

The GREYWOLF Howl

Vol. III, Issue II

3rd Brigade Combat Team's Monthly Newsletter

March, 2012

'Gladiators' conduct physical training competition



Sgt. Omar Estrada
3rd BCT PAO

The 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted a physical fitness challenge at the baseball fields on Battalion Ave. here on Fort Hood to foster friendly competition and esprit d' corps amongst its units on Mar. 28, 2012.

The competition physically and mentally challenged Soldiers' military skills with a variety of exercises. Platoons maneuvered from station to station completing tasks like a water jug carry, litter carry, a medical evacuation request evaluation and other combat skills.

Soldiers that participated said the course was challenging and kept them on their toes.

"This PT challenge was exhausting and all the events were completely unexpected," said Pfc. Corey Smith, a combat engineer with 1st Platoon, Company C and a native of Springtown, Texas. "I felt like I was going through the promotion board."

Though the units only had a few days to prepare for the competition, they proved that daily physical training, teamwork and unit cohesiveness readies Soldiers for anything. Some troops craved the adrenaline the events provided and wanted it to be more challenging, while others were exhausted as the day progressed.



Photos by Sgt. Sharla Lewis

Soldiers participating in 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion's physical training challenge flip tires (above) and run with five gallon water jugs (below) as part of the competition. The exercise was designed to promote friendly competition and camaraderie among the units.

"After this challenge, I feel very tired," Pfc. Brenton Levens, a native of Los Angeles, said.

"If it wasn't for my team I wouldn't be as motivated. I had my sergeant always on me, pushing me and (continued next page)



In This Issue: 'Warhorse' FECC - pg. 2; 'Saber' rugby - pg. 4; CSM Gill farewell - pg. 6

'Warhorse' FECC hits their targets first



1st Lt. Richard Vogt
3-8 Cav. Regt.

The 'Warhorse' fires and effects coordination cell (FECC) is leading the way for artillery in 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"We don't waste any time. We are constantly seeking to improve ourselves as a platoon," said 1st Lt. Griffin Spencer, platoon leader for the platoon with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. and a native of Washington, D.C. The battalion returned from a deployment in Iraq in November, and already the FECC



Photo by 1st Lt. Alain Uwilingiyimana

1st Lt. Griffin Spencer, the platoon leader for the fires and effects coordination cell, said that he attributes the platoon's successful transition home to a mix of camaraderie and professional pride.

has their sights set on excellence and readiness.

"We spend a minimum of three days per week in the observed fire training simulator, which we started back in mid-November," Spencer said. "We are covering everything from adjust fire missions to smoke missions, ensuring our Soldiers are capable of utilizing a variety of fires in order to support maneuver units."

"The transition home was a huge shock to me," said 1st Lt. Jan Matthew Ragon, fire support officer for Co. A, and a native of Jersey City, N.J. "After being on deployment, it feels different to have a little freedom and do things on my own." Ragon said that he had spent much of his time following the deployment settling in to his new home.

Spencer attributes the successful transition to the mix of camaraderie and professional pride.

"We take pride in our capabilities as a platoon, and we are always striving to make each other better," he said. "I think our Soldiers thrive when the pressure is on and we will continue to push them."

The platoon has been so successful that other units have been showing up to their training sessions.

"We have extended invitations to 6-9 and 1-12, and have provided training to several of their Soldiers and NCOs as well. We are happy to assist other battalions with their training in order to strengthen fire support abilities across the GREYWOLF Brigade."

"There's always that [trash] talking between the FiST within the battalion," Ragon said. "It motivates everyone to do their best during training. It's a very competitive but friendly atmosphere. Everyone is there to help each other and improve."

(continued from page 1) motivating me," he said. Levens is also a combat engineer assigned to 1st Pltn., Co. C.

This PT event was new for the teams as well as the personnel in charge. Leaders said the challenge was a success.

"The transition between the events was smooth and at perfect intervals and the support from the different companies was on target by providing the necessary bodies and competitors," said 2nd Lt. Johnathan Lanahan, the officer in charge of the challenge. "Soldiers were well prepared and had the appropriate gear."

The challenge ended at lunchtime when 5th Platoon, Co. C. took top prize from 12 different platoons that participated during the event.



(Right) Soldiers help each other over a wall as part of the obstacle course. The challenge was designed to promote camaraderie and esprit d' corps throughout the battalion.

'Saber' Sqdn. reaches to Ellison H.S.

