



READY NOW



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Informing the Dagger Community on the issues and events throughout the brigade

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2ABCT Commander
Col. Miles Brown



2ABCT Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Ed Alvarado

2ABCT Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Orvis

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2ABCT Public Affairs NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Tamika Dillard

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‘Daggers’ Case Colors for Upcoming Kuwait Deployment



Col. Miles Brown, Commander of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, presents the formation to Maj. Gen. Wayne Grigsby during the 2ABCT's casing ceremony Sept. 28 at Fort Riley, Kansas. Grigsby provided words to the “Dagger” Soldiers and Families before the casing of the brigade and battalion colors. (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Dana Moen)

By Capt. Ed Alvarado
2ABCT Public Affairs

FORT RILEY, Kan. – Col. Miles Brown, commander of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Orvis, the brigade's senior noncommissioned officer, cased the “Dagger” brigade's colors during a casing ceremony Sept. 28 at Custer Hill Parade Field on Fort Riley, Kansas.

The casing ceremony was the first step in the brigade's deployment to Kuwait to conduct security cooperation, joint exercises and training with trusted regional partners.

“You just witnessed a

ceremony that links us to our military forbearers, the casing of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, colors,” said Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general. “The colors represent the pride and fighting spirit of the men and women who serve under them. When the unit makes a change in duty location, the colors will travel with.”

The deployment is the culmination of months of individual and collective training within the confines of Fort Riley to the deserts of the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

“They've conducted virtual gunnery, live gunnery and a

great National Training Center rotation and they shared lessons learned with the rest of the division,” Grigsby said. “The Daggers are ready for the challenges that await them.”

The deployment is in accordance with the United States' longstanding bilateral defense cooperation with Kuwait while seeking to strengthen mutual interests in the region.

“The casing of the colors remind us that the Daggers will soon leave Fort Riley to take up a demanding task of training our partners and helping professionalize security forces throughout the Middle East,” Grigsby said. “These Soldiers will miss many milestones, but their sacrifices are worth it. When our nation needed a unit to take this

difficult mission, it called upon the Big Red One.”

Loved ones of the Dagger brigade sat amongst the many military and local community leaders.

“Family members keep our Soldiers going throughout the most difficult times,” Grigsby said. “Our Soldiers do what they do because they know they have strong families behind them.”

Before ending his speech, Grigsby offered one last piece of advice to the Dagger brigade Soldiers.

“Remain brave, responsible and on point for our nation as you carry the legacy of the 1st Infantry Division, the Fighting First – the best division in the United States Army,” the commanding general said. “Carry it all the way to Kuwait.”



Col. Miles Brown, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Orvis, 2nd ABCT senior noncommissioned officer, case the colors of the 2nd ABCT at a casing ceremony Sept. 28 on Fort Riley, Kansas. The colors will remain cased until the entire brigade arrives to Kuwait, in which they will be uncased signifying the “Dagger” brigade’s ability to conduct operations in their new location. (Sgt. Dana Moen, 2nd ABCT)



Col. Miles Brown, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, commander, and Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, inspect the formation of the “Dagger” brigade during the 2nd ABCT casing ceremony Sept. 28 at Fort Riley, Kansas. With the help of the Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard, the two rode on horseback signifying, Fort Riley’s rich cavalry past. (Sgt. Dana Moen, 2nd ABCT)



New furniture inside the Cantigny DFAC is just the beginning to the new Cantigny Experience.

The Cantigny Experience

By Capt. Suggs and 1st. Sgt Ralls
HHC, 299 BSB

With 1ABCT deployed for the bulk of the last calendar year, Culinary Professionals at Cantigny Dining Facility worked tirelessly to feed all Soldiers and to host all VIP breakfasts and luncheons for the entirety of Custer Hill.

While our Soldiers filled the capability gap created by 1ABCT's deployment magnificently, the constant workload, long hours, and high Operational Tempo of simultaneously supporting 2ABCT's train up for NTC took a toll not only on our cooks, but also on the facility and its equipment.

Now that 1ABCT is back, management has been able to address long-overdue needs, from diversifying the menu, to replacing furniture, to preparing for a host of other improvements. In the short article that follows, we'll highlight those improvements in detail, as well as, describe the dining experience Dagger Soldiers can look forward to upon return from deployment.

Today the Cantigny Dining Facility runs a three week menu. Customers who don't find Main Line or Short Order appetizing can choose from our expanded Sandwich Bar that offers toasted sandwiches, our Daily Stir Fry Bar, or our rotating self-serve Specialty Bar that includes a pasta bar, burrito bar, nacho

bar, and every last Friday of the month our signature hot dog bar.

At dinner we now offer a self-serve sandwich bar and an alternate Short Order menu that includes items different from those offered at lunch. The Grab-and-Go section now utilizes the Drive-Thru Window and offers a consistent menu of several choices to include healthy options such as a grilled chicken salad or turkey sub.

The antiquated furniture in the dining area have been replaced by more modern items to give the customer an updated feel with more improvements to follow.

The improvements in the quality of food that have been made over the past year are a result of training programs that the 92Gs have attended during this time. Over 20 92Gs have completed the two-week FRKS Food Service Refresher Course where they honed their technical skills, culminating in a final exercise where they prepare a three-course meal for VIPs.

A portion of this course is also dedicated to certifying 92Gs as Serve Safe qualified, a civilian certification that ensures they understand basic sanitation guidelines for handling, preparing, and serving food.

Improvements in the Cantigny DFAC are aimed at enhancing the customer experience on a daily basis, but have also resulted in numerous VIP visits. The Brigade Commander utilizes the

The Cantigny Experience, cont.

Medal of Honor (MOH) room, another recent addition, to host weekly meetings with his commanders. Since opening, the MOH room has also been used to host over 10 general officer luncheons, five 1st Infantry Division functions, and a variety of battalion level meetings.

The MOH room is not the only special seating area in Cantigny. Available daily on a first-come-first-served basis is our “under the oak tree” table set-up that can seat up to 30 Soldiers. Squads, platoons, and other groups can utilize this setup to enjoy an informal team-building meal where meal card holders don’t have to pay out of pocket.

The same dedication to excellence that has improved the service to our customers and drawn attention from all levels has also earned the Dagger Brigade the FRKS Army Birthday Cake Competition Cup. Out of all three DFACs, Cantigny was recognized for creating the cake that exceeded the standard in taste, decoration, and presentation. MG Grigsby presented his cup to the DFAC on Sept. 9 and Soldiers earned three ARCOMs and two AAMs for their outstanding effort in both creating the cake and making the Army Birthday event an overall success by providing customers a superb meal.

