



9 veterans receive high honors from Bastogne

story and photos by Sgt. Samantha Stoffregen
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Leaders of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division inducted nine individuals as Distinguished Members of the Regiment and Honorary Members of the Regiment during a ceremony here at Bastogne North Field today.

“To the proud veterans of the ‘Always First Brigade,’ a special welcome to you as we celebrate 50 years since the arrival of the 327th in Vietnam,” said Col. Robert Campbell, commander of 1st BCT “Bastogne.” “We are really honored to have all of you here today and thank you for your service. It is your shoulders we stand on as we write the current chapters of this great regiment.”

The distinguished member of the 327th Infantry Regiment is

a uniquely special ceremony, representing many things, Campbell said. It represents the recognition of those who – through their blood, sweat and tears – are forever inducted into the ranks of the 327th, where everyone can celebrate the rich history of the Bastogne Brigade.

The individuals inducted during the day’s ceremony are recommended for the honor based on their dedication, commitment and continued service to the unit, Soldiers, families and community.

Inducted were: retired Col. Robert Howard, retired Lt. Col. Robert Crosby, Lt. Col. Ryan O’Connor, retired Lt. Col. Peter Wilhelm, 1st Lt. Arthur Pappas, retired Sgt. Maj. Robert Press, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kratzberg, and Francois and Nelly van Loo.

“We offer sincere congratu-

lations to our newest distinguished members of the regiment,” Campbell said. “It is you who built upon the reputation of those who went before who made the 327th great. It’s you who solidified the foundation with your service and sacrifice, you who give this regiment the reputation it enjoys today.”

The position of DMOR enables veterans to continue their association with the 327th Inf. Regt. and foster regimental spirit and reverence for the history and accomplishments of all members.

“We are proud to be in your company, carry on your legacy, proud to call you brother and sister,” Campbell said. “We the current members of the 327th pledge to carry on that rich legacy of service to our nation as we prepare for our next rendezvous with destiny.”

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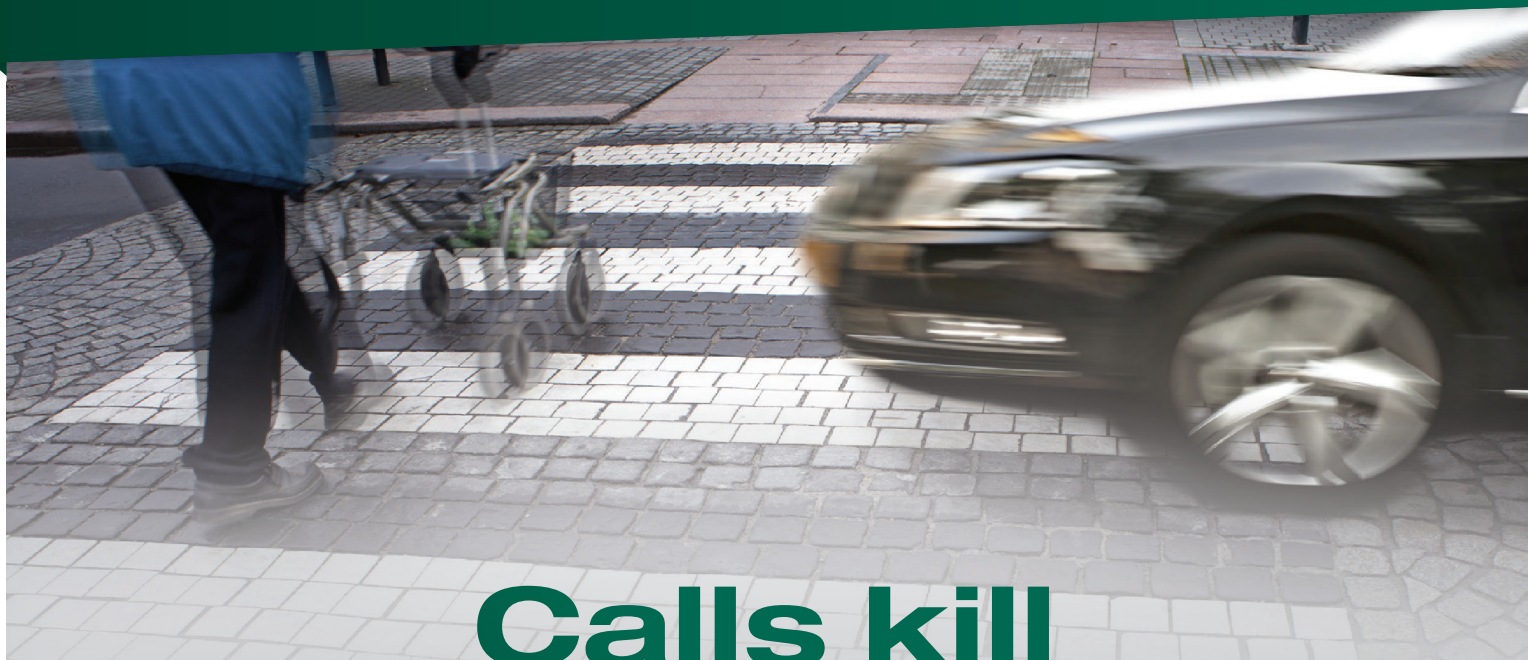
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“No Slack” returns from Afghanistan