Squadron bonds with ninth graders with team activities

 **1st Lt. Stuart White**
6-9 Cav. Regt.

On March 7, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat, 1st Cavalry Division, Soldiers traveled to Ellison High School (EHS) to participate in their 9th Grade Field Day. The event was organized and planned by EHS administrators to provide 9th grade students a meaningful and educational experience while standardized tests were being administered to the 10th and 11th graders. 'Saber' Soldiers were there in somewhat of a supervisory role but mostly to have fun with the students.

"We have been really active with El-

lison since we started the Adopt-A-School program, so I feel comfortable being around the kids now and just having fun with them," remarked Spc. Melissa Aleman, Headquarters Platoon, D Forward Support Company and an Elizabeth, N. J. native.

Instead of competitive athletic events, the field day was filled with assorted learning opportunities for the students. Administrators place 9th Grade Students in 25 groups with 25 students in each group. A teacher supervised each group and they rotated between different activities including a physical education station where the students worked as a team to accomplish physical feats like moving their whole team across a field within a hula-hoop.

A 'Saber' Soldier also accompanied each group, participating in each event and providing experience and leadership in the competitive events. They officiated many events and provided guidance on the rules and how to work better as a team.

A select group of 'Saber' non commissioned officers assisted in the leadership station. In this station, students worked as a team to overcome obstacles like getting over a five-foot high wire or moving a golf ball 20 meters using two-foot segments of plastic pipe. The NCOs used their leadership skills to maintain the rules and officiate



Photo by 1st Lt. Andre Williams

Teens in Ellison High School's ninth grade class participate in wind sprints as part of the field day.



Photo by 1st Lt. Andre Williams

Teams of students at Ellison H.S. attempt to traverse across the school's football field while staying within a hoop.

each competition.

"I have enjoyed working with the students, and I feel like this helps me expand my leadership skills beyond the military setting," commented Sgt. Buddy Stratton with Headquarters Troop and St. Augustine, Fla. native

The field day was an overwhelming success for the students and the Soldiers. Students were able to enhance their team building and critical skills as well as learn from the mentorship and leadership of 'Saber' Soldiers. The Soldiers were able to develop their leadership skills in order to make them more effective leaders.

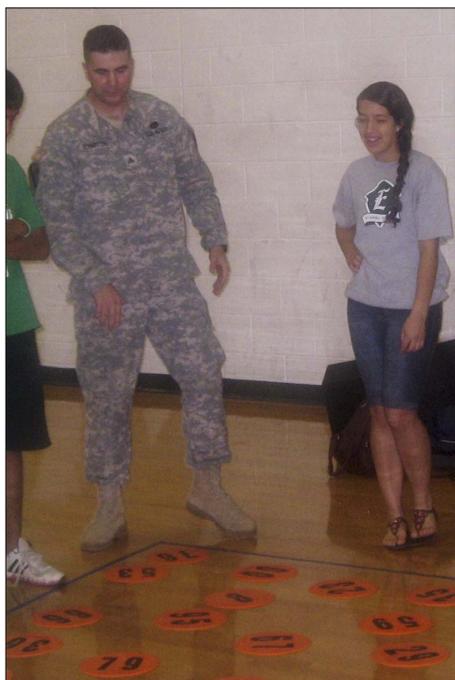


Photo by 1st Lt. Andre Williams

Sgt. Buddy Stratton joins students in a game that tests quick thinking and strategy. Stratton said the day was a success.



GREYWOLF!
Find us on facebook! www.facebook.com/3bet.1cd

‘Saber’ Soldiers compete for All-Army status



*1st Lt. Stuart White
6-9 Cav. Regt.*

On March 10th and 11th, All-Army Rugby fielded a team, Army Harlequins, to play in the Savannah St. Patrick’s Day Rugby Tournament to evaluate prospective players for the All Army Rugby Team. Two Soldiers from 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, two Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, and one Soldier from 215th Brigade Support Battalion played in hopes of making the All Army Rugby Team. 1st Lt. Daniel Schmidt, the executive officer for A Troop, and a Washington, D.C. native, is already a member of the All-Army Rugby Team, but he traveled to Savannah to compete with his fellow Sabers and support their effort to make the team.

“We had a strong showing by ‘Saber’ Soldiers. We have been working hard since we got back from Iraq, in November, and before that we were playing rugby in the sand,” Schmidt pointed out the team’s work ethic leading up to this tournament.

Schmidt reestablished the Ft. Hood Rugby Team in 2010, and the team has been practicing and playing matches intermittently between deployments since then. For the tournament in Savannah, Schmidt brought two other ‘Saber’ Soldiers to compete for positions on the All-Army Rugby Team: 1st Lt. Jonathan Frieman, a platoon leader in A Troop and a Scarsdale, N.Y. native, and Staff Sgt. Damien Vaitotolu, of B Troop and an American Samoa native. Three others from GREYWOLF joined them on the trip to Savannah: 1st Lt. Josh Wright, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Reg., and an Amhurst, Va. native, Capt. Zachary Marshall, of HHC, 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Reg., and a Lago



Photo by 1st Lt. Chris Stone

1st Lt. Josh Wright, #12, breaks away for one of his three tries during a recent Rugby game in Savannah, Ga.

Vista, Texas native, and Capt. Carlos DeCastro Pretelt, of HHC, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, and a Bogata, Columbia native.

“Many of the other service members that are competing out here do not have other duties, but after this tournament is over, we will return to Ft. Hood and to our duties as platoon leaders or executive officers regardless of All-Army Status,” Frieman commented on the rugby players from Air Force and Navy.

Out of a field of 80 teams, the Army Harlequins placed fourth. The All-Air Force Team won a hard fought match against the Harlequins and went on to win the whole tournament. The team performed well, but the individual performance of the Saber and GREYWOLF Soldiers were the highlight of this tournament and the deciding factor for their placement on the All-Army Rugby team. Wright had the most notable performance when he scored a hat trick, three tries in one game, against Toa Samoa.

“We could have played better, but we don’t always have the opportunity to practice with the same guys every day like some of these teams. I think we played well and had a good time bond-



Photo by 1st Lt. Chris Stone

1st Lt. Josh Wright, #12, catches the ball from a line-out and passes it to 1st Lt. Daniel Schmidt, during a recent Rugby game in Savannah, Ga.

ing over this great game, regardless of the outcome,” Viatotolu described the results of the tournament.

The players will be notified if they made the All-Army Rugby team in a few weeks. In the mean time, the Ft. Hood Rugby team, coached by Schmidt, continues to prepare for the upcoming season in September.

‘Blacksmith’ learns importance of substance abuse prevention at class

 **2nd Lt. Ryan Campbell**
215th BSB

Soldiers from the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division recently attended a three hour training seminar on the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) at the Clear Creek Community Center, Fort Hood, Texas Mar. 19, 2012. The seminar was comprised of topics which covered the dangers of drinking and driving, designer drugs, spice, and a presentation on the various programs and referral methods from the Fort Hood ASAP manager.

To open the seminar, a Texas State Trooper provided the audience with a plethora of eye-opening video’s of drunk drivers, vividly expressing the dangers intoxicated drivers pose to themselves and to others on the road. His lecture also explained the laws on gun control, the legal length of certain knives, and the regulated speed limits while passing officers on the side of the road.

The next class was the longest class of the day: the ASAP presentation on designer drugs and spice. Designer drugs and spice have become an ever growing problem within today’s Armed Forces. The Fort Hood ASAP Management Team is all too familiar with the dangers of these illegal

narcotics and is responding with a series of these informational workshops, classes, and referral programs which are designed to deter, detect, and treat our service men and women.

Following the designer drug and spice segment, the manager of the ASAP Team gave a presentation on the variety of programs that are available to the Soldiers here on Fort Hood. Topics covered included the Suicide Prevention Program, Clinical Services, and the Self and Command Referral Programs, all of which are available to all Soldiers stationed on Fort Hood. Following the presentation, the ASAP Manager was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Lt. Col. James M. Smith, the 215th BSB commander.

The last part of the ASAP class was a series of practical exercises lead by Staff Sgt. Randy Purham and Staff Sgt. David Lamica.

These exercises simulated the effects of a 0.08 blood/alcohol intoxication level by incorporating sets of “Beer Goggles” while Soldiers participated in a variety of events. The practical exercises included a toe-to-toe straight line walk, a straight line walk while dribbling a ball, and riding a tricycle in

a straight line with a turn-around. Needless to say, most participants were unable to complete the events to standard.

The ASAP classes, workshops, and referral programs are designed to continue making our Army stronger. It is said that an organization is only as strong as its weakest members. The Fort Hood ASAP Team is a committed organization, comprised of dedicated personnel who are willing to help those in need in order to be the strongest and healthiest Army in the world.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Ryan Campbell

Lt. Col. James M. Smith, the commander, instructs all the ‘Blacksmith’ Soldiers to heed the messages from the Fort Hood Army Substance Abuse Program Team.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Ryan Campbell

Troopers attempt to perform tasks while wearing special goggles that emulate a 0.08 blood/alcohol toxicity in order to show our Soldiers how impaired their motor skills can be at the legal toxicity limit during training.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Ryan Campbell

Sgt. Chad Kunsman demonstrates the difficulty of driving while drunk by utilizing “Beer Goggles.”

'Chargers' say farewell to senior enlisted leader



*2nd Lt. Mike Havro
1-12 Cav. Regt.*

Soldiers and leaders from 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment bade farewell to an upstanding Soldier and leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Darryl L. Gill March 26, 2012 when he held one of the last formations of his Army career at the battalion's motor pool.

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Andrew Poznick had more than a few words to say about his work experience with and the career of the sergeant major. Poznick said, "He was my best friend, my battle buddy and confidant."

The battalion commander also explained that they spent a lot of time in each other's office helping each other plan and prepare for the battalion's many missions.

Gill took the floor and exclaimed his pride in the battalion.

"This is the best battalion on Battalion Ave," he said. He went on to

explain that he was proud of the battalion's actions in Iraq and that the battalion is as great as it is today because of the Soldiers and leaders of the battalion.

Gill told a little bit about his life story in the Army, of how he joined as a 17-year-old high school student during a poor economy. He emphasized that "The Army is an opportunity" and that he took the opportunity to volunteer for additional schools and training that helped give him an advantage in and out of the Army.

He impressed the need for leaders to get their Soldiers to seriously view the Army as an opportunity to better themselves either for a career in the Army or in civilian life. "The Army takes care of the Army, you have to make sure you are a part of it," he concluded. After the formation was over, he stayed to



Photo by 1st Lt. Chris Stone

Gill shakes hands with each and every Soldier in the formation.

shake the hand of every Soldier in the battalion.

Chaplain's Corner



*Maj. Martin Kendrick
Bde. Chaplain*

One of the characters on the Flip Wilson television show was called Rev. Leroy. One of his favorite lines was, "The devil made me do it." Whether or not Flip Wilson believed in an actual Satan is immaterial. All he was interested in was getting a laugh. What made the line so effective is that it is so true to life. Rev. Leroy had done something bad, instead of taking responsibility for his actions, he would pass the buck by pointing an accusing finger at the "de devil." At these hilarious routines we laughed.

We not only laughed at Rev. Leroy. We were laughing at ourselves, for one of our favorite indoor sports is The

Blame Game. Why take responsibility for the wrong things we do, when we can blame somebody or something else? It is when we become escape artists, dodging responsibility for our decisions and actions, that we carry the thing too far and often cause ourselves great difficulty.

Have you noticed all the ways people blame others? Alcoholism is now called a disease, not the end result of a conscious choice to drink a beverage containing alcohol. Obviously there are genealogical and environmental factors that make some people more susceptible and vulnerable to certain things than others. Even so, no one can make you drink if you choose not to do so, and many don't...even under great pressure.

Many people in prison blame a dysfunctional home or the troubled neigh-

borhood into which they were born and where they grew up. Even so, some of America's finest and most committed leaders came from such a background. Many in prison grew up in homes with every advantage and opportunity. Circumstances do play upon our lives, but we can choose to rise above circumstances.

Human beings have been blaming others for their mistakes and problems since history's first couple, Adam and Eve. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. The person looking back at you in the mirror is the one who makes your decisions. Blaming anybody else for what is wrong in your life only digs the hole deeper and deeper.

God holds us responsible...not for what we are, but for what we, with His help, can become.

Re-Up? You're out of your mind!



Master Sgt. Robert Madden
Bde. Retention NCOIC

Reenlistment options are only available, if otherwise qualified, to those Soldiers at the rank of specialist or above, who have a contractual FY13 ETS date. The eligibility for reenlistment options are as follows:

Initial Term Soldiers:

Serving in an over strength military occupational specialty are limited to the Army training reenlistment option or regular Army reenlistment option. Additionally, Soldiers must select an MOS listed as under strength or balanced.

Soldiers serving in a balanced or under strength MOS are eligible for the

regular Army reenlistment option, current station stabilization reenlistment option, overseas assignment reenlistment option, and CONUS station-of-choice reenlistment option.

Mid-Career Soldiers:

Serving in an over strength MOS are limited to the Army training reenlistment option or regular Army reenlistment option. Additionally, Soldiers must select an MOS listed as under strength or balanced.

Careerist Soldiers:

In balanced or under strength MOS with less than 10 years of active federal service on date of discharge may only receive the regular Army reenlistment option.

Staff sergeants and above, regardless of strength, with 10 or more years

of active federal service on date of discharge must reenlist under the indefinite reenlistment program.

Sergeants or below and serving in an over strength MOS are limited to the Army training reenlistment option or regular Army reenlistment option. Additionally, Soldiers must select an MOS listed as under strength or balanced.

Staff sergeants serving in an over strength MOS with less than 10 years of active federal service on the date of discharge may reenlist for the regular Army reenlistment option or the Army training reenlistment option.

Promotable staff sergeants and sergeants first class are limited to the regular Army reenlistment option.

Continued service in the greatest Army in the world is a privilege not a right! See you Career Counselor today.

-MSG Madden



‘Ghostriders’ conduct water survival training

Engineer company practices essential water survival skills at class on Fort Hood



1st Lt. Joseph Durlin
3rd BSTB

Company C, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conducted combat water survival training at Abrams Pool on Fort Hood recently in order to increase their skills as combat engineers.

The primary mission of a combat engineer is to provide support to the unit to which they are assigned. Their training includes basic Soldier tasks, engineer specific tasks and familiarization of the M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Engineers aspire to become Sappers, highly trained and proficient. During part of the training for Sapper school, Soldiers must ‘helocast,’ or jump out of a helicopter into a lake and swim with their gear to shore. Leaders at the lowest level assess the Soldiers’ abilities and provide training to prepare them to negotiate water obstacles.

Combat water survival training tests Soldiers’ ability to swim and conduct water maneuvers while enhancing their confidence. The program has three classification levels: Class Three – Basic, Class Two – Intermediate, Class

One – Advanced. The main goal of water survival training is to identify weak swimmers, improve competency in water with gear and prepare for water entry. The Army provides swim lessons for weak swimmers to increase competence and confidence. The objective for Co. C was to qualify Soldiers at Class Three.

The first event, the three meter confidence drop, was conducted from the high dive where Soldiers stepped from the diving board and yelled, “Engineers,” as they fell to the water. In the next exercise, the gear ditch, Soldiers put on an equipment vest, held a rubber M4 rifle and jumped into the water where they removed the vest and dropped the weapon before surfacing. This event prepares Soldiers for an emergency water entry where they must release their gear

in order to survive. Evaluators watched the Soldiers, and once they were clear of their gear they swam the length of the pool.

Once all of the Soldiers completed these tasks, they received a class on drownproofing. The concept of the class is to demonstrate how to use the ACU trousers as a flotation device. First, the instructor jumped



Courtesy photo

Soldiers create flotation devices from their trousers by wetting them then filling them with air.

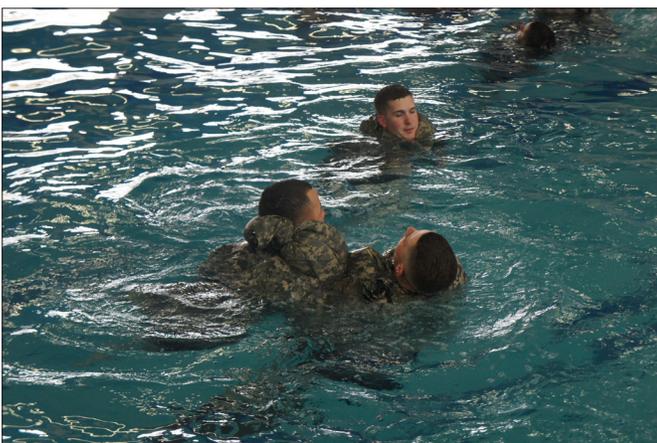


Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Roy Rodriguez instructs a Soldier on inflating his trousers to use as a flotation device.

in the water and removed his trousers, tied knots in the ends of the pant legs and placed them around his neck. Then, he trapped air in the legs, creating an improvised flotation device. After the demonstration, the Soldiers jumped in the water and attempted to make the trouser inflation device. The purpose was to make the device while treading in deep water, but if the Soldiers struggled, they moved to the shallow end.

The Soldiers successfully completed the water training. Variety in the training schedule provides the Soldiers the opportunity to prepare for Sapper school and identifying the weak swimmers allows for the leaders to provide additional training.



Courtesy photo

Soldiers float using their improvised flotation device as part of the class.