Enhancements to the customer’s experience will continue well into the future. An extensive \$55,000 remodeling project has been approved that will completely transform the atmosphere for diners by removing the deteriorating sound-deadening boards that currently decorate all the walls. In addition, the remodel will create two distinct themes in the dining area: a sports bar theme and a dedication to the Big Red One.

The BRO side will extend the theme set by the Medal of Honor room into the entire dining area. Memorabilia to include pictures of Dagger Brigade exercises, 1st ID historical events, and the BRO Charge will adorn the walls and remind all of our diners what it means to be a BRO Soldier.



(Above) The Medal of Honor Room

(Below) Cantigny’s Army Birthday Cake



The five televisions on this side will be set to news channels in order for professionals to stay up-to-date on all the latest current events. Our “under the oak tree” table setup is in this BRO themed dining area so leaders can use the decorations as references during mentorship sessions.

The sports bar theme in the other dining area will be set with five 70” TVs on display, as opposed to the three 32” TVs currently occupying this space. Pennants and posters will fly high around the walls to enhance the games and sports news that play on the 70” TVs. KSU has even volunteered to provide authentic memorabilia to further enhance the sports bar atmosphere.

The Cantigny DFAC looks forward to becoming the premier DFAC on Fort Riley by providing quality service to customers, one that will keep diners coming back for the Cantigny Experience.





Tactical Convoy Operations (TCO)

By 1st Lt. Andrew Cool
A Co, 299 BSB

This summer, the 299th Brigade Support Battalion organized and conducted TCO training from July 13 to 31 2015. This three week training event focused on troop leading procedures, leadership development, and Battalion standard operating procedures. Alpha Company sent each platoon's leadership to receive instruction and rotate through the positions of convoy commander and assistant convoy commander. Along with personnel, Alpha Company also supplied the gun trucks, fuel, and water support for the duration of the training event.

Week 1

The first week was spent in the classroom and motor pool. Instructors taught leaders how to load and operate radios and Joint Capabilities Release (JCR) communication systems, conduct Troop Leading Procedures, make proper Pre-Combat Checks, and use Electronic Warfare to defeat Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Week 2

After the week of classroom instruction, TCO moved to a field environment. Leaders were picked as convoy commanders and given operations orders with limited time to complete the assigned tasks. The iterations included vehicle recovery, medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), and logistics resupply. The focus of this week was proper convoy briefs, thorough pre-combat checks, and communication within the convoy.

The culminating week added enemy forces to challenge leaders while conducting convoys. Convoy Commanders had to use their judgment to react to enemy IEDs and small

arms fire. Soldiers interacted with the local villagers by helping out when there was a car wreck and by rendering medical aid to the injured. After helping the villagers out, the convoy commander was told about an IED near the upcoming village and was able to avoid casualties and vehicle damage by calling Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) support in. The lessons learned during this last week enabled leaders in Alpha Company to take very important information back to their platoons and teach Soldiers on proper convoy techniques and communication.

Conclusion

The TCO training implemented tactics and techniques that will be used during training and deployments. It prepared Alpha Company by integrating gun crews and convoy commanders together in adverse situations. This training is very important due to the fact that Alpha Company was able to rehearse in a controlled environment the same situations that are expected to occur in a real theater of operations.



SGT Sweger and SSG Pierre receive the operations order prior to moving their convoy through three villages to reach their objective.



Operation “Centre” of Attention



Elementary students present a patriotic song to the Soldiers.



SPC Sanchez reads a book to the students at Centre School.

By 1st Lt. Daniel Snyder
B Co, 299 BSB

On the 10th of September 2015, the Bravo Company Bandits of 299 Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) continued their ongoing community outreach program with Centre School in Lost Springs, Kansas.

For the last three years, Bandit Company has sustained a relationship with the faculty and students of the Centre School Cougars. The overall intent of this relationship and program is to show our support for the surrounding Fort Riley community, and to familiarize our neighbors with the Army culture.

Bandit Company executed multi-echelon training from start to finish during “Operation Centre of Attention.” Planning for the event began well in advance to the mission. Bandit Soldiers trained on troop leading procedures and the 8-Step Training model to prepare for the tactical road march from Fort Riley to Centre School.

Soldiers prepared the convoy as they would when executing our doctrinal mission in a deployed environment. Prior to rolling out, leadership conducted PCIs on all Soldiers and

equipment to ensure all personnel were in the Dagger Brigade uniform standard for convoy operations; radio and digital communication was validated with higher headquarters; and all convoy vehicle elements were evaluated to determine that they were fully mission capable by executing five mile road tests on Fort Riley before moving onto civilian roadways.

Upon arrival to Centre School, Bandit Soldiers embraced the opportunity to work with the youth in the community; Soldiers and Leaders were welcomed with open arms upon arrival to school grounds.

The event opened with the students singing several patriotic songs, and their sincere demeanor encouraged the Soldiers to join in. Bandit leadership then presented one student with a junior leadership award and presented the student with a certificate. To perpetuate this award as an annual gesture, Bandit Company presented the school with a plaque with the student’s name, and several placards for the future awardees

After the award ceremony, Bandit Soldiers began making their way through the classrooms and sat in with the students as active classmates. Soldiers assisted the students with their classwork and



Operation “Centre” of Attention, cont.

took questions in a classroom environment. The Soldiers next began to cycle through lunch with the students, participated in basketball and volleyball in the school gym, and spent time with elementary school students where one Soldier volunteered to read a book to the class.

Finally, leadership engaged the school’s National Honor Society to develop a pen pal program as a means to continue conversation with the students while the company is deployed. The company leadership also set up a leader development program with the National Honor Society that will mirror the Dangernet discussion forum used by the Captains in the brigade.

Throughout the day, students of different grade levels were invited out to the school’s parking area to get their hands on Bandit Company military equipment. Soldiers dressed the students to Dagger standard by providing their equipment to the Students. Students took advantage of the opportunity to sit in military vehicles, talk to Soldiers and get to know the different military occupational specialties the Bandit Soldiers do every day. The students were particularly drawn to the M984 wrecker, with its boom fully displayed and Soldiers on hand prepared to discuss the importance of the Bandit vehicle recovery mission.

In summary, Bandit Company utilized the troop leading procedures and multi-echelon training to successfully road march to Centre School to build a lasting relationship with the surrounding Fort Riley community. Bandit Soldiers embraced all concepts of being Brave, Responsible, and On-Point and embodied what it means to be a BRO Soldier throughout Operation Centre of Attention. Soldiers, faculty, and student’s alike left the event feeling more connected to the Fort Riley community. Bandit Company continues to look forward to these types of training events and

will continue discussion with the Centre School Cougars via the pen pal program while in a deployed environment. 🇺🇸



A Centre School student tries on Soldiers military gear.