story and photos by Sgt. Samantha Stoffregen
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

More than 130 Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division returned to Fort Campbell July 20, 2015.

Prior to the ceremony start, Lt. Col. Christopher Hossfeld, commander of 2nd Bn., 327th Inf. Regt. “No Slack,” and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Jones, the No Slack command sergeant major, uncased the battalion colors, signifying the official return of the battalion from their recent deployment to Afghanistan.

“I am proud to say we had one of the most diverse mission sets I have seen a single battalion be given,” Hossfeld said. “We were responsible for securing advisers, as well as providing security for the Train, Advise and Assist Command-South commanding general. We were also responsible for the perimeter of Kandahar Airfield, the internal security, the entry control points, and a 28-by-20 km area of operations outside of KAF.”

The battalion deployed last November with more than 800 Soldiers from 1st BCT, the majority coming from No Slack.

“I think the Soldiers did a phenomenal job considering that it was a deployment marked by transition,” Hossfeld said. “We deployed very heavy in the beginning as a bridging strategy, and then we continuously sent small groups back throughout the entire nine months.”

It was a continual transition

of missions, and all the Soldiers performed well beyond his expectations, he said.

“They are true professionals and they truly owned their mission,” Hossfeld said. “No matter what the mission seemed to be or changed into, they took it and made it their own to ensure the job was completed. They continue to uphold the great reputation of this battalion.”

Now that the battalion has returned, the Soldiers who returned will receive a three-week break to spend with family before No Slack once again goes into transition.

“I will change command September 1st,” Hossfeld said. “Then the battalion starts its train-up with the rest of the brigade as it goes forward in preparing for its next rendezvous with destiny.”



Lt. Col. Christopher Hossfeld, commander of 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Jones, the battalion command sergeant major, uncased the “No Slack” colors at Hanger 3 here July 20, 2015.



2-320th inducts 12 NCOs into NCO Corps

story and photos by Sgt. Samantha Stoffregen
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

In a ceremony built on traditions and honor, 12 Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, were inducted into the noncommissioned officers corps at Cole Park Commons June 24.

“Making the move from a lower enlisted Soldier to an NCO is an extreme change that a Soldier may experience in the Army,” said guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Espinosa, Fort Campbell garrison command sergeant major. “From the moment you wear corporal or sergeant [rank] you are responsible for the lives of the Soldiers you now lead. Don’t ever forget it is a privilege to lead America’s greatest treasure, the sons and daughters of our great nation.”

Espinosa continued by reminding the new inductees to continue to push themselves in training and learning to better benefit the

Soldiers they would one day lead.

