



Training next generation of Army leaders

By by Sgt. Michael Diehl and 1st Lt. Jonathan Berg
1st Battalion, 32nd Cavalry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

A group of Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, will be spending the summer training, advising and mentoring the young minds of some of the nation's best and brightest future officers at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. "This is an opportunity for 4,000 future Army officers to interact with officers, NCOs and Soldiers from across the Bastogne Brigade," said Maj. Rick Montcalm, the operations officer for 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment.

The team, referred to as Task Force Bandit, will provide mission command, training and logistical support to more than 4,000 cadets who will be cycling through numerous training events throughout the summer, said Montcalm.

"Our leaders have the opportunity to train and evaluate everything

from basic individual Soldier skills to platoon-level operations," said Montcalm.

The summer training program is part of a required annual training event for West Point cadets that provides essential military training and experience.

"It is a requirement for these Cadets to be evaluated in order to graduate from West Point," said Sgt. William Gough, 1-32nd Cav. Regt. "It is our duty to carry out this training mission that the 101st Airborne Division has selected us to do."

For the Soldiers who make up Task Force Bandit, this mission has a special meaning.

"We have a unique opportunity to inspire and train future Army leaders and officers," said Capt. Harold Mallory, the commander for

Company H, 1-32nd Cav. Regt. "The lessons we share with these Cadets can have a lasting impact on their careers and the Army itself."

First Sgt. Sedrick Brown, the operations sergeant major for 1-32nd Cav. Regt., agreed with Mallory, "Our future leaders at West Point deserve the best training the Army can give them," said Brown. "We can give them that training based on our experience here at the 101st."

Montcalm feels his team represents something bigger than itself.

"To the Cadets, we represent more than just the squadron, brigade or division," said Montcalm. "Our Soldiers and leaders represent the Army, and we will play a part in molding their expectations as they prepare for service in the near future. This is no small mission, and we hope to make the 101st Airborne Division the number one assignment of choice for every Cadet we train."

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Soldiers, Friends and Family,

When I first took command of the Bastogne Brigade, I told everyone that our time together would be a time of “Transition”. I don’t think I even realized how very true that statement was going to be.

Over the last nine months, we have been through “transitions” in equipment, mission, support, and (as we begin the busy PCS season) personnel.

Bastogne Soldiers have been stretched across Ft. Campbell, Afghanistan, the United States Military Academy in New York, Ft. Chaffee in Arkansas, and various other locations during this period. For most units tasked with this many challenging tasks, it would be understandable if there were a few tasks at home that were left unattended; but not in the Bastogne Brigade.

I cannot begin to tell you how extremely proud I am of the Leaders and Soldiers within our ranks that have stepped forward and ensured a flawless execution of every task that has been sent our way.

From our various missions in Afghanistan to supporting reserve training and leading the training efforts of Cadets at West Point, the Bastogne Team has performed exceptionally.

As you probably already know, we still have Bastogne Soldiers training and executing missions across the country and half way around the world. So, as we begin to celebrate the upcoming 4th of July Holiday, be sure to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

That being said, I also want to take a moment to remind everyone that as the summer warms up, we need to work diligently to take care of our fellow Soldiers, our families, our friends, and even our pets.

This is a busy time for everyone. I ask each of you to drive carefully this summer, stay properly hydrated, and always think safety first. Every member of the Bastogne Team is vital to our success.

Bastogne,

Air Assault,

B6

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Healthy Is Better Than Happy

As the time drew closer for *Mr. Jenkins to retire, he was horrified at the idea of spending all day with his wife at the house. Being the wise man, he purchased five acres of land and two cows. Once that day of retirement came, he would make sure that he woke early in the morning, before his wife, and head out to his "farm." Mr. Jenkins and his wife were miserable together, but they had managed to make their marriage last for over forty years. They were from a different generation with a much higher level of commitment to things than we have today. The idea of working on your marriage at that time was often limited to just enduring the pain.

This is not the ideal situation. It is wonderful that they were dedicated to this thing called marriage, but there is a better way. Without a doubt, commitment is the key to longevity, but there is also a need for some marriage fitness. In order to improve the health of your body, you have to work out. Sorry. You cannot get in shape watching P90X videos!

Marriage is the same way. In order to have a healthy marriage, a couple must work at the relationship. This workout cannot be limited to one person. It requires both to put in the effort and often it is a lot of hard work. There may be times when you are not happy in your marriage or satisfied with

your spouse's performance. This is not uncommon. Most couples go through times or seasons that are not the most joyful.

The goal of happiness is the problem. Happiness is an emotion that comes and goes based upon circumstances. A healthy marriage may not always be happy, but it will be strong. When a small child gets a shot, that child is usually not very happy but the medicine will make them healthy. Sometimes our marriages need a shot in the arm to get to that next level of good health.

Mr. Jenkins was a man in the neighborhood in which I was a minister. There was another man. *Mr. Autry was his name. He and his wife had been married over sixty years. They were best friends. They did all kinds of fun things together. Their understanding of each other was excellent due to good communication. When they were together, they were always hanging on each other like teenagers and they were in their eighties!

Their marriage was not always this healthy. They told me the first twenty years was living hell. There was verbal abuse and huge arguments. There was infidelity at year thirteen. Their marriage was not healthy. At one point, it was dying!

Eventually, they realized

things must change or their marriage would end. They made a decision to change how they did things. They individually worked hard on ending bad behavior. Mr. Autry and his wife worked on improving their communication. It took years, but they also learned how to forgive each other of past mistakes. They both realized that the problem rested upon both of their shoulders not just on one or the other.