A hand painted flag is presented to Soldiers of B Co., 299 BSB.



A student is given a tour of a HMMWV.



Crimson Knight Wins Soldier Competition

By Capt. David Draper
C Co., 299 BSB

Private First Class Sarah Westgate, a 68P Radiology Specialist, accomplished something truly remarkable. She won the Brigade's Soldier of the Quarter Board on September 10, 2015 and is one of three Junior Soldiers selected to compete at Division level.

Perhaps even more impressive is that PFC Westgate arrived at the C/299th BSB Crimson Knights from Advanced Individual Training (AIT) only a few weeks ago.

PFC Westgate has shown exemplary discipline and motivation and she is, without doubt, a promising Soldier with truly unlimited potential. The tasks she completed and her performance at the Division Soldier of the Quarter competition illustrate this point.

Three Junior Soldiers in the Division earned a place in this competition; one from 1st ABCT, 2nd ABCT, and Sustainment Brigade.

Each candidate executed an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), Obstacle Course, Dismounted Day and Night Land Navigation, 8 Mile Road March, Weapon Qualification,

Warrior Task Test, Doctrine Test, and finally, a Board presided by the Division Command Sergeant Major.

Candidates performed these tasks over four days and PFC Westgate excelled, typifying a well-rounded, Total Soldier concept. In

addition to completing all tested events, PFC Westgate scored 291 of 300 points on the APFT, 31 of 40 points in weapon qualification, and finished the 8 mile road march in 2 hours 6 minutes.

When asked why she wanted to join the Army as a Radiology Specialist, PFC Westgate quickly answered, "Because I have a strong urge to serve my country and being a Radiology Specialist gives me a profession I can pursue both in and out of the military."

PFC Westgate's future goals include a Bachelor's Degree in Medical Imaging, membership in a Female Engagement Team (FET), and to be a First Sergeant.

PFC Westgate has an extremely low density



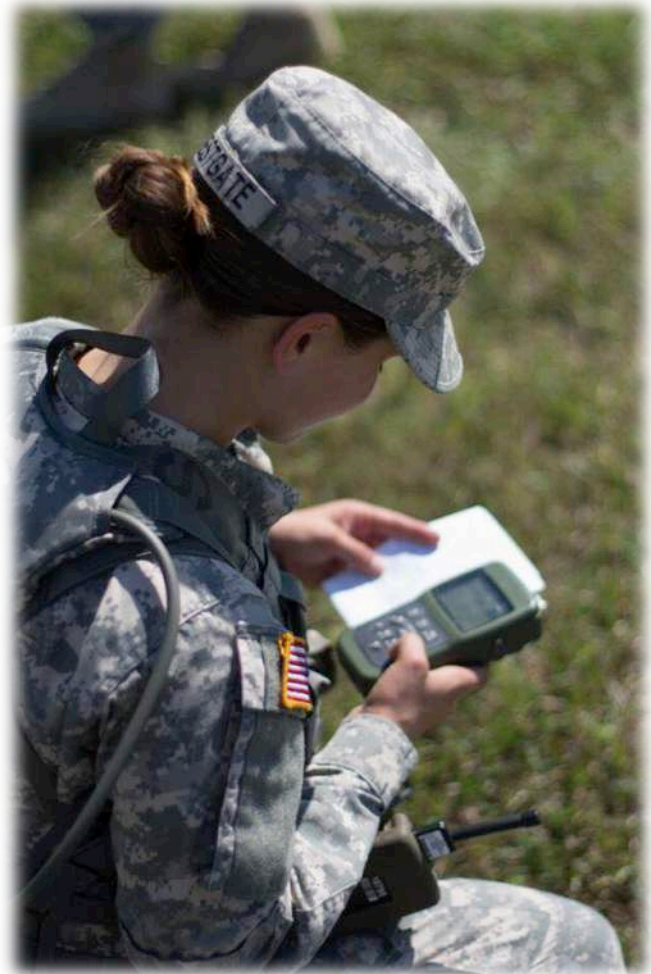
Crimson Knight Wins Soldier Competition, cont.

Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 68P, Radiology Specialist. She plays a critical role in the Brigade Support Medical Company by providing X-Ray imaging capability for all patients that may come to the Role 2 Medical Treatment Facility; patients with injuries ranging from sprains and fractures to gunshot wounds and blast injuries.

The Brigade is only authorized two Soldiers with this skill set, both of which belong to C/299th Brigade Support Medical Company. Compare this to the more than 4,500 Soldiers in the Brigade and you get a sense of just how rare her expertise is.

That being said, she still considers herself an expert Soldier first and then a medical specialist. This is the ethos we can all get behind and it reminds me why our Army is so great. Regardless of generation, regardless of gender, and regardless of occupational specialty, we are all Soldiers first.

It doesn't matter if you're a medic or mechanic, infantryman or intelligence analyst; we are all members of a larger team and Profession of Arms. As the Soldier's Creed states, "I am an expert and I am a professional," PFC Westgate exemplifies that creed. 🇺🇸





“Lifeline” In Action





'First Lightning' Soldiers Hit More Targets With Less Rounds



By Sgt. Dana Moen
2ABCT Public Affairs

Fort Riley's first Precision Guidance Kit-equipped rounds were fired by Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Aug. 29 at Fort Riley, Kansas.

"The precision guidance kit uses the conventional round," said Capt. Joshua Cole, assistant fires support officer with 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., "and it is simply a fuse that is attached onto the head of a round and provides GPS guidance to that round."

According to www.orbitalatk.com, the XM1156 PGK is an advanced fuse that provides GPS guidance to conventional 155mm ammunition. The increased targeting precision can improve combat effectiveness while minimizing collateral damage and reducing costs

"It's basically a normal battle drill inside the gun," said Capt. Joshua Herzog, commander of Battery B, 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. "They're just putting a different type of fuse on, setting it using the electronic fuse setter, then loading and shooting it."

The M109A6 Paladin self-propelled Howitzer is capable of providing effective rounds on targets up to 18 miles away. The PGK is designed to get the rounds within 50 meters of a target. PGK technology incorporates a fail-safe option that prevents the round from detonating if it determines it will miss the target by more than 150 meters. This can increase the ground troops' confidence when calling for close fire support, according to www.orbitalatk.com.

Soldiers used Fort Riley's artillery firing area 98 and observation point C for the live-fire exercise. This put the target about 6 miles away from the Paladins and 1.5 miles from the observers.

