected to make it last."

The drawing game wasn't the only event the couples participated in during the lesson.

McCarty tested the couples' knowledge of one another by separating the men from the women. He then handed each group a blank piece of paper and told each group to list 10 items they think their husbands want most.

Assuming what is important to others is different from what they think is important to them, McCarty said, explaining the purpose behind the game.

"I hope (the couples) leave here knowing how to reconcile both the little and big hurts that come up in their marriage," McCarty said.

Natasha said the event helped her realize problems aren't always Cody's fault; it takes both husband and wife to understand how to communicate and work with each other to make their relationship stronger.

Following the lessons, the group was allowed to enjoy bowling, laser tag and arcade games.

"We can never have too many marriage training events," McCarty said. "A healthier marriage makes a healthier Army: healthy lasts."



Roxana Galo (left), wife of Spc. Hector Galo (right), a wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to FSC F of the Dragon Battalion, plays a motorcycle simulator driving game with their son Miguel during the marriage retreat in Temple, Texas, Dec. 6.



2-12 CAV welcomes new leadership

by Capt. Angel Jackson
1BCT, 1CD PAO



Lt. Col. William Rockefeller (left), commander of Thunderhorse Battalion, accepts the guidon from Col. Steve Gilland (right), commander of the Ironhorse Brigade during the 2-12 CAV change of command ceremony Dec. 18 at Fort Hood, Texas.



Lt. Col. William Rockefeller (front), stands in front of the Thunderhorse Battalion during the 2-12 CAV change of command ceremony Dec. 18 at Fort Hood, Texas.



Betsy Gilland, spouse of Ironhorse Commander Col. Steve Gilland, gives flowers to the daughters of Lt. Col. Williams Rockefeller, commander of the Thunderhorse Battalion, during the 2-12 CAV change of command ceremony Dec. 18 at Fort Hood, Texas.



Lt. Col. Monte Rone (left), outgoing Thunderhorse commander, Col. Steve Gilland, (center) commander of the Ironhorse Brigade, and Lt. Col. William Rockefeller (right), commander of the Thunderhorse Battalion, stand ready during the 2-12 CAV change of command ceremony Dec. 18 at Fort Hood, Texas.

2013 Ironhorse Brigade year in review



JANUARY: The III Corps, Fort Hood and Ironhorse Brigade Equal Opportunity Offices hosted the Rev. Dennis Morgan Brown as the "Resurrected Voice of King" during the Martin Luther King Holiday Observance Jan. 23.



JANUARY:

Local area high school students substituted a day of academics for a day on the job during the 16th Annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day. The students were paired with Ironhorse leaders whose military occupational specialties were close to the job they would like to pursue after graduation.



MARCH:

Ironhorse spouses had the opportunity to walk a mile in their Soldier's boots during a Spouse Spur Ride March 22.

FEBRUARY: Thirty-two Soldiers completed the Ironhorse Brigade's Expert Infantryman Badge competition Feb. 25 to March 1, earning the coveted award.

APRIL:

The Ironhorse Brigade company, troop and battery commanders completed the first Mungadai challenge April 9 to 11. Modeled after the legendary Mongolian Cavalry selection process, Mungadai is a team building event designed to test the adaptability of leaders, and build esprit de corps through the brigade.



2013 Ironhorse Brigade year in review



MAY: Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III paid a visit to the 2nd "Stallion" Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment Blackwell Multi-use Range during their Table I gunnery training May 28.



MAY: Six Ironhorse Soldiers earned the Expert Field Medical Badge conducted April 22 to May 2. The EFMB test spans ten days and measures an individual medical Soldier's physical fitness mental toughness and ability to perform to standards of excellence in a broad spectrum of critical medical and Soldier tasks.



JUNE: Ironhorse Battalions participated in mounted and dismounted gunnery training June 2. Battalions conducted a series of brigade-wide gunnery certification exercises from January to June 2013.



JUNE: Ironhorse leaders and Soldiers conducted a Brigade Support Area exercise to practice establishing communications, field feeding sites, medical facilities and other support activities.



JULY: The Ironhorse Brigade received The Army Marathon 'Strength in Unity' military unit award, July 18 for having the lowest collective run time for the marathon. The first Army Marathon took place April 21 in honor of the 238th anniversary of the 'shot heard around the world,' which was the beginning of the American Revolution, April 19, 1775.

2013 Ironhorse Brigade year in review



JULY: (Left) The 1st "Dragon" Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment conducted a low-cost, -low-altitude aerial resupply mission July 16 to 18, the first LCLA exercise in Ironhorse history.



AUGUST: (Above) The 1st "Centurion" Brigade Special Troops Battalion trained on the newly upgraded model of the RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle Aug. 21 to 28. The UAV features a fuel-injected engine and longer wings than previous models.



AUGUST: 115th "Muleskinner" Brigade Support Battalion trained on procedures to decontaminate chemically injured Soldiers Aug 1.



