

VOL 1, NO. 1

AUGUST 2019



504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade

A year inside the most decorated military intelligence brigades in the U.S. Army

Contents

Features

- 6** Task Force Ready returns from Afghanistan
Soldiers are welcomed home by families, friends, and fellow coworkers
- 10** Reconnecting through horses Soldiers return from deployment and learn to reconnect
- 12** Pink with a purpose
Soldiers with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion raise breast cancer awareness by running
- 11** Berserkers come home
Soldiers with 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion re-station from Fort Gordon, Georgia, to Fort Hood
- 14** Always Ready Military Families
November is Military Family Month and the 504th looks into one of their very own
- 16** Ready Warriors commemorate NCOs
NCOs commemorate their history by getting together for the day and working towards common goals
- 20** III Corps chef of the quarter competition
Soldiers from accross various states go to Fort Hood to compete
- 22** Jingle bell ruck
Soldiers from the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade dress in seasonal attire with toy stuffed ruck sacks
- 24** 504th MI BDE celebrates 76th birthday
The unit celebrates its birthday with an unveiling of a special painting
- 28** MI professionals receive Knowlton Award
Soldiers and civilians who specialize in the intelligence field receive prestigious award
- 32** Army Combat Fitness Test
The 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion commences their first official test of the ACFT
- 33** Leading ladies
Col. Trotter speaks with KCEN TV about her time in the Army
- 34** African American/ Black History observance
People from all over post come together for discussion panel and a demonstration
- 36** “Ready Warriors” take command
Soldiers with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion learn about essential tasks during mission command
- 38** Ready Warrior 7 changes hands
Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Baird officially relinquishes responsibility and passes to Command Sgt. Maj. Mabanag
- 40** Brothers in leadership
CSM Thomas Baird and his brother Lt. Col. Derek Baird tell their story about serving in the Army and leadership
- 42** Multi-discipline intelligence teams certify
Soldiers spend hours, days, and weeks training to certify in their speciality
- 44** 504th proves they are “Always Ready”
The brigade completes a full scale deployment readiness validation before sunrise
- 46** Army family makes a difference
A family within the 504th ranks makes a difference in the community by adopting
- 52** Support, dedication, and trust
May is spouse appreciation and one of our own families tells their story
- 54** Ears of the Army
Soldiers tell their story about their job in intelligence.





Brigade Change of Command

Aug. 8, 2018

Afghanistan



(All photos) 504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade, Task Force Ready welcomes their new commander Col. Deitra Trotter during a change of command ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, August 8. (U.S. National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Lerone Simmons, U.S. Forces Afghanistan Public Affairs.)



Task Force Ready Returns from Afghanistan

The 504th Military Intelligence Brigade returns after spending nearly a year away. They uncased their colors.

Members of the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade depart the airplane, Sep. 24, 2018, Fort Hood, Texas. The unit just returned home from Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Children at the Soldiers Hospitality House prepare signs for the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade homecoming. The home has many Soldiers who visit. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Story and photos by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

After nearly a year, 140 Soldiers with the 504th Military Intelligence (MI) Brigade (BDE) return from deployment in Afghanistan Sep. 24.

“Stand tall, and be proud of all you have accomplished,” said Col. Deitra Trotter, the 504th commander, to her Soldiers during the welcome home and uncasing ceremony. “It has been a long year and we have touched a lot of people.”

The 163rd MI Battalion (BN) with the 504th MI BDE deployed to Afghanistan in October 2017. Their mission was to conduct combat intelligence operations in support of Operation Freedoms Sentinel and the United States Forces-Afghanistan.

During the homecoming ceremony, more than 300 Soldiers and family members filled the West Fort Hood gym. As the deployed Soldiers entered the facility everyone started

clapping and cheering for their safe return.

The 504th and 163rd uncased their colors to signify that their mission is officially completed.

“NO AMOUNT OF WORDS from the dictionary can describe how much the Soldiers and families missed each other,” said Trotter.

Melody Bloker, who runs the Soldiers Hospitality House in Killeen, Texas, brought her family to meet Staff Sgt. Mylyn Wery, who is with the 504th. She said that Wery fit right in with her family when they first met. “She is like a sister to my children,” said Bloker.

Wery was decorated with many lays and roses. “It’s amazing to be back,” said Wery.

During the deployment the unit provided 32 intelligence collections teams, technical intelligence through the mission command of the Afghanistan Captured Materials Exploitation Laboratory, the Biometrics Team, and the

Theatre Biometrics Collection-Afghanistan.

The 163rd MI BN provided intelligence to all the United States and Coalition Forces combatant commanders in Afghanistan through signals intelligence, human intelligence, counterintelligence, and technical intelligence. Their operations answered Commander Resolute Support Priority Intelligence Requirements including conventional, Special Operations, and partnered Afghan Army forces during train, advise, and assist missions. They also provided serialized intelligence to the greater intelligence community through timely, accurate, and discoverable reporting.

“MORE THAN 8,000 human and counterintelligence reports,” said Trotter. “More than 20,000 signals intelligence reports. Mission command of over 68,000 ground and aerial (intelligence support requests) and over 18,000 (counterintelligence screenings). Support of over 900 Security Force Assistance Brigade and training, advise, and assist outside the wire operations, 30 Combat Action Badges, and two Purple Hearts.”

The missions that the 163rd MI BN conducted included kinetic strikes that resulted in the death of the Helmand Province Deputy Taliban Com-

mander. The timely deliverance of intelligence triggered a major special operations task force raid and subsequent strike of a Taliban intelligence facility and prison. These actions significantly degraded and disrupted the enemy’s capabilities, enhanced force protection, and allowed for the continued safety of the Afghan civilian population.

THE INTELLIGENCE TEAMS integrated with Joint and Multinational Coalition Forces deploying while providing critical support to the Afghanistan National Defense Security Force campaign against the enemy across Southern, Southwestern, and Western Afghanistan. This campaign was critical to secure contested districts, setting the conditions for safe and credible national elections for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. These actions significantly degraded and disrupted the enemy’s capabilities, enhanced force protection, and allowed for the continued safety of the Afghan civilian population.



Col. Deitra Trotter and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Baird uncase the colors during the homecoming ceremony Sep. 24, 2018, Fort Hood, Texas. The 504th spent nearly a year in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Reconnection through Horses

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

On the outskirts of the hustle and bustle of city life lays a quaint ranch called Tyson's Corner Retreat and Wellness Center. It resides past a rocky road where the noise of cars from traffic can barely be heard. The noise of horses neighing, and dogs barking are the sounds of the day.

As families walk into the retreat they are welcomed by friendly dogs, the smell of the countryside, fresh coffee, and fresh food. The interior is bright and warming due to the many windows letting in light.

Joanna Tyson Dunlap, the owner and director of Tyson's Corner, started off by introducing herself, having families introduce themselves, their experience with horses, and what they expect to gain from working with a horse.

DUNLAP SAID THAT working with horses is like working with family relationships when it comes

to relationship building. It forces a person to look at themselves and what they bring into the relationship.

Chaplain Mark Musser, the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade's chaplain, scheduled a retreat for recently redeployed Soldiers. The goal of the retreat was to aid in relationship building and self-awareness. He taught subjects ranging from attachment theory and the communication process and how this relates to post deployment relationships.

Spouses with children, during the deployment suddenly become both mom and dad, he said. The family suddenly has a hole in it. This can create a roller coaster of emotions after homecoming.

Musser also discussed different types of personalities and how to identify this. The individuals who attended the course spent time assessing themselves and sharing the information with their spouses or with others in the class.

The Soldiers received hands on and small group training, he said. He used his own relationship with his wife as an example of a relationship.

AFTER THE SOLDIERS and their families

received training from Musser, they went outside to spend time with Dunlap. The Soldiers gathered while she enticed the horses to come through the gate, using a horse call. About 15 horses galloped through the gate into the yard with the families.

Dunlap then stood in front to the group of Soldiers and families asking what observations each saw of the horses. Some of the ob-

Sgt. Raul Pedraza, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, and his daughter Bella Pedraza brush a horse, October 12, 2018, Lampasas, Texas. The setting enhances the learning and makes the experience more memorable. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)





Soldiers with the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade talk about their observations of the horses behavior, October 12, 2018, Lampasas, Texas. The event was meant to aid in the relationship building and aid with self awareness after deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

servations ranged from physical attributes to their actual behavior as they entered through the gate. She spent about 10-20 minutes letting each person look at the horses. Some of the children were able to touch the horses while they wandered around.

After the initial observations, Dunlap gave everyone time to go pick out a horse and get to know it. Families brushed horses, followed them around, and led them through the open area.

“The retreat center is here to be resourced to the military at Fort Hood,” she said. “We work real closely with the chaplains because it was founded by my dad who was a chaplain.”

