



Ready First Combat Team
1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division
Covers From 01- 31 May

Ready Press



Top: Soldiers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment recreate a photo originally from WWII.

Right: A photo of a 41st Armored Infantry Command Team in Carentan on D+12. Soldiers are wearing a distinctive camouflage pattern only issued to 41st during the initial stages of the invasion.



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Ready Press



To the Soldiers and Families of the READY FIRST Brigade



Dear Soldiers, Families and Friends of the Ready First Brigade,

Summer is upon us. Kids are out of school, families are taking vacations, and the Soldiers of the Ready First Brigade are continuing to serve their country; performing exceptionally well both in Afghanistan and at Fort Bliss. I trust all of you are proud of your Soldier, regardless of their Army specialty. It takes everyone to accomplish the mission. Whether serving for three years or 30, your loved one is part of an honored profession.

For Soldiers in Afghanistan, the deployment is more than halfway complete and Soldiers continue to thrive. While maintaining focus on their mission, Soldiers are taking classes, studying for promotion boards, and finding opportunities for personal growth. And taking this on despite an arduous work schedule. Soldiers at Fort Bliss continue to maintain their readiness through training as well as supporting training requirements for other units on Fort Bliss and at the National Training Center. With over a dozen missions the Ready First team has assumed, we remain humbled with the professionalism, devotion, and duty our Soldiers continue to show.

Many Soldiers on the Ready D will have the opportunity to take leave over the summer or otherwise spend time with their Families and Friends over the summer break. It is important to make those moments count while remaining safe. The El Paso community has many great events throughout the summer. I encourage Soldiers and Families to explore the local community and all the hidden wonders in and around El Paso and Fort Bliss.

As always, the Ready First team stands ready to support our Nation's call. In doing so, we lean on the support of our Families to complete those missions. Enjoy the summer Ready First Brigade.

READY FIRST!

IRON SOLDIERS!

Eugene Russell

CSM EUGENE RUSSELL

CSM, Ready First Combat Team

Eric S. Strong

COL ERIC S. STRONG

Commander, Ready First Combat Team



4-17 IN

Ready First Combat Team

“Truth AND courage!”

Threads

May marks roughly the halfway point in 4-17's deployment to Afghanistan. The discreet efforts and struggles that your Soldiers endure are often the threads that hold the fabric of our organization together. Our best Soldiers *are* these threads, and it is our duty to empower and strengthen them. These Soldiers are the individuals that act out of faith and inspiration rather than obligation. They are the individuals willing to put forth so much to achieve even the smallest victories. The intent of this issue is to highlight some of these individuals- Soldiers that separate commitment from compliance- Soldiers that pursue excellence over mediocrity, and in doing so expand the boundaries of what the organization can accomplish.

SPC Irving Morales Duran

SPC Morales Duran, Irving (22), is a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico. He enlisted in 2015 as a 25U, Signal Support Systems Specialist. Although relatively new to the Army, SPC Morales Duran's work ethic and professionalism far exceed his time in service. Upon his arrival to 4-17 IN, he immediately made an impact during the numerous training events in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan. Throughout the deployment, SPC Morales Duran has continued to seek professional development despite such a high operational tempo. He has been recognized by the Train Advise Assist Command – East Command Sergeant Major for his remarkable technical skills, and was promoted to the rank of Specialist ahead of his peers. Most notably, SPC Morales Duran's leadership selected him to serve as the Attack Company Forward Signal Support NCO, a position typically held by a Sergeant. He has already contributed to Attack Company's success by fixing communication deficiencies and creating systems that enhance the Commander's ability to maintain situational awareness throughout the battlefield.



SPC Morales Duran wearing Specialist rank following his promotion ceremony on 01 May 2017.

PFC William Espana

PFC William Espana, 21, is assigned to Intelligence Section (S-2), Hatchet Company, 4-17 Infantry Regiment. He is currently deployed in support of Operation Resolute Support in the Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan. Espana is a current operations analyst and intelligence tactical controller. This is a critical role in the battalion because it means Espana not only controls and provides direction to multiple intelligence gathering platforms simultaneously, but also uses the wealth of information gathered to help shape missions as they occur on the ground. Regardless of the situation, Espana is excellent at maintaining composure and ensuring that he handles the tasks at hand with precision. Although still fairly new to the Army, it's evident that Espana already has the traits necessary to become a top performer in any unit fortunate enough to have him.

Following deployment, Espana plans to go to Redhook, New York to visit his family. He greatly values the close relationships he maintains with his mother (Ivana), father (Mitchell), and sister (Ariella). He will then return to the Buffalo Battalion to fulfill his remaining two years of service. Espana is currently pursuing a green to gold scholarship with the goal of finishing his schooling and continuing to serve his country as an officer. Over the next two years he will support the Buffalo battalion in its future endeavors and continue developing into a steward of our profession.