The live fire exercise was the culmination of six days of PGK training provided by a New Equipment Training team based at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The PGK team's training included system management, fuse programming, fire-mission processing and dry-fire simulations.

"In artillery, our goal is to always have first-round effects on the target," Cole said. "What this ammunition allows us to do is to have first-round effects on the target so the commander can engage the enemy before the enemy has a chance to move."





1-7 FA and K-State Partnership



On September 1st, 2015, LTC Collins, 1-7 FA BN Commander, and the KSU Men's Basketball Coach, Coach Weber, unveil the KSU Men's Basketball sign to the battalion and KSU Men's Basketball team.

The First Lightning Community values its partnership with the KSU Men's Basketball team and look forward to continuing the partnership while deployed.



LTC Collins, CSM Barajas, and CPT Frazier pose for photos with the Men's Basketball Team and coaches during the unveiling of the KSU Men's Basketball Team Partnership Sign in front of the 1-7 FA Battalion Headquarters.



2LT Skinner explains the capabilities of the M3A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles to Coach Weber during the M3A3 BFIST and M109A6 Howtizer static display walkthrough after the KSU Sign Dedication.



KSU's Director of Student Athlete Development, Matt McCumber, attempts to open the Howitzer breach during loading procedures. During the walkthrough, aside from learning about the capabilities, the KSU Men's Basketball Athletes and Coaches were explained how to open, clear, and load



“First Lightning” In Action





“Vanguard” 9/11 Memorial Run

September 11, 2001, and the terrorist attacks of that day are forever etched in the minds of all Americans; especially those of us who have served in the Global War on Terror. Since that date, many American Soldiers and civilians have given their lives in the fight against terror. On Sept. 11, 2015, the Vanguards conducted a 9/11 Memorial History Run on Main Post Fort Riley during PT to honor those who have fallen and to educate Soldiers and families on the role of the 18th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Infantry Division. With family members and pets also included, the Vanguards ran through historic main post. At the completion of the run, LTC Sanchez brought the formation to the bronze Cavalryman statue, at which he explained the origins of the 18th Infantry Regiment and its significance during major wars. Next, LTC Sanchez led the Battalion to the old hospital area, where he explained the history of Ft. Riley during inter-war periods. Finally, the Battalion visited the 9/11 Memorial, where SGT Martinez and SPC Porter told the formation about the role of the Division and the Regiment during the War on Terror and the significant contributions of both. Many of the family members were not previously aware of the deep roots of the 1st Infantry Division and the 11th Infantry Regiment and gained a new appreciation of their respective histories. 🇺🇸



SPC Foster is prepared to brief the Battalion on the significance of the 9/11 Memorial



LTC Sanchez gives Soldiers and families the history of the 18th IN RGT during WWI and WWII



Soldiers learn the importance of Fort Riley during the interwar period



SPC Tobin, SGT Martinez, and SPC Foster with their families at the 9/11 Memorial



Chaos Company FLRC Day

On Thursday Sept. 24, 15, Chaos Company conducted training at the Field Leader's Reaction Course (FLRC) in which younger Leaders and Soldiers assumed the team leadership positions for the day's events. For each event, a team received instructions with the desired end state and limited resources to complete achieve that end state. The lack of a clear step process forced the acting team leaders to formulate innovative plans and be directly involved with task delegation and execution. With tasks that required both physical ability and mental resilience, Soldiers learned key skills that will help them as leaders the rest of their careers. 🏆



SGT Weller observes his team in action



Chaos Soldiers attempt to balance on the beams they emplaced as they carry the ammo can across.



SGT Ordonez waits for his team to get in place.



CPT Innocenti waits for his teammates to secure the beam for crossing.



“Vanguard” Predeployment Training



A robot begins its climb upstairs. Attack Company conducted ROBOTS training incorporating many devices that will aid Soldiers during the upcoming deployment.



Barbaric Soldiers practiced mine detection techniques. Barbaric Company conducted Mine Hound training to certify Soldiers on the mine detecting device prior to actual field use.



A Chaos Company Soldier trains on the M2 machine gun at the Virtual Clearance Training Suite (VCTS) Facility. Chaos conducted VCTS training to prepare Soldiers for mounted combat operations on deployment.



Dog Company Soldiers assess a simulated casualty. Dog Company conducted CLS training, with many scenarios like this one, to prepare Soldiers for treating real-world casualties.



“Vanguards” In Action



1LT Jimmy Costello teaches several Kansas University cadets about land navigation. 1LT Costello and other 1-18 IN lieutenants spent the day with cadets from Kansas University. During the day, they taught the cadets key Soldier tasks and important leadership traits.



LTC Sanchez leads the Battalion during the Brigade Run.



SPC Baer and SGT Nelson work together on crafting an apple pie. Approximately 30 Vanguard Soldiers volunteered their time to assist in making pies for the Apple Days festival.



Vanguard HQ66 on display. As a part of the Apple Days festival, the Vanguards put a tank, an M2A3 Bradley, and a Scout HMMWV on display for festival goers to see close up.



'Dragons' Conduct Mission Readiness Exercise


Soldiers from Able and Cobra Companies, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment conducted a Mission Readiness Exercise September 9-10, 2015 in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

Training consisted of occupying a Combat Outpost, executing Quick Reaction Force operations, searching vehicles, personnel screening, and providing medical aid to civilians.

The training forced the Soldiers to interact with civilians and enemy forces in both day and night scenarios, which encompassed a wide range of daily issues that the Companies could encounter securing a fixed site.

Staff Sgt. Adam Kleist of HHC 1-63 AR, who participated in the exercise by acting as a civilian in need of medical treatment, praised the Soldiers for their proficiency and attention to detail.

"They really took the training seriously. Once I was cleared through the gate, they treated my wounds and treated me with respect through the whole process" said Kleist. "It's easy to put on good training when Soldiers take it seriously and approach it with that type of realism."

"The success of this type of training is a testament to the leadership of the NCOs in this Battalion, who bring a mix of Iraq and Afghanistan experience to guide our junior Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Anthony Murtha, commander of 1st Battalion, 63rd Armored Regiment. "That is why I'm confident in their ability to succeed in any mission." 



Soldiers from Able Company, 1-63 AR search a vehicle at an Entry Control Point as part of 1-63 AR's Mission Readiness Exercise.



Soldiers from Able Company, 1-63 AR search personnel at an Entry Control Point as part of 1-63 AR's Mission Readiness Exercise.