“What I see that comes out of Equine Assisted Therapy is more self-awareness and more understanding, she said. “When you work with a horse you have to learn how to be authentic and healthy

connection. It becomes a partnership.”“Post deployment is about reconnecting,” she said.

Ready and Resilient

Ready and Resilient (R2) is the Army’s strategy for strengthening individual and unit personal readiness and fostering a culture of trust.

R2 provides training and resources to the Army Family to enhance resilience and optimize performance. R2 reinforces the Army Values, beliefs, attitudes, and educates members of the Army team about the importance of building connections with each other, taking care of one another, and being there to support fellow Soldiers.

Every Soldier is a valued member of the Army team and is critical to readiness and mission accomplishment.

BDE MRT rep: Sgt. Lessard, Melissa



Julie Moser, a breast cancer survivor, poses with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion Soldiers after their run, Oct. 25, 2018, West Fort Hood, Texas. The 163rd MI BN hosted the run and a fundraiser called Pink with a Purpose. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Pink with a purpose

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

While many companies within the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade were holding formal physical fitness training or leaders fitness training, one company was sporting the color pink on West Fort Hood.

163rd Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th MI BDE, hosted a day long event called Pink with a Purpose, October 25. The event was in support of breast cancer awareness month. It included a breast cancer awareness run and a bake sale. The bake sale donations will be given to a breast cancer foundation.

The company invited Julie Moser, breast cancer survivor and cofounder of Pink Warrior Angels out of Copperas Cove, to speak to the Soldiers about her experience with cancer.

"I've been here 10 years, but my husband has come and gone," said Moser, as Soldiers stood around her. "But, during one of those times I had a brown line under my breast. Like I burned myself. I said 'I'll go get that checked out. I go to my doctor and she finds three lumps.'"

"Two years went by very quickly as I went through chemotherapy and a double mastectomy," she said.

She said that her family, at the time, was very supportive of her and her husband during this time.

"I can tell you, as a military spouse, we are always prepared for our spouses to leave," she said. "We know their wishes if something should happen. But, we found that my husband had to take care of

me. I had no will, my wishes were not talked about. So, it's important to talk both ways about that."

"My official diagnosis date is October 23, 2013," she said. My five year 'caniversary' date is on Sunday. That is a huge milestone for those in the breast cancer world, but also a scary time. I have many friends that are re-diagnosed because they are scanned. I have many friends that have died."

Moser said that one in eight women and one in 844 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

After Moser finished her speech to the 163rd Soldiers, they formed up. The formation riddled with pink. Pink shorts, shirts, bandanas, and socks, all in support of breast cancer. They ran for Moser.

Capt. Maureen De Haro, the 163rd HHD commander, took Moser inside the company to show her the donation table. The company planned a bake sale to support awareness.

They also talked about the Soldiers and how several have been touched by cancer in one fashion or another. De Haro said, whether it is family members or friends, our Soldiers have experienced the effects of cancer.

She encourages her Soldiers to do something bigger than themselves, said De Haro. Soldiers volunteer by raising their right hand. Do no wait to be voluntold to support another cause.

De Haro said that the idea originated between two Soldiers, Spc. Brandon Harris and Pfc. Adalyn Nelson. The company then ran with the idea.

Berserkers come home

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

The 504th Military Intelligence Brigade has some of the most decorated Battalions in the U.S. Army. One of these battalions is the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion. The 303rd holds 25 campaign streamers, nine unit commendations, and three foreign unit decorations.

The original mission of the 303rd was to gain intelligence from the interception of radio communications between German forces opposing allied operations in France.

Now, as a part of the 504th, one of the premiere intelligence collections units in the U.S. Army, the mission, while relatively the same continues to change. The mission is to provide critical intelligence support to combat commanders.

Today, the 303rd MI BN brought home one of the integral companies back to Fort Hood, from Fort Gordon, Georgia. They will be settled in line with the other MI companies on West Fort Hood.

When the 504th was redesignated as an Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade in 2015 the Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination Company moved to Fort Gordon, Georgia.

They have provided support to FORSCOM, CENTCOM, Combined Joint Task Force OIR, Signals Intelligence support to Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command OIR, support to Operations Freedom Sentinel, Cryptologic Support Team operations in support of III Corps, and general support reinforcing to the 116th Military Intelligence Brigade (Ariel Intelligence).

During the past several years the company has worked over 18,000 hours and produced over 9,000 geospatial intelligence products, said Lt. Col. Patrick Miller, the 303rd MI BN commander. The support resulted in over 2,000 kinetic strikes and 578 confirmed enemy killed in action.

The signal intelligence supported the TSA mission, producing over 80,000 tactical intelligence reports and 590 time sensitive tippers, he said.

The PED process is a critical component to the Army Intelligence Process, which supports commanders by providing intelligence needed to support the mission, as stated by the Defense Systems Information Analysis Center.

“To say, none the least they are busy,” Miller said.

The company started their preparations for their big move in the fall of 2017, just after they prepared and trained over 40 Soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Freedom Sentinel.

Along with the move, brings a new commander for the company. Capt. Steven Garmoe said that he is looking forward to the new challenges that arise over the next year.

With the reactivation of B Company, 303rd MI BN, brings a new chapter to the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade and to the company.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, the band is back together. Today starts a new chapter for B. Co,” said Miller. “A day that we have been waiting for since 2015.”



Lt. Col. Patrick Miller, 303rd MI BN commander, passes the guidon to Capt. Steven Garmoe, B Company commander, Oct. 26, 2018, Fort Hood, Texas. B Co. has reactivated in the Fort Hood area after being stationed in Fort Gordon, Georgia. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Charmaine Nunnally works at Santas Workshop, Nov 5, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. She volunteers over 40 hours a weeks to separate organizations. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard



“Always Ready” Military Families

Story by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

I think sacrifice for the Army, if we are looking from the family perspective, my children do not have the same experiences as a regular family,” said Maj. Joshua Nunnally, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, executive officer. “For us, we constantly move to new duty stations so we do not have the same chance to grow those roots. It is my hope that that’s not lost as they grow up and they understand that it’s not because we did it purposely. It is service to the nation.”

Nunnally and his wife Charmaine have been married for 14 years and have four children. Nyan (13), Aiyanna (11), Noah and Josiah (6).
14

They have been stationed in various locations from Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Knox, Kentucky, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and Fort Hood, Texas.

THIS IS A FAMILY WHO HAS CONTINUOUSLY demonstrated their service, dedication and willingness to make great sacrifices in support of Soldiers, our Army and the nation.

The Nunnally’s met in 2004 when they attended Army Initial Training together, for what is now known as 42A, Human Resources, said Joshua Nunnally. From there they continued their relationship and eventually got married.

The hardest part, in the beginning, was when their first daughter was born, Nyan.

“Joshua left four days before Nyan was born,” said Charmaine.

The Army would not release him from deployment until there was a live birth, she said. He came back after she was born and was back to deployment four days later. He was able to visit mid tour and upon return from deployment.

During the first deployment she had family to help out, she said. Charmaine said that her husband has been on five deployments since he has joined the Army.

“Over the past 15 years I have spent 58 months deployed...,” said Nunnally. “That’s a third of my oldest daughter’s life that I have been away; that’s time we have lost and will not get back with my family. Time and growing family are the two biggest sacrifices that service members donate on behalf of themselves to service in the Army.”

Nunnally said that his father was in the Navy. Each time he went on deployment Nunnally knew that he wasn’t leaving the family, but it was to serve a greater cause to the nation.

“THAT IS THE SAME MESSAGE we want to give to our children,” he said. Serving is not only sacrificing but it is also the experience.

“You’re exposed to multiple experiences, whether it’s moving, different areas, different people, different walks of life,” said Nunnally. “You can get country life or city life. There is always something new.”

Charmaine said she would not change out of this life.

“I enjoy the exposure it gives our kids,” she said. “They have seen things I could only have dreamed of at their age.”

While Charmaine has demonstrated a willingness to sacrifice for the Army, she also gives back to the Army through her community service.

She currently has many positions from Vice President of Operations for Santa’s Workshop, Library Liaison at Skipcha Elementary, Adviser for the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade Family Readiness group, Awana youth leader, collecting box tops for school, amazing wife, and rock star mom.

Her days start off pretty busy at home,

she said. She gets her four children ready for school and then they are off to school for the day. Afterwards she spends her time serving her community.

“It’s something outside for myself,” she said. “Outside of my husband and kids.”

Being a military family may be hard at times from multiple moves, children attending multiple schools, and meeting new people again. “We’ve met lifelong friend,” said Nunnally. “This life is what you make of it,” said Charmaine. “We choose to make it work for us.”