“Being a noncommissioned officer is not about you, it’s about your team, section, squad or element that you are responsible for,” Espinosa said. “You must do challenging physical training with them, not watch them or tell them what to do for PT. You must train with them. You must know your team’s and individual’s strengths and weaknesses.”

The induction into the noncommissioned officers corps is a long standing tradition, symbolizing the empowering of the newly promoted NCOs.

“Take your responsibilities of being a trainer, counselor, mentor and leader very serious,” Espinosa said. “You will develop today’s Soldiers into leaders of tomorrow. You and the Soldiers you lead are the life cycle and backbone of the United States Army.”

As he looked around the

room at the 12 NCOs, Espinosa gave them six pieces of advice to challenge them in their career as an NCO.

“Keep your promises to your superiors and subordinates, focus on others not yourself, see the way the world is: not how you wish it to be, make decisions based on facts, manage the talents of your Soldiers and the obstacles you’ll face, and lastly, know you Soldiers,” Espinosa said. “Know when to push them and when to slow them down. Keep balance in their lives. That way we can meet our nation’s challenges together.”

As family members and friends celebrated the Soldiers’ induction, Espinosa reminded the young leaders to look around the room at the senior NCOs and officers, to remember the experience and knowledge they had to offer.

“Never feel like you’re rowing the boat yourself, we will always sustain, support and defend,” Espinosa said.



Lt. Col. Nathan Springer, commander of 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment “Bandits”, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, awards the Order of the Spur to a newly commissioned lieutenant from the United States Military Academy class of 2015 at the top of Popolopen Torne July 8, 2015.

Bandits host spur ride for troops, USMA Cadets

story and photos by Sgt. Michael Diehl

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

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Nothing is as symbolic to the cavalry Soldier as earning spurs. When a Soldier earns his spurs, he has proven to his leaders and peers to have a level of expertise beyond that of the average cavalymen.

Continuing the long tradition, 120 Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, and the U. S. Military Academy, including four newly commissioned second lieutenants, took part in a spur ride at West Point, N.Y. July 7-8.

The event tested physical prowess and knowledge of common Soldier skills.

“The tradition of ‘earning your spurs’ goes back to the very beginning of the Cavalry,” said Lt. Col. Nathan Springer, squadron commander. “When soldiers arrived at their cavalry squadron, they were assigned a horse with a shaved tail, signifying they were newly as-

signed. When the new horsemen proved their skills and ability to perform with the horse, they were awarded their spurs.”

Historically, new cavalry troops required extensive horsemanship training when they arrived at a unit. Only after they had proven to be proficient atop a horse could the cavalymen wear spurs.

Currently, soldiers can earn silver spurs for completing a spur ride and gold spurs for serving in

combat with a cavalry unit. Although soldiers today do not need to prove their horsemanship skills, they do need to show that they have what it takes to ride with the cavalry, and for modern cavalymen, this means being part of a team.

“Being new to the squadron, it was a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of the tradition of Cavalry and meet many of the soldiers and officers I will be working with,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Ryan Lewis, squadron chaplain.

Participants were split up into 14 teams so there was representation from Fort Campbell and USMA on every team, Springer said.

“This allowed us to mold new friendships, strengths and weaknesses, and most important, create an unforgettable training event that Bastogne soldiers will remember,” Lewis explained.

Operating with little to no sleep, the 14 eight to nine-man teams of spur candidates navigated through nine stations, where they demonstrated their cavalry knowledge and skills.

Some of the tasks the Soldiers had to perform during the spur ride included the Marne Confidence course (dry obstacles), the Water Confidence course, a Leadership Reaction Course, adjust indirect fire, disassemble and reassemble various weapon systems, and evaluate a casualty.