PFC Espana standing beside one of many Buffalo logos shortly after reorganizing the equipment on his kit



6-1 CAV

Ready Press

The Dragoons have had another very busy month in Afghanistan. The Squadron continued to support the train, advise, and assist mission here at AP Lightning. On a daily basis, this involves the Troopers providing security for Task Force Southeast on AP Lightning, and for the Military Advising Team advisors as they work with their ANA counterparts on FOB Thunder. It also involves Troopers providing the same security and protection for the Police Advising Team as they conduct their mission with the Afghan National Police. The Squadron also assisted TF Southeast in hosting the Commander of the Resolute Support Mission, GEN Nicholson, as he visited the 203rd Corps and 303rd Zone this month.

The Squadron recently executed a mission off of AP Lightning in support of the MAT for Task Force Southeast. The purpose of the mission was for the MAT Advisors to take their Afghan counterparts out to their subordinates to plan and supervise upcoming operations. This typically involves helicopter movement of advisors, Afghan leadership, and security forces to one of the subordinate unit headquarters for the 203rd Corps. Troopers from the Squadron, advisors, and Afghan leaders travelled to the 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps headquarters in Khost province, which borders Paktiya province. This entailed one of the Troops moving to the headquarters by helicopter to provide security for the operation. Once on the ground, Troopers provided security for the MAT advisors as they conducted their mission in support of their Afghan counterparts. After several hours of advising at the brigade headquarters, the Troop returned to AP Lightning. Throughout the operation, your troopers executed at the highest levels, contributing to the success of the Dragoon Squadron and Task Force Southeast.



Task Force Southeast hosted a Physical Fitness Competition, Basketball Tournament, and Volleyball Tournament to celebrate Memorial Day. The Physical Competition was organized and graded by Horseman Troop, and presented a chance for the Troopers of the Squadron to



compete and show the progress they've made since deploying. The winning team came from Comanche Troop, and was made up of 1LT Andrew Mann, 1LT Joe Low, SSG Eric Wiley, CPL Scotland Myszenski, and PFC Kristen Belle.

The Squadron also held an NCO/Soldier of the month board for May, which presented another chance for Troopers to perform and excel. Comanche Troop took both the NCO and Soldier of the Month honors for the month of May. SGT Charles Rhoads won NCO of the Month honors, and SPC Andrew Handrop won Soldier of the Month honors. Both Soldiers represented themselves, Comanche Troop, and the Dragoon Squadron with distinction.



The Ready First Brigade also held a NCO and Soldier of the Quarter board in early May. Staff Sgt. Keith Martinson from Horseman Troop won the NCO of the Quarter board and Spc. Matthew McCullough from Blackfoot Troop won the Soldier of the Quarter board. Each board participant completed a number of events that included a written land navigation test, weapons assembly, M4 and M9 weapons tests and the Army Physical Fitness Test.





16 BEB

Ready First Combat Team

16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, hosted a Non Commissioned Officer Induction Ceremony May 10 2017 on Ready First Field at East Fort Bliss, Texas.

The purpose of the ceremony was to welcome newly promoted Soldiers to the Non Commissioned Officer Corps. In total, 18 Soldiers were inducted. Each inducted Soldier received the charge of the NCO and a pamphlet documenting the rich history of the NCO corps.

“Being inducted into the NCO corps is important, said Sgt. Sean Anthony, team leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.” Sgt. Anthony, an inductee at the ceremony, said “It feels good to be a part of such a strong history and tradition.”

The tradition of the Induction ceremony is a passage used by senior NCOs to convey to newly promoted Sergeant’s the special pride, and sense of esteem associated with a young Soldier enters the NCO corps. The ceremony is a special celebration also honors all NCOs past and present who have served with pride and distinction.



(The eternal flame of the NCO burns brightly in the night during the NCO Induction Ceremony May 10 2017. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nicholas J. Acierno Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.)



Soldiers from 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, are welcomed into the Corps of the Non Commissioned Officers at the NCO Induction Ceremony May 10 2017. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nicholas J. Acierno Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.)





501 BSB

Ready Press

“Medic, Bring the Stretcher”

1LT Wilson Cheng, 501st BSB UPAR

When there are casualties in the battlefield, combat medics are the brave Soldiers who run towards the bullets to rescue the wounded. Whether Charlie Med is treating an open wound or injecting a patient with IV, Chimera Soldiers are the most trained medics in the Army who is responsible for medical support for the entire brigade.