The Nunnallys pose for a family photo during the Christmas holiday Dec. 20, 2017. They have been married for 14 years and have four children. (Courtesy photo)

Ready Warriors Commemorate NCOs



Command Sgt. Majors Thomas Baird and Kevin Austin, 504th MI BDE, inspect a Soldier's Army Service Uniform Dec. 6, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Inspections help ensure good order and discipline within the unit. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)

The Backbone of the Army



Non commissioned officers with 504th Military Intelligence Brigade conduct urban orienteering, Dec. 6, 2018, Fort Hood, Texas. NCO day was an all-day event commemorating the history of NCOs. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Madison Turrubiate)



Story by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

Many 504th Military Intelligence Brigade noncommissioned officers commemorated the history of the NCO during an all-day event at Fort Hood, Dec. 6.

The events started during the early morning at the Always Ready Field with urban orienteering. The 504th MI Bde. and the 15th Military Intelligence Battalion were split into 12 different groups. The groups would locate a point and officers from the brigades were stationed at all of the points waiting for riddles to give each of the groups as they arrived. Soldiers were required to complete the task stated by the riddle then move on to the next station. The goal of the event was

to give junior NCOs the chance to take the lead.

After the completion of urban orienteering, Soldiers underwent an Army Service Uniform inspection. Command Sgt. Major Thomas Baird, 504th MI Bde. command sergeant major, inspected each member one by one with each of the battalion CSMs, who meticulously documented any deficiencies Baird found during the thorough inspection. Prior to being released from the inspection formation, Baird selected several out of the formation to receive a token as recognition for their uniform exceeding the standard.

“THANKS TO THE FINE noncommissioned officers,” Baird said. “Thanks for your detailed looks and your focus on your uniform.”

After the ASU inspection senior leaders gath-

ered for a lunch to discuss the importance of the NCO.

The final event was the leadership panel, which included topics like leadership, empowerment and critical thinking.

Baird told NCOs to find a face they did not know and have a conversation with each other, he said. He asked the NCOs to ask one another about their professional and personal goals.

After five minutes of conversation the NCOs were instructed to take a seat with their new battle and share with the panel what they had discovered about one another. Soldiers in the room then watched a short clip about spark.

Angie Morgan, who speaks in the video,

said that spark is someone who receives leadership training for the first time, grasps the message and runs with it. Leadership is about actions.

Sgt. Maj. Lourdes Barragen, 1st Cavalry Division Intelligence and Security, said, "I would not be here today if someone did not see the spark in me and invest. As an NCO find those who give off the spark and invest in them."

NCOs have been the backbone of the U.S. Army since the beginning. Their role is to be leaders, develop others and achieve results.

Soldiers with the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade gather during a leadership panel, Dec. 6, 2018, Fort Hood, Texas. They discussed leader attributes, lessons learned, experiences, and expanded their professional network. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Madison Turrubiate)



III Corps Chef of the Quarter Competition

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

Soldiers from various units under III Corps gathered at the Culinary Arts Center here Jan. 8 to compete in the Chef of the Quarter competition.

Soldiers from Fort Leonardwood, Missouri; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Fort Hood, participated in the event.

Sgt. 1st Class Johnathan Wilcox, Sr., Culinary Management Non-Commissioned Officer, 75th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, said that the competing Soldiers would have three hours to prepare a three course meal. The meal would consist of an appetizer, main entrée and dessert.

Day one consisted of timed cooking, he said. The second day consisted of a board panel in the Army Service Uniform. The judges were from the III Corps Culinary Arts Team. Soldiers would be separated into two categories; Pvt. through Spc. and then Cpl. through Staff Sgt.

Without the normal hustle and bustle of a dining facility, Soldiers were able to focus in the quiet, but busy, Culinary Arts Center. Some Soldiers played music quietly, talked amongst their peers, or just solely focused on their creations.

Spc. Sydney Woodworth, 75th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, a native of Melbourne, Florida, works at the Guns and Rockets dining facility. Her sponsor said that she has been practicing but was still nervous as this was her first competition.

WOODWORTH HAD TO make adjustments

Sgt. Luis Mendoza, left, 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion, and Sgt. John Saldana, right, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, review recipes during the III Corps Chef of the Quarter competition, Jan. 8, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Mendoza had just received his mystery basket and reviewed recipes with the contents. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Sgt. Luis Mendoza, 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion, stands in front of the judges during the III Corps Chef of the Quarter challenge, Jan. 8, 2018, Fort Hood, Texas. Mendoza will also have to participate in a board before receiving results. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



throughout the competition but the judges said that the flavor on her appetizer was great. She made steak strips on a cucumber with dill cream.

Another participant, Sgt. Schastian Schad, also with the 75th Field Artillery Brigade, competed in the second category. She said in her time off she practiced different types of cuts and studied one section at a time.

"I like to create art with my hands," she said. "It's fun." Schad worked busily in her small area of the kitchen, not really speaking to anyone. Her sponsor, Sgt. 1st. Class Shaunta Cain, with the same unit, would give Schad tips and assist with removing dishes during the competition.

Schad prepared pulled pork on top of pita bread with sweet and sour sauce and carrots as an appetizer. She made a pan seared steak with a red wine steak sauce and couscous pi-

laf with broccoli as the main dish. Finally, she created a white cake with blueberry compote.

Sgt. Luis Mendoza, a competitor with the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, said that he was nervous due to the number of people competing.

He prepared for the mystery basket by writing down several possible recipes before starting the competition. Judges stated that he would only have ten minutes to use his phone as a reference, so, to save time Mendoza pre-planned.

Mendoza furiously hustled in his small section of the kitchen, spicing meat, cutting broccoli, and other various items. He prepared pork belly braised with orange-carrot puree for the main entrée, broccoli soup as an appetizer, and caramelized apples for dessert.

Soldiers with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, conduct a ruck march, Nov. 29, 2018, Fort Hood, Texas. The ruck march was in support of Santa's Workshop on post. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Jingle bell toy ruck

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

On the morning of November 29 Soldiers, families, friends, and fur babies gathered around A Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion. Members were dressed up in various holiday attire such as deer suits, ugly sweaters, Santa hats, and much more.

The morning was crisp as the company readied to start their first Jingle Bell Toy Ruck in support of Santa's Workshop here.

"We hosted the Jingle Bell Toy Ruck, which was a three-mile ruck, to build esprit de corps and bring in toys for children ages 8-12," said 1st Lt. Danielle Tinnell, A Co., 163rd MI BN.

The company counter intelligence platoon leader, 1st Lt. Samantha Turner, said that this helped bring people together to start the holiday spirit and give back to the military community.

Santa's Workshop, which is located on main post Fort Hood, by the commissary, is a non-profit organization that was created for charitable purposes as a unit-level initiative.

The mission of Santa's Workshop is to make new toys accessible for children of the Fort Hood community during the

holiday Season. In times of financial crisis, Christmas presents may be a luxury.

"I think there is a lot of benefit reaching out to the community," said Turner. "We are the community at the end of the day. Happy families make for a happy Soldier."

Tinnell said that it is heartwarming to know that there is a program like this that exists to help families and Soldiers who struggle during this time.

As well as giving back to the community, many Soldiers experienced a boost in morale while participating in the ruck march.

"Coming back from a yearlong deployment, people struggle to get back into the routine and be happy," said Tinnell.

Soldiers wore lights on their sweaters or rucksacks. Some put lights on their dogs. Festive music was playing during the march as well.

As Soldiers marched back with their ruck sacks full of toys they put them in the box destined for Santa's workshop.

Outside the company was a table with fresh coffee, hot cocoa, and candy canes for members to enjoy after the march.



163rd Military Intelligence Battalion Soldiers put gifts into a box, Nov. 29, 2018, Fort Hood, Texas. Soldiers rucked with gifts inside their bags in support of Santa's Workshop. (US. army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Col. Deitra Trotter, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Baird, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade commander and CSM, attach the Afghanistan streamer to the brigade colors, Feb. 1, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The 504th was awarded a campaign streamer due to their hard work during their deployment in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)





76 Years in the Making

504th MI BDE celebrates its birthday

On February 1 military intelligence professionals from across Fort Hood gathered together to end MI week with the III Corps and Fort Hood Military Intelligence Ball hosted by the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade.

“Every unit on this installation is busy,” said Col. Deitra Trotter, the 504th MI BDE commander, “so if we wait for everyone, things like this will never happen. We have to take advantage of these rare opportunities to say ‘hello.’ Step outside our comfort zone and make some new friends once in a while.”

The mission of MI week was to celebrate history and tradition and network MI professionals across the “Great Place.” Army Human Resources Command representatives provided professional development earlier in the week.

504th MI BDE and 15th MI Battalion also collaborated to provide an MI Expo at the West Fort Hood airfield, where members of both units provided equipment and capabilities overview.

