

Crossed Sabers

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"Telling the First Team's Story"

Friday, March 3, 2006



(Photo by Spc. Nathan J. Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Relief from Above

A CH-47D Chinook from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, a part of Task Force Quake II, flies over a fog covered valley Feb. 21 near Muzaffarabad, Pakistan. The Chinooks are headed to a pick-up zone where food and supplies are waiting to be distributed to the victims of a massive earthquake that occurred last October. (See Page 3 for full story and photos.)



(Photo by Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Sanders (left to right), Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Johndrow ride past the colors of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade during a mounted inspection of the troops Mar. 2.

1st Cav Welcomes New Command Sergeant Major

**By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs**

Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Johndrow took over duties as the 1st Cavalry Division's senior enlisted advisor and top noncommissioned officer from Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Sanders during a change of responsibility ceremony on the division's parade field Mar. 2.

Sanders held the post temporarily since Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola departed the division to become the III Corps command sergeant major in early November.

Johndrow, a 27-year Army veteran and native of Townsend,

Mont., comes to the division from Fort Riley, Kan., where he was the command sergeant major for the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team. He just completed a tour in Iraq supporting the 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

Johndrow previously served with the 1st Cavalry Division as the first sergeant for Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and later as the brigade operations sergeant major for the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade.

"Like me, he's returned to the

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Cav Couple Take Oath Together

By Spc. Joshua McPhie
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Pam Oborn was happy to travel here to see her daughter, Alexandra Enyart, enlist in the Army. But with just a few days to go, the simple enlistment ceremony she planned on attending began to change into something much bigger.

Alexandra, who had previously been in the Army, was enlisting to be in the 1st Cavalry Division. She was even going to be assigned to the division's headquarters, the same unit as her husband Spc. Todd Enyart.

Todd was part of the reason the small swearing in ceremony had changed into an event run by Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr., the division's commanding general. The administrative assistant to the division's command sergeant major decided to reenlist and would be taking the oath at the same time as his wife.

"We wanted to have her enlist here all along," he said. "I didn't find out I was reenlisting now until the 13th."

Combining the two ceremonies created something unique, a husband and wife reenlistment and enlistment ceremony. The commanding general then signed on to do the honors.

"I was kind of nervous because I didn't realize what a big deal it was going to be," Alexandra said. "I was a little

anxious because I know how important this ceremony is."

Instead of the usual handful of recruits taking their enlistment oath in front of the American flag in a processing center, it was just the Enyarts participating in the ceremony and the flag was held by the 1st Cavalry Division Honor Guard on the division's parade field.

"It was very cool," Alexandra said. "It's probably something Soldiers don't get to experience everyday." "When I came here originally it was just to see her get sworn in," Oborn said. "I feel privileged to be here for both of them. This is kind of like icing on the cake for me."

Although Alexandra has just enlisted in the Army, this isn't her first time in.

She got out of the Army a year ago to help her mother when she was having health problems.

"I never really wanted to get out in the first place, but sometimes there are family needs," she said.

Being out for such a short time means Alexandra was able to start working as soon as she processed into the unit.

"I've only been out for a year so thankfully I don't have to go through basic training and advanced individual training again," she said.

Both husband and wife said they were happy to be working in the same building. Todd is an administrative assis-



(Photo by Spc. Joshua McPhie, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr. leads Alexandra Enyart and Spc. Todd Enyart in the oath of enlistment during their enlistment and reenlistment ceremony Feb. 16 on the division's parade field. Alexandra, now a specialist herself, is an intelligence analyst with the division headquarters. Todd will continue to be an administrative assistant for the division command sergeant major and Alexandra is an intelligence analyst.

Despite his wife's enlistment, Todd said its business as

usual.

"Not much is going to change," he said. "She'll probably outrank me in about three months."

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Needed Relief from Above**Cavalry Aviators Providing Assistance****By Spc. Nathan J. Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs**

QASIM AIR BASE, Pakistan – It is 5:45 a.m. and the pre-flight briefing has just ended. Showtime is at 6:30 a.m. and take off is scheduled at 7 a.m. Although not covered

in the media much anymore, the relief effort in Pakistan in the aftermath of the massive earthquake last October is still an every day effort.

Soldiers of Task Force Quake II, comprised of elements from the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment and

615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division are heading up the last leg of U.S. support in the humanitarian relief effort in Pakistan by providing food via their CH-47D Chinook helicopters.

It is Feb. 21. Just three days earlier, with their boots barely on the ground, TFQ II troops are already taking over missions in the relief effort.

There are reasons why the Chinooks are used as opposed to other aircraft in the Army's inventory.

"Chinooks are used because of the altitude that we can operate at and the amount of weight we can carry," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Ryan, a Chinook pilot from Company B, 2-227th.

Both of these factors are important because of the terrain

the Chinooks are being flown over. Pakistan, unlike Iraq, is very mountainous and the loads that are being carried could not be taken by a Black Hawk helicopter, Ryan said.

The Chinook can handle 17,000 to 18,000 pounds at a comfortable maximum. While the helicopters could carry more in some circumstances, Ryan said it's not normally done.

The pilots and crew work an eight-hour day taking about eight loads out to the people in remote areas of Pakistan.

The normal day for the pilots and crew starts with a briefing early in the morning around 5:30 a.m., lift-off by 7:30 a.m. and return around 4 p.m., Ryan said. They head out to a pick-up zone to retrieve their load then go drop it at specified coordinates given to them earlier that morning.



(Photo by Spc. Nathan J. Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Spc. Chance Harper, a Chinook crew chief from Task Force Quake II, sits at the edge of the ramp on the back of a CH-47D Chinook on its way to drop off supplies Feb. 21 to the people of Pakistan.

Third Iraq Tour Looms for New Division CSM**CSM**

From Page 1

First Team after spending time away," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr., the division's commanding general. "I'd just like to say, 'welcome home.'"

Fil said his expectations are high for his new division command sergeant major and the NCO corps he will lead as the division prepares itself to deploy. He said Johndrow's experience will play a big role in the coming months.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Johndrow is a warrior," Fil said. "He's proven his mettle in every enlisted leadership position there is. I am proud to welcome him and his wife, Vickie, with open arms into the First Team family."

The division's commanding general

thanked Sanders for his efforts over the past four months.

"We're lucky today," Fil said. "We're blessed with the arrival of Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Johndrow, but equally blessed because we do not lose Command Sgt. Maj. Sanders. He returns to his roots – being the right hand man to Col. Daniel Shanahan at the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, one of two brigades already on tap to deploy back to Iraq later this year."

Sanders said being "Pegasus Nine," the call sign of the division's command sergeant major, gave him a greater appreciation of the division as a whole.

"It gave me a good idea of not only how busy the Air Cavalry Brigade is, but the rest of the brigades ... how they're training, preparing and getting ready to assume missions going back to Operation Iraqi Freedom," Sanders said. "I'm happy

to remain part of the team."

Johndrow said he is happy to be back in central Texas, and more specifically, as part of the cavalry again. He said his first priority is to meet with Soldiers and see training conducted.

