

THE POWDER RIVER REVIEW

The voice of the Wild West Division

“Powder River, Let'er Buck”

A Note from CSM Lawrence May

Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence G. May, 91st Training Division spoke about his perception of the 91st TD, his experiences, and how they will guide him in shaping the future of the division.

"91st has a great history. I'm still amazed to read about the history from WWI to WWII and through to the present. It's a very prestigious unit to be a part of."

"It's an exciting new adventure for me," he added. "Because I've always been in troop units. I've never really worked in a training unit before. I'm used to being a customer on the training end and bringing my units through training. So, for me to be able to help shape the training for other units is exciting. It's something I haven't done."

May's background gives him a specific ability to add perspective to the 91st's mission.

"I think I bring a different perspective than someone who would have come up through the training arena their whole career. For a while, it will be a sit back and see how things work, try and understand why they work the way they do, and then try to make some improvements."

"Every Soldier does it," he said. "We always sit there and say, 'boy, they should have done this, or they should have done that.' Well, this is my chance to put up or shut up and help the *should haves* make those things happen."

He discussed his intentions further, regarding his role in working with visiting units.

"When units come in," May stated. "I think they believe it's a turn-key operation. They don't understand that there is some train-up and some preparation that needs to be done on their end. I fell into that, too, early on in my career. I think I would like and make them understand why the training environment is built the way it is, and help them understand what they can do better to help us provide a good experience for them." and make them understand why the training environment is built the way it is, and help them understand what they can do better to help us provide a good experience for them."

May finished his message with an explanation of his role in working with the 91st.

"I've held every leadership role there is for me..."

"One of the things we've gotten away from is NCOs leading the way as much as they have historically. That's one of the things I bring to the table. I'm a big believer in taking care of Soldiers. So, the opportunity to empower the enlisted Soldiers is a big thing for me. I'm all about empowering NCOs to do NCO business. I want to make sure the Soldiers in our ranks are taken care of mentally and physically. That's going to be my mantra during my tenure here- 'take care of your Soldiers.'"

He recapped with a correlation between his task with unit training and his obligation to the Soldiers of the 91st.

"It all starts at home. Not only are we getting ready to train (other) Soldiers, but we need to take care of our Soldiers too. If we take care of our Soldiers, the 91st Soldiers, it's better for them to do their job, it makes it easier for them to do their job, and I think we'll provide a better product for the end-user."

Editor's Note

This newsletter is intended to further spread the events of the 91st Division as a whole so if you have events that you would like to cover that relates to the 91st Division or our collective mission please contact 1st Lt. Kevin Braafladt kevin.d.braafladt.mil@mail.mil or Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hudson jason.v.hudson.mil@mail.mil for story submission requirements. This is to include official stories or the support of MWR events. All stories are subject to editing by Public Affairs Office staff. In addition we also hope to include details of our Division's history as well as historic items of interest.

Newsletter Contributors: 1st Lt. Braafladt, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hudson, Sgt. 1st Class McAndrew, Staff Sgt. Dylan Neely, Sgt. Baker-Boyd, Spc. Derek Cummings, Spc. McCallon



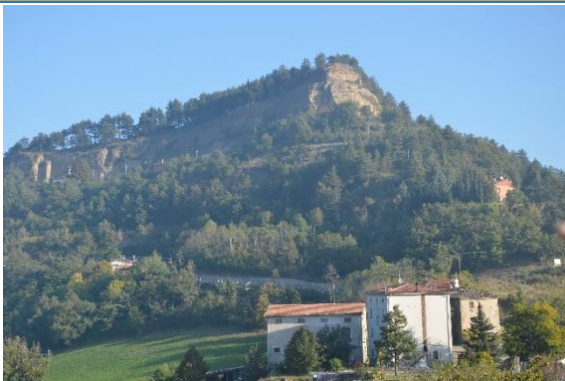
Operation Rising Star



U.S. Army IMCOM photo by Tim Hipps

Operation Rising Star is a singing competition where the military's best vocalists are given a chance to compete for stardom against each other. This competition spans 22 installations and is in its 11th year. Our very own Melinda Bonner, the wife of 1LT Larel Bonner 91st G3, placed 1st in the Fort Hunter Liggett competition in October. She has since advanced to twelve competitors, then again to the final six and finally finished third. During each stage the contestants received votes online to advance to the next level. For advancing each stage she received \$500 cash awards. We wish to congratulate Melinda on advancing so far in the competition.

Virtual Staff Ride Battle of La Fortuna



A staff ride is a historical study of a campaign or battle that involves a classroom phase and a field study phase at the site of the battle or segments of the campaign. The Army's Center for Military History (CMH) conducts many of these. The booklets or further information can be accessed using the following link http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/historical-support_sr.asp. A virtual staff ride uses the same mythology however due to access restriction the terrain is replicated in a virtual environment for use in the classroom. The 91st Division Historian has created one of these virtual staff rides for the battle of La Fortuna which occurred 8-10 October 1944. This battle was an important gateway to the breaking of the Gothic line in the Apennine Mountains in Italy during World War Two. This battle was fought by I Company, 361st Infantry Regiment, 91st Infantry Division. During the battle the company was almost destroyed as a German force approximately the size of a Battalion descended upon them. The previous month's "Faces of the Fallen" article spotlighted one of the casualties which occurred during this battle. He is currently working to create a copy which is able to be distributed to all members of the Division. If you have any questions regarding this virtual staff ride contact kevin.d.braafladt.mil@mail.mil

The 91st Division gives back!



Members of the 91st Division Headquarters, Headquarters Company AGR staff have been busy giving back to the communities surrounding Fort Hunter Liggett. As was previously reported they had participated in an effort to feed the homeless in the downtown Monterey area but they have continued their efforts to other venues. In an effort to spread their volunteering around Major Jesus Cruz, 1st Lieutenant Larel Bonner and MSG Thaddaeus Duke worked as coaches and assistant coaches for Lockwood Middle School. MAJ Cruz was acting as the 5th and 6th grade head coach, 1LT Bonner for the 7th and 8th grade head coach and MSG Duke served as assistant coach for both. The High School did not previously have a football program so their efforts provided an opportunity to play a sport which was not being previously offered. They coached from September to November 2015. MAJ Cruz commented that "it was a chance to give the kids in our area an opportunity to play a sport that would otherwise not have been available. It was a great experience." 1LT Bonner said that they additionally "held the kids to a high standard where they had to maintain a GPA higher than the average high school student... We taught the kids sportsmanship, team building, and how to balance school, football and life." MSG Duke also stated that they are looking forward to expanding the coaching program to include basketball starting in a few weeks then football again next year. Thank you for your desire to give back to the community. If you have a similar story please contact the editor.

Canned food Drive PROJECT 1000



The goal for this drive is to collect 1000 food items \$1000 of donations for food and to collectively run 1000 miles to benefit the Paso Robles food bank coalition. This project was started by Major Jesus Cruz and has been successful so far among the AGR staff. He is looking to continue this until 20 December 2015 then will pass it off to Captain Todd Spanton to continue the drive. If you would like participate or help please feel free to contact either one.