



SLEDGEHAMMER TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

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"Not Fancy, Just Tough"

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An aid and litter team from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, rushes a simulated injured man as part of a search and rescue lane conducted during Panther Shield, July 23. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Jacob Stauber, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment Unit Public Affairs Representative)

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The **Sledgehammer Times** is published in the interest of the service members of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. The **Sledgehammer Times** is an Army-funded newsletter authorized for members of the U.S. Army under the provisions of AR 360-1. Contents of the **Sledgehammer Times** are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. The **Sledgehammer Times** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

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'WOOP' there it is

Story by 1st Lt. Eileen Poole
203rd BSB Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Warrant officers in 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, have created a Warrant Officer Outreach Program, known as WOOP, to increase customer satisfaction and efficiency throughout the brigade. The program utilizes each Soldier's area of expertise.

Warrant officers within the brigade have taken the initiative to develop outreach programs, like WOOP, with a learning-forward approach, where Soldiers will instinctually act--not react--to situation.

The new mindset is to not wait for the problem to come to them, but for the officers to identify and address problems before they escalate.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gary Smith, the brigade maintenance officer, realized the need to be aggressive in tackling the brigade's Command Maintenance Disciple Program.

Armed with a seven-page checklist, Smith, the brigade's most senior warrant officer, scheduled maintenance inspections for the five battalions and one squadron in the brigade.

As a result of Smith's initiative and outreach, all units received inspections scores surpassing 97 percent.

The 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, earned a 100 percent on its inspection and were nominated for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence.

Chief Warrant Officer 2

Nathaniel Meins, who works as the service and recovery officer-in-charge, oversees welding and metal fabrication services.

Because of the gaseous needs of the welding process, Meins took the initiative to develop a Gas Cylinder Exchange Program.

Before Meins' efforts with the program, there was no dependable way of turning in and issuing out new gas cylinders.

Meins took sheds full of idle spent gas cylinders and turned them into a viable way to turn in and replace spent cylinders and to distribute them back to 203rd BSB and the Forward Support Companies of 3ABCT.

Chief Meins had the ambition to fully organize a sturdy gas cylinder outreach program for the whole brigade's use.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tiffany Gibson, the Ammunition Technician, is responsible for certifying that all ammunition specialists are trained and able to perform their duties.

In a garrison environment it is difficult to keep ammunition specialists qualified and, most importantly, knowledgeable on their ammunition duties.

Chief Gibson found a way to bridge that gap by partnering Alpha Company, 203rd BSB with the Directorate of Training Sustainment (DOTS).

DOTS provides all of 203rd BSB's ammunition specialists with the training they need to be prosperous as an ammunition specialist. The ammunition specialists receive hands on training from DOTS employees.



CW2 Carlos Sanchez troubleshoots the 203rd BSB very small Aperture Terminal (VSAT)

Ammunition specialists work with DOTS employees to complete issues and turn ins, stock inventories, ammunition maintenance, and logistical support of the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE) units.

With only ten ammunition companies in the Army the partnership that Chief Gibson helped institute puts the ammunition specialists in the battalion ahead of their peers.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carlos Sanchez, the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office OIC is responsible for the Logistics Information Systems (LIS) upkeep program within the Brigade.

Before Chief Sanchez joined 203rd BSB there was no visibility of any LIS in 3ABCT.

Before Chief Sanchez stepped in no one in 3ABCT was accurately gauging the serviceability of each system.

He hastily collected, upgraded, fixed, and installed all LIS in 3ABCT back to peak performance.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ken Evans current outreach programs include the Mobile Night Vision Devices Service Team that completes the task of servicing hundreds of night vision devices by going to the units and completing the work without having to transport the night vision devices.

This saves the unit's valuable time in the process. Chief Evans also devised the Combat Vehicle Crew or CVC helmet repairable exchange program. Until Chief Evans' intervention units were spending costly hours repairing the pieces themselves or buying new CVC helmets.

With the exchange program in affect the exchange program soldiers can take the helmet repair burden off of the units and have trained technicians properly repair the helmets while exchanging them for a new one.

The exchange program initiated by Chief Evans has saved valuable hours of unit's time by providing them with new helmets while their unserviceable ones are getting repaired.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dana Stephenson is responsible for the Small Arms Repair Parts initiative to collect small arms repair parts from arms rooms in 3rd brigade.

There are 32 arms rooms in 3rd brigade that Chief Stephenson personally inspected to certify that the arms rooms have the limited parts they are allowed to carry. Chief Stephenson's outreach program has helped make the brigade's arms rooms compliant and safe by personally ensuring they are following regulations.

The Warrant Officer Outreach Program has been very successful. The technicians of the BSB are always "leaning forward" and anticipating the maintenance needs of the brigade.

By taking the initiative and getting ahead of the issues the techs have saved countless hours of non-mission capable time and have built a reputation for "getting after it".



CW3 Ken Evans teaches SPC Wright how to properly test a combat vehicle crew helmet for functionality.