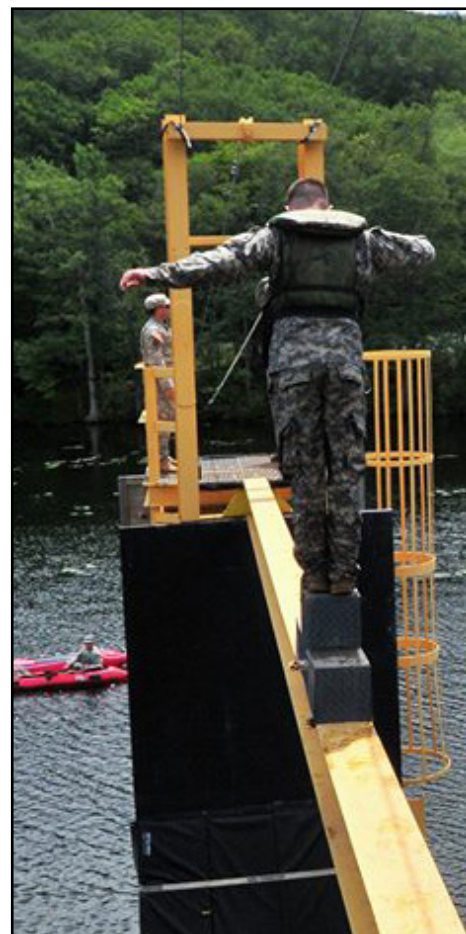
“The spur ride was not only an event that measured the intestinal fortitude of soldiers from this task force, it also showed that we are soldiers that can come together and accomplish a mission as a team, regardless of your job,” said Spc.

Michael Padrazo, a 1-32 Cav. Regt. spur candidate.

The spur ride ended with a walk to the top of Popolopen Torne (officially called “The Torne”). The “Torne” is a mountain with a relatively sharp and bald peak, with a summit 942 feet above sea level.

“I was honored to award the spurs on top of Popolopen Torne near West Point,” Springer said. “It is the culmination of a mentally and physically exhausting 24 hours. The soldiers who completed the spur ride are authorized to wear their silver spurs at any formal Cavalry event. Those spurs announce that individual soldiers volunteered and conquered a spur ride.”

Springer explained they did this at the academy to introduce an important tradition in the Armor and Cavalry communities, to the cadets and Army staff at West Point, and to their soldiers within the task force from the Bastogne brigade.



A Soldier with 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment “Bandits”, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, executes a challenge on the water confidence course beam at West Point, N.Y. during a spur ride July 7, 2015.



Soldiers with 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment “Bandits”, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, work together to complete a task in the medic training station during the 2015 Task Force Bandit Spur Ride at West Point, N.Y. July 7, 2015. Soldiers worked in teams of eight or nine through 24 hours of tasks to earn their silver spurs.

Red Currahee Scouts Conduct CBRN Training

story by 1st Lt. Bryan Medema

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

With close to a decade spent focusing on counter-insurgency threats, with particular emphasis on improvised explosive devices and far ambush tactics, chemical warfare training has gone from high priority to a lost art.

In order to prepare for future operations, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, continued their efforts to sustain and improve their skills in protecting against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense hazards by conducting CBRN training here at Range 64 July 23.

“We conducted the CBRN gas chamber with the scouts from our headquarters platoon,” said Sgt. Justin Brandon, the battalion chemical noncommissioned officer. “They went in, took their masks off, cleared and resealed their masks and moved out the gas chamber.”

While previous training events had focused on the use of individual chemical protective equipment, Red Currahee’s most recent event added the simulated chemical agent CS gas.

“This event marks the culmination of individual level CBRN training and is a yearly requirement per AR 350-1 [Army Training and Leader Development],” said 2nd Lt. Oliver Klein, the battalion chemical officer.

The riot control agent, CS gas, is primarily implemented as a crowd control measure, intended to

make targets temporarily ill, unable to see – due to eye irritation – and incapable of fighting. For Soldiers in a chemical environment, it is imperative to understand the warning signs of an attack, its effects, and most importantly, how to protect themselves and their comrades.

“It’s important to be prepared for anything at any time,” Brandon said. “We never know when we could be hit with a chemical attack. You need to be prepared for the worst. If a CBRN attack hap-

pens and you are not trained properly, the consequences can be dire.”