Even with his third tour to Iraq looming in the future, Johndrow never hesitated to take a leading role with the division once he saw his former command resettled at Fort Riley.

"It's tough on the family," Johndrow said. "But my family supports me and my wife has always told me she knows that I love Soldiers and this is what we're asked to do. Both of our parents were war veterans. Her Dad went to Vietnam and the Korean War. My Dad was in Vietnam and the Korean War. We know what sacrifices they made to make our lives better, and we know that this is our turn."

Two NCOs Awarded Soldier's Medal for Life-saving Actions

By Spc. Robert Yde
2nd BCT Public Affairs

TULSA, Okla. – The call to duty can come at any moment. The decision to answer it is what defines a Soldier. For Master Sgt. Timothy Fitzsimons and Sgt 1st Class Michael Miracle the call came Nov. 9, 2004.

Fitzsimons and Miracle who are both National Guard unit advisors, with 3rd Battalion, 291st Regiment, 75th Division Training Support, were returning to their office in Tulsa just before noon that day.

Traveling north along State Highway 97, the two non-commissioned officers were followed by their team chief, Maj. J.P. Smith, who was driving a government-owned 2002 Chevrolet Blazer.

Just miles from their office, the routine trip took a disastrous turn.

Failing to stop at a posted stop sign, another driver clipped the backend of Smith's vehicle as he attempted to turn onto the highway.

Although the collision between the two vehicles was not major, the results



(Photos by Spc. Robert Yde, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

The mangled remnants of the 2002 Chevrolet Blazer is all that is left from a Nov. 9, 2004 accident. Driven by Maj. J.P. Smith, the vehicle was sent into a roll after being hit by another driver, who had failed to stop at a stop sign. Master Sgt. Timothy Fitzsimons and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Miracle, both unit advisors with 3rd Battalion, 291st Regiment, 75th Division Training Support, pulled Smith from the burning wreckage, and for these actions were awarded the Soldier's Medal Feb. 21 in Tulsa, Okla.

were tragic.

"I looked back and saw the Major's vehicle flipping end over end," Miracle said.

Smith's who was traveling 60 mph, lost control of the Blazer as it rolled at least four times before finally coming to a stop more than 100 yards from the collision.

"My first thought was that no one could live through that," Fitzsimons said.

The two NCOs immediately stopped their vehicle and ran to the mangled Blazer, as a crowd of bystanders began to form.

The NCOs quickly took charge of the situation, contacting emergency management services, who advised them not to move Smith, out of concern for a possible spinal injury. With the Blazer's engine on fire, Fitzsimons and Miracle knew that leaving Smith in the vehicle would not be an option.

Fitzsimons and Miracle managed to remove the door and cut Smith's seatbelt.

Within a minute of removing Smith from the wreckage, the entire vehicle was engulfed in flames. Badly injured, Smith would have to undergo several surgeries and months of rehabilitation, but he was

alive, thanks to the courage and quick actions of Fitzsimons and Miracle.

"They probably saved my life that day," said Smith, who is now the information officer for the 2nd Brigade "Black Jack" Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

For their courageous actions, Fitzsimons, a native of Carrollton, Ga and Miracle, a native of Grand Junction, Colo., were awarded the Soldier's Medal Feb. 21, 2006 during a ceremony in Tulsa.

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to Soldiers who risk their own life to save another, and it is one of the most prestigious awards the Army bestows.

The medals were presented by the 75th Division commanding general, Maj. Gen. Steve Best, who said that the actions of the NCOs exemplified the Army values.

Both NCOs credit the training they have received in the Army for their heroic actions that day.

"We are trained to be proactive and run toward the sound of a gun," Fitzsimons said.

Humbly, he added, "Any Soldier would have done the same."



Maj. Gen. Steve Best, 75th Division's commanding general, awards the Soldiers Medal to Master Sgt. Timothy Fitzsimons, a National Guard unit advisor with 3rd Battalion, 291st Regiment, 75th Division Training Support during a ceremony in Tulsa, Okla. Feb. 21.

1st BCT Driver's Training:

Where the Rubber Meets the Road

By Spc. Sheena Reyes
1st BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from Headquarters Troop, 1st Brigade Combat Team pulled out the big wheels for a week-long Light Medium Tactical Vehicle and Humvee driver's training course Feb. 6 to Feb. 10.

There were six topics covered in the training consisting of general vehicle safety, maintenance, the use of the Department of the Army Form 5988E (a maintenance worksheet for military vehicles), hands-on operation of both vehicles, and a written and hands-on test on both vehicles.

The general safety portion of the class included road safety for any vehicle, road signs and Texas laws. This portion of the course also covered motor pool safety – to include the use of ground guides when vehicles are maneuvered in the motor pool.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Cassady, instructor

of the class and a unit master driver, emphasized that safety for any piece of equipment is not only important for Soldiers safety but also the upkeep of military equipment.

"Everything Soldiers do has the potential to be unsafe," he said. "That's why the Army's policy has always been to assess all situations. Whether it is for physical training or vehicle training ... the chance of accidents can be greatly reduced."

The maintenance portion of the class consisted of a tutorial on how to conduct preventive maintenance checks and use the maintenance manual.

Soldiers performed preventive maintenance checks on both vehicles, giving them the chance to physically identify each part of the vehicle that had to be checked and perform minor repairs as needed. During this part of the training, Soldiers were also familiarized with repairs that need to be

handled by a mechanic and how that should be done.

Soldiers were then introduced to the DA Form 5988E and instructed on what how to properly fill it out. This form is used as a way for vehicle operators to order new equipment and keeps record of each vehicle's PMCS.

"This form is important because, if filled out properly, it's a great tool for tracking maintenance and ordering new equipment," Cassady said. "One thing I preach to Soldiers who go through my training is for them to take ownership of each vehicle they are responsible for. This form is a great part of that, because maintaining vehicle equipment helps to ensure the vehicle's combat readiness."

Soldiers then took all their training to the road. Soldiers got a day of practice driving on both vehicles, both on and off road. This hands-on orientation to the vehicles gave them a chance to prepare for their driving test.

Qualification included both a written test and road test. The written test covered everything taught in the class and the road test was broken down into two parts.

Soldiers drove both vehicles during the day and at night. For the night driving portion, Soldiers utilized night vision goggles.

The Army has made some great advances in technology," Cassady said. "Proper use of equipment is mandatory not only for the Soldiers safety but also for the maintenance of the equipment. With proper training on vehicle safety and operation and maintenance, the Army's war-machine moves much smoother."

Not only did the Soldiers get some new scenery for the week, they got the opportunity to do something most people won't be able to do in a lifetime.

"I liked the training because the variety it gave us from the regular work day," said Pfc. James Koch, a medic. "My favorite part of the training was the night driving because that was the first time that I have ever driven with night vision goggles."



(Photo by Spc. Sheena Reyes, 1st BCT Public Affairs)

Pfc. James Koch, a medic with Headquarters Troop, 1st Brigade Combat Team, gets ready to burn some rubber in a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle Feb. 9. He started his first road test at his unit's motor pool.