'Dog Face Soldier'

**I Wouldn't Give A Bean
To Be A Fancy Pants Marine
I'd Rather Be A
Dog Face Soldier Like I Am**

**I Wouldn't Trade My Old-O D's
For All The Navy's Dungarees
For I'm The Walking Pride
Of Uncle Sam**

**On Army Posters That I Read
It Says "Be All That You Can"
So They're Tearing Me Down
To Build Me Over Again**

**I'm Just A Dog Face Soldier
With A Rifle On My Shoulder
And I Eat Raw Meat
For Breakfast E'V'RY Day**

**So Feed Me Ammunition
Keep Me In The Third Division
Your Dog Face Soldier's A-Okay**

‘Round the tanks with 1-15 IN



1st Lt. Nathan Gelinas of Hardrock Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division oversees his platoon of M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles at Caramouche Range in Fort Benning, Georgia. The Bradley's are staged at the firing line and are preparing to engage targets with live rounds. After months in the Bradley Advanced Training System (BATS) simulator, the soldiers are excited to put that training to good use and experience real-world training with live ammunition.



Soldiers pass out live ammunition to the tank crews from Destroyer Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at the Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex (DMPRC) at Fort Benning, Georgia. M1A2 Abrams have a multitude of armaments including a 7.62mm coaxial M240C machine gun, a M2 50 Caliber machine gun, and a 120mm main gun that can be used to engage various targets at long ranges. DMPRC is a massive range complex that allows a realistic testing environment that tests the skills of the tankers in their ability to react to real-world situations.

2-69 AR Soldiers sharpen skills during training



1) SGT Catin from Able Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division leads his fire team to engage stationary targets as part of squad live fire exercises on Griswold Range, June 18.

2) PFC Hale from Hellcat Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division is immersed in the Dismounted Soldier Training Simulator. Hale is the point man looking for IEDs as part of the Mortar Platoon Squad Overmatch training, June 17 to 20.

3) SPC Badaraco, a generator mechanic from Renegade Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division checks the circuit board for faults on his 15 KW generator as part of the motor pool maintenance, July 1.

4) SPC Tevis from Medic Platoon, Hellcat Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division uses a biometric device that monitors his own heart rate while solving problems on an electronic device as part of the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness training, June 17 to 20.

The 15th Infantry Regiment Association dedicated a monument at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, on the 150th Anniversary of the battle, "in honor of the Officers, Noncommissioned Officers, and Men of the 15th US Infantry, 16th US Infantry, 18th US Infantry and 19th Infantry, who fought near here in 1864 and whose legacy continues to serve the US Army." Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, currently serving on active duty provided the honor platoon for the event. The monument serves as a way to remember the Soldiers that sacrificed during the Atlanta Campaign of the Civil War and honor the units that still exist today. (Courtesy photo)



Families reunite with Soldiers after nine-month deployment

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Woodson
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

After a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan, nearly 20 Soldiers assigned to the 497th Movement Control Team, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division returned to greet their loved ones during a welcome home ceremony at Lawson Army Airfield, April 18.

The 497th MCT's mission at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, was to provide movement control and in-transit visibility for more than 35,000 transportation assets in support of retrograde, redeployment, and redistribution operations.

"The team cleared a backlog of more than 3,000 movement requests, which reduced fraudulent claims against the government and managed 96 contracted personnel for contracts valued at \$1.7 million," said Lt. Col. Brent D. Coryell, 203rd BSB commander.

Coryell also said the 497th MCT partnered with Slovak, Bulgarian, and other NATO forces to increase force protection measures at Kandahar's two major entry control points and assisted with the closure of 14 bases and the preparation for closures at Forward Operating Base Shank and Forward Operating Base Ghazni.

"They revitalized a \$55 million trucking contract by creating tracking systems that provided in-transit visibility, determined usage and expenditures," Coryell added. On the command "Dismiss" the Soldiers dashed to embrace their family and friends.

"The hardest thing for me was to leave my two and eight year old children," said Sgt. Arthashikia Bryant, an automated logistical specialist assigned to the movement control team. "I had just got to the unit and found out we were deploying less than 30 days."

Not really knowing the Soldiers she was deploying with and working with the different cultures made this deployment challenging, added Bryant.

"Having Staff Sgt. McCall there as my go-to-person helped me. She steered me in the right direction,"



Sgt. 1st Class Joseph White, acting first sergeant for the 497th Movement Control Team, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, reunites with his family during the welcome home ceremony at Lawson Army Airfield, April 18. The 497th MCT assisted with the closure of 14 bases in Afghanistan and the preparation for closures at Forward Operating Base Shank and Forward Operating Base Ghazni.

said Bryant. "Not only did I have my family, but I had someone actually there to lean on and McCall took me under her wing."

Bryant was excited about returning home and is planning a wedding for this coming June.

Looking ahead, it's now about family time and getting Soldiers reintegrated.



Former 'Can Do' Soldier takes fitness knowledge to Army-wide program

Story by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

It is not often that Soldiers are able to take the knowledge learned from their hobbies and apply that knowledge to better Soldiers on a grand scale, but that is exactly what one Soldier has the chance to do as he prepares for a new assignment that will allow him to impact Soldiers throughout the Army.

Capt. Donald Bigham was the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. After relinquishing command, recently, he is now preparing for a position as a team leader for the Master Fitness Trainer Course at the U.S. Army Physical Readiness School in Fort Jackson, S.C.

