

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

DECEMBER 2014
ISSUE 35



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 3d CAVALRY REGIMENT

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN *Staff*



EDITOR Maj. Vance Trenkel
ASSISTANT EDITOR Staff Sgt. Michael Dator
JOURNALIST/DESIGN/LAYOUT Spc. Erik Warren

the Mounted Rifleman

COMMAND FOCUS

**Command
Welcome Letters**

PG 3

FRONTLINE

**Apache Troop
Outside the Wire**

By: Spc. Erik Warren

PG 5

FEATURE

3d Cav: Here to Help

By: Spc. Erik Warren

PG 7

FEATURE

**3d Cav, Afghans
Work Side by Side**

By: Maj. Vance Trenkel

PG 11

SPOTLIGHT

**One Soldier holding his
FOB together**

By: Maj. Vance Trenkel

PG 13

STAY
INFORMED
BY
US
FOLLOWING
ON
THESE
PAGES

www.hood.army.mil/3d_cr



facebook.com/3dUsCav



flickr.com/3dcavalryregiment

flickr

youtube.com/user/3darmcavreg



[#3dCavReg](https://twitter.com/3dCavReg) [@3dCavReg](https://twitter.com/3dCavReg)



COMMAND FOCUS

Troopers and Families of the 3d Cavalry Regiment,

The men and women of the 3d Cavalry Regiment are working hard and making our Nation proud.

The Brave Rifles are one of the largest remaining elements in Afghanistan preparing the Coalition and Afghan National Security Forces for the transition from Operation Enduring Freedom to Resolute Support.

This change in mission will happen on January 1st, 2015.

All of our Troopers play a key role in this critical moment of history here in Afghanistan.

I am proud of the achievements of all troopers – as you saw on our cover, we are deployed across the globe.

From Fort Hood to Cuba to Egypt to Afghanistan every single Trooper and their Family is part of our success.

It is a privilege to serve alongside each and every one of you.

With the holidays upon us, Please remain disciplined and enjoy yourselves responsibly...

The Brave Rifles have brought great pride upon the unit and have distinguished themselves as one of the finest Regiments in the U.S. Army.



We all share the burden of maintaining this reputation and owe it to one another to be the best!

The tremendous support and immense sacrifice our Families go through by having their loved ones deployed overseas is greatly appreciated.

We all wish we could be home, but we have answered our Nation's call and will do our duty when it is required.

Brave Rifles!



CAMERON M. CANTLON
COL, AR
75th Colonel of the Regiment

Troopers, Families, and Friends,

I'd like to start off by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

All the Troopers deployed would love to be celebrating at home with their Family.

However, our Nation has called us and we freely support that calling with great pride and energy.

As most are aware, the 3d Cavalry Regiment has taken on a new name in Afghanistan known as Train, Advise and Assist Command - East and the Troopers are doing a fantastic job at accomplishing their assigned mission.

The actions of the Troopers of the 3d Cavalry Regiment have been carried out with the up-most professionalism.

They have been doing an outstanding job serving in Afghanistan, Egypt, Guantanamo, and back home at Fort Hood, Texas. Our beloved Regiment of Mounted Riflemen is deployed in a myriad of environments and performing admirably.

The holiday season in conjunction with family members serving overseas can add stress to the Troopers and stress to the Families.

The life of a Trooper is not an easy one but we have chosen to



take this path for the defense of our United States of America.

If stress becomes overwhelming, I want to encourage everyone to reach out to each other and reach out to the systems that we have in place to assist. Army Community Services, Behavioral Health, the Chaplain Corps, and multiple other resources are located close to you and are there to help.

Let's take care of ourselves and take care of each other so all of

us can have a safe holiday season.

I want to thank everyone for the personal sacrifices you have made, and will continue to make, for your country each and every day.

Brave Rifles!

Roger L. Heinze
XX Regimental Command
Sergeant Major

Outside of Assistance Platform Clark, within sight of its north eastern border, is the small village of Trakai.

2nd platoon, Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, "Tiger," 3d Cavalry Regiment, along with soldiers from the Afghan National Army 203rd Corps conducted a foot patrol to Trakai Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 30, 2014, to

speaking with local leaders.