“Dragons” Safari Day

1-63 AR conducted a Battalion Family Day at the Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, KS on September 30, 2015.

Soldiers, friends, and family had access to live animal trainer showings, face painting, and exclusive use of the zoo's animal exhibits.

1-63 AR family and friends enjoyed exclusive after-hours access to the zoo's 200 animal exhibits from 1700 to 2100.

Trainers allowed kids to pet and learn about animals such as turtles, ferrets, iguanas, and armadillos.

Solders and families used the chance to bond and spend time together ahead of the Dragons' upcoming deployment.

“I really enjoyed bringing my family to the zoo and my kids had a blast,” said SPC Michael Lundy. “I’m new to 1-63 and an event like this really helped me and my wife get closer to the other families in the unit before we deploy.” 🐉



(Above) A trainer from Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, KS shows 1-63 AR family members an iguana as part of the Dragon Safari Day.

(Below) A Sunset Zoo worker paints hands of 1-63 AR family members as part of the Dragon Safari Day.





'Dragons' Show Appreciation for SRP Director and Staff

LTC Murtha, the 1-63 AR Commander, recognized Soldier Readiness Processing director Bob Smith in appreciation of his efforts in preparing the Dragons for deployment.

Over 500 Soldiers from 1-63 AR conducted SRP throughout the month of September. SRP prepares. Thanks to the efforts of the civilians and Soldiers at the 1st Infantry Division SRP site, each of the Dragons who were processed are now medically, financially, and legally prepared to deploy.

"This was by far the smoothest SRP experience I have had in my career," said LTC Murtha. "I deeply appreciate the coordination and professionalism that Mr. Smith and his staff showed throughout this whole process to get us ready to deploy." 🏆



LTC Murtha, the 1-63 AR Commander, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Bob Smith.



Staff Ride to the 1ID Museum at Cantigny Park



By 2nd Lt. Alec Hayes
2-70 AR

The 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, THUNDERBOLTS, recently planned, prepared and executed a Battalion staff ride to the 1st Infantry Division Museum at Cantigny Park located in Wheaton, Illinois.

The staff ride enabled the leadership of the Thunder Battalion to build team cohesion by studying the rich history of the Nation's First Division.

The staff ride also allowed the leadership to reflect on the Battalion's accomplishments over the past year, which include activating and standing up the Battalion, and successfully participating in an NTC rotation only five months after activation.

COL Robert R. McCormick, former Big Red One Soldier and founder and owner of the Chicago Tribune, was the benefactor of the 1st Infantry Division museum and Cantigny Park. He dedicated the greater part of his life to honoring the 1st Division and those who proudly served in her ranks.

COL McCormick graduated from Yale in 1903, followed by law school at Northwestern University School of Law. A year after law school he became a founding member of Shepard, McCormick, and Thomason law firm.

In 1911, he became the president of the Tribune Company which owned the *Chicago Tribune*. Three years later, in 1914, he became joint editors and publishers of the *Chicago Tribune* with his cousin Joe Patterson. In 1925 he took over as the sole editor and publisher.

As a war correspondent in 1915, then Robert McCormick, went to the Eastern Front where he observed several battles between the Russian and German lines in World War I. What he witnessed and his experience on the Eastern Front led him to write multiple news articles and a book; describing his time with the Russian Army.

Upon his return to the United States McCormick joined the Illinois National Guard's 1st Illinois Cavalry. When the United States entered into the First World War, McCormick was granted a combat assignment as the Battalion Commander of the 1st Battalion 5th Field Artillery of the First Division.

As the commander, the Battalion provided crucial artillery support to the First Division Soldiers in the capturing of Cantigny village, held by the Germans. This was the first American victory in World War I and paved the way for American Fronts in World War I, rather than American troops being auxiliaries to the French and British lines.

COL McCormick, for his actions in World War I, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal as



Staff Ride, cont.

“he displayed rare leadership and organizing ability, unusual executive ability, and sound technical judgment.”

At the museum, the leadership of the Thunder Battalion were given a tour of the historical displays ranging from World War I through Operation Desert Storm, the museum’s research center, and the motor pool.

Throughout the tour, the museum’s staff were professional and treated the members of the Thunder Battalion with immense respect. The knowledge and respect of the museum’s staff, the made this an exceptional leader development experience for the Battalion leadership. The Thunder Battalion’s staff ride was executed over two days and also included a training conference and METL crosswalk development, a Dining-In, a tour of Soldier Field, and attendance at a Chicago White Sox Baseball game.

During the training conference the Battalion Commander, LTC Donald Stewart, and the Company Commanders were able to execute a Commander’s Dialogue focused on the upcoming deployment. The dialogue allowed the commander to emphasize the warfighting skills and functions as they relate to the Brigade and Division mission.



To begin the dialogue LTC Stewart and the Company Commanders developed mission statements based off of the Battalion’s mission for the deployment. The commanders were able to recommend what they believed to be their mission essential tasks and the key collective tasks related to those tasks to the Commander.

The leadership of the Thunder Battalion executed a Dining-In at the Granite City Brewery in Naperville, Illinois. The Brewery provided superb food and drink selection, along with outstanding service. The waiters and waitresses were extremely polite and helpful for the members of the Thunder Battalion. This atmosphere within the Brewery enabled the leadership share a special night of celebration to the Battalion’s achievements over the past year.

Following the tour of the 1st Infantry Division museum at Cantigny Park the leadership of the Thunder Battalion were given the opportunity to tour the home of the Chicago Bears, Soldier Field.

Prior to conducting the tour, the members of the Thunder Battalion watched a video showing the rich history of Soldier Field as a venue for athletic and entertainment events from its construction in 1924 and through its renovation in 2003.

The staff at Soldier Field allowed the leadership to go field level and walk along the edge of the field as the field maintenance team prepared the field for the upcoming game against the Green Bay Packers.

The final event of the Battalion Staff Ride was the Battalion being honored by the Chicago White Sox at US Cellular Field. Both LTC Stewart and CSM Vaughn were recognized before the game by the White Sox.



Staff Ride, cont.

LTC Stewart was given the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch, while CSM Vaughn motivated the home crowd with a thunderous “Play Ball!” The Thunder Battalion is extremely grateful for the Chicago White Sox hospitality in hosting our leadership at the game.

The 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment is grateful for the support from both the Dagger Brigade and 1st Infantry Division staff’s in enabling us to have had the opportunity to conduct such a rewarding and enlightening staff ride, where our leadership grew closer as a team and gained more knowledge of the Nation’s First Division. The Thunder Battalion continues to be on point for the nation and ready to serve in her defense. No Mission to Difficult, No Sacrifice to Great, Duty First, Ready Now!