Last summer James Dietz, an award-winning artist, visited Fort Hood to set the path for a painting to encompass the 504th history in one artistic piece. During the ball, the 504th revealed that painting.

“The Always Ready Brigade has made its mark in every American conflict, since its conception on 7 February 1942,” said Trotter. “In this unit’s fine history, the lineage is unmatched in the United States Army. It is worthy of remembrance, that’s why we wanted to do this. We hope that this proud history and tradition will continue.”

In addition to revealing the painting, featured speaker Maj. Gen. Gary Johnston, the Commanding General of U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Belvoir, Virginia gave a compelling speech to the MI professionals attending the MI Ball.

“I don’t get many opportunities to speak to this many intelligence professionals at one time,” he said “I’ve got a message for you...if you are not having fun at what you do, you need to look at that, that’s the first message,” he said. “If you are not having fun at what you are doing, you need to look at yourself,” he continued.

Johnston also spoke about how the MI field is constantly evolving to incorporate methods, analysis, and trade craft, and how important it is that the MI community must be able to identify those changing conditions and forecast.

“We must constantly change...the only



Col. Trotter, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Baird, right, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade commander and CSM, reveal a historic painting, Feb. 1, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. James Dietz, an award winning artist, constructed the 504th MI BDE through time in a painting. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Col. Deitra Trotter, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade commander, gives remarks during the MI Ball, Feb. 1, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. She gave the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command Commanding General a copy of the painting after her remarks. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

thing,” he said. “As we stand today, we are in the midst of a unique organization change,” he said. “My question tonight is, are you ready to change? In order to be ready, Always Ready, we must stand what I call the as is with a ‘to be.’”

“The Army and the Nation needs your ‘to be’ vision to be the most comprehensive, the most ambitious, the best-informed strategy.”

“The battlefield of today is multi-domain, multi-mode, multi-discipline, multi-functional, and real time,” he said. “Our mission has shifted, and we now reside in a state of perpetual competition.”

“Multi-domain operations formed with imagination reach can kick in doors that the adversary didn’t even know were there, by means they didn’t know we had, to exploit weaknesses they never dreamt we could touch” Johnston said. “Not in their wildest dreams.”

Johnston challenged MI professionals to define their ‘to be’ and come up with innovative ideas that will reach past the battlefield.

“Force technology to catch up to you, not the other way around,” he said.

He challenged MI professionals to think about an enterprise.

“Enterprise thinking opens your aperture of how your information feeds the larger

tactical, operational, and strategic national pictures,” he said. “It doesn’t just consider how you intend to use the data set, but it measures ways your data set can be used in the future.”

While the Army and the intelligence is growing, technology is greater. He said that the most important factor is the human factor.

“At the end of the day, intelligence serves but one purpose, to inform and to support the decision of a leader,” he said. “Whether they sit in an oval office or down range. The human in the loop provides the conscious and the morality of intelligence.”

“This is an exciting time to be an intelligence professional,” said Johnston. “We stand at the edge of something grand. Examine your mind-set of your ‘to be.’”

He challenged those in the room to think bigger than their organization and the intelligence field.

“I dare you to craft a vision that makes you uncomfortable. I want you to reach beyond the possible into the space where maybe lives. That’s where intelligence is headed...and that’s where the Army’s going. How are you thinking differently to be ready for the next challenge? Your next adventure.”



MI Professionals awarded
The Knowlton Award



Soldiers and Civilians are awarded the Knowlton Award and the Gold Rose award during the Military Intelligence Ball, Feb. 1, 2019, Fort Hood Texas. The Knowlton award is awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the military intelligence field. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Maj. Gen. Gary Johnston, Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command and Charles Atkins, president of the Military Intelligence Corps Association, present Wayne Prosser, III Corps geospatial intelligence, with the Knowlton Award, Feb. 1, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Five deserving professionals from Fort Hood were presented with the Lt. Col. Thomas Knowlton Medal for their significant support and contributions to the Military Intelligence Corps during a ceremony at Club Hood February 1.

Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, MI professionals, and family members sat in an elegantly set room during the MI Ball. The five professionals stood in a line while the award was draped over their head.

Maj. Gen. Gary Johnston, Commanding General of U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Charles Atkins, the president of the Military Intelligence Corps Association, presided over the ceremony.

The MI Corps Association (MICA) established the Knowlton Award in June 1995. Lt. Col Thomas Knowlton, the father of Military Intelligence, who served under Gen. George Washington, created and led a group of intelligence gatherers known as the Knowlton Rangers. They made significant contributions to the war effort during the American Revolution, as such; these awardees are recognized for making significant contributions during their careers to the MI Corps.

Johnston and Atkins presented the award to the following individuals: Chief Warrant Officer 1 Zachary Amsden, 303rd MI BN, counterin-

telligence technician; First Sgt. Alfred Cooper, 163rd MI Battalion, A Company; Maj. Eileen Pierce, 303rd MI BN executive officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Austin, 303rd MI BN CSM; and Dr. Wayne Prosser, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, supervisory geospatial officer.

AFTER THE AWARDS were presented Johnston stood to the side and said, "This is a big deal, this does not happen every day. This is a lifetime award. If you don't take time to cement it in your mind, then it is just another award. You are in the halls of the MI Corps forever."

Prosser, who has worked in geospatial intelligence for the past 12 years, gave his thanks for being allowed to serve at the Fort Hood home for so long. He said he does not want to leave because this is where all the action is.

Regarding his job he asked "Does it really work? Can you get the data? Can you use it for something that matters?"

"I'll know every day that I did something that matters," he said. "It's because of you," he said as he addressed the crowd of MI professionals.

Another recipient, Maj. Pierce, said she has wanted the award since she was a 2nd Lt. She attended her first ball at the time while other MI professionals were receiving the award. At the time she did not know what it meant, but she does now.



Maj. Gen. Gary Johnston, Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, presents Maj. Aileen Peirce, 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion executive officer, with the Knowlton Award, Feb. 1, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



A Soldier with 163rd Military Intelligence Brigade performs the sprint drag carry event of the Army combat Fitness Test, Feb. 17, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The ACFT is a total body test that the 163rd MI BN is testing. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Army Combat Fitness Test 163rd MI BN

By Patricia Streeter Herald correspondent Feb 17, 2019

Soldiers with the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Hood tested their physical and mental readiness with the new Army Combat Fitness Test last week.

The 163rd is one of 60 battalions testing the new Army Combat Fitness Test, or AFCT, which aims to replace the decades-old Army Physical Fitness Test, which measures a soldier's strength and endurance.

The ACFT is a six-event readiness assessment that consist of strength deadlifts, standing power throws, hand-release pushups, 250-meter sprint-drag-carry, leg tucks and a 2-mile run.

"One of the things soldiers will need to get used to is weight training. If you've never been introduced to weight training, you defiantly will now. It's not your pushup, situp, 2-mile run, ... I think it's a new change for the better," said Maj. Joshua Nunnally.

The Army Physical Fitness Test involves only pushups, situps and a 2-mile run.

"Going from three to six events, It's more of a test for the soldiers," Nunnally said.

Last week, 15 test administrators graded four soldiers each, which allowed the brigade to test up to 65 soldiers in 70 minutes.

All graders were required to attend a test administrator course, which was taught by ACFT mobile training teams from Fort Jackson, South Carolina. "Gone are the days of grabbing a few soldiers and saying, 'hey let's conduct a PT test,'" Nunnally said.

More than 50 soldiers across the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade are trained and prepared to administer the test. Companies within the brigade started testing Feb. 11 with the last test on Valentine's Day.

The ACFT requires more manpower than the Army Physical Fitness Test.

"It requires about 20 soldiers to set up to make it more efficient. ... If you look at things from an operational stand point, it something that you plan and it is a deliberate action," Nunnally said.



Col. Deitra L. Trotter, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade commander, speaks with Nolanville City Council during a meeting, Nov. 15, 2018, Nolanville, Texas. Trotter spoke about the 504th mission and accomplishments. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)

Leading ladies

MILITARY-NEWS-Author: Heidi Alagha

L eading Ladies: Colonel Deitra Trotter breaks barriers, leads with patriotism. Col. Deitra Trotter has served in the U.S. Army for 29 years, and her ambition isn't slowing down.

When Col. Deitra Trotter enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1990, she said she didn't think she would stay in the Army very long. Today, she serves as the Commander of the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Hood.

Despite her long-tenured service, it's her gender that still surprises people on base.

"I think when I first arrived last summer, I got a few puzzled stares. That was fun," she said.

The looks she said she remembered were because of military stereotypes.

"In most of the units, it's mostly male. I look around and go: 'Oh, it's just me,'" she said.

Even though there are more men based at Fort Hood than women, that doesn't stop Trotter from being a strong leader. Capt. Sarah Broderick said Trotter sets a great example for all soldiers to emulate.