"Key leader engagements are

a tool that allows the ANA and U.S. to get a feel for the human climate of a location," said 2nd Lt. Brad Strimel, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, Apache Troop. "With a KLE, we sit and talk to local leaders, usually local elders, and discuss issues that have been going on that effect them and us mutually."

Apache Troop

did not show up unannounced; they where invited by the elders following a successful visit the last time they entered the village.

"We where invited back because the last time we visited Trakai they were impressed by us," Strimel continued. "We respected their culture, and we did not act overly aggressive. Our behavior gained favor with them; so they wanted us back."

"Missions like this where Soldiers get out and talk to local leaders are important to success for the Afghanistan mission," said a Soldier who only goes by "Freddy," from 2nd Pla-

Apache Troop

Outside the Wire



Staff Sgt. Danny Gardner, 2nd platoon, Apache Troop, 1st Squadron "Tiger," 3d Cavalry Regiment, walks through the village of Trakai is Khost province while on a mission to meet with local leaders Sept. 30, 2014. Apache troop conducted a Key Leader Engagement in the town



Members of the 3d Cavalry Regiment and 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade sit and talk about what is important to the elders of Trakai, a small village close to Assistance Platform Clark Sept. 30, 2014. Meeting like these combat enemies of Afghanistan by keeping lines of communication and cooperation open with the Afghan population.



toon, B Company, 109th Military Intelligence Battalion, and 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade who came along on the visit. "Having a working relationship and communicating with the local populous is an effective way to combat enemies of Afghanistan from infiltrating and controlling populations that would otherwise be friendly."

The ANA led the mission to the village proving yet again that they are capable of conducting operations when NATO forces move out of Afghanistan.

"Every mission we go on is conducted with the ANA," said Strimel. "Now, there is about two ANA soldiers for every one of us when we go out. They are very professional, and they do the majority of the work. We have very few issues when we go out on missions. Its important for people to understand that at this point we are able to trust the ANA to get the job done."

2nd platoon and ANA soldiers walked five miles on a hot day to conduct this meeting and it paid off for all parties involved. The locals where able to voice concerns about their village and the soldiers from both sides got important information.

"With this mission, we improved relations with locals, gathered information on surrounding villages and learned of any enemy influences in the area," said Strimel. "With the ANA in the lead, the situation here has greatly improved."

3d Cav: Here to help

Start of operations in Afghanistan

The week was full of ceremonies where the smaller squadrons have relieved the 10th Mountain brigade.

The 3d Cavalry Regiment has arrived in Afghanistan and replaced the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), in Regional Command-East, Afghanistan, and has been tasked with the responsibility to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces and NATO base closures within its area of operation.

On July 18, 2014, Col. Cameron Cantlon, 3d Cav. Regt. commander, took responsibility of Train, Advise, Assist Command-Southeast from Col. Samuel Whitehurst, 3rd BCT's commander. The "Brave Rifles" occupied five forward operating bases spread across eastern Afghanistan.

Col. Cameron Cantlon, 75th commander of the 3d Cavalry Regiment, speaks to an audience of Afghan Security Force and NATO soldiers at a Transfer of Authority ceremony July 19, 2014, held at the Afghan National Army 203rd Thunder Corps. The 3d Cav. Regt. has taken over responsibilities to Train, Advise, Assist Command-Southeast from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Sabre, Thunder, Steel and Mule-skinners squadrons have all replaced a brigade as they take on the role of advising the Afghan National Army and preparing to close out the NATO presence in this part of Afghanistan.

The mission of advising the Afghan National Security Forces, government and local officials, as NATO forces return to zero, falls on the regiment of "Mounted Riflemen". The troopers have a motto of "fight where it's told and wins, with honor, where it

"I thank the 203rd Corps for hosting this event," said Cantlon. "It sets a precedent that we will never forget, the friendship and all the Afghans National Security Forces. The five provinces we are living in have a rich history and it is an honor to serve with the Afghan National Army and amongst the people from this area."



Col. Cameron Cantlon, commander of the 3d Cavalry Regiment, and Command Sgt. Major Roger Heinze, the regimental command sergeant major, prepare the regimental colors before a transfer of authority ceremony held July 18, 2014. The 3d Cav. Regt. took over responsibilities to Train, Advise, Assist Command-Southeast from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

fight."