Over the years, the marriage got healthier and healthier. When I came to know this wonderful couple, I knew I wanted my marriage to be like theirs. This is why I was shocked to learn that their relationship was so turbulent in the beginning of the marriage.

There is an old saying, "It is not as important how you began the race, but how you finish the race." I encourage you to not give up on your marriage, like both Mr. Autry and Mr. Jenkins. I do, however, urge you to work diligent, like Mr. Autry, at improving your marriage one day at a time. Sometimes you may need a little assistance. This is why we have Chaplains, Military Family Life Counselors and other professionals to help with our relationships. Bastogne!

*Names have been changed for privacy.

1st Brigade Combat Team

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SFC Renee Gisler

SARC/SHARP

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The 1st Brigade Combat Team has a new Victim Advocate. SSG Jeffrey Retzer has joined the Brigade SHARP team. There are several key SHARP events coming up for the brigade.

21-23 July 2015- The Rape Prevention Education Institute is hosting its 7th annual conference in Nashville that is open to all SHARP Advisors, Victim Advocates and SARC's. Register online at <http://www.tncoalition.org/calendar>

24 July 2015- Golf Scramble at the Fort Campbell Golf course. Call Michelle Ashby at (270) 412-5497 to register. Limited to the first 120 participants

31 July 2015- Blood Drive at the PPC from 1000-1600.

September 2015 there will be a SHARP scavenger hunt. Touch up on your SHARP knowledge, get a team together and compete. POC is Christie Nelson at (270) 798-6378.

HERE IT COMES

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1-506th host range for Vietnam Veterans

By Capt. Mark Lewis

1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

On 15 May 2015, 1-506th Red Currahee had the pleasure of hosting former 506th Infantry Regiment Vietnam Veterans for Banner Day. One of the events on banner day took place at Range 16 which was open to the Veterans to fire their privately owned firearms and socialize with current 1-506th Fires Platoon members.

At approximately 10:00 a.m., the range opened and five Veterans arrived at the range with their privately owned firearms to enjoy an afternoon firing weapons and exchanging stories with current members of 1-506th members.

One of the Veterans, Eugene Overton, upon learning Spc. Walsh's MOS of 13F (Forward Observer), inquired if the M546 artillery round, better known as the "beehive" due to the buzzing sound it made once fired, was still in use by the army today.

Overton enlightened the current Currahee Soldiers by explaining, "The beehive was an artillery shell used by the howitzers as a direct fire asset to shoot massive shards known as fletchettes. I remember seeing these massive shards of metal cutting through trees. We used it to plan our FPF (final protective fire) in case we were getting overrun by the Viet Cong".

This bit of information greatly interested the Soldiers at the range providing insight on how artillery helped shape the battles of Vietnam.

Not only did the stories of how the "beehive" artillery shell greatly interest the current Currahee soldiers, but also one of the weapons brought to the range stood out to the soldiers conversing with the Veterans.

That weapon was the M1 Garand brought to the range courtesy of the Don F. Pratt Museum. Although the U.S. Army officially adopted the M14 in 1957, the M1 Garand saw some action at the beginning of the Vietnam War before the army completely transitioned to the M14 in 1963.

After the Vietnam Veterans fired the M1 Ga-

rand, they allowed Spc. Eicher to have a chance to fire the weapon. Much to their amazement, Eicher, a 13F, was able to successfully engage a steel target located 200m away with superb accuracy. All eight .30 caliber rounds hit their target which was confirmed by the satisfying ring heard as the bullet struck steel.

Veteran Alfred May, impressed by Eicher's marksmanship, exclaimed, "We could've used soldiers like you back in Vietnam, I think you're in the wrong MOS!" Although the M1 Garand was not the standard issue weapon used in Vietnam, it served as an example to current Currahee members of what it was like to fire only with iron sights like the Vietnam era Soldiers.

Time with the Veterans came to an end as the final magazine was expended down range and the Veterans parted ways in high spirits after spending an afternoon at the range. Before leaving for the weekend, Walsh remarked, "Spending time with those guys makes me really appreciate all the little things we take for granted today and I am proud to have continued their legacy as a soldier of the 1-506th. Maybe one day I'll be back here sharing experiences of Afghanistan with future soldiers of the 1-506th."



Why I'm Proud to be Currahee

by MAJ Richard Towner

1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment Executive Officer

Last Thursday afternoon, I was in the Motorpool overseeing the line-haul download of the battalion's vehicles and containers. We had just arrived at Fort Chaffee, Ar. to facilitate a Brigade training exercise. While conversing with my Logistics Officer, I was approached by a Non-Commissioned Officer I did not recognize. "Sir", he said "are you Major Towner?"

"Yes, I am" I said.

"Well Sir, I have been looking for you for a while now," the NCO said.

Sergeant 1st Class Hawkins, the Pierce Family's Casualty Notification Officer, preceded to ask me if I remembered Spc. Robert Pierce from the last deployment.

SPC Pierce served as a Gun Team Leader in Able Company, 1-506th Infantry Battalion and operated out of a remote little outpost named Chamkani in Pakiya Province, Afghanistan. On 3 June 2013, as Spc. Pierce and his Platoon were departing the downtown District Center in Chamkani, a Suicide Vehicle Born IED (Motorcycle) detonated in close proximity to the Platoon. Spc. Pierce was killed almost instantly and Second Lieutenant Justin Sisson died of wounds enroute to the hospital.