"She's changing the narrative of what it means to be a female leader and just being a good all-around leader, soldier, and person," Broderick said.

Trotter said she doesn't let the gender discussion distract her from her main focus: Service.

"I think about my responsibility to our soldiers, to their families, and to our country," she said.

With her own family, Trotter said raising one has helped her in her professional career.

"Being a mother probably helps with being a leader," she said. "I think being a mother helps you give soldiers a little tough love."

Although she has to dish out that tough love, Trotter continues to have a positive impact on her colleagues.

"Growing up and knowing that I was going to be in the Army and a female in the Army, people tend to have this idea you're either too tough or too soft, and there's nothing in between," Broderick said. "Where I think Colonel Trotter is changing that narrative."

Trotter said her career has been a success, but she won't let herself get complacent.

"In my career field, there has never been a black female general officer," she said.

One day, she hopes to achieve that goal, but for now, she's focused on inspiring generations to come. "I look at young ladies now, and I want them to go further than me," she said.

Trotter always stays true to herself, which Broderick said is why people respect who she is.

"I'm not one of the guys, I am who I am."

**African American/Black History Month
Observance:
Diversity within ranks of Army**
By Jasmine Castrellon, Sentinel Staff Feb 28, 2019

The African American/Black History Month Observance, Feb. 21, hosted by 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, at the Phantom Warrior Center, provided a guest panel of four to answer questions for the audience.

The guests on the panel were: Col. Lawrence Stewart, provost marshal director of III Corps and Fort Hood, Col. Calondra Fortson, III Corps G6, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronrico Hayes, 48th Chemical Brigade, command sergeant major and Col. DeVry Anderson, deputy commander for medical services of Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center. The theme for 2019's observance was black migrations.

Maj. Joshua Nunnally, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, executive officer, and master of ceremonies for the observance, opened up the discussion by asking Fortson the following question, "Why is African American History month important to you?"

Fortson said she had just asked her 20-year-old daughter the same question, who responded by saying it is important she understands her history.

"BUT JUST TO ADD a little bit more onto that, I think it's important that this is time for us to celebrate the achievements of those who came before us, the paths and the doors they have opened for us and how they contribute to this United States of America that we all are a part of," Fortson said. "Even though we come up in different ways and have different challenges, there are things we can learn from each other and one of the things I wanted to emphasize was that to many times we look at the differences between one another rather than what we have a like..."

Pfc. Otis William, attached to 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, asked the panel, "Before or during your careers, have you ever felt any trepidation, or some certain hesitation serving your country as men and women of color in the United States Army and if so how did you get over that?"

"To piggy back I will agree, how can you not

Col. DeVry Anderson, Deputy Commander, Medical Service, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, answers questions during a panel, Feb. 21, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Anderson said that leadership needs to be diverse. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)





(Above) Col. Calondra Fortson, III Armored Corps Assistant Chief of Staff, G6, answers questions during a panel, Feb. 21, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. She said it is about what people have in like, not about their differences. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Below) The Killeen High School Kangarettes, a dance team, performs during the Black History Month observance, Feb. 21, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

feel trepidation about being a minority, but I think we will agree, coming up through the academy you develop a sense of pride in your country, a sense of duty, and a sense of mission if you will, and I don't know that in my adult life I have any qualms about serving this nation in uniform, or not ..." Anderson said.

In 1776, although men of color were allowed to serve, it was not until 1948 that Order #9981 was signed, ending segregation in the military.

Col. Detira Trotter, commander of the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, made the closing remarks for the observance.

"I look at where we are compared to where we were and I see incredible progress," Trotter said. "But I stand here today only because of the sacrifices of so many who have come before us."



Leaders with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion sit in on mission command certification, Feb. 27, 2019, Fort Hood Texas. They earned about how the decision making process works and disseminating commanders intent. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



“Ready Warriors” take command

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

1 63rd Military Intelligence Battalion and company leadership gathered on Feb. 27th during the first day of mission command course.

They listened intently to Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Brooks, 163rd BN CSM, as he explained how critical thinking and shared understanding are vital factors in the mission command process.

Mission command is based on mutual trust, shared understanding, and purpose, according to ADRP 6-0. It demands that every Soldier be prepared to assume responsibility and maintain unity of effort, take prudent actions, and act resourcefully within the commander’s intent.

The nature of military operations are complex, human endeavors characterized by the continuous, mutual adaptation to give and take, moves, and counter moves, among all participants, according to ADRP 6-0.

Commanders and subordinates must learn from experience, anticipate change, and develop adaptability so they can conduct operations more effectively than their opponents. (ADRP 6-0)

The mission command certification process for 163rd MI BN is designed to teach

platoon leaders and company commanders how to complete the mission, and is experienced based, said Lt. Col. Bowers, 163rd MI BN commander. Anyone can be tasked with mission command. They will be taught the different aspects of intelligence capabilities and how to plan, prepare, execute, and assess.

Bowers addressed the rooms full of intelligence professionals. There are four things that commanders care about, he said. Risk to mission and risk to force, authorities, resources, and command relationships.

“All day every day, that’s what I think about,” said Bowers.

“Risk to mission means what is going to happen that will keep me from completing my mission,” Bowers said. “Risk to force means what is going to happen to the Soldiers. These are the hard decisions to make.”

Authorities is what the unit is authorized to do, and not to do, he said. As commanders, they have to understand resources such as food, security, and logistics.

Finally, how are they supporting the other units?

Brooks said that the higher in rank a person is, the more mission command applies.

The room was filled with ranks ranging from E-5 through O-5.

“Just because you are an E-5 or E-6, does not mean this does not apply,” said Brooks. “NCO’s need to be able to step in.”

In the past, young NCO’s have had to take mission command in the deployed area.

Both Bowers and Brooks said that it takes decisive action and disciplined initiative.

Disciplined initiative is action in the absence of orders, when existing orders no longer fit the situations, or when unforeseen opportunities or threats arise.

Soldiers who attended also learned about the two aspects of mission command which are the art of command and the science of control.

Bowers and Brooks explained this process as leaders leveraging their experience, developing their teams, informing and influencing the formation, and knowledge management.

Soldiers also learned about how to understand the problem, visualize a solution, and describe it to their troops.

Brooks said that when the Army went from command and control to mission command, there was a change of concept and attitude. Mission command requires collaborative solutions.



(Above) Lt. Col David Bowers, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Brooks, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion commander and CSM, discuss what mission command is, Feb. 27, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Leaders with the 163rd were participating in the Mission Command Certification process. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)(Below) Soldiers with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion are awarded belt buckles, April 18, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. They completed the mission command class and certified during the BN certification exercise at Camp Bullis. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Ready Warrior 7 changes hands

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

Hundreds of people gathered at the West Fort Hood Always Ready Field for the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade change of responsibility.

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Baird, who has been the senior enlisted adviser for the brigade for the last 18 months, changed hands with Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Mabanag. Mabanag is joining the 504th MI BDE from the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Baird accompanied the 504th during their previous deployment to Afghanistan.

"I will tell you what I saw when I arrived and started circulating the battlefield," said Col. Deitra Trotter, 504th MI BDE commander. "First line leaders were doing their jobs at 14 different locations where we had ground collection teams, backed up by their company and battalion. I also learned that our CSM had visited each of those

teams multiple times, gone on missions with them, integrated with their supported units, or already had established relationships with them; as in his towering reputation proceeded him."

"His steadfast mentorship, confidence, and empowerment of roughly 1600 subordinates directly contributed to TF (Task Force) Ready's success down range," said Trotter. "He led a year of excitement, innovative discovery and new collection techniques that made a positive difference still resonating across our Joint Force." "He is destined for greater things," said Trotter. "I'm not sure if it's that big open, friendly smile; that he leads by example daily from PT to ranges to motor pool Mondays; or looks for creative ways to include other units in rebuilding our Army and MI traditions within our units, but it generates a level of approachability with our Soldiers, his peers, and our leaders that created

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Mabanag, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade CSM, inspects the non-commissioned officer's sword for the first time, March 8, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The passing of the sword back to the bearer symbolizes dedication to the Soldiers of the 504th MI BDE and the continuity of the NCO support channel. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



real opportunities for dialogue on critical issues affecting our Soldiers and their Families.”

Mabanag addressed the crowd, more specifically, CSM Baird,” T.J., this unit lost a great leader and I definitely will have some tall...I mean huge shoes to fill” he said. “You set the bar high.”

“I am honored to continue the 504th Brigade’s success and proud history,” said Mabanag. “Ready Soldiers, you look great! Ready 7 signing in.”



Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Rasdall sheaths the non-commissioned sword during a ceremony March 8, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Baird relinquished responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Mabanag. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Since assuming responsibility as the brigade CSM on March 8, 2019, I am amazed at the professionalism of the Always Ready Brigade’s leaders and Soldiers, including the close connection with families and Army-affiliated organizations. My family and I felt very welcomed throughout my reception and integration. This year in review is only a glimpse into the brigade’s many accomplishments. For example many deserving enlisted and officers were promoted, and career counselors processed 89 reenlistment contracts to strengthen the Army with experienced Soldiers. Furthermore, I cannot keep track of the countless impact awards, unit coins, and public recognition from leaders at various echelons. Very extraordinary for a small, 560 plus-manned brigade! Three particular events caught my attention since my arrival. First, more than 50 Soldiers participated in Warfighter 19-04, providing intelligence that helped III Corps earn perhaps one of the most impressive enemy Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) percentages (if not the best) in any Warfighter exercise. These Soldiers’ long work hours, flexibility to changing guidance, team player attitude, and strong resilience acquired great acknowledgments from the III Corps Commanding General, staff, and participating unit leaders. Second, SSG Jennifer Malaker and SPC Christian Audiffred, both assigned to 163 MI BN, won

the 2019 Brigade Best Warrior competition in April. SPC Audiffred advanced to the Fort Hood competition and earned third place after beating nearly 10 brigades across the installation. Both Soldiers served as exemplary representatives among our junior NCOs and Soldiers, and they helped the brigade earn respect amid the combat arms brigades. Last, I am impressed with the MI officers, NCOs, and Soldiers’ growing competence from the battalions’ MI Training Strategy repetitions. Everyone proved their mastery in MI individual tasks, collective tasks, and MTOE equipment. Also noteworthy to mention, the brigade’s successes would not exist without the professionalism of our Soldiers in support MOS’s. I eagerly look forward to the Always Ready brigade’s upcoming missions as we approach the closure of 2019 and the start of 2020. Soldiers will overcome and excel, the brigade will continue to reap unit and individual rewards, and leaders will continue professional development and continue to care of Army families. Each individual is a shining example of the Brigade. COL Trotter and I are very proud of our Ready Warriors!

Always Ready!
CSM Michael Mabanag



Lt. Col. Derek Baird, left, 3-16 Field Artillery Regiment, gestures during an interview while his brother Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Baird, right, 504th MI BDE former CSM listens, March 8, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Both are identical twins serving on the same post. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Brothers in leadership

Story by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

What is Army leadership? The definition available to Soldiers is that Army leaders motivate people both inside and outside the chain of command to pursue actions, focus thinking and shape decisions for the greater good of the organization.

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas T.J. Baird, an alumnus of the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, and his brother Lt. Col. Derek Baird, 3-16th Field Artillery Regiment, both serve in leadership positions.

They are identical twins who are very tall with an unmistakable smile and what T.J. calls arctic blonde hair.

To them, leadership is more than motivation and focused thinking.

“How do you inspire others to want to be there with you,” said T.J. “To want to do what you need them to accomplish what you need them to do. Whatever that mission is. That’s the key to leadership.”

“I had a buddy of mine who was a team leader,” said T.J. “I remember it was raining hard, and we were out in the field. He was like ‘Hey we just jumped to a new site and this is what we need to do.’ Without any thought, without any complaints, we put our battle kit on and were out there digging 60 pits.”

He said they put their camouflage net up, security, and hasty firing positions.

“I was a young guy digging a 60 pit, in there about to feet of water and I thought ‘man.’”

T.J. said his team leader stopped by and asked if he still had that grin on his face, while digging the pit.

“I said, ‘Yup, I do.’ I wanted to be like my team leader, to get people who wanted to help him. That was 24 years ago. That one small example continues with me today,” said T.J.

Derek and T.J. share a wealth of time in the Army and listen to each other and give feedback to each other when needed.

“Getting people to have buy in, not just

buy in but the want to,” said Derek. “How to get them to do what they don’t want to do. A good leader is someone who provides a good atmosphere that enables the team to strive to move forward. It’s all about team work.”

Derek said that when it comes to leadership changing, what used to work in the past does not always work in the future.

“You change a little bit, but you never change who you are,” he said. “You always want to work with purpose. That’s one thing I’ve never changed, is purpose.” Derek only took his position less than a year ago.

“I sat down with my senior leaders and asked, ‘What is your purpose?’”

He said he received answers ranging from wanting to be the best chief in their section, or best platoon leader.

“Well that’s great that’s what you want to do, and I applaud that, but is that purpose,” he asked. “What gets you out of bed in the morning? I know it’s not coffee and an alarm clock. To me it’s family.”

Derek said that if there is no purpose then there are wayward Soldiers. Wayward Soldiers are the ones standing in front of the commander for an Article 15, or Soldiers who are constantly

being counselled, or failing their physical fitness test on purpose. He said it is a leader’s responsibility to help Soldiers find their purpose.

T.J. said his leadership style changed as he continued through the ranks. As a young Soldier, non-commissioned officer, he was very commanding. As he progressed, he realized that was not the direction he wanted or needed.

“There are other ways to make things happen,” he said. “There are other ways to get people to buy in to what we need to do.”

“Over my time in the Army, I’ve found that a willing smile, even in the most difficult of times, is the best thing to do,” T.J. said. “Even if in the back of your head you are thinking ‘holy crap, what just happened.’”

Over time, T.J. also learned that failing needs to happen for a leader to grow.

“Fail in a controlled environment,” he said. “Understand where you’re doing well. Understand where you kind of got a little wobbly. Understand where the wheels fell off. Back up ‘till we started to get wobbly. Figure out how to smooth that out...”

“If you are comfortable every day all day, then you are never growing.”

Lt. Col. Derek Baird, left, 3-16th Field Artillery Regiment, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Hendrex, middle, III Corps CSM, CSM Thomas Baird, 504th MI BDE CSM, right, pose for a photo prior to participating in the CSM Physical Fitness Challenge, March 7, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Each team had five people that consisted of at least an officer, two-noncommissioned officers, and two junior Soldiers. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)





A Soldier with 163rd Military Intelligence Brigade interviews a “civilian” during a certification exercise, March 20, 2019, Camp Bullis, Texas. The civilian post as a foreign national who would later be detained. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Multi-discipline intelligence teams certify

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

During the past several weeks the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion conducted a multi-intelligence certification exercise at Camp Bullis, Texas.

Soldiers convoyed via air and military vehicle, then spent many hours a day during the past two weeks conducting intelligence missions. The final product lasted two days where each company conducted a mission and were followed by OC's to be evaluated.

“So, the CERTEX, Operation Blue Apex, is a culmination of the last two and a half months of training,” said Lt. Col. David Bowers, the 163rd MI BN commander. “It started with individual training, then moved into collective crew training. Last week the companies certified each of their platforms for each of their intelligence disciplines. Then we

bring it all together for Operation Blue Apex.”

Soldiers were evaluated on all aspects from the beginning of the mission to the end. They convoyed to a village where they conducted human intelligence, counter intelligence, and signals intelligence operations.

“Specifically, what we do is we have multi-disciplined intelligence teams go through the full mission profile,” said Bowers. “Starting with the planning phase, preparing, roc drills, rehearsals, and then the execution phase.”

Sgt. Bryan Gamez, B Company, 163rd MI BN, participated in the certification process. He said that the event went well and helped him, and his team prepare for situations they would not expect. They pushed their communication level further and he is also more con-

fident in his abilities to operate equipment.

During the certification Gamez and his fellow Soldiers took fire, responded to injured Soldiers and civilians, and collected intelligence as well as weapons from the enemy.

Bowers said the outcome of the event is giving a good assessment of the formation. It shows what they are doing well at and where the shortfalls are.

“The most important thing is the assessment and being able to build an additional training plan and apply it to whatever our shortfalls are as we move forward...”

At the end of the day, leaders and teams reported that they were very impressed with how adaptive their Soldiers were to highly likely situations.



(Above) A Soldier with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion scopes out his surroundings, March 20, 2019, Camp Bullis, Texas. All leaders were given a chance to lead a team during the exercise. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)
(Below) Soldiers with the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion give direction during a certification exercise, March 20, 2019, Camp Bullis, Texas. Each company within the battalion certified their own intelligence teams. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Soldiers with the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade conduct preventative maintenance checks and services, April 29, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. "The PMCS is a tool we use to make sure our vehicles are ready for movement," said Specialist Joshua Loera, from 303rd MI BN. The Brigade conducted a deployment readiness exercise to test their capability to alert, recall, and prepare to deploy. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



504th proving they are always ready

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

Imagine being woken up at 3 a.m., still groggy from sleep, and being told you need to have all your bags and essential gear packed and be ready to deploy within an hour or two.

Soldiers with the 504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade did just that on April 29 during a III Corps readiness validation exercise. As a III Corps unit, the 504th must be ready to deploy at a moment's notice because readiness is the Army's number one priority.