Strike Swiftly! 🍷





5-4 CAV History Series

By Capt. Cody Buck
HHT 5-4 CAV

Part II of the 5-4 CAV History Series The Civil War: 1861-65

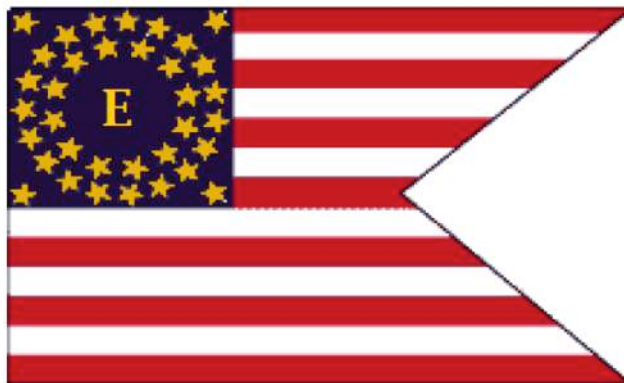
On 12 April 1861 the United States plunged into the Civil War. With so many units being sent east for the war the 1st Cavalry was initially kept on the frontier until militia units were raised to protect against Indian raids. On June 22, 1861 Major General George McClellan requested Company A and **Company E** from his former regiment to serve as his personal escort. The two companies saw action in the Bull Run, the Peninsula, Antietam and Fredericksburg campaigns, not rejoining the rest of the Regiment in the western theater until 1864.

Since 1854 it had been advocated to re-designate all mounted regiments as "cavalry" and to re-number them in order of seniority. This was done on 3 August 1861. As the 1st Cavalry was the fourth oldest mounted regiment it was re-designated as the 4th Cavalry Regiment.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1st Regiment of Dragoons | → | 1st Cavalry Regiment |
| 2nd Regiment of Dragoons | → | 2nd Cavalry Regiment |
| Regiment of Mounted Rifles | → | 3rd Cavalry Regiment |
| 1st Cavalry | → | 4th Cavalry Regiment |
| 2nd Cavalry | → | 5th Cavalry Regiment |

During the early years of the Civil War Union commanders scattered their cavalry regiments throughout the army conducting company, squadron (two or three companies) and battalion (four companies) operations. The 4th Cavalry was no exception with its companies scattered from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic coast carrying out traditional cavalry

missions of reconnaissance, screening, and raiding.



In 1862 the U.S. Cavalry began using guidons similar in appearance to the United States flag (vice Red over White) to better distinguish Union from Confederate cavalry.

In the first phases of the war in the west, companies of the 4th Cavalry Regiment saw action in Missouri, Mississippi and Kentucky campaigns, the seizure of Forts Henry and Donelson and the Battle of Shiloh. On 31 December 1862 a two-company squadron of the 4th Cavalry attacked and routed a Confederate cavalry brigade near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In 1863-64 companies of the 4th saw further action in Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi. On 30 June 1863 another squadron of the Regiment charged a six-gun battery of Confederate artillery near Shelbyville Tennessee capturing the entire battery and three hundred prisoners.


By the spring of 1864, the success of the large Confederate cavalry corps of Jeb Stuart had convinced the Union leadership to form their own cavalry corps under General Phillip Sheridan. The 4th Cavalry was ordered to unite as a regiment and on 14 December

1864 joined in the attack on Nashville, Tennessee as part of the cavalry corps commanded by General James Wilson. In the battle the 4th Cavalry help turn the Confederate flank, sending them in retreat. As the Confederate forces attempted a delaying action at West Harpeth, Tennessee an element of the 4th Cavalry led by Lt. Joseph Hedges charged and captured a Confederate artillery battery. For his bravery, Lt Hedges received the Medal of Honor, the first to be bestowed on a member of the 4th Cavalry.

In March 1865, General Wilson was ordered to take his cavalry on a drive through Alabama to capture the Confederate supply depot at Selma. General Wilson had devoted much effort in preparing his cavalry for the mission. It was a superbly trained and disciplined force that left Tennessee led by the 4th Cavalry. It was more than a traditional cavalry raid rather it was an invasion by a cavalry army, a preview of the blitzkrieg of World War II. As the column moved south into Alabama it encountered the famed Confederate cavalry leader Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Union force was too strong and defeated the Confederate cavalry allowing the Union forces to arrive at Selma the next day.

On 2 April 1865, the attack on Selma commenced led by the 4th Cavalry in a mounted charge against entrenched confederate infantry. A railroad cut and fence line halted the mounted attack. Dismounting, the Regiment pressed the attack and stormed the town. Selma's rich store of munitions and supplies were destroyed along with the foundries and arsenals.

General Wilson next turned east to link up with General Sherman. His force took Montgomery, Alabama, Columbus, Georgia

and had arrived in Macon, Georgia when word came of the end of the war. The Regiment remained in Macon as occupation troops. 

Next Month: Part III, The Indian Wars



5-4 CAV Squadron Leaders PT with Division Leadership

Squadron leadership conducted a leader PT event on Wednesday morning in honor of the 4th Regiment's history at Normandy Beach (citation below). The event took place at the Demon DFAC hill and consisted of seven stations including a bike ride, air squats, pushups, and a field event. The events challenged the leaders to compete and grow as a team. It also enforced discipline within the Squadron's junior leaders to trust them to lead productive physical fitness without the supervision of the Squadron's senior leaders. The Squadron was honored to have MG Grigsby join the PT session and talk about the importance of leadership and caring for one another. 🏆

In preparation for the Normandy invasion, the 4th Cavalry was assigned a critical mission in the amphibious assault of the VII Corps onto Utah Beach. Aerial reconnaissance showed German fortifications on the St. Marcouf Islands off of Utah Beach. The 4th CAV was assigned the mission of neutralizing the defense prior to the landing, and marking the beaches.

At 0430, 6 June 1944, a two man team (Corporal Harvey S. Olson and Private Thomas C. Killeran) from A Troop, 4th Squadron paddled a small rubber boat through heavy surf and mined waters to 100 yards from the island. Each armed only with a knife, they sunk the rubber boat and swam ashore to mark the beaches for the landing crafts. These Scouts became the first seaborne American Soldiers to land on French soil on D-Day.

Once on the island, which was heavily covered with anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, the two man team signaled the assault forces and marked the beach with lights. The skill and courage with which the two man team carried out, made possible the successful landing on schedule; denying the enemy use of the island. This was a vital factor in allowing VII Corps to land at H-hour and critical to the opening phase of liberating Europe from Nazi occupation.