Combat medics assigned to Charlie Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, conducted the Chimera's Best Medic Competition at FOB Freedom at Fort Bliss on April 24-27, 2017.

Chimera Medics were evaluated and assessed on their medical knowledge and Soldiers skills during the 3-day competition. Nine teams consisted of a 2-man buddy team competed to be the Best Medic through a series of events. The competition was consisted of an Army Physical Fitness Test, written examination, day and night land navigation course, tactical lanes with stimulated scenarios, 6-mile ruck march, and an Air Assault obstacle course.

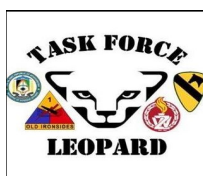
SPC Adam McGivney from Saratoga Springs, New York and PFC Sebastian Strobel from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, were named the Chimera Best Medics for their phenomenal performance and hard work. They were awarded the Army Commendation Medal, received a division coin from 1st Armored Division CSM, and walk on slots for the Fort Bliss Air Assault Course.



Left: Medics, assigned to Charlie Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, treat and evacuate a wounded Soldier from the tactical lane during Chimera Best Medic Competition. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Sgt. Tannia Dillon, Company C, 501st BSB)

Middle: SPC Adam McGivney and PFC Sebastian Strobel, both assigned to Charlie Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, receive an Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) for their phenomenal performance during Chimera Best Medic Competition. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Sgt. Tannia Dillon, Company C, 501st BSB)

Right: Medics, assigned to Charlie Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, apply a tourniquet to a wounded Soldier at the tactical lane during Chimera Best Medic Competition. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Sgt. Tannia Dillon, Company C, 501st BSB)



TF Leopard

Ready First Combat Team

Senior Advisor Corner:

Hello Leopard Family and Friends! I want to thank you all for your continued support to the members of Task Force Leopard. Another month has passed, and we have passed the halfway point of our mission here in eastern Afghanistan. We have our foot on the gas with no plans to let up as we Train, Advise, and Assist the 202nd Zone Police towards becoming an independent organization capable of serving the citizens of Afghanistan.



We have had two significant events that show the progression of this team's efforts in our area of operations. TF Leopard hosted two separate meetings, or Shuras, that will have historic impacts on the local populace going forward. The first Shura included local governors in TF Leopard's area of responsibility to discuss police involvement in the communities and how to better integrate the police presence to promote stability and lessen the influence of insurgent groups on the population. The second Shura brought in all the local Chiefs of Police from our area to discuss coordination efforts going forward. These mile-

stones in relationship building will pay dividends down the road as Rule of Law is better established and followed in Afghanistan. None of this would be possible without the countless hours, coordination, planning, and hard work by the Soldiers and Civilians of TF Leopard.

Professional development is a cornerstone of our growth in the Army. TF Leopard has incorporated a weekly meeting to discuss books that directly affect our mission in Afghanistan. We had the distinct privilege to host a video teleconference with Robert Perito the author of *Police in War*. The discussion covered several topics to include corruption, methods to empower the police, techniques to advising, and concluded with a Q&A session. A special thanks to Mr. Perito for taking the time to meet with us. The Leopards also celebrated National Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Day on Saturday, May 6th. SFC Robert D. Anderson, our Counter-IED/EOD Advisor for Task Force Leopard, coordinated the run which included two Afghan EOD Teams from Nangarhar Province. This is the first time in Afghanistan that Afghan EOD has participated in the EOD Memorial Run. Soldiers and Civilians of OB Fenty gathered to remember fallen EOD professionals, followed by a remembrance run in which SFC Anderson and our Operations Officer, Major Farrar, donned bomb-suits.

This last month we said goodbye and good luck to CPT Quillin, 1LT Rader, 1LT Hamilton, SSG Delgado, and Mr. Jackson as they redeployed and began their new assignments back in the U.S. CPT Quillin will be attending NYU's MBA program in the fall. SSG Delgado will be going back to Ft Bliss to lead the unit's finance section. 1LT Hamilton and 1LT Rader will be going back to their unit in Fort Worth, and Mr. Jackson will be returning to his job with the Corps of Engineers. We appreciate everything they have done for this team and for their selfless service to our nation, and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

SGM Pulido and I would like to congratulate all of our high school graduates. Unfortunately, we cannot be home to celebrate your graduation, but we beam with pride over your achievements and will celebrate together soon. We extend our gratitude to our amazing families who continue to keep things together on the home front, and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Lastly, a belated Happy Mother's Day to all of our amazing mom's...we love you so much! LEOPARDS!