"I got the call this morning and loaded up my gear and headed to the motor pool," said Spc. Apollo Nguyen with the

163rd Military Intelligence Battalion.

IT TOOK HIM less than an hour to report for the exercise.

Col. Deitra Trotter, the 504th EMIB commander, said that this is a culmination of a lot of training starting with individual training through platform, company, and battalion level.

504th EMIB Soldiers met at the motor pool to conduct various activities from obtaining their assigned weapons, equipment preventative maintenance checks and services, training on rules of engagement, media engagement, and more.

From there, the Ready Warriors convoyed to their final location. During the convoy they continued with their training with several simulations such as taking care of a casualty, receiving indirect fire, sending a 9-line medical evacuation request, and vehicle recovery.

NGUYEN SAID THAT HIS LAST training with his battalion was very useful during this readiness exercise. He said he and his team had the knowledge to be prepared as signals intelligence professionals.

At the final location for the exercise, the III Corps evaluators inspected 504th Soldiers on various tasks such as packing, PMCS and other critical deployment processes and procedures.

"These are our junior Soldiers," said Trotter. "They are getting a chance to test their METL (mission essential task list)."



(Above) 504th Military Intelligence Brigade Soldiers receive a brief about inspections, April 29, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The inspections ensure Soldiers are following proper guidelines for maintenance and travel. "Their maintenance is good, their systems are good. This is what it will feel like when we deploy," said Col. Deitra L. Trotter, the 504th MI BDE commander. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Below) 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion vehicles conduct a convoy during a deployment readiness exercise, April 29, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. "Our Soldiers just completed their certification exercise and this readiness exercise helps enhance their tactical readiness and ability to deploy," said Command Sgt. Maj. Austin, the 303rd MI BN Command Sgt. Major. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Army family makes a difference

Story and photos by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

On any given day there are over 400,000 children in foster care in the United States. Of that number, only about 135,000 are adopted each year.

Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Hill, an intelligence analyst for the 504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade, met his wife, Shoko, while stationed in Okinawa Japan. The Hills always knew they wanted to foster and adopt children and discussed the possibility before deciding to start their family.

"We were in Japan, but Japan did not allow us to foster because we lived on base and they did not have that kind of program like the states," said Shoko.

The Hills became licensed foster parents while stationed here at Fort Hood. Ricky said when he joined the 504th in 2016, the 1st Sgt. at the time fostered through an agency and introduced the Hills to the agency. With that, the family started the process to become foster parents and began working to adopt children.

"THANKFULLY, IN THE MILITARY and with this unit and our leadership, they were able to work with us," said Hill. "Foster families are different than regular families because there are additional responsibilities for the foster children."

From Left to Right, Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Hill, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, Robert (3), Anastasia (2), and Shoko Hill, pose for a family photo, April 26, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The hills adopted their two children. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)





The Hill family plays with their children at the local park, April 26, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Both children were adopted through a local agency in Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Hill said when they started fostering, they had to conduct weekly visits with the biological family of their two currently adopted children. They also worked with an agency social worker, and he and his wife were able to check on their foster children to see if they were to reunite with their biological family or if they were going to be adopted.

THE THOUGHT OF NOT being able to adopt the children that were in their care was also on their mind during the process and caused anxiety for the family.

"It was a roller coaster the whole time," he said. "It kept going back and forth from adoption to reunification, adoption, reunification. It did that like four times. We never really knew the whole time. It was that kind of anxiety that we had to go through."

Through the ups and downs of fostering to becoming adoptive parents, Shoko and Ricky continually build both their personal and family resiliency. They are both familiar with the adoption process through personal experiences and were able to use those experiences.

Shoko said that through the process though she and her husband communicate better, their marriage is stronger, and they work more as a team.

"We always talk and cry together," Shoko said.

Adopting while in the military can be challenging. Ricky and Shoko said they constantly remind each other that deploying is always a possibility.

"It might be harder, but that shouldn't keep people from doing it," said Hill. "If you have the desire, determination, and love for these kids – that goes a long way."

"We do get training, which gives awareness," said Hill. "I would say I've built a lot of patience. Whoever does foster care should know that times are going to be difficult, but you must continuously love these kids. Show them that you will be there when they need it. Even if the children do not stay, you gave them something to leave with. Hopefully they will remember that."

"We don't think you have to be blood-related to be a mother or father. It's the attributes of the mother and father that matter," said Hill.

Quilt of valor



(Above) Maj. Joshua Nunnally, far right, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion executive officer, stands in front of the formation to receive a Quilt of Valor, April 18, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The stars in the case for the quilt are made from imperfect stars, which were meant for a U.S. flag. (U.S. Army Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Below) Maj. Joshua Nunnally, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, hugs a representative from the Quilts of Valor Foundation, April 18, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Nunnally has been deployed five times. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



West Fort Hood SHARP run



(Above left) Soldiers and Family members take off during the West Fort Hood Color Run hosted by the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, April 26, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Participants and bystanders threw teal color powder into the air on the command of go. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Above right) Soldiers run through teal powder, April 26, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Many awareness campaigns around America have a designated day, week or month, as well as a designated ribbon color in their quest to maintain awareness. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Below) 504th Military Intelligence Brigade command group participates in the 72 hour run, April 5, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The run was aimed at increasing awareness for sexual harassment and assault. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)



Not in our Army!

504th Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention





Sgt. 1st Class Bernquist poses with his family during his sons promotion ceremony April 2019. (Courtesy photo)



Support, dedication, and trust

Story by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Bernquist, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, with the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion, and his wife Brandi; through dedication, trust, and support, have made their marriage work for them while in the military.

"You have to have trust when you spend most of your married time separated," said Brandi Bernquist. "When he's gone, I know he still has our best interest. We are both dedicated to each other, even though he is far away sometimes. I know that what he is doing is for us."

Both said they met while stationed in Germany, married May 13, 2005, and have four children. They have endured six deployments combined with two duty station moves.

Brandi said that it is difficult to move as a spouse. Because even if she has a degree or license, wherever they go she must start over. To have licenses change from state to state takes several months.

Michael said when his wife Brandi got out of the military it was one of those 'well, what do

you want to do?' moments. At the time Brandi did not know, but eventually she went back to night school. During that time, Michael would work during the day then hurry home to help with the household so she could go to school.

"He understands how difficult it is," said Brandi.

Brandi said she is the type that will say, "what do you want to do and what do we have to do to make it happen?"

NOT ONLY DOES MICHAEL SUPPORT Brandi's wants and desires for her career, Brandi also works to support Michael's military career choices.

"She has been there," said Michael. "She has been able to take control of the household when I am not there. Between deployments, school, and field exercises. I don't have to worry about those phone calls like 'hey we need this fixed and you are the only one with the password'. She has been there to support me the whole time."

Michael said Brandi also pushes him to do more, especially when it comes to

schooling that will help him progress.

Brandi said when Michael leaves, they do their best to communicate and give each other's view on any situation that may arise.

While schedules may be hectic with Brandi and Michael both working and taking care of their children, they still make the best of their time together.

"When we are together, we make that time very special," said Brandi.

"You have the birth of your kids and getting married, but because of how things are, if we don't enjoy the moment we are in, we may not get it. Anything we do, any time we are together, whether it is having a family dinner, or a drive to a location, we try to have a good time because he may leave tomorrow."

Michael said military couples are a little more resilient because of the different issues they face.

"Uprooting families, moving them around, going to other countries, being a military child you have to be able to roll with the punches. They are definitely more resilient because of everything that goes on."

Keeping our Army Strong army.mil/families

The strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers. The strength of our Soldiers is in our families. Taking care of our Soldiers, Families, and Civilians is an enduring Army priority. Decades of research demonstrate that Family readiness impacts overall Army readiness, including resilience retention, and readiness. Army Families continually demonstrate their dedication, service, and willingness to make great sacrifices to Soldiers -- long separations from loved ones, the uncertainty of demands of multiple deployments, school and job transfers, and frequent moves.

April is Month of the Military Child

May is Military Spouse Day

November is Military Family Month

Army Resources

Army.mil: Soldier and Family Resources

Army.mil: Gold Star Survivors

Stand-To! Army Housing

Stand-To! Permanent Change of Station Move

Stand-To! Exceptional Family Member Program

Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command

Army Reserve Family Programs

Military OneSource

National Guard Family Programs

U.S. Army MWR: Community Support

Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness

DoD Warrior Care: Military Caregiver Support

Policy Changes

Army Directive 2019-29 Home Based Businesses

Army Directive 2019-18 Reimbursement for State Licensure and Certification Costs from a Permanent Change of Station

Army Directive 2019-05 Army Military Personnel Parental leave Program

Army Directive 2019-10 Army CYSS Space Available Programs

Army Directive 2019-17 Changes to Family Readiness Group Program



Spc. Zachary Buckmaster, left, and Spc. Apollo Nguyen, right, B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, work together to configure a wolfhound, May 30, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The wolfhound is a part of the signals intelligence field. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

Ears of the Army

Story and photos by: Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard

U.S. Army military intelligence is a complex environment with many military occupational specialties supporting the mission. Signals intelligence analysts examine foreign communication and forward that information to their commanders or higher authority.