"Yes," I said, "I was the Battalion Operations Officer running the Tactical Operations Center on the day Spc. Pierce was killed."

"Well Sir, Spc. Pierce's wife Christian lives about ten minutes from here. She knows that the Red

Currahees are in town and wants to know if you and several of your Soldiers can meet her and her son Aaron at Robert's grave site on Memorial Day?" asked Hawkins.

"You bet we can...we would be honored", I replied.

So we set about making plans for a short ceremony to honor the service and sacrifice of both Spc. Pierce and his family. With 12 Soldiers volunteering to go, several of which were at the scene that day and personal friends of Spc. Pierce, we were ready to go when we received word that Christian was overcome with grief and did not think she would be able to hold it together through the ceremony. Without hesitation, all 12 Soldiers stated that they wanted to go to the cemetery regardless.

As we approached the grave site, the gravity of the moment became very real for me. With a lump in my throat and a weight on my heart, I began talking about the man that Robert Pierce was.

He loved his wife and his fellow Soldiers, he was all of 21 years of age when we deployed to Afghanistan, yet he knew that this was his calling, his responsibility, both as a man and as a Soldier. With tears in their eyes, pain in their hearts and Christian's hand on her womb, they embraced each other and spoke quietly of his return. Spc. Pierce left that day with his wife Christian 7 months pregnant with their unborn son Aaron...a son he would never know.

"He was selfless" his fellow Soldiers would say of him at his memorial Ceremony in Afghanistan. Always willing to help others, mature, committed and faithful to the cause despite the odds. When times got tough, he would simply say "Whatever" and drive on.

The words came easier for me the more I spoke of him. He exemplified strength, honor and discipline, yet he was always humble and approachable. I found myself wishing I had known him better. He was the type of Soldier you want by your side when facing the worst of times, because you know that with him, you can weather any storm.

As "TAPS" began to play and the group rendered an honorary salute, many in the group struggled to hold it together. That music is sacred in its message and Soldiers know it better than others. It was a fitting tribute to the man who finally rests in peace and to the family that survives him; never giving up and never forsaking the cause despite the fact that they struggle daily to cope, to understand and to define the life before them.

This day, Memorial Day, is a reminder that we must never forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this Great Nation and who lost their lives, that we may live free. We must also not forget that there are families that survive their loved ones who need our constant prayers and our support. May God Bless them this Memorial Day.

“No Slack” Partners With Barsanti For Field Day

story and photos by 2nd Lt. Nicholas Larson

2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment “No Slack”, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division teamed up with staff from Barsanti Elementary School to hold a field day for the children on May 14.

Over 500 students at Barsanti participated in the culminating physical fitness event. Kindergarten through fifth grades all participated in numerous events throughout the day.

Sprints, shuttle runs, and various other competitions were an opportunity for students to test their fitness levels against their peers through healthy competition.

Every faculty member participated in the event in one way or another, and “No Slack” worked with them to make the event happen.

Coach Joel Voorhees, the physical education teacher at the school who planned the event, said, “This event takes place every year at Barsanti, and even though this is my first time running it at this school, it was a great success due to the level of teacher, parent, and “No Slack” participation.”

Voorhees went on to say that, “Barsanti Elementary is five years old, but this is the first time that we’ve had a sponsor battalion provide equipment and manpower. Now that the soldiers are coming home, they can interact with their community more.”

As more troops from “No Slack” come home from Afghanistan, after being reunited with friends and family, they are able to



Sgt. David Stiltner, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment “No Slack”, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, gives words of advice to a Barsanti Elementary School student before a potato sack race during the Barsanti Field Activities Day May 14.

see where their children go to school on post. The field day at Barsanti had a large amount of parent participation from military families.

According to Voorhees, “having around thirty to forty parents at these kinds of events seems to be the norm in recent days.”

Many “No Slack” parents such as Sgt. First Class John Connors from Delta Company were able to attend.

“This is the first field day I’ve been able to make it to,” said Connors, “usually I can only make it to the parent teacher conferences.”

Having both a son and daughter in Barsanti Elementary, Connors was overjoyed to be able to see an event such as field day that “No Slack” had a hand in planning.

Field day was an opportunity for “No Slack” to work with parents, students, and faculty members in an event centered around physical education, an aspect of school that is all too often overlooked.

Military members strive for physical fitness on a daily basis, so to have a great event such as field day for their children be the capstone of their year was much appreciated.

Bravo Company Soldier and family get trip of a lifetime

By 2nd Lt. Joshua Koch
426th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

The Make A Wish Foundation has been helping children with rare and terminal illnesses by making a dream of theirs come true while dealing with their illness. Spc. Kitchens, his wife Melissa, and their children recently went on one of these trips. Kitchen's daughter Erin was diagnosed with VonWillebrand's, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, and Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood. Due to her life-threatening conditions, Brooke spends the majority of her time in therapies and doctor's appointments, receiving infusions weekly and taking a dozen daily medications. Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood is an extremely rare neurological condition that occurs at an approximate rate of one in a million.

While the condition is extremely rare, Brooke's condition was caught early. However, the closest doctor that can treat Erin is located in Raleigh, North Carolina. SPC Kitchens and his family traveled back and forth at least once every other month to Raleigh for his daughter. Erin's story was forwarded by the Hospital in North Carolina to the Make a Wish Foundation of Middle Tennessee for Erin to go to Disneyland. Kitchens and his family were notified that they would be getting an all-expenses paid trip to Orlando FL, from April 28 to May 5, 2015.