Soldiers Influence Future Generations

By Spc. Cheryl Ransford
1st BCT Public Affairs

COPPERAS COVE, Texas – Whether they are sitting in a classroom doing bubble art and playing with Play-Do or in the gymnasium playing basketball, Soldiers are finding ways to leave an impression on the lives of children from a local elementary school.

Each week several Soldiers from 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion visit students at Martin Walker Elementary and spend the day helping in the classroom and playing in the gym and on the playground.

“About half the students come from military families,” said Gary Duncan, the school’s principal. “When the Soldiers come here it is a good chance for the students to interact with them, giving the children not only a good influence from military personnel but from other adults.”

The positive influence that the students receive isn’t coming from the fact that they are Soldiers, but from the enthusiasm and interest the Soldiers have in helping the students.

“This is the first time I have visited the school,” said Pvt. Alexandra Walsh. “I am really enjoying myself. I never thought of myself as a ‘kid-person,’ but I would really like to continue coming to the school and helping out. This has been a great experience.”

But the Soldiers aren’t the only ones enjoying the experience. The students smile and get excited about school when they know the Soldiers are going to be there or see them in the halls.

One child who likes having the Soldiers at the school is



(Photo by Spc. Cheryl Ransford, 1st BCT Public Affairs)

Sgt. Troy Barnes, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion's adopt-a-school liaison, watches as four and 5-year-olds play in art class at Martin Walker Elementary School Feb. 16. Barnes spent part of the morning ensuring the Soldiers were with a class and knew what they were doing during their day at the school.

Kirra Perry, 4, whose mother is currently deployed to Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division.

“I like to sit outside with the Soldiers,” she said. “We always have fun when they come.”

Another group of people who appreciate the Soldiers coming to the school are the parents.

“Many times kids only see what their parents do,” said Heather Adkins, a parent and military spouse. “By having the Soldiers come to the school, the students are able to see what other adults do and have fun with them. Also, I’ve noticed that the kids tend to listen and respond to Soldiers. It’s almost like they are thinking ‘They’re a Soldier, I better listen to them.’”

“It’s not only good for the kids – it’s good for the Soldiers too,” said Sgt. Troy Barnes, 1st BSTB adopt-a-school liaison. “The Soldiers are able to get away from their daily routines and do something that makes a



Spc. Julio Maradiaga, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, watches as Ryan Prati, a first grader at Martin Walker Elementary School in Copperas Cove, throws a basketball at the hoop.

difference in someone’s life. Also, this school did a lot to support the unit while we were deployed to Iraq through care

packages and letters. This is just one way to give back to the school and those who did so much for us.”

Volunteers Recognized at Banquet

By Spc. Sheena Reyes
1st BCT Public Affairs

COPPERAS COVE, Texas – Volunteers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment got a piece of the limelight during the battalion's volunteer banquet Feb. 15 at the Soiree Banquet and Reception in Copperas Cove.

The banquet recognized 39 civilian and Soldier volunteers from the battalion. Recognizing volunteers and Soldiers is something that should happen more than once a year, according to Lt. Col. Kurt Pinkerton, the battalion's commander.

"This is a tough life and even though it is the Soldier who has enlisted into this great Army, the spouse is just as important to that commitment as the Soldier," said Pinkerton. "So when we see spouses in FRGs (Family Readiness Groups) taking that extra step to volunteer their time and energy, it's important to us that they are recognized. Also, it is great when we see our own Soldiers taking their free-time (after) work to give back to their company



(Photo by Spc. Sheena Reyes, 1st BCT Public Affairs)

Soldiers and family members gather at the Soiree Banquet and Reception in Copperas Cove Feb. 15 for the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment's Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Thirty-nine volunteers were treated to a buffet dinner and then presented certificates of appreciation.

or battalion. All of this needs to be recognized on a regular basis."

"This banquet is the first of an on-

going quarterly recognition program being incorporated by Pinkerton.

"One of these volunteers is Maureen Crossman, who said she loves volunteering because it allows her to help people while also making friends in her husband's unit. She was recognized at the banquet for her role in the unit's Christmas party. She also serves as an assistant FRG leader and a member of the battalion's ball committee.

"At first, I wasn't very involved with the FRG because I didn't know anyone, but I soon began participating and I'm very happy that I did," Crossman said. "You meet so many wonderful people and I have made so many friends that I would have to say that it is well worth the energy and time to support our Soldiers."

The ceremony started at 6 p.m. with opening remarks by Pinkerton and continued with dinner and then the presentation of certificates.

"We could not do what we do without your support," Pinkerton said during his remarks. "We appreciate everything that you've done for us."

Combat Team Takes to the Streets

By Spc. Sheena Reyes
1st BCT Public Affairs

The 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team took Battalion Road in a tour de force Feb. 16.

"The Army has always had pride in itself, its units and the individuals that form these entities," said Col. Paul Funk, the brigade commander. "The esprit de corps that is created from runs like this one is the fabric that makes a good unit great."

Sgt. 1st Class Damian Boutte, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment's communications non-commissioned officer in charge, enjoyed the run for similar reasons.

"I liked the motivation in



(Photo by Spc. Sheena Reyes, 1st BCT Public Affairs)

Soldiers from Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team sprint to the finish of the brigade run Feb. 16.

the run," he said. "Everyone could feel it, and hearing the cadences being called added to

the troop's morale."

Funk said brigade runs like this will continue to be a tradi-

tion in his unit, continuing to mold the spirit of the 1st Brigade Combat Team.

Are Drugs Controlling Your Life?

Penalties are Stiff, Help is Available

By Spc. Sheena Reyes
1st BCT Public Affairs

Leaders throughout 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division are showing Soldiers of all ranks and status that they don't play when it comes to drug abuse. In the words of the brigade commander, Col. Paul Funk, "There is no place for drugs in the Army."

Recent cases around the brigade have been answered with swift repercussions for offenders and Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Howell, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the brigade's Judge Advocate General, had some advice for Soldiers who may be involved with drug abuse.

"If you're using drugs, stop," Howell said. "It's not an epidemic here, but it's that very small percentage that is jeopardizing themselves. If your name gets in this office, it's too late for you."

Within the military's legal system, there are several things that can happen to a Soldier caught with illegal drugs. One thing for sure is that separation from the Army in the form of a chapter must be initiated. The typical course of action for a Soldier is a field grade Article 15 under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, which is a non-judicial punishment. Howell said punishment may include 45 days of extra duty and half a month's pay withheld for two months. Soldiers holding the rank of specialist or below may be reduced to private and Soldiers with the ranks of sergeant or staff sergeant can be reduced one rank.

Non-judicial punishment is not the only option, though.

Soldiers could also face a summary court martial, which could include jail time up to 30 days for specialists and below, with restrictions to specified limits for two months for Soldiers above the rank of specialist, Howell said. Two-thirds of a month's pay can be withheld for one month. Soldiers holding the rank of specialist or below may be reduced to private, while Soldiers holding any rank above specialist may be reduced in one rank.