AUGUST: Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 7th "Garryowen" Cavalry Regiment participated in the two-week exercise, Exercise Immediate Response 2013 in Zagreb, Croatia. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Caleb Barrieau)



SEPTEMBER: Ironhorse Soldiers participated in the Army's Physical Demands Study Sep. 9 to 13. Soldiers conducted common warrior and engineer-specific tasks to help the Army assess seven combat-arms jobs to set standards, determine physical performance requirements and help select the best qualified Soldiers regardless of gender.



2013 Ironhorse Brigade year in review



OCTOBER: Ironhorse leaders participated in Steadfast Jazz 13 in Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland. SFJZ 13 is a NATO-sponsored designed to train, evaluate and certify the NATO Response Force, a highly-ready and technologically-advanced multinational force made up of land, maritime and special operations components designed to deploy quickly, wherever needed.



OCTOBER: 91st "Saber" Brigade Engineer Battalion honed conventional warfare techniques during an offensive and defensive breaching exercise Oct. 21 to 30. Engineer Soldiers practiced three tasks of combat engineers: survivability, countermobility and mobility.



OCTOBER: (Above) 91st "Saber" Brigade Engineer Battalion Soldiers train on the Assault Breacher Vehicle Oct. 21. With the Army getting thinner, training a few Soldiers to do the job of many is a must. View the video story at: <http://www.dvidshub.net/video/304737/engineers-new-tool>



OCTOBER: (Left) Ironhorse Soldiers and families celebrated Halloween in style during the Ironhorse Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat Oct. 26. The event was complete with Halloween-themed vehicles, carnival games and even a scare house.

2013 Ironhorse Brigade year in review



NOVEMBER: On the cover - More than 3,000 Soldiers participated in Ironhorse Rampage, a brigade-wide field training exercise which certified company-level units on essential tasks needed prior to a rotation to the National Training Center February 2014.

CONTACT US

Have an interesting story idea? Know an interesting Soldier? Feel free to contact our office via phone, email or social media. We would love to hear from you!

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Ironhorse EO News

Your BDE EOA

1BCT Equal Opportunity Advisor



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Monthly Observance

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Observance Guest Speaker

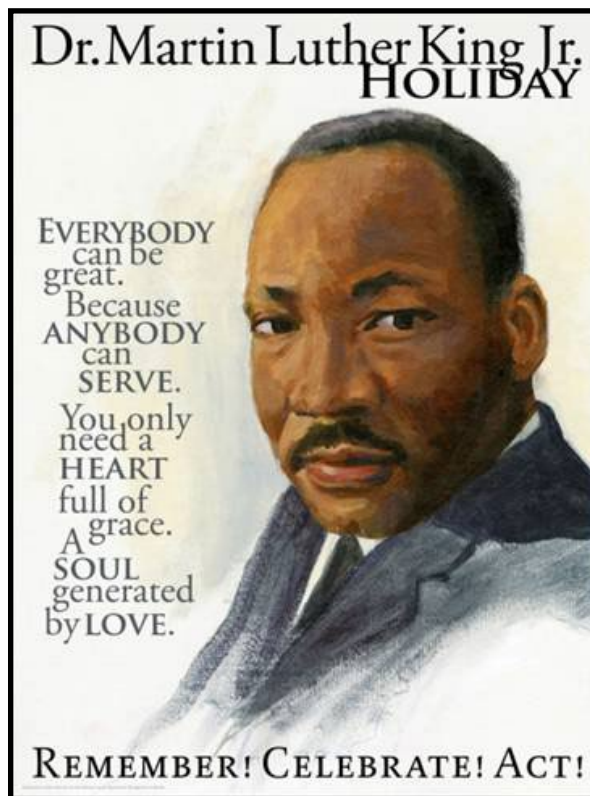
COL Irving Smith
Professor and Director of Sociology
at the U.S.M.A.

22 January 2014
1330 – 1430hrs
Club Hood Bldg. 5764

SQDN/BN EOLs

HHT, 1BCT
SSG Clay / 287-6121
1-7 CAV
SSG Puntillo / 618-7162
2-5 CAV
SSG Mouring / 288-1417
2-8 CAV
SFC Boyer / 288-6000
2-12 CAV
SFC Landon / 287-0467
1-82 FA
SSG Grabowski / 288-7851
115th BSB
SFC McLeod / 287-0812
91 BEB
SSG Shane-Travota / 288- 2130

Martin Luther King's Birthday



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a United States federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King's birthday, January 15. This year, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service will be recognized Jan. 21, 2013. King was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. He was assassinated in 1968.

President Clinton signed the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act August 23, 1994, expanding the mission of the holiday as a day of community service, interracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives.

The national recurring theme of this holiday is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On...Not A Day Off." It calls upon the American people to engage in public service and promote nonviolent social change. Dr. King's unfinished movement toward equality can be achieved by our united, enduring efforts.

For more information about the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, please visit:
<http://www.mlkday.gov/>

SOURCE: www.deomi.org (DEOMI RELEASES 2013 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE POSTER)

Maximizing Potential Through Leadership and Equality