Kitchens said "I was so excited to hear that we were getting this trip, and my daughter's face was smiling so much. The excitement in our house was at an all-time high."

The morning of April 28th the Kitchens family were picked up at their house by the Make a Wish Foundation in a limousine and driven to the airport in Nashville.

Melissa said "We flew into the Orlando International Airport where Brooke was greeted by a Give Kids The World (GKTW) rep holding a banner welcoming her like a celebrity. She was able to choose which rental vehicle she wanted to spend the week traveling in, and then we were off to the GKTW Village."

Kitchens and his family spent the next six days seeing everything that they could at the Disney land re-



sort in Orlando, FL. Erin was introduced to all of her favorite Disney characters and took part in several activities that she would not normally be able to do, such as riding horses, riding roller coasters, and playing the largest game of candy land in the world.

Melissa said "Sunday night was the World's Largest Candyland game at GKTW. Then it was time to pack for our return home. One special thing that GKTW did was each day while we were at the park, a "fairy" would leave a small gift on the table for the kids. Sunday's gift was our very own version of GKTW Candyland so we can play it and always will remember the fun we had at GKTW."

The Kitchens family were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Tennessee Make a Wish Foundation and thankful to have had a special trip with their entire family. If you would like to know more about AHC, it can be found at CureAHC.org or on Erin's page. www.facebook.com/PrayersForErinBrookeKitchens.





The Business of Intelligence

By Sgt. Jonathan Crawford

326th Brigade Engineer Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division gathered to participate in a Joint Intelligence training event at Fort Campbell, from the 4th to the 21st of May.

This was the first event of its kind, developed as a means of promoting vertical and horizontal integration by conducting cross-BDE level classes over the course of three weeks, serving to promote fusion between Brigade S2 and Battalion-level Intelligence Soldiers.

Training was conducted at

the Kinnard Mission Training Center (KMTC) as well as the SSG Glen H. English Jr. Education Center.

The Intelligence Academy, designed by the leadership of Delta Co (Military Intelligence Company), 326th Brigade Engineer Battalion, aims to increase Soldiers' overall military readiness by teaching students tasks and requirements associated with the Intelligence Warfighter Function.

The training curriculum integrated core Intelligence aspects of Unified Land Operations,

District Stability Framework, and Socio-Cultural Intelligence. The thought process behind the training was in lock-step with the "No Cold Starts, No MI Soldier at Rest" mentality.

"We identified certain areas that needed to be improved upon during our last JRTC rotation and scheduled training to address those points," said 1st Lt. Patrick R. Negard, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, Delta Company, 326th BEB, 1st Brigade Combat Team.

“We performed well at JRTC, but there is always room for improvement. We thought that bringing the Soldiers of Bastogne Brigade together would promote horizontal integration as well as foster a shared learning environment,” said Negard.

“As proficient as our Soldiers are on their systems and equipment, we cannot forgo basic Intelligence skills that are equally as perishable,” said Negard. “We brought out old school maps and acetate. It was a good scene with Soldiers gathered around a map pinned to the wall, plotting and conducting analysis over intelligence reports. Training to conduct Military Decision Making Process and Mission Analysis in an austere environment means preparing for occasions where networks and equipment are not readily available, as there is no substitute for being able to operate by analog means”

The event highlighted key areas that the 1BCT Commander, Col. Robert Campbell, had directly addressed Bastogne Soldiers to focus on for future deployments and overseas contingency operations.

Soldiers attending received in-depth training from the TRADOC Cultural Center on Socio-Cultural Intelligence, a rising intelligence discipline dedicated to understanding the cultural and social impacts of military operations in foreign countries. Training also focused on District Stability Framework, a subject which plays an integral part of intelligence gathering and assessments Soldiers make during deploy-



ments.

Instruction was coupled with practical and hands on exercises that required application of the learned analysis techniques to problems that Soldiers would likely see downrange. Skills learned and developed during the Intelligence Academy will directly impact Intelligence operations across 1BCT.

“The training event helps us to build a cohesive relationship with the other Battalions in the Brigade,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Stech, a Platoon Sergeant with Delta Company, 326BEB. “Most of these Soldiers have not worked with each other very often and training like this shows us how we come together as one.”

“As for the frequency, we would like to see this kind of training be conducted on a semi-annual basis, possibly every six months,” said Stech. “Building these relationships early on will pay dividends when we deploy”.

Soldiers felt equally excited about the opportunity to train on MOS tasks which will help to defeat enemy forces and save lives while deployed.

“This is training that anyone would benefit from,” said SPC Jordan Gilbert, an All-Source Analyst. From analysts to collectors to Soldiers kicking down doors, everyone has a part to play in gathering information.”

KNOWLEDGE

OFFICIAL SAFETY MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. ARMY

As a kid, I had two dreams. My first dream was to become a pilot and fly; my second was to own a motorcycle. After starting flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama, I finally had the money to make that second dream come true and bought a Kawasaki Ninja ZX-6R.

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PMV-2 (MOTORCYCLE) MISHAPS CLAIM SOLDIER LIVES

Army National Guard Soldier died from injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident April 19, 2015, at approximately 6 p.m. in Phoenix, Arizona. The 52-year-old staff sergeant was operating a borrowed motorcycle with his spouse riding as his passenger when he failed to negotiate a curve and crashed. Neither the Soldier nor his spouse were wearing helmets, and he was pronounced dead at the scene. The Soldier did not have a motorcycle endorsement from his home of record.