While many Soldiers and leaders can imagine where and when the next conflict may take place, it is impossible to know exactly where they will go, who they will fight, and how they will combat them, Klein said. Because of these variables, a diverse skill set, which includes CBRN, is critical to the battalion’s future success and mission readiness.



Scouts with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, line up to exit the gas chamber on Range 64 after breaking the seal on their gas mask as part of the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense training conducted July 23, 2015, on Fort Campbell, Ky. Because the CS gas irritates the eyes, Soldiers are instructed to grab the shoulders of the person in front of them as they exit because many of them have a difficult time seeing after breaking the seal on their mask. Training such as this ensures that Soldiers are current for any possible future operations they may be needed for. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Samantha Stoffregen, 1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)



Shooting In the Wind

story and photos by Sgt. Javier Luque

426th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 426th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team executive officer 2nd Lt. Portillo was invited to participate in the 2015 MAC III Regional Cup marksmanship competition held in Tullahoma, Tennessee at the Victory Training Site ranges from 26 through 28 June. The regional championship is a National Guard ran match. Two of the matches during the competition are rifle and pistol excellence in competition (EIC), from these matches competitors earn points toward their distinguished marksmanship badges. Teams competed in the MAC III championship.

Portillo competed in marksmanship for several years while in college. He was invited to his first competition while preparing to re-enroll in college and from there was given the opportunity to represent Tennessee by shooting for the TN NG Marksmanship team. The invite came after winning the individual rifle title.

While serving on the team he was able to compete at regional and national level matches and also compete at the All Army Marksmanship Competition held at Fort Benning, GA hosted by the Army Marksmanship Unit.

Each match has two EIC matches for every shooter and walk on shooters to participate in. These two matches award points to the top ten percent of shooters that compete. The emphasis on the tournament was for shooters to gain a better understanding on marksmanship fundamentals as well as focus on more experienced marksmanship skill sets, to develop better training habits. Portillo was the only active duty soldier in attendance for the competition and was eventually paired up with three Airmen.

I spoke with Portillo about the competition, and he gave me a very descriptive brief on all the pre-competitions requirements. He said “I went down two days prior to the competition to receive my pistol, and rifle. We confirmed our zeros at 100 through 400 yards, and each of our three shot groups were pulled and marked for data.” The entire competition consisted of the Southeast region, including the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico which did not compete this year.

Portillo and his team placed fifth out of twenty five teams and each member of the team, one member of the team took home an individual award, the Distinguished Pistol badge. Tennessee’s team won the competition for the second year in a row, and will be given the opportunity to compete at the All Army Marksmanship Competition in 2016. 2LT Portillo was invited to participate in Nationals held at Camp Perry, Ohio to compete in the Presidents 100 match. This will be my first attempt at earning the Presidents Hundred tab.

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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



Bulldog Soldiers graduate Pathfinder school

story and photos by Sgt. Samantha Stoffregen
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Less than one percent of Soldiers in the Army are Pathfinder qualified. In a class of 40 students, three Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, completed the Pathfinder Course July 20, 2015, joining the elite few.

“I’m always looking to improve my knowledge and skillset in the Army,” said Spc. Sawyer Sumrall, the junior most Soldier in class 05-15 and an infantryman with Company D, 1st Bn., 327th Inf. Rgt. “So by being a Pathfinder, I further my career and make myself a more valuable member to my team and the Army.”

A Pathfinder’s primary mission is to penetrate areas and set up parachute drop zones and helicopter landing zones for air assault missions.

“Pathfinders are in charge of going in first before the main assaulting force and establishing landing zones and drop zones for follow-on forces to jump into or land on,” Sumrall explained. “We are qualified to rig and inspect loads and also have the ability to handle irregular loads, i.e. a downed helicopter.”

The course was a rigorous three-weeks where only 30 of the 40 attendees graduated.

“Academics was the most challenging aspect of the Pathfinder course,” Sumrall said. “Overall, the firehose of knowledge was challenging. You would come in one



A Pathfinder instructor pins a Pathfinder torch on Spc. Sawyer Sumrall, the junior most Soldier in Pathfinder class 05-15, during the graduation ceremony at The Sabalauski Air Assault School, Fort Campbell, Ky., July 20, 2015.

day, go over roughly five chapters of material and be tested on it the next morning.”