They will win this fight by readying the Afghans to be self-sufficient, said Capt. Andrew Hummel, regimental day battle captain.

"I thank the 203rd Corps for hosting this event," said Cantlon. "It sets a precedent that we will never forget, the friendship and all the Afghans National Security Forces. The five provinces we are living in have a rich history

and it is an honor to serve with the Afghan National Army and amongst the people from this area."

RC-East is a mountainous region that shares its eastern border with Pakistan. The arid land includes the provinces of Ghazni, Khost, Logar, Paktica, Pakiya and Wardak that the more than 2,000 troopers will operate.

The troopers of 3d Cav. Regt.

have prepared for this critical mission over many months by conducting training at Fort Hood, Texas, by attending the Security Force Assistance Academy in Fort Polk, Louisiana, and by its tour at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. While at NTC, the Security Force Advise and Assist Teams honed their skills of interacting and advising with ANA role-players in scenarios they might experience deployed.

Shoulder to Shoulder

I WILL NEVER QUIT ON LIFE



Prevent Army Suicides
Reach Out ★ Talk ★ Listen

Talk to your Chain of Command, Chaplain, or Behavioral Health Professional
 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org www.militaryonesource.com
www.preventsuicide.army.mil



Third Cavalry Museum

MUSEUM HOURS
 Mon-Fri: 9a.m. - 4p.m.
 Sat: 10a.m. - 4p.m.
 Sun: Noon - 4p.m.

Created in 1930, the museum has followed the Regiment to every location it has called home. In 1986 the museum was officially staffed with professionals, charged with the responsibility of keeping the Regiment's history alive.








This animated picture frame is of Pvt. Timothy Cunningham, the first Trooper to lose his life during the battle of Vera Cruz, Mexico. After 164 years, his memory lives on as he welcomes each visitor who enters the museum.



3rd U.S. Cavalry
 Association Gift Shop
 located inside the museum



Brave Rifles, Afghans work side by side

Soldiers assigned to Bandit Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Cavalry Regiment, evacuated a wounded Afghan soldier from an Afghan National Army base in Paktika province, Afghanistan on Aug. 7, 2014.

During U.S. Army Brig. Gen. David Haight's visit to the ANA's 203rd Corps, 2nd Brigade Headquarters in Paktika province, U.S. Army Capt. Katherine Zamperini, medical advisor to the ANA's 203rd Corps' Medical Staff, discovered there was a badly injured Afghan soldier, who could receive better care at the Paktya Regional Hospital managed by her Afghan Counterparts.

Capt. Andrew Coleman, Bandit Troop Commander and his soldiers moved the hurt Afghan Soldier to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Bandit Troop soldiers, who were assigned as personal security detail for Haight, commander of the Train, Advise and Assist Command, South East region.

Haight met with ANA's 203rd Corps Commander, Gen.

Shariff Yaftalli, and other high ranking ANA, Afghan Police and the Afghan Border Police. This meeting was conducted two days after the attack that killed U.S. Major General Harold Greene in the Eastern Afghanistan city of Kabul.

Zamperini traveled to the 2nd Brigade Headquarters to discuss medical issues at the same meeting with her Afghan Counterpart Brig. Gen. Asif Bromand.

Coleman, who was the first on the ground, assessed the safety of the Afghan National Army Base. He met with the Afghan Brigade Commander, Col. Wasea Milad, and discussed the current situation. His soldiers set up a perimeter to defend the high ranking

U.S. personnel during their meeting. Bandit Troop also assigned "guardian Angels," who stood by in the meeting for U.S. protection.

Bromand and Zamperini accompanied the Afghan patient to the Paktya Regional Hospital where he received immediate care. A week later Brig. Gen. Bromand said, "That patient would have lost his leg if the U.S. hadn't air lifted him to Paktya."



Afghan National Army base commander, Col. Wasea Milad, greets, Bandit Troop, 1st "Tiger" Squadron, 3d Cavalry Regiment, Commander, U.S. Army Capt. Andrew Coleman, prior to their meeting. The two commanders discussed local safety and the current situation in Afghanistan on Aug. 7 2014.