Soldier was killed March 15, 2015, at approximately 6:15 p.m. in a motorcycle accident in Davidson County, Tennessee. The 24-year-old sergeant was operating his motorcycle at a high rate of speed when he hit the rear of a pickup truck after rounding a curve. He was thrown from the bike and pronounced dead at the scene. The Soldier was wearing an approved helmet and had completed required training.

Soldier suffered fatal injuries Feb. 21, 2015, during a motorcycle crash at approximately 5:30 p.m. near Hamilton, Georgia. The 35-year-old specialist was riding his motorcycle with a group of fellow Soldiers when he lost control on a sharp curve and struck a tree. The Soldier had passed another vehicle on a two-lane road prior to the accident, leaving the group behind, and was not found until the next morning. He was wearing PPE and had completed required training.

ANOTHER SOLDIER LOST



1-327 IN FRG CLS Class

story and photos by 1st Lt. Tony Cefalu

1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

On May 15, Headquarters Company of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment organized and held a basic first aid course that was open to both Soldiers and their spouses. The class was held in the Bastogne Brigade classroom, which provided ample space to host the first aid course.

While the class was an opportunity to train and certify members of Headquarters Company on first aid it was also very important to the Company leadership that spouses were involved and that the overall Family Readiness program was supported. The event encompassed two of the four Family Readiness Group pillars, namely training/education and keeping families informed.

The class which was led by Company medics covered a range of topics to include basic medications, treating fevers, trauma to extremities, CPR, and treatment of lacerations and abrasions. Families were trained on the uses and dosages of Tylenol and Motrin for adults, children, and infants.

A block of instruction was also dedicated to common injuries to ankles, knees, wrists, and shoulder. Families were then should how to properly brace the affected joint. Following the joint care block of instruction, the medics provided instruction on how to care for breaks and fractures when professional medical care is not immediately available through the use of splints.

The class was closed out with a block of instruction on how to execute the Heimlich maneuver and CPR. Families were taught how to execute both the Heimlich and CPR on adults, children, and infants.

Charlene Gordon, a spouse with a newborn baby, said "It was a great learning experience for young parents."

One of the Soldiers who attended, Spc. Tyler Luke, said, "It was a great way to learn helpful first aid together as both a learning and bonding experience."

This event was not only a learning opportunity for the families that attended, but was also an opportunity for Headquarters Company to test its Family Readiness Group systems.



Information about the event was pushed out through the FRG email chain and through flyers sent home with married Soldiers. The combined methods of information dissemination ensured that as many spouses as possible were made aware of the first class and given the opportunity to attend.

The Company Officer in Charge, First Lt. Nicholas Little, was happy with the training event saying "It was a great opportunity not only for our families to learn some basic first aid skills, but also for our junior enlisted to develop their public speaking and communications skills as well. Definitely a win-win."

The comprehensive training provided by the medics ensured that all those who attended are prepared to provide effective first aid to those in need and help care for injured persons when professional medical care is not immediately available. While most people may go their entire life without being put in a situation where they have to provide life saving care to someone in need, Headquarters Company is taking steps to ensure that its families are prepared to save a life.

Heroes Way

By 2nd Lt. Bryan Moros

426th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

1st Sgt. Dominic DiFatta took over as first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 426th Brigade Support Battalion in September of last year. A native of Missouri, he has spent much of his time serving his community in volunteer organizations for Goldstar families.

During operations in Iraq in 2009, Lance Corporal Rex Page was killed in action. DiFatta deployed to Iraq in 2011 with the 82nd Airborne.

While on deployment, DiFatta's mother put him in touch with Larry Page, Rex's father. Larry began to send letters and care packages to DiFatta and his unit to boost their morale while overseas. Over time DiFatta got to know Larry and learned about the Hero's Way Project.

The Hero's Way Project is devoted to building signs on roads and highways for local fallen heroes to ensure that they are never forgotten.

While deployed, DiFatta helped to raise money for the organization. For his dedication to raising money, he was invited speak as the guest of honor for the dedication hosted by Macon County historical society. In attendance were war veterans, families, and Gold Star Families.

The Lance Corporal Rex Page highway sign was dedicated on June 12th.



Rex Page was truly honored as a hero. Local news teams were present for the dedication. DiFatta spoke about his experiences and told funny stories about his various duty stations.

He discussed the importance of Gold Star families and the various survivor outreach services for the families such as the Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPS). DiFatta is an active volunteer in TAPS.

When asked why he volunteers he said, "It is important for the preservation of our history they [heroes] should be remembered."

Heroes such as Rex Page should never be forgotten.

DiFatta said during his speech, "There is no greater honor than giving your life for your country, it is the ultimate sacrifice."

When asked how he felt about being the honored guest at the dedication he said "I didn't really know at first what I wanted to say in my speech, but it was a humbling experience. I was honored to be there to connect with my local community back home."

The dedication was a well-organized event that was very emotional for all. DiFatta, on behalf of the Patriot Guard and the historical society, presented certificates of appreciation to the Gold Stars and Veterans for their sacrifices.

DiFatta set the example as true steward of the Army profession. His actions as a volunteer are inspiring to all those who have the honor of serving with such a selfless leader. Programs like these make a difference for the families who have all sacrificed so much.