Staff Sgt. Christopher Redd, platoon sergeant for 3rd Platoon, D Co., 1st Bn., 327th Inf. Rgt. said the amount of studying he did on his personal time after class was the most challenging part. He studied with other classmates and utilized flashcards, which were created with his wife’s assistance.

“When you are getting ready for Pathfinder school, study ahead of time; don’t be too proud to admit you need help; and have a wife willing to stay up and write flashcards to help you study,” Redd said.

After graduating the course, Redd said he feels he is more of an asset to his company.

“Being in Delta Company, a heavy weapons company, means air assault operations are a little more challenging than air assaulting a rifle company,” Redd said. “Being a Pathfinder means I’m able to in-

spect our own sling loads, which takes a lot of stress off our Forward Support Company.”

Sumrall said that his favorite part of the course was the culminating field exercise where they brought all the training together.

“We conducted a continuous 24-hour operation, actually getting missions and setting up drop and/or landing zones,” he said.

At the graduation ceremony, the Soldiers of class 05-15 received their badges – a Pathfinder torch – by the class cadre. The Pathfinder’s torch symbol comes from ancient Greece where runners opened up the Olympic Games, bearing the Olympic Torch. A winged-torch signifies the pathfinder’s function to “light the way” for airborne forces following behind.

“I am very proud to have earned my torch,” Sumrall said. “It was definitely the most challenging and rewarding experience in my career thus far.”



Bulldog, National Guard Soldiers get hot

story and photos by Sgt. Samantha Stoffregen
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Soldiers with Company B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division stepped up training with their Kentucky National Guard members from Frankfurt, Kentucky, at Johnson Field here Tuesday.

“The purpose of the day’s training was to familiarize Soldiers with the UH-60 Black Hawk [helicopter] and air assault operations in preparation for an air assault to be conducted next week at our platoon live fire exercise,” said 1st Lt. Miles Kirwin, a platoon leader with Co B, 1st Bn., 327th Inf. Regt.

Soldiers conducted both cold and hot load training with their National Guard partners. Cold load means that the aircraft is shut down and the blades are not turning; hot load is where the blades are spinning and the aircraft is ready to take off.

“Our training objective was to work on entering and exiting the aircraft at a landing zone safely, securely and per the unit’s standard op-

erating procedures,” said 1st Lt. John Kerr IV, a pilot with Detachment 1, Company C, 238th MEDEVAC, 63rd Aviation Brigade, Kentucky National Guard. “We’re very pleased with how the training went, I think they training objectives were met and everybody was thrilled to be able to spend time in the aircraft.”

Because of current deployments and training cycles, 1st Bn., 327th Inf. Regt. reached out to the Guard to assist in their training operations.

Kerr said they understood aviation assets are limited and that they were glad to be able to support.

“A continued partnership is always important with Fort Campbell Soldiers because they occupy within the state same as we do,” Kerr said. “Working with active duty is great because – especially in the aviation community – being able to share ideas and lessons learned, specifically on safety issues, has always been a priority.”

Working together not only provides the Soldiers with the tools needed for the training they are con-

ducting, Kerr said, but it also allows the Guard to stay sharp on their skills.

“The biggest benefit of working with National Guard Soldiers from Kentucky was their expertise and motivation to support our training,” Kirwin said. “These Soldiers demonstrated superior technical and tactical competence in air assault operations, as well as a unique dedication to supporting our mission. They even went as far as to allow one of our Soldiers to reenlist during a flyby around Fort Campbell.”

Kerr added that maintaining strong relationships between active duty components at Fort Campbell and Kentucky National Guard members in garrison is key to having strong relationships when deployed.

“All of our aircraft carry the unbridled spirit Kentucky logo on them, so they know we are the Kentucky guardsmen,” Kerr said. “They know that we go down range with them, so they know they are getting the best to work with.”