The Master Fitness Trainer Course, or MFTC, provides the force with certified fitness advisers who have earned Army Skill Identifiers as Master Fitness Trainers. The Soldiers Bigham will train will serve as Master Fitness Trainers, or MFTs, an additional-duty that empowers them to be special advisers to unit commanders - company through division - to facilitate physical training based on the doctrine in Field Manual 7-22, Army Physical Readiness Training, formerly Training Circular 3-22.20.

"For the most part, my primary goal for serving in this capacity is to ensure the Soldiers that come through this course walk away

with a lot of 'golden nuggets,' or tools, for their kit bag to ensure our Army is the most physically fit to endure and overcome any challenge in combat and/or garrison, hence a more resilient Soldier," the Clinton, South Carolina, native said.

Bigham is excited to take on a new, challenging position, but faced another challenge in leaving his Soldiers.

In addition to commanding HHC, 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., Bigham also commanded the battalion's Company B since arriving to the brigade in 2012.

"There is no greater responsibility than leading Soldiers," he said. "It is definitely a double edge sword in that it is humbling and rewarding at the same time. In certain aspects, I feel much relief but on the other hand I feel a great emptiness.

"Commanding Soldiers has always been my passion and I am so blessed to know that God blessed me with two commands and it has been the greatest honor in my 20 year professional career. I am deeply honored to have served with my Soldiers and their families — Baker Boys and Hell Raiser. Can do!"

The role Bigham will take on now, however, will encompass his knowledge as a Soldier, a leader and a fitness expert.

Bigham holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Master of Science in Sports Management. Prior to his time in the Army, he served in the Marine Corps. It was during his time then,



Capt. Donald Bigham (front), leads his Soldiers on a ruck march in Kuwait. (Courtesy photo)

more than two decades ago, that he discovered his love for powerlifting.

"I started powerlifting back in 1992 in the Marines while stationed in Okinawa, Japan. I had the privilege to work out on Sly Anderson's power lifting team, and that was definitely a humbling and learning experience. After that, I was definitely a competitor for life," Bigham explained.

Bigham participated in local and state competitions until 1998, when he took a break from the sport.

"I stopped competing for numerous reasons — college, children and family responsibilities. After about a 10-year furlough from the platform, I returned last year for a state competition, the Battle of the Borders, in March 2013," he said.

"But in between then, I never stopped lifting."

He has won numerous awards and broken many state records in the sport, which has afforded him the opportunity to train and travel around the world.

Bigham secured his spot in the International Powerlifting Federation's Raw Classics Powerlifting Championships.

This world competition is set to be held in June of this year

in Johannesburg, South Africa. There will be 33 countries represented in the championship. Bigham will be representing the United States in the middle weight (83 kg, 40 to 44 age group) division. Of the 48 raw powerlifters on the U.S. team, Bigham is only one of two 83 kg lifters.

But it's not just the accolades he gains at these competitions, it's knowledge. Bigham strives to pass that knowledge onto Soldiers each and every day he is in the uniform.

"As a passionate leader, I take every opportunity to teach Soldiers and set the conditions for their success, whether it is developing an individual [physical training] program to be successful at Ranger School or what the best shoe to wear for running is," he explained. "God has blessed me with numer-

ous gifts, it is imperative that I share some words of wisdom and encouragement."

Bigham said he can't thank his family enough for their support — his wife, Tracy, and sons, Dillon and Dereck, as well as his mother, father and brother. My internal motivation and self-discipline keeps me excited about going to another platform and breaking another record," Bigham said. "I really enjoy a challenge whether it's squatting [three times your] body-weight or running a half marathon with seven-minute-a-mile pace. God has definitely made our bodies perfect because if you establish a goal and give 110 percent effort there is nothing that you cannot accomplish."

Bigham chronicles his powerlifting competitions on his website: <http://donaldbigham.yolasite.com>.

Eye in the sky

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Alan Collins
3rd BSTB Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Hidden away in an enclave of the Truscott Center on Kelley Hill, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's geospatial engineers can only be found if you know where to look.

Through a door hastily marked with a poster proclaiming to those about to enter that this is "Geospatial Engineer" territory, the creaky metallic door and the narrow stairwell leading to their upstairs office appears much less well-known than the adjacent Mail Room.

But sometimes when things are hidden, they turn out to be gems, and one of the gems that the geospatial engineers uniquely offer to commanders all over Kelley Hill is the ability to visualize any battlefield in which their units may be found operating.

Given Sledgehammer Brigade's recent and upcoming transitions,

adaptability to any mission is something the geospatial engineers can specialize in.

Their current mission support capability is adapted toward Disaster Relief and Homeland Security, and the terrain analysis they can provide is invaluable for commanders.

The geospatial engineer Soldiers, identified by the 12Y military occupation skill identifier, have recently coordinated with the Army Geospatial Center, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security to receive specialized products for Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

They are endowed with enormous computing power from their Digital Topographic Support Systems, and this technology enables these specialized engineers to compile geographic data from around the world.

In our modern age, the quality of data collected enables them to replicate all aspects of terrain on a map and show its possible effects

to ground commanders, which can be further enabled by their ability to link in to systems like the Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System.

But a few computer savvy Soldiers and the ability to produce maps aren't the only things the shop has to offer.

Not only is the shop full of experience from topographic companies across the United States from Fort Bragg to Hawaii, it also has some star athletes. From their newest Soldier, who has been playing competitive softball since she was eight years old and has also dabbled in basketball and volleyball, to a bowler, as well as a high school soccer player and even one of Georgia's own star basketball players.

Spc. Adrienne L. Patterson is a former full-ride basketball scholarship holder at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Originally from Macon, Ga., Patterson moved to Tifton, Ga., to pursue her collegiate basketball career.



Spc. Adrienne L. Patterson, a geospatial engineer with 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, troubleshoots a Digital Topographic Support System, which enables the geospatial engineers to compile geographic data from around the world.

She played as a guard in her freshman season, but toward the end of that season, she went up for a layup, coming down awkwardly on another player. She tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), which required six and one-half months of recovery.

A year later, as a sophomore, she was still on her scholarship and back to playing basketball when she went up to catch a pass on a fast break, and landed awkwardly on her other leg. Once she heard it 'pop', Patterson said she knew that the same injury had happened again, this time on the other knee. She tore all four of her cruciate ligaments this time.

During recovery, Patterson continued to go to class and was kept on the team as an assistant coach, still attending games and team meetings which contributed to the retention of her scholarship. After the season, with her basketball future as a player looking bleak, Patterson said she began to lose motivation to go to class and continue with college.

She later joined the Army as a 12Y Geospatial Engineer. She says that after the Army she would love to coach middle or high school basketball, and plans to work toward a sports science degree in the meantime.

Until then, she says she likes being a geospatial engineer, but warns that if the brigade doesn't keep the Geospatial Engineers busy she has always wanted to reclass to a 25M Multimedia Illustrator.

Warrant Officer Michael A. MacDonald, the geospatial engineers' chief technician and primary liaison to the brigade staff, says that his section is available to support commanders with any requests to help them visualize terrain increase understanding of their current or projected operating environments. Through a streamlined Request for Information form and system, commanders at all levels are welcome to submit requests to the section, keeping in mind that a 72-hour turn-around is usually projected.

As the Army's only geospatial engineers on Fort Benning, he believes there is much that the section has to offer to ground commanders, which will prove to be increasingly useful given the Army's changing missions and operating environments.

McGinnis-Wickam Hall shines blue

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

On a typical Fort Benning night, the dull glow of fluorescent lights can be seen illuminating McGinnis-Wickam Hall, the Maneuver Center of Excellence headquarters. As the sun set on April 2, however, incandescent rays of blue lined the main walkways and entrance to the building— 92 blue lights in all.

Like many buildings and houses around the country, the Maneuver Center of Excellence was shining its own lights on autism awareness.

“This is the first time something like this has been done here,” said Capt. Seth Fort, the commander of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“When people drive by, the hope is that, if they don’t already know, they will ask ‘why blue?’ If they Google it, they will easily find the answer.”

The answer is simple, but the problem is a complex one.

Fort, of Woodbridge, Va., spearheaded the efforts to turn McGinnis-Wickam Hall blue. He purchased the blue gel film filters placed over each light. With the help of his wife, Meghann, he measured and cut each sheet to the exact dimensions of the flood lights, spotlights and street lamps outside of the building. Soldiers from his battery, many with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder; his battalion



McGinnis-Wickam Hall shines blue, April 2, for the Lighting Up McGinnis-Wickam Hall Blue event, in honor of Autism Awareness Month. About 1 in 68 children are identified as having Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), according to estimates from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network.

commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Capra, and his family; and volunteers in the local autism community helped tape each sheet over the lights.

He enlisted the help of Lt. Col. Andy Hilmes to plan the event. Hilmes, a former commander of the 3rd ABCT’s 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, is now the MCoE operations officer. Hilmes’ wife, Nicole, is the owner and director of The Autism Learning Center in Columbus.

Aside from a desire to want to shed light on autism awareness, Fort and Hilmes have something else in common. They both have children who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Amelia’s story

While her parents were gathered around the blue lights, talking to those who had gathered to see the lighting of McGinnis-Wickam Hall, Amelia Fort was busy enjoying another sight at the building. Making her way around the shallow ponds, the 5-year-old dipped her

hand in and out, swiping it back and forth. Before the water had enough time to settle, she was on to another spot to do it again. She was content by herself, feeling the rush of the cool water through her fingers.

In 2012, Amelia was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. After years of struggling with speech and failing to make eye contact with others around her, the Fort’s knew something wasn’t right.

“People would tell us ‘Oh, she just has hearing problems’ and for a while [doctors] were considering placing tubes in her ears,” Fort said. “But, by the time we got her into speech therapy, it was obvious. We knew there was more to it.”

For Amelia, early diagnosis was key in her treatment.

“The diagnosis was a sense of relief. We had highly suspected it, but didn’t know much about it,” said Fort.

After the diagnosis, he said he and Meghann tried to learn everything they could about the disorder.

Soon, Amelia began Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, which Fort said has been invaluable. ABA therapy is used to modify various forms of behavior, both excesses and deficits, which includes language, socialization, and daily living skills. It's based on the overall principle that manipulating stimuli surrounding a behavior can cause that behavior to be modified.

"You can't be healed, but you can make progress," said Fort.

About 1 in 68 children are identified as having Autism Spectrum Disorder, according to estimates from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network.

"Early intervention is key because the therapy available will help children [with an Autism Spectrum Disorder] to reach their full potential," said Kimberly Kapacziewski.

A fitness instructor and local Stroller Strong Mom, she is the brains behind Light Up Columbus, a 1k, 5k and 10k race for autism awareness happening the night of April 18.

Like the Fort's, Autism Spectrum Disorder hits close to home for Kimberly and her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Kapacziewski, who is currently serving overseas with the 75th Ranger Regiment. The Kapacziewski's are no strangers to challenges. After suffering a right leg amputation, Kapacziewski was the first Ranger to return to duty and serve in direct combat operations with a prosthetic limb.

But they would face a different challenge.

Cody's story

Cody Kapacziewski wasn't a talkative baby. In fact, at 18 months, he had severely limited verbal skills.

"Sometimes he would babble, but that was it," said Kimberly, of Columbus.

He never wanted to be held and he wouldn't respond to his name. After being given a milestone checklist by Cody's doctor, Kimberly said she realized that he was failing to meet the markers for children his age.

She always had a reason why, though.

"I would say it was because his brother speaks for him or maybe he had a hearing problem," Kimberly explained. "I always had all these different reasons why Cody wasn't

reaching his milestones."

In May 2012, when her husband had his annual prosthetic appointment in San Antonio, Texas, Kimberly packed a bag for Cody and his brother, Wyatt, and joined her husband. It was there, within 15 minutes of being seen by a specialist, Kimberly was told Cody was autistic.

"It's one of those things that were out of sight, out of mind, until my son was diagnosed," said Kimberly. "Now he does 12 hours of ABA therapy a week, and he has really come full circle."

Looking back at the stage of denial she went through, Kimberly stresses the importance of finding answers if something doesn't seem right.

"If I could tell parents one thing, it would be that if they have any doubt or their children have developmental delays, it's in their best interest, and their child's best interest, to get it checked out. I can't say enough how important early intervention is," she said.

Kimberly is hopeful that Cody, now 3, will be able to catch up his peers because of the early diagnosis and therapy he is receiving.

"I hate to say that he will have a 'normal' life because what is that really?"

BBRC: Feeding families 'one can at a time'

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Woodson
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division hosted a "Hop to the Tanks" food drive supporting the Battle Buddy Resource Center mission to combat hunger by providing food assistance to Fort Benning Soldiers and their families at the Fort Benning Commissary April 15.

More than 20 Sledgehammer Soldiers volunteered during the BBRC food drive to assist Fort Benning Soldiers and families who may be in need of food. The Sledgehammer Brigade's 2nd battalion, 69th Armor Regiment had a static display of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle and an Abrams tank in the commissary parking lot while members of the community donated food items.

"I see we are going to be overflowing with non-perishable donated food items," said Nicole Hintay, director of the Battle Buddy Resource Center located on Fort Benning's main post. "We have three fund raisers going on right now including the one with the Sledgehammer Brigade Soldiers and the goal is to get lots and lots of food."

Nonperishable food items include canned vegetables, fruits and soup, boxed noodles, breakfast food items as in cereal, oatmeal, pancake and muffin mix, snacks, powder drinks, coffee, peanut butter, jelly, and crackers. Other items include basic essential needs; shampoo, lotion, tooth paste, baby diapers and wipes, dog food and cat food.

This is not the center's first food drive but the first Hintay has participated in since she took over the director position in February 2014.

She realizes that Soldiers will not ask for assistance because of the stigma or don't know where to go to receive help. She reassures Soldiers that the center prides itself on confidentiality and it is not anyone's business but the Soldiers who are coming to get assistance.

"Soldiers needing assistance can go see the chaplain or me. They must have a valid military ID, list the number of people in the household (this determines how many bags of food you will receive) and basic household information. Each family can

receive food once a month," Hintay said.

"A lot of times Soldiers just doesn't know where to seek help," she added. Hintay explained the chaplain is not here to reprimand the Soldiers but here for guidance. The center is for food and basic essentials and if the Soldier needs other resources to help the families get stable.

"I heard about BBRC but didn't know what the center did," said Spc. Nicholas Giambrone, an infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID. Now I know and can tell Soldiers where to go if they need help with food or other assistance."

"It's a great resource for Soldiers, he added."

"Honestly, sometimes ends just don't meet and people need temporary assistance until their finances are stable," said Hintay. "Soldiers permanently change stations all the time and unforeseen expense comes up. If the Soldiers doesn't feel comfortable going to their chain of command they can go to the chaplain or come to BBRC and ask for Nicole, I am more than willing to help.

"I can only imagine. I put myself in their positions, 'what if it was me or one of my seven children?' that makes me sad but I'm always happy to help," Hintay said.

They host food drives several times a year around post. The center accepts food donations year round at the any Fort Benning Chapel and collection boxes located around post, for large donation please contact the director of the center to set up a time to drop off or have us pick up the donation.

The center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to p.m. In case of emergencies, Soldiers can notify their unit ministry team.



Staff Sgt. Raymond Fox, assigned to the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division places food in a vehicle to transport from the Fort Benning Commissary to the Battle Buddy Resource Center during the 'Hop to the Tanks' food drive April 15. The BBRC and members of the Sledgehammer Brigade, came together to help Fort Benning Soldiers and their families who may be in need of assistance.

'Dog Face' Soldiers, Columbus Lions tackle obstacle course

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler, 3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

'Dog Face' Soldiers with 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team teamed up with nearly 30 players of the Columbus Lions, the local Professional Indoor Football League team, March 21, for an anything-but-typical Friday morning at the Bolton Obstacle Course at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The Soldiers, from 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment; 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment; and Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, "drafted" the players onto their teams, broken down by battalions.

The teams were then staggered throughout the obstacle course, and the light-hearted trash-talking began.

"I was scared, because I didn't know what to expect," said Columbus Lions' kicker, Craig Camay. "[These] guys do this all the time and it's intimidating."

The partnership with the Lions is not new to the Soldiers with the 3rd ABCT but because of the brigade's deployment to Kuwait, a busy reset schedule, and the team's training and season schedule, it has been nearly six months since the Lions were last on Fort Benning for a brigade event.

"We wanted to bring members of the community [to Fort Benning] to see what we do.



'Dog Face' Soldiers with 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team teamed up with nearly 30 players of the Columbus Lions, the local Professional Indoor Football League team, March 21, for an anything-but-typical Friday morning at the Bolton Obstacle Course. The soldiers, from 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment; 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment; and Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, "drafted" the players onto their teams, broken down by battalions. The battalions, and their Columbus Lions teammates, then competed for fastest team.

This type of event builds teamwork, not just between the Soldiers but the players as well," said Master Sgt. Joseph Tinker, an operations sergeant with HHT, 3rd BSTB, and one of the event's organizers. "A lot of the obstacles are ones that you can't do by yourself.

What you can do by yourself requires a lot of encouragement and support from your teammates and battle buddies."

The teams had to complete 16 obstacles on the confidence course, including "The Tough One," a confidence climb, the skyscraper and the incline wall, outlined in Appendix E of the Field Manual 7-22, Army Physical Readiness Training.

"The course forced me to conquer some of my fears," said

Camay, of Johannesburg, South Africa. "It challenges you mentally and physically and as a team."

Camay said the worst part was the skyscraper, what he said he dubbed "The Tower of Terror," because of its height.

The teams had to navigate the tower-like obstacle, approximately 30 feet tall, by jumping or climbing to the first floor and either climbing the corner posts or helping one another to the higher floors. Once they reached the fourth floor, they had to descend to the ground as a team.

"It was a lot of fun to see [the players'] reaction to some of the obstacles, especially the high ones," said Pvt. Ashton

Herr, an Oak Grove, Mo., native in 2nd Bn., 69th Armor Regt.

“I’ve always enjoyed physically challenging courses, as a kid and in basic training...it’s cool to see people without our training accomplish these things and push through their fears,” Herr said.

The event was a chance for everyone to foster team building. It was, also, a chance for Soldiers and Lions’ teammates to enhance their ability to work together effectively while building community relations, said Tinker, a Homer, New York, native.

For the players, it was a chance to have some fun before the rigorous demands of spring training camp set in. “Once camp starts, it’s football football football, all the time. You’re practicing, you’re in the gym, you’re practicing again. It’s nice to be able to step away from the office, so to speak, and have some fun,” Camay said.

Camay and his team, with 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., took first place, finishing the course in 53:30. They were, also, the only team to go to the fourth level of the skyscraper before climbing back down.

“It’s good to finish this and be able to stick your chest out and say ‘I did that’,” said Camay, who hopes the partnership with the Soldiers will continue in the future.

“We appreciate and respect what you do. It’s unbelievable,” said Jason Gibson, Columbus Lions’ head coach and director of football operations. “I know I will never forget this, the guys will never forget this. We thank you for such a great opportunity.”



Soldiers with the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and football players with the Columbus Lions, a local Professional Indoor Football League team, completed a 16-obstacle course, March 21, at Fort Benning, Ga. The ‘Dog Face,’ soldiers, from the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment; 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment; and 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, spent the day maneuvering a course as a way of building community relations within the community.



Soldiers with the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and football players with the Columbus Lions, a local Professional Indoor Football League team, completed a 16-obstacle course March 21 at Fort Benning, Ga. The ‘Dog Face,’ soldiers, from the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment; 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment; and 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, spent the day maneuvering a course as a way of building community relations within the community.



Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and players from the Columbus Lions, a local Professional Indoor Football League team, pose for a picture, March 21.

'Hugs for Soldiers' deliver Girl Scout cookies to Soldiers

Story and photos by Sgt. Jacob Stauber
2-69 AR Unit Public Affairs Rep.

On April 1, volunteers with Hugs for Soldiers, accompanied by American Legion Post 2100 Vice President Ed "Godfather" McMillian, supported Panthers Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division with more than 600 boxes of donated Girl Scout cookies. They came just in time as the Soldiers were preparing to leave to the field in order to qualify M1A2 Abrams Tanks and M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Hugs for Soldiers is a program of Duluth First United Methodist Church. Since the organization's founding in 2003, the program has had a long-standing relationship with the Panther Battalion.

Hard-working volunteers from Hugs for Soldiers collected the donated cookies as part of Operation:

Taste of Home 2014 from Greater Atlanta Area Girl Scout troops. Volunteers also handed out "hugs and kisses" packages to Panther Soldiers, consisting of Hershey Kisses packaged in patriotic flag-patterned bags with red waist bands that had "Hugs" printed on them in white lettering.