Like a Ninja

By 2nd Lt. Joshua Koch
426th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Spc. Antonio Roudez of Charlie Company, 426 Brigade Support Battalion, 1ST Brigade Combat Team can always be seen during physical training pushing himself and encouraging others.

Roudez, originally from Racine Wisconsin, has always had a passion for fitness.

Prior to joining the Army and becoming a 68X, Behavioral Health Technician, he worked as a personal trainer, and after many years of training earned a third degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Physical fitness aside, Roudez knew that there were several other challenges that he wanted to accomplish.

Roudez said “It was finally time to check something off my bucket list, and that was trying out for the American Ninja Warrior Competition. It’s something that I have always wanted to do”.

In order to do this he had to first be extremely physically fit and submit an application which included a video of his skills.

He has taken on many obstacle course races over the years included several Tough Mudders and Spartan Races.

Both of these events put your strength, endur-

ance and mental drive to the test while negotiating obstacles on a course that spans over nine miles.

The increased popularity of fitness related events, coupled with the rise in understanding of martial arts in the United States has sparked an increase in imported events from various countries.

Roudez explained “These types of obstacle course races originally started in Japan and it wasn’t until 2009 that they started gaining popularity in the United States.”

After completing the application and video the waiting game started. After a few weeks and thinking he had not made it past this checkpoint, Roudez received a call from one of the American Ninja Warrior Casting Agents.

It turned out there were a few additional things they need from Roudez, who at this point was beginning to second guess whether he should try out or not.

When the casting agent thought this applicant might be hesitating he encouraged Roudez to finish his application and that they thought he was a top contender for a tryout on the actual obstacle course in Los Angeles on April 18th.

All members of Charlie Company are extremely proud of Roudez for putting himself out there and taking a chance at the tryouts.

Even though he did not make it past the qualifying round, this Soldier demonstrated admirable initiative to prove his physical fitness on the next level, which he more than accomplished.

Roudez looks forward to trying out again for American Ninja Warrior in the coming years.





Mechanics from B Co, 426 BSB and D FSC, 1-32 CAV perform maintenance on field litter ambulances (FLAs) at the Area K maintenance facility at West Point.

Taskmasters Support Summer Training at West Point

By Capt. Daniel Burke
426th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Every year, an active Army unit supports Cadet Summer Training at the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. This training consists of different programs such as Cadet Leadership Development Training (CLDT), Cadet Field Training (CFT), and Cadet Basic Training (CBT).

The summer also holds four iterations of Air Assault School which allows Cadets the opportunity to earn the coveted Air Assault Badge.

This year, the task fell to 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). As the main effort, 1-32 CAV received elements of 426th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB, Taskmasters) to support their Task Force, designated as Task Force Bandit. Every Taskmaster

company is represented in the Task Force.

A Company (Automatic), 426 BSB arrived with the initial push to the Task Force's camp at Camp Natural Bridge and began assisting with receiving equipment and vehicles shipped from Fort Campbell.

Automatic's primary missions include running the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP), distribution of all classes of supply, personnel transport, and forklift support.

There is never a dull moment for Automatic as they conduct their daily missions. During Automatic's support of Cadet Summer Training and training conducted by Task Force Bandit, they have moved nearly 5,000 personnel. They have

also delivered 60,000 gallons of water, over 1 million rounds of ammunition and hundreds of 105MM artillery shells and mortar rounds.

Soldiers from HHC (High Rollers), 426 BSB and D Forward Support Company (FSC), 1-32 CAV augmented Automatic with additional drivers which increases the number of missions which A Co can conduct at one time.

Staff Sgt. Ian Yang, a truck squad leader with Automatic, stated, "The Soldiers in A Co and the Soldiers augmenting us have done very well so far. They have worked a variety of missions with long hours every day over challenging terrain. Many of them are inexperienced but they have been very resilient and mission focus. They maintain positive attitudes and focus on safety.

We have not encountered any problems on our missions that we were not able to deal with on the spot.”

D FSC typically provides maintenance support for 1-32 CAV. For this mission, B Company (Blackjack), 426 BSB provided 3 mechanics to augment D FSC’s support capabilities. In cooperation with mechanics from D FSC, Blackjack mechanics have conducted scheduled and unscheduled maintenance for vehicles, weapons, communications equipment, and ground support equipment for all units in the Task Force.

To date, no mission has failed due to a lack of serviceable equipment. When a pipe fitting broke on one of Automatic’s 2,000 gal water trailers, it cut their water carrying capacity almost in half. The mechanics quickly restored it to fully mission capable status.

The maintenance section has also done a great job in their vehicle recovery mission providing wrecker support for one broken down truck.

Even though the maintenance section operates in a much more austere environment at Fort Campbell, SGT Martin Andrade of Black Jack commented, “The austere facility we have for maintenance operations has not at all degraded our capacity to support. Our mechanics have done an excellent job providing customer units with the same level of service here that we provide at Fort Campbell.”

C Company (Cold Blooded), 426 BSB provided 24 medics in order to augment support capabilities for HHT, 1-32 CAV. Cold Blooded medics provide support to USMA Cadets as well as TF Bandit personnel.

So far, they have seen and treated 550 Soldiers and Cadets for a variety of injuries and illnesses. In addition to operating regularly scheduled sick call hours every morning, the medics have supported more than a dozen ranges and training courses, four iterations of Air Assault School, and Cadet patrolling lanes.