A general court martial can also be

given to Soldiers found guilty of drug abuse.

For the use of marijuana, Soldiers could receive a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and a maximum of two years in jail. For the abuse of amphetamines, Soldiers could face similar punishment, but instead of the two years in jail, they could serve up to five years in jail. Wrongful distribution of illegal drugs can also cost Soldiers similar penalties, but instead of two or five years behind bars, Soldiers could face up to 15 years of confinement.

Troops who use illegal drugs are not only putting their own lives at risk, they also endanger the lives of the Soldiers around them.

"Soldiers who are abusing drugs aren't mission ready and it's dangerous because in a combat situation, split-second decisions have to be made," said Helen Goudreault-Knapp, the prevention coordinator for the Army Substance Abuse Program. "A Soldier who's under a drug stupor or an alcohol hang-over loses that edge and runs the risk of killing themselves or someone else."

But there is help available. That's where the ASAP program comes in. Soldiers can be referred to the program by their commander, or self-refer.

Once in the ASAP program, Soldiers receive initial counseling to help assess their situation and aid in their placement in

its programs.

There are three levels of help Soldiers can receive. The first comes in the form of a 12-hour Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention class which is for troops who need basic drug or substance abuse prevention education. Whether they have been caught driving under the influence or have shown up to physical training visibly intoxicated, Soldiers who are first-time offenders usually fall in this category.

Soldiers who need additional help but have shown the ability and the drive to be sober may require the second stage of abuse assistance offered at ASAP. Out-patient treatment gives Soldiers weekly classes and meetings ranging from group counseling sessions to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. This gives Soldier's regular attention during the week.

The third level is in-patient treatment for Soldiers who have an addiction problem and more than likely can't stay sober without added support. This program offers Soldiers a structured environment where they can attend class everyday while also getting the medical attention they may need. Some classes provided are Narcotics Anonymous and AA. In-patient treatment lasts for approximately two to three weeks with 24-hour support to handle their addiction.

Anyone with questions or seeking advice on drug and substance abuse can contact the ASAP counselors at 287-2892.

RISK MANAGEMENT

IDENTIFY HAZARDS

ASSESS HAZARDS

DEVELOP CONTROLS AND
MAKE RISK DECISIONS

IMPLEMENT CONTROLS

SUPERVISE & EVALUATE



Convoy Training Culminates with Live Fire

By Spc. Robert Yde
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Along a dusty road on North Fort Hood's Lonestar training area, a five-vehicle convoy carrying Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery came to an abrupt halt.

The lead vehicle spotted what looked like an improvised explosive device, but after the Soldiers dismounted their humvee, they quickly realized that they have driven into an ambush.

This scenario was meant to prepare these Soldiers for future deployments, as 3-82 took time to focus on convoy training during a live-fire exercise Feb. 9.

The training focused on all aspects of convoys, to include operating as a convoy, route familiarization and reacting to an IED, explained Capt. Scott

Cochran, the battalion's logistic officer-in-charge of the convoy exercise.

After several days of dry run rehearsals, the live-fire exercise Feb. 9 was the ultimate test.

"This is the culmination of the crawl, walk, run method we've been conducting the last week." Command Sgt. Maj. Calvin Morman, 3-82's top noncommissioned officer said at the conclusion of the exercise.

Morman also noted that this type of training was derived directly from experiences during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We are working real-world issues," said 1ST Lt. Marc Weber, 3-82's assistant operations officer.

2nd Lt. Frederick Gayles, a platoon leader with Company G, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, attached to 3-82,



(Photos by Spc. Robert Yde, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

An "injured" Soldier with Company G, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, attached to 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, is assisted during a live-fire exercise at North Fort Hood Feb. 9. The live-fire exercise was the culmination of a week-long convoy training conducted by the battalion.

echoed Weber's sentiment, adding that in the contemporary, operating environment, any Soldier, regardless of military occupational specialty, could find himself traveling on a convoy.

Of his own Soldiers, Gayles said, "When they're deployed, they will be going out on different recovery missions or just to conduct routine maintenance, and will be convoying from A to B."

In preparation for convoy missions in a combat environment, each platoon must go through two live-fire iterations.

"A live-fire exercise helps them transition between firing, reloading, finding their sight picture again and re-firing," Weber said.

While the scenario of an IED and ambush remain constant, the trainers tried to throw in some different circumstances that the Soldiers may face.

In one instance, a Soldier was shot, and needed to be

treated and loaded onto a humvee while the rest of the platoon provided covering fire.

Although there have been some bumps along the way, the Soldiers have made great strides in just a couple of weeks, Weber said.

"You could tell they were green at the beginning, and now they're yelling out their commands and executing 100 percent better," said Staff Sgt. Brent Kopetesky, a maintenance platoon sergeant. Kopetesky, who has been to Iraq twice already, said he spends much of his time mentoring his Soldiers.

"Passing on the knowledge to the younger Soldiers and Soldiers who haven't been there has been the priority," he explained.

This type of training can help provide some sense of comfort, especially to Soldiers who have not been in combat and takes away a lot of the "uneasiness" of going to Iraq, Gayles said.



Soldiers from Company G, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, attached to 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, fire at targets during a convoy training exercise at North Fort Hood Feb. 9. The live fire exercise focused on reacting to an improvised explosive device detonation followed by an ambush.

Black Jack Soldiers Rewarded for Humanitarian Efforts in New Orleans

By Spc. Robert Yde
2nd BCT Public Affairs

"In 22 years, I have not done anything more fulfilling than going to New Orleans and helping fellow citizens," said Col. Bryan Roberts, commander of the 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team, while addressing a small crowd gathered in front of his brigade headquarters Feb. 10.

On this rainy afternoon, representatives from five of the brigade's six battalions received the Humanitarian Service Medal, for the assistance the Black Jack brigade provided to the city of New Orleans as part of Joint Task Force Katrina.

The distinctively colored ribbon was established Jan. 19, 1977, and is awarded for meritorious, direct, non-routine participation in specified military acts or operations of a humanitarian nature.

Having returned from Iraq just months before, the Black Jack brigade, both undermanned and under-equipped, rose to the occasion, deploying more than 1,800 Soldiers to the hurricane ravaged city of New Orleans.

Black Jack operated out of Algiers Parish, a neighborhood located along the west bank of the Mississippi River.

While this neighborhood did not flood, high winds destroyed numerous homes and businesses and knocked out nearly every utility service.

Upon arriving to the city, Black Jack Soldiers found it in ruins.

"The debris, the smell, the trash, it all really stood out," said Spc. Matthew Robel, who accepted the HSM on behalf of 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

The brigade assisted in the coordination of a plan for the restoration of sewer, water, electric services.

Distribution points, offering food, water, ice and other essential goods were also established throughout the neighborhood.

Just the presence of the Black Jack Soldiers helped provide security to the city, which faced widespread looting immedi-



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Kap Kim, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

Col. Bryan Roberts , commander of the 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pins the Humanitarian Service Medal onto the uniform of Spc. Matthew Robel, a Soldier with 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. Black Jack troops received the HSM for their role in Joint Task Force Katrina during a small ceremony Feb. 10.

ately following the hurricane.