5-4 CAV Trooper's of the Month

Longknife Trooper of the Week



SPC Winn, Tyler

HQ/HHT/5-4 CAV

SPC Winn shot top gun during the most recent M320 range qualifying on his first attempt and shot 8/9 engagements. His ability to shift both rapidly and effective from the Troop's Training Room out to the range to successfully employ his secondary weapon system is indicative of him being On-Point for the team. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon her, the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, the 1st Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment
Prepared and Loyal!

Longknife Trooper of the Week



SGT Michael Spruill
Hometown: Elizabeth City, NC

HQ/B/5-4 CAV

SGT Michael Spruill is the Longknife Trooper of the Week. Serving as the Headquarters Platoon Sergeant for Blackfoot Troop, SGT Spruill's tireless dedication and attention to detail have greatly aided the Troop as they prepare to deploy. In addition to ensuring Trooper readiness through his duties in the Training Room, he also serves as the Troop HAZMAT Transportation Specialist. SGT Spruill has greatly improved Blackfoot's equipment movement planning and container packing in support of both NTC Rotation 15-06 and our upcoming deployment for OPN SPARTAN SHIELD.

SGT Spruill also excels tactically. During our NTC rotation he served as the 1st PLT Bravo Section Leader. His quick, capable thinking and decisive actions repeatedly forced OPFOR to deploy in a tactically ineffective manner, greatly aiding in Blackfoot's success and achieving the 5-4 CAV mission. SGT Spruill's actions, both in garrison and in the field, uphold the Longknife tradition of being "Prepared and Loyal" in support of the Dagger Combat Team.

5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment
Prepared and Loyal!

Longknife Trooper of the Week



SPC Mark Shell

Hometown: Buffalo, NY

2/C/5-4 CAV

SPC Mark Shell is this week's Trooper of the Week as his platoon's Radio Telephone Operator. SPC Shell was instrumental during the week key tasks planning and preparation. SPC Shell took it upon himself to become his platoon's primary DTMS technician. Intrinsically motivated, he ensured his peers individual records were fully updated into the systems of record and recorded for continued progress. SPC Shell continued his service to the Troop by helping his peers complete all SWA SIPR/NIPR requirements. Additional to this administrative accountability, SPC Shell led classroom instruction to his section on dismounted battle drill 1A. SPC Shell's tireless efforts and actions show that his contributions as a teammate matter while being Prepared and Loyal.

5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment
Prepared and Loyal!

Longknife Trooper of the Week



SGT Mora, Miguel
Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

HQ/HHT/5-4 CAV

SGT Miguel Mora's attentiveness in his daily duties make him a Trooper of the highest caliber. He works hard in all of his assigned tasks and has a hand in all the accomplishments achieved by the Troop. His morale, discipline, and resilient demeanor are outstanding on a daily basis. SGT Mora has an amazing ability to track Soldiers, including several spread across the Squadron. His attentiveness in his duties speaks highly of his intellect and professionalism as an NCO. SGT Mora epitomizes the BRO and is an excellent example of a junior leader in the Squadron. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon him, the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, the 1st Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment
Prepared and Loyal!



“Longknife” In Action





82d Engineer Battalion Conducts M2a3 Fielding and Deployment Preparation

By 1st Lt. Ryan Wolf

Over the past couple of months 2ABCT and its Battalions have been focused heavily on preparation for deployment, except for the 82D Engineer Battalion.

BLUEBABE Soldiers have been focused on preparation for deployment, packing out, motorpool moves, ranges, EIB Support, Foundry, VALEX, SAPPER Stakes, lateral transfers, vehicle services, M2A2 ODS-E Bradley turn in and M2A3 OPNET.

82D Engineers were tasked with taking their full MTOE on their upcoming deployment. This tasking meant that on top of all other events they needed to find a way to complete gunnery without all of their organic equipment since the pack out date was before the completion of gunnery.

The Soldiers found a way to simultaneously prepare the equipment for gunnery and deployment. Which is a true testament to their work ethic and drive. There was no task they couldn't complete while also training on the new Bradley system.


On June 22, 82nd began the fielding for the M2A3 Bradleys. Over the next three months crews learned the new piece of equipment from

top to bottom beginning with simple Bradley familiarization and culminating with a TOW shoot on Sept. 3, 2015.

Soldiers were often given instruction followed by the opportunity to get hands on the equipment further cementing their knowledge. Along the way the crews were tested on their knowledge with both hand written and hands on practical exercises.

The quality of training was evident by the performance shown from August 22 through Sept 3, when the Battalion executed Bradley gunnery. Crews expertly managed the new equipment and executed as though season M2A3 crews.

On 22 August the Battalion began running stabilized and un-stabilized gunnery. The new M2A3 Bradley Crews began gunnery at Douthit Gunnery Complex lethally completing Gunnery Tables II – VI. Simultaneously the un-stabilized crews set up at Range 18 and began qualifying their M2 .50 Cal weapons and proceeded to expertly execute Gunnery Tables II-VI.

We're proud of them and look forward to utilizing the new equipment in the future. The Soldiers in the Battalion truly exemplify the motto STRENGTH AND COURAGE!! 





'Brave Bulls' of B Co., 82d EN

BRAVE BULLS: This past month was full of exciting and well resourced training for the BRAVEBULL company as it continued to prepare for the upcoming deployment to Kuwait. The company completed a full inventory of all its equipment and loaded everything into containers or onto trains for shipment to Kuwait. The BRAVEBULLS planned and executed the unstabilized gunnery for the BLUEBABE Battalion and also completed the M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle New Equipment Fielding that culminated in a two week gunnery period and TOW missile shoot. The company made it through a very busy time with all the training events while completing pack out and owes a big thank you to the families that felt the effects of long nights at work. As the BRAVEBULLS near deployment the focus will be on providing Soldiers time with family and friends. Families and Soldiers should be sure to take advantage of the many resources on post and within the area to provide support throughout the deployment.



Headquarters: It has been a very busy quarter and a lot of hard work has paid off. CPT David Carlson took Command of the BRAVEBULL Company with 1SG Jaime Vargas taking over for 1SG Panquerne. CPT Carlson along with his crew consisting of PFC Hall, PFC Thang, and SGT Early executed Stabilized Gunnery along with completing pre-deployment Operations. Some of the pre-deployment Operations include packing connexes, getting vehicles onto the trains to be shipped overseas, as well as completing all personal training that is required for each Soldier. SSG Jones and SPC Brown executed multiple lateral transfers in order to get us the equipment we need to be successful. The supply section has worked extremely hard and has made the transfer with CPT Carlson easy. Lastly SGT Tino, SPC Dipolito, and PFC Cordero ran headquarters while leadership was away with professionalism and enthusiasm. Their commitment to the mission day in and day out is unparalleled.