On the patrolling lanes, medics attached to CLDT and CFT platoons worked in 48 hour shifts with 24 hours in between shifts. While supporting Day Zero Air Assault training on the Obstacle Course, SGT Kayla Douglas (C Co) commented, “I feel like we have been able to help people get through Air Assault School. The [Cadets] seem to feel more confident with medics who are already Air Assault qualified because the Cadets know that the medics know the training and experience they are going through.”



CSM Rodney Macon, 426 BSB, thanks PFC Nichole Olson, HHC 426 BSB, for her hard work as an augmented driver during A Company “Automatic” missions.



SGT Kayla Douglas (C Co, 426 BSB) looks on as Cadets negotiate the Confidence Climb during Zero Day at Air Assault School.

Bulldog 5 Departs

story and photos by 1st Lt. Tony Cefalu

1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

MAJ Davies departed from 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment on Thursday, 18JUN15, for the Command and General Staff College (CGSC). While the Bulldogs are sad to see him go, they are happy to see him go onto a promising new chapter of his career at the Command and General Staff College where he will continue his study of the Army profession.

MAJ Davies has long been a part of the Bulldog family, joining the unit originally in 2011 during deployment. He has served in a variety of key positions within the unit to include Battalion S3, Battalion Executive Officer, and Rear-D Battalion Commander. Always ready to do whatever was needed to ensure mission success, MAJ Davies was an important part of each mission with which the Bulldogs were faced.

During his time with 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment he played key roles in ensuring that the unit was properly trained and ready for a deployment at a moment's notice. His tenure with the unit brought him into contact with numerous junior officers; MAJ Davies provided guidance and mentorship to the young Soldiers who served under him. Whenever he could MAJ Davies took time to shape the future leaders of the Above the Rest Battalion and the Army. He has left a legacy of excellence that will continue to shape 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment for years to come.

2LT Kulungowski, the Battalion Chemical Officer, said this of MAJ Davies "He was a big part of

the unit and I'm certain that his time with the Bulldogs will continue to shape it long after he has left."

The Battalion S4, 1LT Bourdeau, stated he will miss BD5 "He was a delight to have in the Battalion and he will be missed."

MAJ Davies was given a short, personal farewell by members of the Battalion Staff. At this quick farewell he was presented his unit colors and an engraved sword as thanks for all the hard work he has given the Above the Rest Battalion.

Before he left, MAJ Davies sent out a heartfelt farewell to those who served with him.

"It's my last formal day here in Bulldog Battalion as I transition to clearing next week and subsequently signing out on leave. I wanted to tell all of you that it's been a privi-

lege for me to work with every single one of you. I worked with some of you in Afghanistan during last deployment as the S3, and that was an experience I will always cherish. I had no idea when I volunteered for the deployment that I would be given the opportunity to work as a Battalion S3 in combat, and it was just as rewarding as I dreamed it could be. Mostly because of the people I worked with. Some of you I've worked with since taking the XO position, and I'm eternally grateful for that opportunity as well. Being a Battalion Chief of Staff presents its own very unique perspectives and opportunities and I've been happy to be part of every single one. The people I've worked with have made it the valuable experience that it's been.

See you in the ORP. Rangers Lead the Way!"

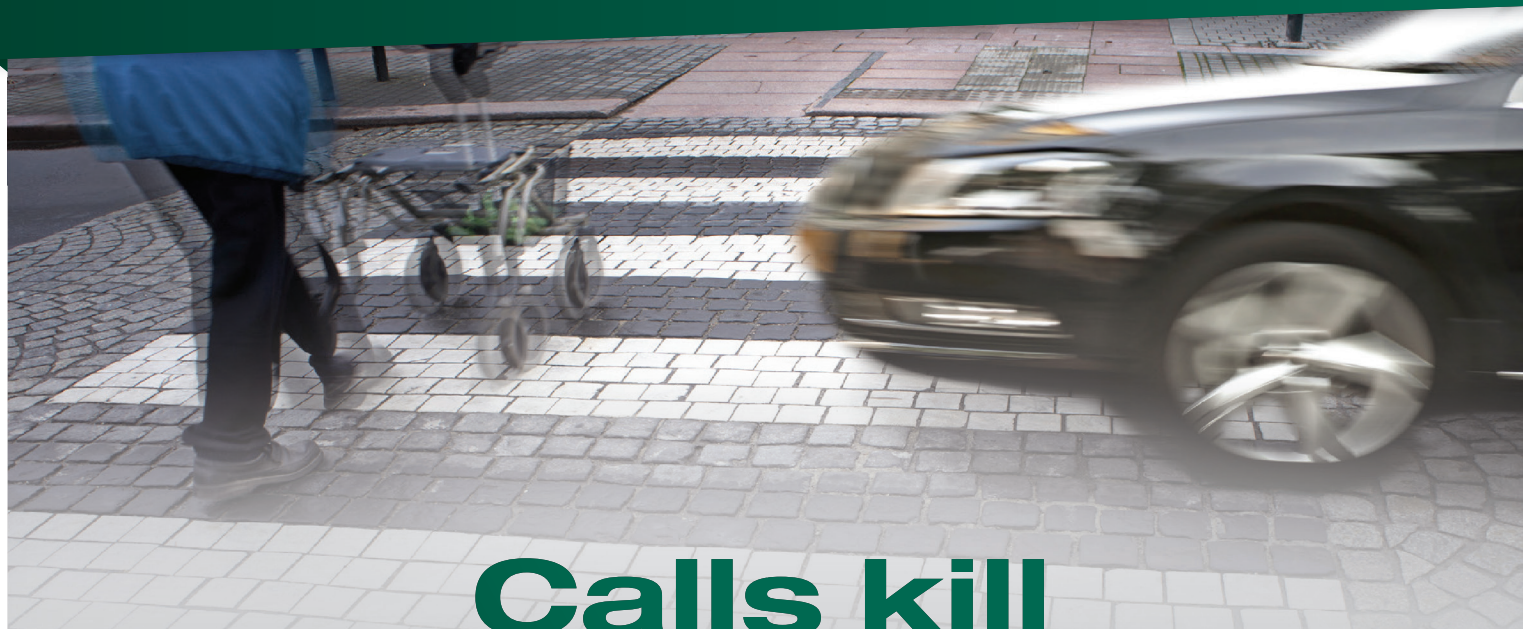
The Bulldogs thank MAJ Davies his years of dedicated service and wish him luck on his next Rendezvous with Destiny!