"When you see a battalion in your community you're going to behave," said Sgt. James Simpson, the representative for 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment.

Roberts said that most importantly, however, JTF Katrina provided the Black Jack Soldiers a chance to give something back to the nation.

"To be able to provide assistance to

the American citizens who support Soldiers everyday was extremely gratifying," he said.

Roberts added that he is very proud of every Soldier who deployed to New Orleans, and that the HSM will serve as a reminder of all that they accomplished.

"It's an honor to be awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal," Roberts said. "We'll wear it proudly."

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Spartans Pin on New Insignia

By Spc. Alexis Harrison
2nd BCT Public Affairs

“Perstatum Fortitudo Belatoris” Latin for “Perseverance (through) Strength (and) Courage” – Unit motto featured on 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion’s unit insignia

Every Soldier needs strength and courage. Now, troops in the 1st Cavalry Division’s 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion not only employ them ... they wear them, every day.

Beaming with pride, the 2nd BSTB’s commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth Crawford, pinned the new distinctive unit insignia on his highest ranking noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Cooke, during a ceremony at the BSTB motor pool Feb. 13, officially introducing the new insignia created for the newly-formed battalion. The new crest, worn by all Soldiers in the 2nd BSTB, came to fruition after countless hours of design and cooperation between Crawford and Cooke. As a result of ingenuity and teamwork, the DUI was approved Oct. 4, 2005.

“This unit needed something to set us apart from everyone else,” said Sgt. John



Firreno, a 2nd BSTB medic. “This new insignia is just what it needed ... I like it.”

Previously, the BSTB was wearing the Cav shield crest like the one worn by troops in the division headquarters.

The “Spartan” Battalion was created after the 2nd “Black Jack” Brigade’s return from Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Army guidelines state that when a new unit is formed, the unit can create its own insignia or have one made for it.

Crawford grabbed the opportunity to create a powerful image to represent his

Spartan Battalion. The following is an excerpt of Crawford and Cooke’s design and the symbolism behind the new flash:

Gold (Yellow) recalls the Cavalry lineage of the unit. Gold is also emblematic of excellence and high achievement. The two horizontal black bars allude to wrought iron, inherent with Armor and the unit’s numerical designation “2nd.” The Spartan sword or Xiphos represents the unit’s courage, vigilance and preparedness to stand and fight at a moment’s notice.

The blue of the hilt is for loyalty. The Spartan shield or Hoplon signifies the unit’s ability to receive and organize multiple attachments for combat and remain constantly ready to support global military operations.

Red symbolizes valor, sacrifice and is the color of the Spartan warrior’s cape. The Spartan Army was one of the toughest on record and served as the standard for valor.

The lightning flashes highlight the organization’s inherent ability to support tactical missions with Intelligence, Signal and Military Police capabilities. The contrast of black and gold underscores the night and day, around the clock mission of the Special Troops Battalion.



(Photo by Spc. Nicole Kojetin, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Memorial Update

Construction workers wait for a load of granite to be placed on a concrete patch, which is the groundwork for 1st Cavalry Division’s Operation Iraqi Freedom II Memorial located on Cooper Field at Fort Hood on Feb. 13.

Women Change America



Celebrate on March 15 at
10 p.m in Howze Theater.



(Photos by Pfc. Ryan Stroud, 3rd BCT Public Affairs)

Spc. Jon Cousens, Company F, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, serves lunch to Pvt. Timothy Long, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment at the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dining Facility. Cousens is one of the many 3rd BCT Soldiers preparing for the Philip A. Connelly Awards Program Feb. 28.

Dining Facility Named Tops in Division

**By Pvt. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs**

The Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dining Facility will be competing in the installation-level Philip A. Connelly Awards Program Feb. 28.

The facility won the division level competition for 1st Cavalry Division and will be competing against three other dining facilities on Fort Hood, said Sgt. 1st Class Annette Smith, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the dining facility with Headquarters Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Winning the competition is the highest award a food service facility can receive, Smith said. The competition involves an inspection of three categories: administration, sanitation and rations.

The sanitation inspection will involve checking the food for correct temperature, the kitchen for cleanliness and the food preparation according to its correct recipe, said Sgt. Josh

McDuffie, a cook at the DFAC.

The ration inspection will involve judging of the facility's production schedule, McDuffie said, as well as making sure the food is fresh and is being supplied from approved vendors.

Judges will inspect the facility's administration by going through paper work and making sure it is in order and meets Army standards, McDuffie said.

Spc. Tom Grogan, a cook with Headquarters Company, said he expects to win because the facility has strong NCOs and Soldiers who know what they are doing.

To prepare for the competition, McDuffie said a team was developed to prepare the meal that will be judged every Tuesday until the competition. In the meantime, the rest of the facility is putting in an extra effort to keep the area clean and ready for the competition, he said.

If the OIF dining facility wins the post-level competition, they will prepare to compete in the Army-wide competition.



Pvt. Donald Hayden, a cook with Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, prepares French fries at the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dining Facility.

Black History Month**Celebrated Through Cav Troopers' Eyes**

By Sgt. Serena Hayden
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Through re-enactments, discussions of past events and replicas of military uniforms, the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade celebrated Black History Month at the 1st Cavalry Division Museum Feb. 24.

The event, which focused on "Celebrating Community," tied past achievements of African American's into today's "Warrior Ethos" and "Army Values."

The celebration consisted of six stations which taught troops about the "Buffalo Soldiers," African American involvement in the Korean War, the "Red Ball Express," and how African American females contributed to the success of the U.S. Army.

The first station discussed the "Buffalo Soldiers," a group of Soldiers who fought with such valor and heroism during the Indian War that they earned the respect of many Indians.

Spc. Chris Wade, a trooper with the Horse Cavalry Detachment, was dressed as a Civil War Soldier, and explained the significance of the patches, uniform, weapons and saddle.

Approaching the next station, two Soldiers stood tall in brown uniforms portraying Soldiers who fought in the Korean War.

They each spoke of the significance of African American's during the war, discussing individuals with such personal courage who, although wounded, continued to fight.

At the third station, Soldiers learned the role female African American's have played in military history.

"The women displayed selfless service because they wanted to participate in the war and wanted to help others despite discrimination for both race and gender," said Staff Sgt. Desiree Thompson, 215th Brigade Special Troops, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Next, Soldiers approached a jeep and a Soldier wearing an olive green uniform where they learned the importance of the "Red Ball Express," a massive supply movement during World War II. The move-



Spc. Chris Wade and Sgt. 1st Class Juan Sepulveda, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, explain the meaning of Civil War Era patches and insignia during "Celebrating Community," 3rd BCT's Black History Month's celebration, Feb. 24.

ment, involving 5,958 trucks, consisted of volunteers carrying 412,193 tons of supplies to the front lines, said Staff Sgt. Don Jewell, the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment's equal opportunity advisor. Seventy-five percent of the volunteers were African American Soldiers.