Hugs for Soldiers founder Angie Doerlich said she sees Girl Scout cookies not only as a great symbol of America, but as a way to let Soldiers know America is thinking of them. She said it also provides Soldiers a brief taste of home regardless of where home may be.

It soon grew to sister battalions within 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division during the brigade's second deployment to Iraq. The Panther Battalion received the organization's first set of care packages, to include letters of encouragement. Hugs for Soldiers



Leaders and Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division thank Hugs for Soldier volunteers in Panther Regimental Room, April 1, at Fort Benning, Georgia.

has grown to be one of the top ten organizations in the United States that offer support to the troops, according to Scholastic Parent Magazine. Hugs for Soldiers not only offers support to Soldiers, but to their spouses and children, particularly around Thanksgiving and Christmas. More than 150 Panther family members were sponsored by Hugs for Soldiers to travel to Duluth, Ga., just north of Atlanta, to participate in the annual Duluth Fall Festival and other community events.

'Can Do' celebrates regiment's 163rd birthday



In celebration of the regiment's 163rd year, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment take part in a ceremonial cake cutting ceremony at Essenbagger Field on Kelley Hill, May 3. It is tradition for the youngest and oldest Soldier in the Battalion to cut the cake. Festivities included a battalion run as well as a soccer, football, litter carry and cross-fit competition.

The 15th Regimental Association President Michael J. Horn receives the first piece of birthday cake as the guest of honor at the regiment's 163rd birthday celebration May 3. Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment took part in a cake cutting ceremony at Essenbagger Field on Kelley Hill.



Sledgehammer Soldiers head east, train for disaster response



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, rush a simulated casualty for medical evacuation, March 25, during Guardian Hammer, a weeklong, brigade-level emergency deployment readiness exercise at the Guardian Centers in Perry, Georgia.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

A woman screams out for her baby to wake up. A crowd shouts, demanding food. Others are looting stores and vandalizing cars. A city is in shambles.

On March 24, Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, were the first to get the deployment alert. A 9.2 magnitude earthquake had hit Guardian City, and they needed to help control the streets by keeping residents away from collapsed buildings and guiding them to local and federal agencies providing food, water, medical services and shelter.

Two other battalions in the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team would be called on for this mission — 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, and 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment — as part of Guardian Hammer, a weeklong, brigade-level Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise that brought the Soldiers to the Guardian Centers in Perry, Ga., from March 25 to 28.

“With the [3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team]

being assigned the regionally aligned force mission within the U.S. Northern Command area of operation, it’s imperative that our Soldiers know how to respond to disasters within the homeland,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Green, the 3rd ABCT command sergeant major. “It’s a paradigm shift for us, from the kinetic action to more of the civil, domestic response and we need all of the opportunity we can to be prepared for it in the event that we’re called.”

The sprawling 830-acre complex, nearly 100 miles east of Fort Benning, provided an environment for Soldiers to see firsthand the various situations they may find themselves in during disaster response missions. Military and civilian role players acted as concerned residents, thugs and vandals, and media representatives.

“The military is trying to provide some kind of security for the organizations here that will provide food, water and all types of help for the natural disaster here at the city,” said Staff Sgt. Ricardo Junco, the noncommissioned officer in charge of military role players with Company A,



(L) Spc. Erika Savage, with Company F, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, refuels a vehicle after the unit “deployed” from Fort Benning, Georgia, to Perry, Georgia, as part of Guardian Hammer.

(Above) Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Green, command sergeant major for the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is medically evacuated, March 26, in Perry, Georgia. Green placed himself into the brigade’s Guardian Hammer, a weeklong Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise from March 24 to 28, by acting as a lost Soldier requiring medical attention. The scenario tested a platoon of soldiers on their search and rescue abilities. (Courtesy photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 George Dobson, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team

3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

Junco said his position in the exercise allowed him to guide the civilian role players in developing scenarios that were more fitting to what the soldiers would see in their roles during disaster response compared to other agencies.

Local and federal agencies, including police departments and FEMA, were on hand to provide their assistance as part of their own annual training requirements. Air support for simulated medical evacuations was provided by Soldiers from the 2-3 General Support Aviation Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division,

based out of Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

“A lot of Soldiers have never had to do operations on the homeland, so training to conduct those operations for future [USNORTHCOM] missions is essential,” said Sgt. 1st Class Franklin Marquez, an observer controller with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd BSTB.

The initial shock-and-awe of what the soldiers saw awaiting them in Guardian City quickly faded as they realized they needed to react quickly to help the residents who were looking to them for answers, said Marquez. “As the time continued, the Soldiers got more comfortable with the differ-

ent mission sets. They were really helpful.”

For the Soldiers, an EDRE was not a new concept. They have executed company- and battalion-level EDREs in the months leading up to Guardian Hammer.

“It’s been outstanding,” said Green. “Soldiers will do what we ask the soldiers to do. They never cease to amaze me, personally. As we give them more and more difficult missions, they figure out how to make it happen, and that’s what it’s all about—to give them the intent, the task and the purpose and to have them figure out how to make it happen the best way possible.”



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, stand guard at a check point, March 26, at the Guardian Centers. The soldiers were taking part in Guardian Week, a weeklong, brigade-level Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, which had the soldiers encountering a variety of scenarios aimed at testing their ability to handle civil support operations.

The Oath of Enlistment

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."



First Lt. James Bridier, Jr. (left) Company C, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, recites the Oath of Enlistment to Sgt. George Mata, Company C, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, in front of the 3rd platoon "Outlawz" headquarters, March 18, 2014. (Courtesy Photo)

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Family Readiness Support Assistants serve as a vital link between the unit commander, the Soldier assigned to the unit, their families and community resources. FRSA duties include coordinating Family Readiness Group events, monthly meetings, childcare, and informational briefings to family members. FRSA's provide information on activities, trainings and events on post and the surrounding area. We assist Soldiers and families when making referrals to local agencies to include, but not limited, to ACS, Tri-care, and Family Advocacy.

203rd's "Wardog" Soldiers head to the field

1Lt. Brittany Daniels

BSTB Unit Public Affairs Rep

While Georgia's summer sun nestled over Kelley Hill in early June, the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, hustle in preparation for a week long field training exercise: Wardog STX. The rumbling of engines roared in the background the smell of motor smog filled the air. Wardog STX had officially commenced.

Wardog STX was a weeklong Situation Training Exercise where HHC set up an area of operation to practice company training tasks. Each platoon executed their mission essential training tasks. Every morning inspections were done, chow was served, and the training kicked off at 0900 hours until every last mission was complete. HHC's blueprint consists of several individual components: Medical, Support, Chemical Reconnaissance, Military Police (MPs), and Maintenance.

"The training experience gives us the opportunity to evaluate our Soldiers on individual skills and helps us assess their level of competence so that we can refocus our training on our weaknesses. Overall it was an excellent experience", Sgt. 1st Class Charles Bailey shares. He is the acting Platoon Sergeant for the Medical Platoon. A specific training task was the Mass Casualty Exercise that involved the entire company. The experience gave the Medics a familiarization to care for Soldiers under overwhelming stress. Spc. Tiffany Lane explains, "We learned how to work together as a team under a hasty environment."

The medics were not the only ones who got a piece of the action, the Military Police had their hands full as well. Second Lt. William Breamner expressed the hectic MP missions. "Checkpoint Control, Traffic, and Night Driver operations were our main focus while in the field.", he said. With members of the company playing the roles of the Opposing Force (OPFOR) they received a lot of practice in detainee controls and procedures as well. The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Reconnaissance Platoon practiced techniques for an Area Recon, Defense Detection, and also teamed up with the Support Platoon and executed and evaluated refueling mission in a "Hot Zone". This allows the Support Fullers to transport and fill diesel into the CBRN Strykers in a chemical contaminated environment while they were located in multiple locations.

"This was a great opportunity for the company to get out in the field and exercise each Platoon Specialty Task. From the Dining Facility supplying the Field Feeding team all the way to the Tactical Operations Center, everyone received great training." Cpt. Gregory Waller expressed.

As Wardog STX reached its final moments and training was complete a feeling of satisfaction fell upon the members of the Company. "Confidence comes from discipline and training.", said Robert Kiyosaki.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To ensure you have the most updated information regarding what's going on in the brigade, stay plugged in to your unit Family Readiness Group and Family Readiness Support Assistant. The contact information for each FRSA is posted above. We'd also like to get your feedback on the newsletter. Feel free to visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/3hbct3id and drop us a line.

Chaplain's Corner

Hi, I'm Major Loren Hutsell your new brigade Chaplain. I recently arrived from the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation here at Fort Benning. I'm very excited to be joining the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team and anticipate meeting you. Our Brigade Unit Ministry Team, along with the other 3ABCT Battalion UMT's, are here to assist you in facing the various challenges of your life, connect you with valuable support agencies, and offer you pastoral and spiritual care. Our chaplains can provide you marriage counseling, personal counseling, and spiritual guidance in an absolute confidential setting. Further, we are devoted to connecting you with the religious support you seek.

Someone Who Inspires Me

Harriet Tubman was a brave woman who escaped from slavery during the Civil War. Despite a large reward for her capture, she returned to the slave-holding states nearly twenty times to lead hundreds of African-Americans into freedom. She was a primary conductor of the Underground Railroad and once declared, "On my underground railroad, I never run my train off the track and I never lose a passenger." When asked about the source of her fearless strength, she was known to say: "It wasn't me, it was the Lord. I always told him, I trust you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect you to lead me. And he always did."

Harriet Tubman was never captured and she lived her life in devotion to helping others. Her faith had great value because she was even willing to risk her life to lead someone to freedom. The Scriptures teach that our faith is to be active and engaging the world around us. Our being a light in the darkness. That means that we are to be making a difference in the life of someone else.

There are many people in our lives who have been

denied love, truth and justice and who could use some support. There are many people who need an "underground railroad" of support during difficult days and situations that might be getting the best of them. May God lead each of us in greater devotion and care of others in need.

CH (MAJ) Loren Hutsell



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CH Idowu & SPC Lindsey
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Above:
SGT Chausse
706-544-4698

Above:
CH Hutsell & SSG Brooks
706-544-2712



Left:
CH Cottle & SGT Pritt
706-544-2434

Right:
CH Lee & SPC Hosley
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