‘Brave Bulls’ of B Co., 82 EN, cont.

First Platoon: During the previous quarter 1st Platoon has valiantly conducted numerous training events. On the 18th of June 1st Platoon ran a demolitions range for the company and some of our 1-63AR partners. They learned and practiced numerous demolition techniques to utilize during their careers. 1st Platoon also organized and executed a Team Live Fire Exercise and Urban Operations Training. During the most recent quarter 1st Platoon has been vigorously working to prepare for deployment by inventorying all equipment, packing containers, loading vehicles on train cars, and attending multiple pre-deployment classes. This was all completed while executing a M2A3 Bradley OPNET, Gunnery, and TOW Range. 1st Platoon has been working efficiently with long days without complaint. All their disciplined initiative is greatly appreciated. We are also thankful for the continued support to our Soldiers from their family and friends.

Second Platoon: This quarter was premised on high intensity training and preparation for the deployment to Kuwait. 2nd Platoon performed seamlessly and executed an Advanced Rifle Marksmanship Range, M320 Range, Fire Team and Squad Live Fire Exercise and Unstabilized Gunnery in conjunction with connex packout and rail load operations. Each operation built individual tactical and technical skills while creating a lethal and cohesive team to serve as a invaluable asset to 2nd BDE. 2nd Platoon has performed exceptionally in rapid paced training environment and looks forward to taking the fight to Kuwait/Iraq.

Third Platoon: This quarter has proven to be one of third platoons most successful quarters. The platoon is operating at full MTOE strength and continues to hone its route reconnaissance skills. Third platoon participated in many key live-fire training events to develop combat ready Soldiers in support of the deployment to Kuwait. A majority of third Platoon also participated in the Route Reconnaissance Clearance Course in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. There they learned the capabilities and limitations of their equipment, how to better utilize their equipment, proper tactics and techniques to perform Route Reconnaissance and Clearance, and how to incorporate external resources into patrols. 3rd Platoon also participated in the fall Unstabilized Gunnery, where they were able to work in combat crews and engage targets with the M2 weapon system. Being the new combat multiplier for 2nd BDE, 3rd Platoon has surpassed expectations and is a hardy, lethal group of Soldiers ready to defend the nation when called.





Combat Engineer Vehicle (CEV) Pad Production

By CW2 Verango and 1LT Provonche

82D EN S3 Construction Cell planned, designed, coordinated and resourced the 82nd BEB BLUEBABE Combat Engineer Vehicle (CEV) display pad. Apocalypse Company, 3rd Platoon Soldiers, was given the opportunity to develop a concrete pad, which will serve to house a CEV static display. SGT Tate, the project NCOIC, was responsible for supervising the cutting, filling, and development of the area, which the pad was to be laid. His previous experience with concrete, and planning coordination with the Battalion Construction Cell, helped to properly prepare the Soldiers for the task they were to accomplish. The development of the concrete pad was the first opportunity that many of the Engineer Soldiers were given to work with concrete.

SGT Tate and CW2 Verango were able to instruct the Soldiers on numerous different tasks involved with concrete. These classes included how to determine the Water-Cement Ratio and the affects the ratio has on the properties of concrete, alternate curing methods, the effects of temperature, and the proper finishing techniques. SGT Tate was able to use this mission as a teaching opportunity since many Soldiers lacked extensive knowledge about concrete. The display pad was such a success that prior to the concrete curing the Construction Cell was approached to build numerous other display pads and sidewalks around the Brigade footprint. Currently the Construction cell is working diligently with 2-70 AR and 5-4 CAV to determine the bill of material required for their respective projects.

The CEV was placed on the pad on August 19, 2015 and immediately a crowd gathered around the vehicle asking questions about the vehicle and its history. The vehicle was donated by the Fort Riley Museum. The next step for the vehicle to have it repainted and the BLUEBABE crest painted on the blade. This was an idea that many BLUEBABE Alumni recommended via the 82D Engineer Battalion Facebook page. 🇺🇸





CBRN Gas Chamber Training

By 1st Lt. Matt Engel

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82d Engineer Battalion completed numerous training events in September in preparation for the upcoming deployment.

One highlight this month was their annual gas chamber. HHC conducted their required pre-deployment Chemical training 10-11 September 2015 at the UODB gas chamber.

The tasks trained varied from personal decontamination, analog CBRN detection, MOPP Gear Exchange, and a mask confidence chamber. The Soldiers received a block of instruction for each task from the CBRN Reconnaissance Platoon, and were certified through a hands on exercise.

In addition to satisfying deployment requirements the Chemical Tasks enable the soldiers of Renegade Company to fight and win in a chemically contaminated environment.

Although Chemical Warfare Agents have not

been employed against American troops on a massive scale since WWI, their use has been confirmed in the Middle East as the conflict in Syria and Iraq intensifies.

The Assad regime in Syria deployed the nerve agent Sarin against rebel forces killing at lowest estimates several hundred people in 2013.

The Islamic State is also suspected of using Mustard agent, or another blister agent, against the Kurdish people in Iraq last month.

With the current events in the Middle East with belligerents in the region beginning to use Chemical weapons it is a legitimate threat against American Soldiers if we are drawn into those conflicts. It is more important now than ever to ensure our Soldiers are trained in CBRN tasks to ensure they are prepared for the threats of chemical warfare, because their lives can literally depend on it during this deployment. 🇺🇸



Around the Brigade



Chaplain John Gabriel, brigade chaplain with 2ABCT, has his Major rank pinned on by Brigade Commander, Col. Miles Brown during a promotion ceremony held Oct. 2, 2015.



Maj. Gen. Wayne Grigsby joined Dagger Soldiers for a Brigade Dining-In on Sept. 28, 2015. Col. Miles Brown presented the prestigious Distinguished Leaders Award to Maj. Gen. Grigsby.



Col. Miles Brown served as the keynote speaker for the first joint Leadership Lawrence/ University of Kansas luncheon on Sept. 24, 2015.



Col. Miles Brown and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Orvis welcome battalion command teams on a trail ride on Sept. 25, 2015.



Soldiers of B Co., 299 BSB pose with gifts given to them by children of Centre School at Lost Springs, Kansas on Sept. 10, 2015.



“Lifeline” Soldiers of the 299th BSB were given the well-deserved trophy for winning the IID Army Birthday Cake Competition on Sept. 9, 2015.