At the fifth station, Soldiers learned about the 761st Tank Battalion, an all-black unit.

Spc. Kenzick Ross, Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment described the heroism and personal courage of Staff Sgt. Ruben Rivers, a Soldier whose tank hit a mine, injuring his leg.

While wounded, Rivers refused medical treatment, took command of another tank and continued to fight. As his convoy withdrew, Rivers' tank was hit and he was killed. He posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

Through their loyalty, leadership, courage and honor, Sgt. 1st Class Ramone Holmes said the 761st Tank Battalion not only "whooped up on Germans, but they whooped up on segregation."

After the fifth station, Soldiers were directed to get on a bus.

The Soldiers waited patiently. Suddenly, the driver began yelling at the Soldier in the front seat to move to the back of the bus. He was African American.

His name was 2nd Lt. Jackie Robinson.



(Photos by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3rd BCT Public Affairs)

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Demming, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, portrays a Soldier from the "Red Ball Express," a large supply movement during World War II. Seventy-five percent of the volunteers in the movement were African-American Soldiers.

He refused to move and was kicked off of the bus instead.

Portraying Robinson, Spc. Mack Lee, 6th Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, returned to the bus and explained how Robinson received a court martial for the incident they re-enacted.

He was honorably discharged from the Army.

Robinson later became the first African American to play major league baseball.

After completing the six stations,

Inspection Improves Systems, Procedures

By Sgt. Serena Hayden
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Since uncasing its' colors in July 2005, the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion partici-

pated in its first Command Inspection Program to review and improve upon the battalion's systems and procedures.

The week-long inspection gives the "Grey Wolf" command

team an opportunity to make sure the battalion is following the regulations of the Army, Fort Hood and the 1st Cavalry Division, said Maj. Michael Brooks, the battalion's executive officer.

Because the 3rd BSTB was formed from de-activated companies, Brooks said the inspection was a vital step in the battalion's formation process.

During the inspection process, the brigade focused on areas such as personnel, logistics, intelligence, training and maintenance, he said.

"It helps the battalion validate its systems and [standard operating procedures], which is essential for a new unit like the BSTB," Brooks said. "It also gives the brigade a chance to look at individual companies."

The brigade benefits because they can pinpoint systematic problems throughout each unit, said Maj. Eric Larsen, 3rd BSTB's training officer.

The inspection is beneficial for the battalion because it allows an outside entity to give recommendations on how to improve areas within the battalion, Larsen said.

"It's good to have a fresh set of eyes take a look at how we are doing things," he said.

The inspection has also helped develop working relationships between the brigade

and battalion, Brooks said.

"It fosters teamwork between the brigade and battalion staffs," he said. "Work is more efficient when you establish a good relationship with your counterpart."

While both the battalion and brigade reaped benefits from the inspection, Brooks and Larsen said the inspection was an opportunity for individual development, too.

"It's a great opportunity for young staff officers because they are forced to get into the regulations," said Brooks.

"Not only does the battalion get better, but the individual gets professionally developed," Larsen said.

"Professionally, it's been ... a training opportunity for me and the rest of the S-2 (intelligence) staff," said 1st Lt. Shiloh Harless, 3rd BSTB military intelligence officer. "Based on the CIP we've developed a more detailed SOP and established procedures as to how we operate so we are more efficient."

At the end of the CIP, each section is provided 30 days to follow up and complete any changes to the battalion's systems and procedures, Brooks said. Finalized procedures will be published Brooks said, allowing the brigade to focus resources on training and preparation for possible deployments.



(Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3rd BCT Public Affairs)

Sgt. Jay Gauthreaux, Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, explains the layout of his section's storage container to Command Sgt. Major Arthur Swingler, command sergeant major for the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, during an inspection during the battalion's Command Inspection Program Feb. 22 at Fort Hood.

Celebrating Achievements in Black History

History

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Soldiers were invited to eat cake and share their experiences.

"I'm more knowledgeable on black history," said Staff Sgt. Lisa Sanderson, Headquarters Company, 3rd BCT, who did-

n't realize Jackie Robinson was a Soldier and the female nurses had to fight so hard to serve their country.

As a medic in 3rd BCT, Sanderson said the learning about the contributions of the African American nurses impacted her the most.

Sanderson said their commitment was honorable because they endured so much

hardship for wanting to serve their country with the skills and knowledge they had.

"I would've given up a long time ago knowing I wanted to help," she said.

"It makes me proud knowing that someone ... has gone before me and stood the test of time," she added. "Also, they have cleared the path for me to do the same and more."

Planning for Battle

“Long Knife Brigade” Prepares for Combat

By Maj. Roderick R. Cunningham
4th BCT Public Affairs Officer

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – Key leaders from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, spent 10 days honing their military decision-making and process skills here from Feb. 9 to Feb 18.

The battle command seminar was hosted by the 25th Infantry Division, based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and was based upon lessons-learned from the 101st Airborne Division who is currently deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The seminar’s mission was to educate the senior leadership and their staff on the current trends of military operations in Iraq.

“The area of operation update and the products we were able to receive from the 25th (ID) will benefit the BCT in our ability to be more situationally aware prior to deployment,” said Sgt 1st Class Marshall Johnson, the brigade targeting noncommissioned officer.

Some of the trends discussed were the techniques, tactics and procedures used to emplace improvised explosive devices, insurgents’ activities and operational actions against those types of activities.

Instruction was also given on negotiations, operational law and rules of engagement to create a common bond between military forces and the local population. The seminar included the full-spectrum of operations: from deploying into country; to combat operations; to preparing to redeploy.

The seminar will aid the commander and his staff in preparing for future training exercises and combat operations in Iraq.

“We now have additional knowledge that can be leveraged in our training programs,” said Maj. Christopher McElveen, brigade air defense airspace management officer.

While some brigade staff members attended the seminar, a portion of the staff remained hard at work planning for a deployment to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Before every military operation can be



(Photo by Maj. Roberick R. Cunningham, 4th BCT Public Affairs)

Maj. John Pirog, brigade personnel officer, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, briefs Col. Stephen Twitty, BCT commander, on how combat units will receive logistical and personnel support during course of action development, step three of the military decision making process during the battle command seminar at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

conducted, the staff must prepare a plan to move the unit, conduct combat operations, prepare for redeployment, and recover the unit upon arriving back at their home station. The process that the U.S. Army uses to make all of this happen is called the military decision-making process.

The MDMP is the predominant tool used to obtain solutions for operations in war.

“This session was needed to synchronize the battle staff MDMP methodology,” McElveen said. “We now have a system and tools to conduct quality MDMP for the BCT.”

Military leaders must have an effective decision-making model because they are often faced with critical decisions. The military decision-making process is this proven planning tool.

“The MDMP session we executed was definitely the best we have done to date,” McElveen said. “It is essential that the BCT allocate appropriate time for the battle staff to come together and work MDMP.”

McElveen added that working the planning process away from their home station at

Fort Bliss was beneficial. Other officers agreed.