1-36 IN

Ready Press

Chosen Company:

Greetings from the Chosen Few! We have arrived at that point in time again, in which we send our gratitude back home to our friends and Family that have supported us thus far and a future thank you to those who will support us in the future. We merely wish to express that your gestures of love help renew our determination to complete this mission and re-turn to all of you.

The Month of May was an eventful month for Chosen Company. We were grateful to have been visited by COL Strong and CSM Russell and a couple of weeks later received a visit from (Chaplain) CPT Cartmill. Their presence was appreciated and we definitely felt the care for Soldiers that spreads from the top, down-wards to us and through us. We celebrated births and birthdays, while continuing to improve the relationships we have established with sister services and allied nations.

Since our last newsletter we have received a few new Soldiers, 1LT Pozonsky (Incoming Executive Officer), 1LT Strugarek (1st Platoon Leader), SSG Heckman, SPC Tyre, SPC Hernandez, and PVT McGee. We are losing an essential part of the company early in June, Chosen 5, 1LT LaBranche will be leaving us and returning home to Ft. Bliss to take his new position as Shield 5 (1-36 IN Executive



CH (CPT) Cartmill provides a Bible study for Soldiers during his visit to FOB OQAB.

1LT Grisales seen on top of a hill overlooking Kabul.





2-3 FA

As young Americans begin to consider a career as United States Army Officers, they are often presented with only three options to earn a commission: admission in the United States Military Academy at West Point, the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and Officer Candidate School. However, while these commissioning sources are the most prevalent producers of Lieutenants, another more “specialized” path awaits those with particularly valuable skills.

The path of Direct Commissionees begins like most young aspiring Military Officers’, in the halls of academia, earning their bachelor’s degrees with their peers. But, unlike their future colleagues, these select few continue their education and often begin professional civilian careers before heeding Uncle Sam’s call. In the case of First Lieutenant Ryan Gleason, his trajectory towards a commission began at Villanova University School of Law, and he practiced Criminal Law for ten years before finally ending up as an Officer. 1LT Gleason decided to use his unique skills to support soldiers and serve his country.

Officers who receive a Direct Commission in the Judge Advocate General Corps are, first and foremost, qualified attorneys in the civilian sector. Each Officer’s initial rank is determined based on his or her specialized skills and formal training. Though they are

Commissioned Officers, their formal military training is limited to a short stint at OCS at Fort Benning, followed by an extremely rigorous Judge Advocate School in Charlottesville, VA. Thus, there is a need for *Operation Muddy Boots*.

Operation Muddy Boots was developed by the 1st Armored Division Office of Staff Judge Advocate. The program pairs recently Direct Commissioned Attorneys with operational platoons throughout the Division. 1LT Ryan Gleason was paired with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment’s (3-41 IN) Fire Support Team (FiST). Immediately upon meeting the BN FSO, 1LT Gleason was assigned as the Company Fire Support Officer for the FiST’s Beast Team, given a OPORD, and notified he’d be leading Beast Team on a grueling mission through the desert.

1LT Gleason’s mission was to conduct a four-kilometer foot march across the desert, up mountains and through canyons, in order to establish multiple observation points overlooking the village of Waigali, all while carrying over 100 pounds. Once established in his observation posts, 1LT Gleason and his team of fire supporters were ordered to conduct surveillance of the target area during a ferocious sand storm, using natural terrain, weather and vegetation to conceal their movements from the OPFOR below. Once enough information had been collected, 1LT Gleason was ordered to strike. He executed a standard call for fire mission, then led his team off the mountain back to the rally point.

The purpose of *Operation Muddy Boots* is to expose the newly commissioned Officer to a sampling of the many operational missions within the Army and to the soldiers who execute those missions. As 1LT Gleason stated, “for a Direct Commissioned Officer like myself, with no prior military service, the experience was invaluable. In order for me to better represent my clients as a judge advocate, it’s essential I know and understand what their day-to-day work involves.”

Overall, *Operation Muddy Boots* is an overwhelming success, pairing the Fire Supporters of 2-3 FA with newly commissioned officers to execute tough, realistic

training, and to develop leaders both in the court room and on the battlefield.





3-41 IN

Ready Press

100th Anniversary of the 41st Infantry Regiment

This month 3-41 IN celebrates the 100th year anniversary of the founding of 41st Infantry Regiment. The history of the regiment falls into three our distinct periods. First, the formation of the 41st in response to WWI. Second, actions during WWII including North Africa, the invasion of Sicily, and the invasion of Europe. Finally, operations in during the Cold War and Gulf War.