More than 90 Soldiers successfully completed the day’s training, with everyone feeling confident in the upcoming platoon live fire exercises.

Bushmaster Company Executes Platoon STX

story and photos by 1st Lt. Tony Cefalu

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

This summer has been packed with training events for 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment. Its most recent training event was the execution of Platoon STX by the Bravo Company “Bushmasters”.

During STX each of the Company’s Platoons were emplaced in a defense and task to protect their positions from enemy attacks. This training gave Bravo Company’s Soldiers experience on emplacing a defense and pulling security for long stretches of time, ensuring they are able to set defensive positions while in an expeditionary environment.

Each Platoon also executed a raid in which they Air Assaulted onto the objective. The presence of air support for the exercise was of great benefit to the Bushmasters. Each Platoon leader gained additional experience with the intricacies of planning an Air Assault mission. Realistic training such as this gives Soldiers a depth of experience on which they can draw when called upon to execute a real life mission. It increases their efficiency and ensures they are prepared to execute a mission whenever called to do so.

One of the Bravo Company Platoon Leaders, 1LT Milley, stated “It was great to give some of our new Soldiers a chance to Air Assault onto an objective. Overall it was a great experience from the top down.

Although all indirect fires called during training were notional, the Battalion Fires Officer, 1LT Branson stated it was a good training experience for his FIST Soldiers. “The training was a really good opportunity for us to train on integrating fires planning with an Air Assault mission.”

Despite only having a few weeks between returning from a month long tasking at the United States Military Academy and an influx of new Soldiers, Bravo Company was able to effectively prepare all of its Soldiers for Platoon STX. This was largely due to the Company leadership’s ability to effectively manage time and provide a solid preparatory training regimen in a short amount of time.

Bravo Company’s Commander, CPT Richards, said “it was a really great training opportunity for the entire Company, but it was especially beneficial to the



twenty new Soldiers we have received in the past 60 days. It gave them an opportunity to participate in a Platoon Defense, a Platoon Air Assault Raid, and be integrated in platoon operations.”

This Platoon STX exercise played an important part in Bravo Company’s overall training cycle. With this exercise completed successfully, Bravo Company is now prepared to enter into its upcoming platoon live fire exercises which will combine tactical maneuvering by infantry platoons who are engaging targets with live rounds and calling for fire with live rounds in real time. Bravo Company will continue to train hard and ensure that it is ready for its next Rendezvous with Destiny.

426th BSB Air Assault Program

By 2nd Lt. Bryan Moros

426th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Rep.

Air Assault is synonymous with the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne because the 101st is the only Air Assault division in the world. The Sabulaski Air Assault School is a trademark of Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne Division. Air Assault wings can be found on Soldiers from Private to Major General. The 101st Airborne division encourages all Soldiers to attend. Before soldiers of 426 Brigade Support Battalion are sent to what is known as the toughest ten days the Army has to offer, they are prepped by the BN Air Assault physical training instructor, SSG Jason Rose. SSG Rose said "My training philosophy is focused on training to perform. I provide realistic training to mirror what the soldiers are going to see at Air Assault School."

When the program was first started it focused on rigorous PT. Over time SSG Rose has adjusted the program to meet the needs of the soldiers attending. Rather than just providing rigorous PT, SSG Rose said he wanted to focus on quantifiable data as an indicator of whether or not a soldier is prepared for Air Assault School. Additionally, SSG Rose created a timeline for soldiers to help them set goals and prepare for each assessment.

SSG Rose trains the Soldiers using a 4 week training process. Each week there is a different assessment. The week one assessment is running two miles in under 18 minutes. Week two assessment consists of a 6 mile qualification ruck march. Week three the soldiers have break physically but conduct a

layout of all of their equipment. The final week consists of the obstacle course qualification and the twelve mile ruck march."

Air Assault PT is challenging and pushes soldiers outside of their comfort zones. PFC Barrett says that she struggled with several obstacles prior to attending Air Assault PT, but seeing other soldiers do the obstacles has been extremely beneficial. "Repetition sets the tone for the sight picture", said SSG Rose. The program is helping soldiers to achieve their goals and meet the physical standards laid out by the school.