“I believe I benefited from the MDMP training on this trip,” said 2nd Lt. Meredith Rice, assistant brigade intelligence officer. “I have never been through the MDMP process with a full staff before, and it was informative seeing how everything worked. The feedback we received was beneficial, and I think I have a better understanding of what the commander wants to see.”

The commander is the catalyst for the planning process. He is expected to provide the fundamental creative input rather than merely approving or choosing from among options prepared by others.

“The BCT commander was involved in every step of the MDMP,” McElveen said. “We were able to obtain definite guidance on his expectation for each step.”

The decision-making process can generate a single course of action in a timely manner that allows the staff to evaluate, improve, rehearse, and disseminate the operations order that gives direction to the unit. In turn, it allows subordinate units more time to devise their plan and rehearse.

Tank Simulator Arrives at Bliss, Cavalry Troops Take it for a Spin

By Pfc. April Foster
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORT BLISS, Texas – Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team have a new high-tech toy to play with; and play they did.

When the troops were called to help work out the bugs in Fort Bliss' newest multi-million dollar training aid, they gladly accepted.

The training aid, the Close-Combat Tactical Trainer, is a computer-based simulator consisting of four Abrams tanks and eight Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

"When they step inside the simulator, it looks to them like they are actually inside a tank or Bradley," said Capt. Suzanne Kendell, deputy director of the Fort Bliss Battle Command Training Center. "Even in the turret we have 360-degree screens that show the terrain they are traveling through."

The 4th BCT troopers were invited to have the first session on the trainers because they were familiar with tank



(Photo by Pfc. April Foster, 4th BCT Public Affairs)

Pfc. Ryan Jones, a cavalry scout with the 1st Cavalry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team, operates the new Abrams tank simulator at Fort Bliss

operations, Kendell said. They were able to operate the simulators on their own with minimal instruction.

"It's great that Fort Bliss has a system like this," said

Pfc. Ryan Jones, a cavalry scout with Headquarters Company, 4th BCT. "With our equipment still on the way, it's a chance for us to do some hands-on training."

The first two days of simulator training, Soldiers trained in the Bradleys. On the third day, they switched to the Abrams tank.

"The only thing missing from these simulators is the feeling of the vehicles moving and firing," Jones said.

"The CCTT was brought to Fort Bliss to support the 4th BCT and future Brigade Combat Teams coming to Fort Bliss," said David Hieatt, director of the training center.

"Some of these simulators came all the way from Germany. This is the first time Fort Bliss has seen this type of simulator."

"[The simulator] is primarily designed to support the training of the mechanized infantry, armor, or [cavalry] scout organizations," said David Eby, interim site manager. "Anybody can come out and train. We are happy to see anybody here."

The simulator currently has databases for Baghdad, the National Training Center and Fort Hood. It can be programmed to support daytime, nighttime and reduced visibility scenarios, Eby said.

Preventing POV Accidents




WHO ARE YOU DRIVING WITH TODAY?



DON'T GAMBLE ON SAFETY

UNSAFE

SAFE

UNSAFE

SAFE

YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!



(Photo by Spc. Nathan J. Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

At Qasim Air Base, Pakistan, members of Task Force Quake II leave their temporary homes, tents in a hangar, to head to a briefing. The air base will provide a place for the Soldiers to rest, eat and pass time while they are completing the relief mission for the Pakistanis affected by an October earthquake. TFQ II is expected to be the last group of U.S. Soldiers helping in the relief effort in Pakistan before returning home sometime in April.

The Road to Pakistan

Five Countries in Four Days for Cav Troops

By Spc. Nathan J. Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs

QASIM AIR BASE, Pakistan – “You need to get a Hepatitis B vaccination, a small-pox vaccination and have your blood drawn. Step over to the next station and have your ID card ready,” said the woman working at station 4 at the pre-deployment processing center.

It is 7 a.m., and these are not the words most Soldiers want to hear on a Monday morning.

The order came down to most of the troops over the weekend that they would be headed to Pakistan at the beginning of the week.

They were going there to help provide relief to the Pakistanis in the wake of October’s devastating earthquake.

Monday, Feb. 13 came around and the Soldiers had to go through the Soldier readiness processing, preparing them to be deployed.

At this point, all knew they would be

heading out that very night.

Monday evening, groups of Soldiers from the 615th Aviation Support Battalion and the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, combined to create Task Force Quake II and began their journey to Pakistan.

The route to Pakistan was anything but direct. The task force first headed out to Bangor, Maine, where they arrived in the early morning hours of Feb. 14.

Maine may not sound exotic or interesting to most Soldiers, but the warm welcome and thanks from veterans and volunteers at the airport took some of the travel stresses away. For other Soldiers the stop in Maine presented a first.

“I am 20 years old and this is my first time ever seeing snow,” said Pvt. Jerad Rivera, an aircraft structural repair specialist from Company B, 615th ASB.

They departed from Maine that same morning and arrived in Hahn, Germany late that evening. By now, Soldiers started

feeling the wear and tear of such a long journey.

“The trip has made me very tired,” Rivera said.

One Soldier was so excited about going on the mission, for him, being tired wasn’t an option.

“I was tasked out to go to the hurricane relief efforts, but had to do color guard for an event, so I didn’t get to go,” said Pfc. Jeremy Bucholtz, an aircraft structural repair specialist from D Company, 2-227th. “This time they said I was going to Pakistan and I said, ‘Are you kidding me? I’m volunteering to go! The trip is not wearing on me, yet. I’m fine,’”

On Feb. 15, the Soldiers arrived in Manas Air Force Base, Kyrgyzstan, located just outside the tiny city of Bishkek.

At this point, Soldiers were getting a little weary, but still kept their heads on straight. Manas AFB gave them something they hadn’t had in over two days — a

Cav Soaring the Red, White, and Blue



(Photo by Spc. Nathan J. Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Staff Sgt. Stevan Bista, a CH-47D Chinook helicopter maintenance supervisor for Company D, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, paints the American flag on the side of a Chinook at Qasim Air Base, Pakistan, Feb. 21. Bista, who is a part of Task Force Quake II, is painting the flag on the side of the aircraft to show the Pakistani people that the United States is there to provide humanitarian relief.

Cav Aviators Arrive in Pakistan to Aid Victims

Arrive

From Page 17

shower.

While in Manas, the Soldiers had time to slow down and really think about what was going on and voice some concerns.

“With being deployed to Pakistan the first time, plus the quickness in which we were deployed this time, it was difficult and stressful,” said Spc. Ryan Monroe, a Chinook crew chief for the 2-227th.

“It’s the single guys I’m worried about,” he added. “My wife can take care of any loose ends that I left behind, but the single Soldiers don’t have as many options.”

With roughly a day’s rest under their belts, the Soldiers of Task Force Quake II headed out for Bagram, Afghanistan. The

Soldiers stayed there for a little less than a day before heading out to Islamabad, Pakistan, on Feb. 17.