May 30, B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade headed to a training site to hone their skills in examining intelligence through low-level voice interception.

Soldiers left mid-morning on a ruck march to their training site on West Fort Hood. After completing their ruck march, the Soldiers completed training on antenna group OE-254 and the Wolfhound Handheld Threat Warning System. After training, they completed mission sets to observe the training in action.

2nd Lt. Kuplack, the B Company platoon

leader, said that this (the OE-254) is one of the many tools the platoon uses to perform signals intelligence. They also practice techniques and procedures to move as quietly as possible in a combat scenario.

Kuplack said that performing scenarios on a regular basis is extremely important. If Soldiers do not practice the skills consistently they lose the skills. The company's goal is to conduct this type of routine training at least quarterly to keep the Soldiers' signals intelligence skills fresh.

"It is extremely important because everything we do out here is a perishable skill," he said. "So if something happens, if they have to go downrange at a moment's notice, they don't have to practice anything; they just know it."

Spc. Zachary Buckmaster, a signals intelligence analyst for B Company, participated in the training and was excited to be there.

“Coming out to the field as an intel Soldier is definitely a good experience,” said Buckmaster.

Buckmaster worked with his fellow Soldiers to assemble the Wolfhound and OE-254. All Soldiers involved work as a team because it really takes collective knowledge to work with the system.

Soldiers are rotating out of the unit and it is very important to pass that knowledge on to the junior Soldiers, he said.

“Today we are working on team tactics,” he said. “We are working with LLVI components and doing what we do.”

Collecting intelligence is what they do, whether it is in the field or in an office.

“I take signals and I exploit them,” he said. “LLVI is important because it provides force protection for the units that are on the front line. So tippers, early warning, threat protection, everything that they need to kind of have a head’s up for the fight. We are basically a scout style element where we are on the front lines with them.”



(Above) Soldiers with B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, work to configure signals intelligence equipment, May 30, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The company put teams together in order to teach younger Soldiers how to operate equipment. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Below) Soldiers with B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, learn to configure an antenna, May 30, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The company put teams together in order to teach younger Soldiers how to operate equipment. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



303rd MI BN 75th anniversary





(Top left) Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Austin and Lt. Col. Patrick Miller, 303rd MI BN CSM and commander, cut a cake during a ceremony, May 16, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Thomas Bauer) (Top right) A longhorn grill smokes during the 303rd MI BN anniversary celebration. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Thomas Bauer) (Bottom) Soldiers and Family gather to celebrate the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion's 75th anniversary, May 16, 2019. 303rd MI BN is one of the most decorated MY battalions in the U.S. Army. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Thomas Bauer)

AT&T Stadium, Dallas Cowboys, reenlistment and promotion



(Top left) Soldiers with the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade participate in a mass reenlistment ceremony, May 31, 2019, Arlington, Texas. They reenlisted in the AT&T Stadium which is the Dallas Cowboys home stadium. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Top right) Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters command kick a football, May 31, 2019, Arlington, Texas. (Bottom left) Soldiers with the 504th MI BDE pose for a group photo after the mass reenlistment. (Bottom right) Warrant Officer 1 Lance Thomas is promoted to CW2 during a promotion ceremony at the AT&T Stadium, May 31, 2019.



Soldiers with the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade participate in the brigade best warrior competition. Top photos provided by Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Green.

Ready Warrior Competition





Soldiers with 504th Military Intelligence Brigade are recognized for their hard work and dedication during the Ready Warrior Competition which lasted from May 20-24, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. They participated in land navigation, obstacle courses, boards and more. (U.S. Army photos by Sfc. Green and Sgt. Lessard)

163rd MI BN B Company

HUMINT exercise



Soldiers with B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, prepare for simulated detainee searches, June 4, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Searching detainees is highly important to ensure they do not have weapons. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)

(Top left) Soldiers with B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, talk to a simulated civilian during a training exercise, June 4, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Military Intelligence Soldiers routinely conduct training on how to interview civilians in other countries. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Top right) Soldiers with B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, prepare to move around a corner, June 4, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Soldiers must learn to move and communicate as a part of teamwork. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Bottom left) Soldiers with B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, prepare for simulated detainee searches, June 4, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Searching detainees is highly important to ensure they do not have weapons. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Bottom right) Pfc. Johnathan Davidson, B Company, 163rd Military Intelligence Brigade, searches a simulated detainee during a training exercise, June 4, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. As Davidson was searching the detainee, he would explain what he was doing. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Soldiers from the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade stand in formation during a change of command ceremony June 20, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Leadership switched hands from Lt. Col. David Bowers to Lt. Col. Greg Worden. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)



(Above) Soldiers from the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade stand in formation during a change of command ceremony June 20, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Leadership switched hands from Lt. Col. David Bowers to Lt. Col. Greg Worden. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)

(Left) Lt. Col David Bowers, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion outgoing commander, passes the battalion colors to Col. Deitra Trotter, 504th MI Brigade commander, June 20, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Bowers has officially relinquished command of the BN.(U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)(Right) Lt. Col. David Bowers, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion outgoing commander, gives parting words during a change of command ceremony, June 20, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)

163rd MI BN Change of Command



Season of change



(Top left) Lt. Col. David Bowers, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion commander, passes the company guidon to Capt. Matthew Judkins, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment incoming commander, during a ceremony, June 12, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Receiving the guidon signifies Judkins has officially assumed responsibility for his formation. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard) (Top right) Lt. Col David Bowers, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion commander, passes the guidon to Capt. Cassandra Loftus, A Company incoming commander, during a ceremony, June 6, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Loftus has officially accepted responsibility of the company. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson) (Bottom left) Lt. Col Patrick Miller, 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion commander, passes the guidon to Capt. Patricia Price, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment incoming commander, during a ceremony, June 21, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Price has officially accepted responsibility of the company. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson) (Bottom right) Lt. Col Patrick Miller, 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion commander, passes the guidon to Capt. Joshua Gillum, A Company, 303rd MI BN incoming commander, during a ceremony. Gillum has officially accepted responsibility of the company. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela S. Thompson)



303rd MI BN CERTEX, Camp Bullis



(Top left, top right bottom left) -Soldiers with 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion conduct a certification exercise until July 12, 2019, Camp Bullis, Texas. Each multi-disciplined team was able to hone in on their skills to perform better. (U.S. Army photos by 1st Lt. Christopher Rodado) (Bottom right)) Soldiers with the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion load a vehicle onto a C-130 aircraft, July 8, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard)



Gym in a box



(Top left) Soldiers with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion field the gym in a box, July 17, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. The gym provides Soldiers who mobilize ample opportunity to maintain their fitness. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Melissa N. Lessard). (Top right) Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company participate in equal opportunity physical training, Aug. 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Manuel Lugo) (Bottom photos) Soldiers with 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion participate with 3rd Security Forces Advisory Brigade during an exercise July, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. (Photos provided by 163rd MI BN)



3SFAB partnership training

HHC EO PT







(Top left) A Soldier with 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion receives an award, July, 2019. He received the award due to his contributions during a training exercise (U.S. Army photo provided by 303rd MI BN) (Top middle and right) Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Rasdall receives the Lt. Col. Thomas Knowlton Medal July 30, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. He received the award due to his significant support and contribution to the Military Intelligence community. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Gabriela Thompson) (Bottom left) British Maj. Gen. Gerald Strickland, III Corps Deputy Commanding General (Support), and Command Sgt. Maj. Byron Larsen, Fort Hood Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. present Mrs. Kelsey Siddoway of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment 163rd MI BN, the Volunteer of the Quarter award August 6, Fort Hood, Texas. Mrs. Siddoway received the award on behalf of 1st Lt. Siddoway. (U.S. Army photo by Col. Dietra L. Trotter) (Bottom right) From left to right: Lt. Col. Gregory Worden, 163rd MI BN commander, Col. Dietra Trotter, 504th EMIB commander, Brig. Gen. Cindy Jebb, dean of the United States Military Academy Academic Board, and Lt. Col. Patrick Miller, 303rd MI BN commander, pose for a photo July 17, 2019, Fort Hood, Texas. Jebb previously served as the HHD 163rd MI BN commander. (Courtesy photo)



HHC SHARP PT

Photos by: Capt. Manuel Lugo





504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade



Brought to you by the brigade public affairs office