On 2 April 1917 the United States formally declared war on Germany. However, the size of the US Army at the time was small. In 1914 the Army comprised 98,000 active duty Soldiers with 48,000 reservist. As a result, the United States Army quickly began augmenting the force with new formations to meet the buildup required for war in Europe.

The 41st Infantry Regiment formed from members of the 3rd Battalion 36th Infantry at Fort Snelling Minnesota on 20 June 1917. As part of the 10th Division, the regiment formed with the express purpose of deploying to Europe. However, the process of training, equipping, and shipping new soldiers to the front took a great deal of time. American allies overseas could not spare resources to bring US troops to Europe. As a result, the 41st Infantry Regiment did not deploy for combat in the First World War. By October 1918 the Regiment was ready for deployment. However, with signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918, orders to deploy to France never materialized. Following the end of WWI the 10th Division demobilized and the 41st Infantry inherited the division crest and the unofficial motto "Straight and Stalwart." On 22 September 1921, the

unit was inactivated at Camp Meade, MD. The regimental headquarters became a Regular Army Inactive Unit until 1940 when the 41st was sent to the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Benning.

On 15 July 1940, the 41st IN began the process of rebuilding the regiment. The parent organization that formed the core formation came from the 2nd Battalion 6th Infantry. When fully manned, the 41st reflagged as the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment on 1 January 1942. In preparation for deployment the unit participated in the Tennessee, Louisiana and Carolina maneuvers through July and August 1942. The 41st IN landed in French Morocco on 8 November 1942. The initial mission was to facilitate replacements for the 1st Armored Division and fulfill occupation tasks until 1943. On 5 July 1943 the unit boarded ships at Bizerte, Tunisia and landed on 10 July at Licate, Sicily in order to push inland to seize Naro on 11th and Canacatti on the 13th. For the next few months the regiment participated in the occupation of Sicily until it was transferred to England.

While in England the Regiment prepared for the invasion of Europe. The 2nd Armored Division was designated as the primary breakout force following the landing D-Day landings. The 41st Armored Infantry would be the primary infantry support to the armored spear head. In recognition of this role the unit was given a distinct herringbone twill (HBT) camouflage uniform that would prove problematic. The unit landed in Normandy of 9 June 1944 and entered its first engagement on 13 June 1944. The 41st pushed to Carentan, France to relieve 101st Airborne units occupying the town. Due to similar-

ties between the HBT camo pattern and the uniform of the Waffen SS, the 41st sustained minor friendly fire incidents during link up with the 101st. The uniform was subsequently dropped by the time the unit reached Holland.



Figure 1. Original Design of Regimental Crest



Figure 2. 41st Armored Infantry Regiment Carentan, France June 1944



3-41 IN

Over the next year the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment was in a constant state of engagement. Participating in the St. Lo breakthrough of in July, battles at Vire-St Sever Clavdes in August, and operation Market Garden in Belgium and Holland in September 1944. The Regiment then moved south to break the encirclement of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. In April 1945 the Regiment finally reached its limit of advance and occupied defensive positions in Sohlde Germany. On 4 July 1945 the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment garrisoned the American Occupation Sector of Berlin. The regiment received four Presidential Unit Citations from the Second World War, including one for leading the initial breakout in Normandy and a later citation for actions in the invasion of Germany itself.

In 1946 the Regiment was broken up and distributed across Constabulary forces to fulfill occupation requirements in Germany. In 1957 the Regiment was reorganized at Fort Hood Texas as part of the 4th Armored Division. The 41st Regiment then changed stations to New Ulm, Germany and rejoined the 2nd Armored Division. The 41st deterred Soviet aggression in Europe for the following 30 years. 3-41 IN Battalion participated in the Gulf War as part of the 1st Cavalry Division in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. 3-41 IN arrived in Saudi Arabia in January 1991 and led the attack into Kuwait on 24 February 1991.

3-41 IN transferred to Fort Hood, TX on 17 April 1991 and was inactivated on 15 June 1992. Following the September 11th attacks 3-41 IN was reactivated in 2001 and served under the 3rd Infantry Division. In 2007 the unit was formally reassigned to 1st Armored Division, First Brigade Combat Team at Fort Bliss, Texas.



*Left: Figure 3. 41st Infantry
Normandy, France*

*Right: Figure 4. Sergeant Bill Totterdale
Company B in front of destroyed German
Armor Normandy, France*





Ready First holds internal combatives course



Ready First hosts students from Junior Leadership of El Paso



Ready First Brigade celebrated the Army's 242nd birthday today in Afghanistan with a cake cutting.



Blackfoot Troop, 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment executed a Guardian Angel Team live fire exercise while supporting our forward deployed mission in Afghanistan.

Questions or comments? Email:

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