U.S. Army Sgt. Ray Talbot, (left) of Dayton, Ohio, and Staff Sgt. Christian Gutierrez, (right) of Bronx New York native, both assigned to Bandit Troop, 1st "Tiger" Squadron, 3d Cavalry Regiment, evacuate a wounded Afghan soldier from an Afghan National Army base in Paktika province, Afghanistan on August 7, 2014.

Capt. Andrew Coleman, Bandit Company commander, relays messages in preparation for his company's touch-down to set up a security perimeter August 7, 2014 at the Afghan National Army base in Paktika province, Afghanistan.



Spc. Austin Gott, a 20 year-old Iola, Kansas native, from Rough Rider Company, 1st Squadron Tiger, 3d Cavalry Regiment has been doing welding projects for numerous organizations located on forward operating base Lightning in his spare time while deployed in Afghanistan.



U.S. Army Spc. Austin L. Gott from Rough Rider Troop, Tiger Squadron, works on a gate on FOB Lightning. He enjoys using his craft and offers his skill-set to anyone on the FOB.

Gott enlisted as a 91S, Stryker mechanic, at age 17, before he finished his junior year of high school in Joplin, Missouri. At this time he was already attending the Franklin Technology Center in Joplin, working towards his American Welding Society Certification.

When Gott enlisted, his current hometown of Joplin was still recovering from the May 2011 tornado. His high-school was destroyed and all the students were being taught in a closed down mall. He was simultaneously completing a two-year vocational degree to become proficient at metal inert gas welding, gas tungsten arc welding, shielded metal arc welding and plasma cutting. Gott completed his welding certification, graduated from high school, and then held a welding internship for a lawnmower shop, all

before he went to basic training at 18 years old.

Gott built a platform from scratch for the common remotely operated weapon station for the U.S Army Special Forces located near FOB Lightning. The CROWS keeps the operator safer because only the weapon is exposed to enemy fire.

Gott also fixed the grill for the DFAC. The entire FOB was thankful for the steaks that were grilled later that week on Gott's handy-work.

Gott has worked on everything else from gates to generators. He is also certified to recover and work on MaxxPro mine resistant ambush protected vehicles. He has been on one MRAP recovery mission since

he has been deployed to Afghanistan.

Not only did Gott work with Americans, but he also worked side by side with Afghan forces and fixed some of their equipment. Gott stated, "I didn't know the Afghan Nationals were going to work with us this much. It was very comforting when I found out they were normal soldiers just like us."

Gott's work will remain being useful to the Afghan National Security Force after U.S. Forces return the land and retrograde off FOB Lightning.

In Memoriam

3d Cavalry Regiment remembers the Troopers who now gather on Fiddler's Green.

<i>Spc. Austin Sampson</i>	HHT 3/3 CR	<i>Jackson Cole Taylor-Smith</i>	E Troop, 2/3 CR
<i>PV2 Marcus Williams</i>	Blacksmith RSS	<i>Jason Menocal</i>	HHT, 2/3 CR
<i>CSM Donald Devine</i>	St. Catharines, Ontario,	<i>Henry Sherman</i>	
<i>Ludgier J. LaCrosse</i>	Canada	<i>Sgt. Christopher Mulalley</i>	Eureka, Calif.
<i>Edward V. Migdalski</i>	Eastpointe, MI	<i>Spc. Wyatt J. Martin</i>	Mesa, AZ.
<i>Cecil "Chick" J. Karley</i>	Littlestown, PA	<i>Sgt. 1st Class Ramon S. Morris</i>	New York, NY
<i>Eotus E. Tonn</i>	Rochester, NY	<i>Lawrence K. Agyekum</i>	RHHT 3 CR
<i>Sgt. Larry Foote</i>	White Bear Lake, MN		
<i>Staff Sgt. Henry Gant</i>			

3d U.S. Cavalry Association "Connecting the Veterans of today with the Veterans of yesterday."

The 3d U.S. Cavalry Association was formed to preserve the history, traditions and heritage of the storied 3d CR. As an active member you will be able to provide input in all activities that support the Regiment and keep cavalry tradition alive. Membership information can be found at:

www.braverifles.org



Harvey Reed

HARVEY REED
CSM(R), Executive Director
3d Cavalry Regiment Association
3d U.S. Cavalry Association
P.O. Box 5277

Fort Hood, TX 76544