Soldiers attending Air Assault PT had very positive things to say about the program. "It's an all-encompassing program and the instructors focus on your weaknesses. I feel ready to start", said PVT Goehring. PVT Asbury said "the workouts are diverse and always changing. They are intense and I have noticed a lot of improvement in myself."

SFC (P) Norman who serves as the 1SG of Bravo Company just completed Air Assault School. She attended the BN Air Assault PT program for several weeks prior to attending Air Assault School. Air Assault PT coupled with her self-motivation enabled her to beat all of the obstacles that she could not initially overcome. SSG Rose says that she had been a very hard worker in the program and now her hard work has paid off.

The Air Assault PT pro-



gram is pushing Soldier's limits every week either through a workout or an intimidating obstacle. SSG Rose spoke about some of the challenges faced by the instructors. "The biggest challenge we face is adjusting our teaching style for each individual soldier. Every soldier has different weaknesses, fears, and physical limitations. As instructors we teach down to the individual level to ensure the Soldiers are able overcome whatever obstacle is holding them back. While it is more challenging to teach at the individual level it is more beneficial than just trying to instruct the masses."

Soldiers of 426 BSB all gave positive feedback about the Air Assault PT program and the instructors. SSG Rose believes that with continued support from the BN Soldiers will be well prepared to succeed. Air Assault School is a challenging but rewarding experience, and with the proper training a soldier can go on to complete the school and earn the coveted Air Assault wings.

Bulldog 7 Farewell

story and photos by 1st Lt. Tony Cefalu

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

CSM Michael Coffey has served as the Command Sergeant Major for 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment since mid-February 2014. Sadly the Bulldog family has had to say goodbye to him and at his farewell and send him off to his new post at Fort Hood, TX.

CSM Coffey joined the Battalion at an important time for the Bulldog Battalion. Arriving shortly before the battalion command was handed over to LTC Eric Beaty, he played an important role in providing continuity during the transition period.

During his time with the Bulldogs, CSM Coffey worked tirelessly to improve the battalion. He was a key part of ensuring that the battalion stayed on mission in regards to both training and administrative actions. He provided insight to the staff sections and companies that helped them run more efficiently. Every element of the battalion has felt his influence as mentored the Soldiers around him.

His dedication to the unit ensured that it executed hard, realistic training. His leadership during training and the battalion's most recent JRTC rotation paid dividends to the Bulldogs. 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment was ready to serve its nation when it was called up to deploy in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. CSM Coffey went forward with the battalion to Afghanistan to watch over his Soldiers during the deployment.

Although he is departing, CSM Coffey will be leaving behind a legacy of excellence that will be



carried forward by the Battalion and be felt by its Soldiers for a long time.

SSG Woodson, the Battalion Schools NCO, said "I have worked with a lot of Sergeant Majors in my time and I can say that he is the best I know. I learned something new from him everyday."

CSM Coffey was given a farewell by the both the rear detachment command team and the deployed command team via VTC. There he was presented his unit colors and was given a heartfelt thank you for his service by all in attendance.

His departure has been sharply felt by many in the Bulldog Battalion. SFC Hall, an S3 Ops NCOIC stated "It's hard to see him go and we will all miss him."

One of the S1 clerks, SPC Luke, remarked on the departure

"While it's sad to see him go, I'm happy to know he is getting the opportunity to PCS and go better another unit and installation."

1SG Boone, the B Co 1SG, who previously was a member of the battalion staff and regularly worked alongside CSM Coffey said this of him "His advice, mentorship, and approachability will be missed. His focus on improving this unit has had some very lasting effects and we all appreciate it."

During his time with 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment CSM Coffey made a deep impact on the unit, ensuring that it maintained its training glide path and was successfully prepared for its next deployment.

The Bulldogs thank CSM Coffey for his hard work, dedication, and the upstanding example he provided to all his Soldiers of what it means to live by the Army values.