Don't assume the driver sees you.

Drivers talking on cell phones, handheld or hands-free, can miss seeing 50% of what's around them.



Calls kill

Hands-free is not risk-free

Find out why at nsc.org/cellfree
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Working Together to Strengthen Our Family Readiness Group

By 1st Lt. Jonathan Berg

1st Battalion, 32nd Cavalry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Communication plays a big part in helping our families through a deployment; which is why LTC Nathan Springer, 1-32 CAV Squadron Commander, has taken the time to ensure the families of the Bandit Soldiers are informed while training and evaluating the Cadets at West Point.

LTC Springer worked with Troop Commanders to create a Newsletter in order to provide information to our families on what their Soldiers are doing while in New York. Our FRG leadership used this opportunity to bring families together. Food was provided and time was set aside to take photos and make Father's Day Cards to send to New York. The event was successful and a lot of people showed up for the event.

There were also prizes handed out and a continuous slide show was played for the benefit of the families. We were also able to recognize one of our own, Shayna Baitch, as Brigade Volunteer of the Quarter.

2LT Thomas Velez, our Squadron Chemical Officer said of the event; "The FRG meeting allowed spouses and children of the Bandit family to bond with one another. It showed them that there are other people who are going through similar experiences as them. The atmosphere was uplifting as members of the bandit family saw pictures and heard stories about their Troopers."

LTC Springer Shared his vision of what our FRG should look like stating; "It is very important we



have an organization established that has a family atmosphere and welcomes every one of our Squadron Families. We want to create a situation where there aren't any of our Family members going it alone while their Soldier is deployed to USMA.

A good Squadron FRG is a group of people that come together to form a family and help each other out". Which is exactly what happened at our last meeting. Many families came out to show their support and to bond together strengthening our FRG and helping each other through the absence of our Soldiers.

Rachel Springer, one of our

Senior Advisors for the Squadron made a good point about what our FRG can accomplish.

She said "Whether your spouse is training or on a deployment it is not easy to run a household by yourself. We quickly realize that we aren't alone and we have the potential to help each other through both the big and little things".

Between our deployed Soldiers and our Spouses back home, our event has helped establish the fact that there are other that can be called upon should the need arise, and that together, we can help each other through the trials we face in the absence of our loved ones.

HHC “Bulldogs” conduct annual training

story and photos by 1st Lt. Tony Cefalu

1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment Unit Public Affairs Rep.

The summer is a prime training time for the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment (Above the Rest). Platoon STX, Platoon LFX, numerous ranges, and additional training keep the Bulldogs in the field for much of the summer, but the time back in the Battalion footprint is full of additional tasks. Along with their field training, Companies are required to conduct a wide variety of additional training and blocks of classroom instruction; one Company in particular has been working hard to complete its annual training.

In the past two weeks Headquarters Company “Headhunters” has executed Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP), Suicide Prevention, Equal Opportunity (EO), and Master Resiliency Trainer (MRT) courses in an effort to get ahead of its numerous annual training requirements.

SPC Luke, an HHC Soldier, commented on the training “This training provides important lessons about conduct in the work place that can applied to both military and civilian life.”

During these classes Soldiers are provided with the basics of each program which are the key building blocks of a comprehensive year round training program. The annual training recently executed by Headquarters Company is part of a continuous process that ensures that Soldiers’ training is kept up to date and the material stays fresh in their minds. All of this is a part of making sure that the unit creates a

professional work environment in which Soldiers are able to focus on their jobs without negative outside influences.

SSG Messer, the Battalion SHARP representative, had highlighted the importance of SHARP and other annual training “SHARP training is key to help the Army establish a positive command climate that supports Soldier safety and emphasizes Army values. Successful prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault requires that all Soldiers understand expected standards of conduct.”

SSG Woodson, the Battalion Schools NCO, stated, “Annual training like SHARP is an important part of keeping our Soldiers healthy and mission focused.”

The old adage “You Train As You Fight” has been a driving force behind creating realistic training to ensure Soldiers are prepared to go to combat. Tough, realistic training can make all the difference during a deployment and annual training requirements such as SHARP, Suicide Prevention, and MRT should be treated the same. High quality training for these programs help build smart, resilient Soldiers with the ability to tell the difference between right and wrong and are able to effectively deal with the mental rigors of military service.

All of this training is an important to preparing the “Above the Rest” Battalion for its next rendezvous with destiny and Headquarters Company has been setting the standard for others to follow.