The next day, in Islamabad, before heading out to the Chinooks that would take them to their final destination, Qasim Air Base, the Soldiers had to wait while former U.S. President Bill Clinton exited his plane. He quickly boarded a Chinook and took off to speak with President General Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

Upon arrival at Qasim Air Base, the Soldiers immediately began the transition from being in the U.S. to being in a foreign nation. After some quick briefings and a tour of the facility, the Soldiers were able to get a little rest.

“I think this country is beautiful from what I’ve seen,” said Spc. Dennis Rao, an aircraft hydraulics repairer for Company D, 2-227th. “I expected it to be a more

arid-type terrain based solely on my past experience in Iraq, but it is nice and green.”

“The people in this county seem to be a lot nicer than what was expected,” said Pfc. Nick Dassuncao, a Chinook maintainer for Delta Company. “They are more understanding as to why we are here.”

Although there was only a short notice on leaving and a long, weary journey, the Soldiers are ready for the task at hand.

“These guys [the Pakistanis] need help,” Rao said. “We are doing what is needed to help. I get paid to go to foreign countries and have fun. Sure it was short notice, but you have a mission to do, so you do it.”

Nobody sums up the journey better than Spc. Kevin Thomson, a Chinook maintainer for Delta Company:

“Where here,” he said. “So, let’s get it done and go home.”

Equality Key to Black History Month

By Spc. Nicole Kojetin
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Slavery, segregation and discrimination are just a few of the obstacles African Americans had to overcome since they arrived in the United States.

Many broke through those restraints, in turn helping the race stride towards equality. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and Booker T. Washington were just a few who joined those ranks.

In honor of their accomplishments, 1st Cavalry Division and 15th Support Brigade held a celebration in honor of Black History Month in Howze Theater on Fort Hood



(Photo by Spc. Nicole Kojetin, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Field Support Command, walks through the isles of Howze Theater while talking to troops during a Black History Month celebration Feb. 14 on Fort Hood.

Feb. 14.

The national theme for this year's Black History Month was "Celebrating Community: A tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic

Institutions."

"This year's theme was to explore the impact that black fraternal, social and civic organizations have had on the evolution of African-American

life and history," said Master Sgt. Verdell Brown, an equal opportunity advisor who helped coordinate the event for 15th Support Brigade. In observation of this, the celebration had two sets of performers from outside organizations.

A chorus from Audie Murphy Middle School sang a gospel song and members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority from the Killeen district did a step-show presentation.

A step-show is a combination of marching, stomping, dancing, body slapping and chanting which has roots in the African American culture. As many of the moves are synchronized, "stepping" is supposed to represent unity.

Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, the guest speaker at the celebration, thought that Black History Month also represented unity and equality.

"It is a celebration of America moving closer to its ideals of equality," said the commanding general of the U.S. Army Field Support Command. "We aren't quite there yet, but we are moving closer."

He said the standard was set when the United States Declaration of Independence was written stating that "all men are created equal" and that is what the U.S. continues to move towards. This is done by people who break out of the mold, like those who fought against segregation.

"I think it is important to celebrate Black History Month, because I don't want to ever forget those who paved the way through trials and tribulations for me to be able to accomplish all the things that I have accomplished and will accomplish," Brown said.



(Photo by Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Politician Shown Cav Traditions

Congressman John Carter of the Texas 31st District, watches Sgt. Charles Edwards, a boot maker with the division's Horse Cavalry Detachment, describe the 40-hour process of making custom boots. The lawmaker visited the division Feb. 27.

Cav Captain's Family is Part Legend

By Spc. Nicole Kojetin
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The old west was full of turmoil, gun fights, saloons and dust, but few know much more than that.

For one 1st Cavalry Division Soldier, a famous gunfighter is more than a legend. In fact, Capt. William Hickok VI has a little of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok running through his veins.

"We are related through a common ancestry," Hickok said. "We are both related to the original William Hickok who came to America from England in 1635."

Wild Bill was a notorious, nomadic gun fighter known for his quick draw and tendency to gamble. He also spent a short time touring with Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West Show. Wild Bill held his own in quick-draw gunfights with six-shooter pistols, but was eventually killed in 1876 while playing his favorite game holding a pair of black aces and a pair of eights. This is now coined as "a dead man's hand."

Nearly everyone in the Midwest knows Wild Bill's Story though legends, but Hickok learned though stories passed on down generations.

"I've always known, my family keeps great records all the way back to the 17th Century," the commanding general's aide-de-camp said. "My Father had a few books in Wild Bill that I read while growing up."

Being a farm boy in Dillsburg, Penn., didn't give Hickok much time to do reading or anything besides chores.

"We had animals - sheep, horses, pigs, and chickens, but we also had a few hundred acres of corn, wheat, barley," Hickok said. "It was a lot of work and I had every chore you could imagine."

Running the family farm just didn't appeal to Hickok. Many of his ancestors joined the military, so he thought he would follow suit and enlisted directly after high school in 1989.

Wild Bill was in the Army during the American Civil War, but that barely scratches the surface of a long standing tradition.

"My father is a retired Cavalryman," Hickok said. "My great, great uncle,

Gorge Gibson Hunt, commanded the 2nd Cavalry in the 1880s-1890s. My family still has some amazing artifacts from his time out West. We have plenty of veterans of the Civil War, Revolutionary War, and the French and Indian War... really too many to mention."

To say that he was destined to be a cavalryman may be a little superstitious, but he thinks the reigns fit.

"I was here in 1992 to 1993 in 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment," Hickok said. "I served in 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea, as a tank and scout platoon leader from 1998 to 2000. I have been [with the 1st Cavalry Division] since 2002, first in 2nd Brigade, then I commanded Delta Troop, Brigade Reconnaissance, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade in Iraq and Headquarters Troop 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment before coming up to Division in December.

"I couldn't imagine not being in the Cavalry," he continued. "It just worked out this way. I didn't really know what I was getting myself into, and prior to joining the Army, I didn't really understand the history and organization of the Army. But here I am, living the legend."

The love of the Cavalry wasn't the

only thing he inherited from his family tree.

"I do have quite a few guns, but no six-shooters I'm afraid," Hickok said. "I have shot expert with the 9mm every time I fire, but my rifle skills are somewhat suspect."

And on Wild Bill's other vice... gambling?

"I have learned that is one game I need to stay away from... and I think Wild Bill should have also," Hickok said.

And one little superstition...

"Lets just say I don't let anyone sneak up behind me," Hickok said.

He gets teased often about his name but he doesn't mind sharing his heritage.

"It is nice to have some famous ancestors, especially with the rich history of the Cavalry and me being part of it today," Hickok said. "It also means I have to answer a lot of questions, but it is nice when I talk to someone who actually knows that Wild Bill was really named 'James Butler.' That's better than your typical line of questioning. I also have talked to a few officers over the years who use or have been given the 'Wild Bill' nickname. It makes me laugh."

With his heritage, he is probably more deserving of the nickname.



(Photo by Spc. Nicole Kojetin, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Capt. William Hickok VI, the 1st Cavalry Division's commanding general, Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil Jr.'s aide-de-camp, works on his computer. Hickok is related to the notorious James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok.