

HAMMER HEAT

3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

November, 2012



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BREAST CANCER
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Commander's Message

Col. Johnnie L. Johnson Jr.
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Brian D. Harrison
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Command Sergeant Major

Families and friends of the Sledgehammer Brigade,

Greetings once again from Camp Buehring, Kuwait! We hope all is going well for everyone back home! Although the Fall Season officially began on Sept. 22, temperatures in the region actually resemble the time of the year with lows in the 50s and highs in the low to mid 90s. Weather conditions aside, the Brigade continues to hone our warfighting skills as we prepare for contingency operations. This edition of "Hammer Heat" is filled with high intensity tactical training, regional partner capacity building, distinguished leader visits, organizational day activities, and a variety of other fun-filled events!

The month of October began with the Brigade hosting Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Raymond F. Chandler III, at Camp Buehring. During a townhall session, he fielded a variety of questions, promoted some very deserving Soldiers and noncommissioned officers, spoke one-on-one with our troopers, and posed for photos. It was a fantastic visit and we truly appreciate Sgt. Maj. of the Army Chandler taking the time out of his busy schedule to visit with the Sledgehammer Team!

The Brigade continued to conduct tough and realistic collective training across the formation. Artillery, Bradley, Engineer, Mortar, and Tank crews and platoons as well as our special troops and sustainment units continued to increase their collective confidence and proficiencies on gunnery ranges and across the vast Udairi Training Area. It is quite impressive to see every capability and element in the Brigade measurably improve in their respective skills and tasks while maintaining high morale and laser-like mission focus! The Brigade will continue to build on our solid foundation of disciplined and proficient Soldiers and units as we increase the scope of our collective training to include external capabilities and partnered units in the days and weeks ahead. The Sledgehammer Brigade is indeed a powerful team!

The Buffalo and Rock's Support Battalions both held Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremonies this month. The guest speakers for each event were Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Frennier, the Third Army Command Sergeant Major, and Maj. Gen. Gary Cheek, the Third Army Deputy Commanding General for Operations, respectively. Both ceremonies were conducted with precision and pride, and exemplified the time honored tradition that is one of the many hallmarks of our noncommissioned officer corps. Our guest speakers both commented on the significant contributions made by our noncommissioned officers throughout the history of our Nation and the proud legacy of sacrifice, selfless service and enforcing Army standards that today's generation of leaders are expected to

uphold. Ceremonies like these clearly illustrate why our Army is the best in the history of the world! The Sledgehammer Brigade is certainly blessed to have an impressive cadre of professional non-commissioned officers across our formation! Our "backbone" is stronger than ever! We were grateful that our guest speakers took the time to participate in these momentous events!

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Day, the Brigade, along with fellow service members and civilians serving here at Camp Buehring, sponsored a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk to bring attention to and support efforts to find a cure for this life threatening illness. Practically everyone donned pink for the walk to symbolize our commitment to this very worthy cause. After the walk we acknowledged two breast cancer survivors, Staff Sgt. Melinda Sessoms, who serves in the Brigade, and Sgt. Jody Grant. Both of these non-commissioned officers truly exemplify strength and determination! Other events and activities throughout the day included a cake cutting ceremony, bake sale, and Zumbathon! Our sincere appreciation and thanks go out to Capt. Euginna Addison, Capt. Lenora Maxwell, Sgt. 1st Class Erica McGee, and Staff Sgt. Christina McEachin for their tremendous efforts in planning and leading the

full day of activities! Job well done!

We're excited to announce that we've reached the mid-way point of our deployment! A lot of days still remain, but we have crested the summit on our calendars and can begin descent to redeployment! We closed October with two competitive and fun-filled events. First, we held a Brigade Organizational Day. Our timing was impeccable as we formed to conduct a 5K run during the first significant rain since our arrival in Kuwait! It definitely made for a soggy event but kept us cool throughout the day. After the Brigade 5K run, your Soldier spent the rest of the day participating in a variety of events including squad and Crossfit competitions, intramural sports tournaments, and capped off by a barbecue and talent show in the evening. We received a lot of positive feedback throughout the day which



was confirmed by the many smiles on the faces of our Soldiers! Secondly, Soldiers had the opportunity to enjoy Halloween by participating in the Camp Buehring “Zombie Run” hosted by the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Office. The event was well attended and was a great way to close out October! A hearty “Thank You” is in order for the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Office and the United Service Organizations, Inc. here on the camp for their continued support of our Soldiers!

We’ll close by thanking you, our Families and friends, for your sacrifices and undying support of your Soldier! We draw a lot of our strength from you and would not be successful without the inspiration you provide us. Please continue to communicate with your Soldier as often as possible, it makes an enormous impact on many levels across the Brigade. Lastly, thanks to our Rear Detachment and Family Readiness Team for holding down the fort on Kelley Hill! Though we are separated by distance, we remain connected through our Warrior Spirits and strong desire to serve others! Keep up the great work!

God bless and take care!
Sledgehammer!

Hammer 6 and Hammer 7

<https://twitter.com/jjhammer6>



“SLEDGEHAMMER”

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Sledgehammer Soldiers Workout for Awareness

Story by
Sgt. Christopher Johnston
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Public Affairs NCOIC

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, alongside other service members and civilians stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, participated in several events in honor of NBCAM, Oct. 20.

The fight against breast cancer has become personal for many. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately one in eight women will have a form of breast cancer during their lifetime, and it is the second leading cause of cancer death in women.

Breast cancer death rates have steadily declined due in part to early detection efforts and improved treatment techniques. Today there are more than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States, but the fight is far from over.



Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, along with other service members and Department of Defense civilians, participated in a 1.8 mile walk in honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Oct. 20 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. More than 200 people walked in support of breast cancer awareness, a disease that affects nearly one out of every eight women in America. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs)



Sessoms added, “Early detection basically assists you in determining what type of treatment you will go through. We as mothers need to encourage our daughters to continue to take care of themselves. Breast cancer doesn’t just affect the older people; it hits people

in their 20’s and 30’s too.”

Sessoms explained that during her battle with breast cancer, emotional and morale support was just as important as her medical treatment.

“My chain of command was a great part of my treatment, they were there for me and that made me feel like I am still part of the team, not just a sick Soldier.”

More than 200 service members and civilians at Camp Buehring started the day with a 1.8 mile walk in honor of NBCAM.

“I enjoyed the walk,” said Maj. Willette Alston-Williams, the brigade’s senior human resources officer. “It was great to walk hand in hand with my Army family for a cause that needs to always be out in the forefront, not just in October.”

More than 50 Soldiers also took part in a two hour Zumba-thon the evening of Oct. 20. Soldiers danced into the night wearing the familiar pink.

“Both events went extremely well. It was a great time to bring a lot of people together who have been touched in one way or another by breast cancer,” said Sessoms. “People learned about my battle and came to me to talk about their mother, aunt or grandmother who is or has battled breast cancer.”

For some participants, the day was about more than just breast cancer awareness.

“To me, it’s not just breast cancer awareness, it’s cancer awareness,” said Capt. Euginna Addison, a military intelligence officer and the Zumba instructor for the event. “I lost a sister to cancer in 2009, and I think it is very important for people to get checked (for cancer) and to raise money for a cure.”

Addison also discussed the benefits of uniting Camp Buehring Soldiers and civilians for a good cause.



“It was a great event, we are basically in a fishbowl here, and anytime we can bring people together for a cause is awesome,” said Addison.

“I had a lot of fun,” said Spc. Keshia Henry, a signal support systems specialist assigned for the Sledgehammer Brigade. “I got a great workout for a great cause, and the opportunity to wear pink made it even better.”

NBCAM was founded in 1985 and its main effort is to educate people on the symptoms and treatment of breast cancer. Supporters hope that with more knowledge and early detection there will be higher long-term survival rates, and that the money raised will bring a permanent cure for the disease.

Volunteers from 3rd ABCT and various units raised a total \$886.00 for breast cancer awareness and will donate the funds to the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation which was established in 1982.



Capt. Euginna Addison, Opelika, Ala., native and military intelligence officer assigned to 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, leads 3rd ID soldiers, service members and Department of Defense civilians in a two hour long Zumba-thon, in support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Oct. 20, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Soldiers raised approximately \$900 in support of NBCAM as well provided information on early detection and signs and symptoms of breast cancer to educate Soldiers. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs)

“Can Do!”

Lt. Col. Nelson G. Kraft
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-15 Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Angel M. Ortiz Jr.
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-15 Command Sergeant Major

Greetings CAN DO Families!

It is a great feeling for Command Sgt. Maj. Ortiz and I to write these letters every month. For one, it is an avenue for us to communicate with you all about the great things our Soldiers are doing. Additionally, with each letter comes the passing of one more month. And, with this letter, we are at our half way point! October has been a very busy month for the battalion. Throughout the month of October, every element of the CAN DO Battalion was conducting tough, realistic training within the Udairi Range Complex. We could not be more proud of the accomplishments of this great outfit.

October was a month of transition for the battalion. We have moved on from squad/section training to more complex platoon maneuvers. Every company in

the battalion spent about a week refining their skills as a team, culminating with an exciting live fire exercise. The Soldiers of the CAN DO organization have invested a lot of time, energy, and sweat to refine their systems and build an effective, cohesive fighting force. Every system and organization in the battalion was tested. Whether it was the tank and infantry companies executing the live fire ranges, the mortar platoon delivering timely and accurate indirect fire support, or the men and women of Phantom company ensuring that every Soldier had the materials they needed to be successful, CSM Ortiz and I are truly honored to be a part of and lead such a great group of Soldiers. Every family member of the CAN DO Battalion should be proud of their Soldier and their accomplishments thus far.

Additionally, the battalion took some time to relax and have fun. As you might remember, our battalion organizational day was postponed due to a dust storm. During the last month, the companies finally had an opportunity for some spirited competition. Each company fielding

teams in volleyball, dodge ball, horseshoes, and bean bag toss (a.k.a corhnole). The day was an excellent opportunity for our Soldiers to forget about training for a day and have some fun. Each competition resulted in points for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The winner of each individual event was presented a trophy and the highest point total received the Commander's Trophy. All of you Hardrock families will be happy to hear that your Soldiers swept every competition. Congratulations to the Hardrock Soldiers for their overwhelming victory.

Finally, I would like to take an opportunity to thank you for your continued support. As I stated, we are at the half way point. Although, there is a slight shimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, we are cognizant of the time of year we are entering. The Holiday Season can be a bit overwhelming for our Soldiers and our Families during a deployment. Command Sgt.

Maj. Ortiz and I encourage everyone to maintain the open lines of communications and develop unique ideas that will allow us to ease through this time period. I encourage all of you, Soldiers and Families, to exchange gifts and holiday decorations. These small gestures can go a long way to enhancing the resiliency that will carry us to the end. Thank you for your continued thoughts and words of encouragement. I know our Soldiers are thankful for the overwhelming support we have received during this deployment.

DRAGON 6 & 7



Soldiers' Gallery

A canvas for short stories, poetry, drawing, and other visual arts

Do you have a creative bone in your body?

Whether you write short stories on a regular basis or took a stab at poetry on a whim, if you want to share it, that's what this page is for. We are accepting submissions from Soldiers for any type of visually based art. So get out there and start exercising that creative muscle!

Submission Examples:

- * Short Stories
- * Poetry
- * Drawings
- * Paintings
- * Graphic Design Work
- * Photographs

Submission Guidelines:

Submissions are "clean" in nature. Content that is offensive, or contains generally harsh language will be rejected. Any derogatory works or direct attacks on individuals will be rejected. Posts will not advertise any for profit content, to include selling or looking to buy items. Submitting your work does not always guarantee placement do to space restrictions.

Instructions:

Email the following to pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com

Email Title:

Soldiers Gallery Submission (Your Name)

Email Message:

Your Name (If you wish to submit your work anonymously, indicate after your name.)
Title of Work
The work of art
(All work must be submitted digitally, either attached or included in the email. If submitting an image, submit the highest quality possible.)



Command Security Detail Conducts VIP Escort Training

Story and photos by
Sgt. Christopher Johnston
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Public Affairs NCOIC

Soldiers of the Command Security Detail, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducted a VIP escort training mission Sept. 24, at the Udairi Range Complex, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The mission of CSD is to guard and protect the brigade commander and brigade command sergeant major. As part of the CSD, Soldiers need to prepare for many different scenar-



Soldiers of the Command Security Detail, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division take cover and return fire during a VIP escort training mission Sept. 24, at the Udairi Range Complex, near Camp Buehring Kuwait. The training exercise enhanced the Soldier's ability to move, communicate and work together as a team while preparing for any mission that may be presented to them. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs)

ios that may occur in a real world environment.

“Where ever we go and whatever we do, our first and foremost mission is to ensure they can get where they need to get safely, and there is no hostile intent,” said Sgt. James Donovan, assigned to CSD, HHT, 3rd BSTB, and Ocean Township N.J. native.”If there is hostile intent, we are able to react to that proficiently and get them out of the situation as quickly as possible.”

The training consisted of two teams simulating escorting a VIP through an urban environment, coming under fire, breaking away from hostile fire, and securing a building to ensure the safety of the VIP.

As the two teams walked through a range littered with dilapidated buildings, rusty abandoned vehicles

with enemy and friendly targets scattered throughout, they came under fire. They took cover, and returned suppressive fire toward the enemy. The two teams then took turns strategically withdrawing from enemy contact.

“This establishes muscle memory and gives us a basis for scenarios that could happen in the real world,” said Donovan “If you don’t train like you fight, then you won’t know how to fight.”

After the Soldiers had effectively removed the VIP from harm’s way, they moved to the second phase of the training.

Each four member team systematically cleared and secured a building and eliminated any enemy threat inside the building.



Soldiers of the Command Security Detail, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, kick in a door and prepare to enter and clear a room during a VIP escort training mission Sept. 24, at the Udairi Range Complex, near Camp Buehring Kuwait. Soldiers simulated escorting a VIP through an urban area while taking fire and then securing a building while protecting the VIP. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs)

“This is basic Soldiering skills, as long as you keep up with them, keep them in your mind, and keep them fresh,” said Spc. James Whitlock, as-

signed to CSD, HHT, 3rd BSTB and a Maynard Ark. native. “This is everything you learned from Basic Training, only better.”

Both phases of the training were conducted with live ammunition and focused on safety, communication and team work.

“My team did extremely well,” said Donovan. “Coming together and doing stuff like this always enhances the overall group potential.”

NOVEMBER 11, 1885

WORLD WAR II GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON (1885-1945) WAS BORN IN SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA. IN 1942, HE LED THE ALLIED TASK FORCE THAT LANDED AT CASABLANCA IN NORTH AFRICA. HE COMMANDED THE U.S. 7TH ARMY DURING THE INVASION OF SICILY, THEN RECEIVED WORLDWIDE ATTENTION AND AN OFFICIAL REPRIMAND FOR SLAPPING A HOSPITALIZED SOLDIER SUFFERING FROM BATTLE FATIGUE. AFTER D-DAY, HE LED THE U.S. 3RD ARMY ACROSS FRANCE AND INTO GERMANY. HE DIED AT HEIDELBERG, GERMANY ON DECEMBER 21, 1945, OF INJURIES FROM AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT.



Soldiers of the Command Security Detail, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division strategically withdraw during a VIP escort training mission Sept. 24, at the Udairi Range Complex, near Camp Buehring Kuwait. Two teams worked together to withdraw the VIP from enemy contact. As one team returned fire toward the enemy, the other team moved to cover. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs)

1-15 Re Up

Story and photos by
1st Lt. Joseph Bush
1-15 IN, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Unit Public Affairs Representative

A Soldier's reenlistment can be a significant and emotional event, and most want to make it memorable by having it done on a helicopter, ship, underwater or some other strange and austere place or condition. For 29 Soldiers in 1st Battalion 15th Infantry Regiment they wanted to do it together. On Oct. 20, the Can Do Battalion held a mass reenlistment ceremony under the guns of their M1A2 Abrahams and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

The Soldiers took advantage of the new fiscal year's opportunities bonus's by reenlisting at the first possible opportunity in a mass reenlistment with the Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Nelson Kraft, administering the oath. With the changing Army reducing its end strength and



aligning the force, it is important to retain qualified Soldiers to maintain our all volunteer force, according to the fiscal year 2013 memorandum on Army retention. Another reason for the large number of reenlistees is that the 2013 guidance opened up reenlistment 2 years out allowing Soldiers with ETS dates out to Sept. 30, 2014 to take the opportunity a year earlier than last year allowed. “With the ever changing face of today’s Army, and realignment of forces, it is imperative that Soldiers and leaders are well educated on the retention program that we have today to ensure that the Soldiers are making the right decision for their future and career,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ruth Postell the 1-15 IN career counselor.

The Soldiers reenlisted for a variety of opportunities, other than a few thousand dollars in reenlistment bonuses. Four senior career-minded Soldiers reenlisted for option 1, Regular Army needs of the Army, with an indefinite reenlistment. Eight Soldiers reenlisted for option 2, station stabilization, with education incentives, which means they will remain on Kelly Hill for an additional 12 months and have the opportunity to attend 1 semester of college on the U.S. Army. 6 Soldiers reenlisted with option 3, Army training, which means they will reclassify into a new military occu-



pational specialty. Only one Soldier took the opportunity to get stationed overseas as part of Option 4. With 10 Soldiers taking option 5, the majority chose, CONUS station of choice, and the opportunity to branch out to another duty station in the lower 48 states.

Whatever option these Soldiers took or will take there is often a deeper reason or ambition for wanting to stay in the military much like there was when they decided to walk into the recruiter's office and enlist in the first place. Cpl. Boyd Ghant, of Destroyer Company, 1-15IN, who reenlisted to be a 92A automated supply specialist, did it was for his family. Ghant said, "In the long run it will help me and my family out a lot." He said, "Plus [the Army] has brought me a long way from who I used to be." For Spc. Adolfo Chagoy, it was a much deeper belief in what he doing here as a Soldier. "I reenlisted in the United States Army 'cause I feel my duty, as a free American citizen, is to serve my country as a United States Soldier, Chagoy said. "We don't fight 'cause we hate what's in front of us, we fight 'cause we love what we left behind."

For whatever reason these 29 Soldiers decided to stay in the Army we are proud of them and hope to continue to breed great Soldiers and Americans like them.

Concussions

Sports & Safety

A concussion is an injury to the brain that is usually the result of a blow to the head. Symptoms include disorientation, vision disturbance, headache, dizziness, amnesia, loss of balance, difficulty concentrating, and nausea. A concussion does not necessarily involve a loss of consciousness. Repeated and ignored concussions can become a serious problem.

The best way to prevent concussion is to avoid contact sports, but that may not be a viable option for many people. Treating a concussion simply involves resting, although you can take acetaminophen (Tylenol) if you have a headache. Depending on the severity of your concussion, you will have to refrain from playing contact sports for a few hours to a few months. Returning to play too quickly could result in second impact syndrome, a potentially fatal condition.

Remember to be safe and wear protective equipment when necessary. If you suspect a concussion in either yourself or your battle buddy, don't ignore it!



Vigilance & Honor

Lt. Col. Steven M. George
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, BSTB Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Scott E. Guillory
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, BSTB Command Sergeant Major

Family Members and Friends of the Buffalo Battalion,

“Vigilance and Honor!”

BSTB Soldiers enthusiastically closed out the fourth month of our deployment marking our half way point with a focused mindset. We are fully engaged with our partnership effort, mission support, and internal training events. We remain poised and ready to execute whatever mission we are tasked to execute anywhere in the region. Even with a full menu of events and requirements we make a conscience effort to give our Soldiers time to relax, communicate with loved ones, and participate in Morale Welfare and Recreation events to maintain a high level of morale.

Partnership has taken off with a blast. We are fully engaged with our two Kuwaiti

partnered brigades through training exchanges that are focused on tactics while reaping the benefit of exposure to a new culture and history. We initiated a three week training cycle that includes the exchange of ideas on how to execute various combat tasks. Although we are fully engaged in training with our partners, the exchange of local customs, traditions, and history is a side benefit of the partnership. At the conclusion of the duty day, Soldiers from the Buffalo Battalion and the Kuwaiti Brigades enjoy the sharing of foods, tea, and board games as they unwind and recap the day's events. We expect our partnerships to continue to reach new heights as we learn from each other and potentially create new lifelong friendships.

The Buffalo Battalion internal training schedule included some unique training events this past month. We initiated the month's training with stabilize gunnery for our Chaos and Hellraiser companies. Of the ten Bradley Fighting Vehicles crews that qualified during gunnery, four crews achieved the highest qualification level as distinguished and six crews achieved the second highest level, superior. This is a new record for the Battalion and we look to build

on our success at the next range. All of the Companies continue to hone their combat skills through marksmanship ranges. Unique to this month were the hand grenade, AT 4, and TOW ranges. Members of each company from the Battalion got the opportunity to participate in the hand grenade and AT 4 range. Chaos Company got the opportunity to fire TOW missiles for the first time in the history of the Battalion. We continue to expand our capabilities and set new precedents for training goals within the Battalion which will allow us to be more versatile in any environment.

Morale of our BSTB Soldiers remains extremely high. The high level of morale is due to programs and support we receive here in Kuwait and from home. Besides the Battalion led trips to other camps that provide different amenities, our Soldiers have taken MWR sponsored trips off Camp Buehring to malls, museums, and restaurants in Kuwait City. These trips allow our Soldiers to experience the Kuwaiti culture first hand. After the MWR trips, Soldiers realize Kuwait is much more than a desert, but also has all the amenities of

any U.S. city. It is our goal to have every Soldier participate in at least one of these trips before the end of our stay in Kuwait.

The success of the Buffalo Battalion is a reflection of the support we receive from the families, friends, and charity organizations at Fort Benning and across the United States. Your love and support allows us to continue to reach great heights. We extend our thanks, gratitude and appreciation for the amazing support we receive. We are half way through our deployment and look forward to the day that we are reunited at Fort Benning.

Buffalo 6 & 7



Sergeant Major of the Army visits Sledgehammer Brigade

Story and photos by
Sgt. Christopher Johnston
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Public Affairs NCOIC



Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III talks to Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, about the challenges of today's Army Oct. 1, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Chandler talked about the Army suicide rate, sexual assault, hazing in the Army, and asked each Soldier to help eliminate these problems, not by policies and procedures, but through their day to day actions as U.S. Soldiers. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs)

Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III visited the Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division to discuss the shape of the Army and gather feedback from Soldiers Oct. 1, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

During his visit, Chandler spoke about some of the tougher issues the Soldiers of today's Army are facing.

Chandler asked for each and every Soldier's help taking care of each other and reducing the number of Soldiers committing suicide.

"You can control what's going on with the Soldiers you lead. You can be involved in their lives. If you don't supervise anyone, your friends are someone. You need to look out for them," said Chandler.

People are afraid to ask for help with personal situations in their lives. When you have a problem with your weapon

that you are unable to fix, what do you do? You ask for help, he explained.

"We have this 'I am a professional, no one is more professional than I' stuff," said Chandler. "Part of your profession is, it's ok to ask for help."

The Army's most senior noncommissioned officer also spoke with Soldiers regarding sexual assault.

There were 1,701 reported sexual assaults last year. The Army provides Soldiers with training and classes on prevention of sexual assault and agencies to take care of Soldiers who have been sexually assaulted.

"I am not satisfied until we don't have any more sexual assaults in the Army," said Chandler. "We spout all this stuff, 'everyone is supposed to have a battle buddy, we are gonna look out for each other,' but we still have sexual assaults."



Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III answers a question on the subject of suicide in the Army during his visit to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 1. During his visit with the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Chandler spoke of personal courage, one of the Army Values, and how Soldiers need to truly look out each other as well as be strong enough to ask for help even with personal problems. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs)

"Why is it that if someone were to take a material possession, something we can buy and replace, we get pissed off? Why aren't we pissed off when someone gets sexually assaulted? You can't buy back somebody's dignity or respect, you should be furious about that."

"It's us that are going to solve this

problem. It's not a program, not a poster, not a policy. It's us actually living what we say."

Chandler also interacted with Soldiers on the topic of hazing in the Army.

He mentioned topics such as Soldiers getting smoked, which equates to vari-

ous physical exercises as a form of punishment, as well as a recent story of a promotion ceremony, that was shown on television and the internet, of a Soldier getting hit in the chest with a wooden mallet.

“I’m disgusted, we have had a no hazing policy for at least 15 years now, and we still tolerate this type of behavior.”

Chandler said this is not the professionalism we should be presenting. While looking out at the nearly 200 Soldiers present, he again asked for each and every one of their help to fix these issues present in the Army today.

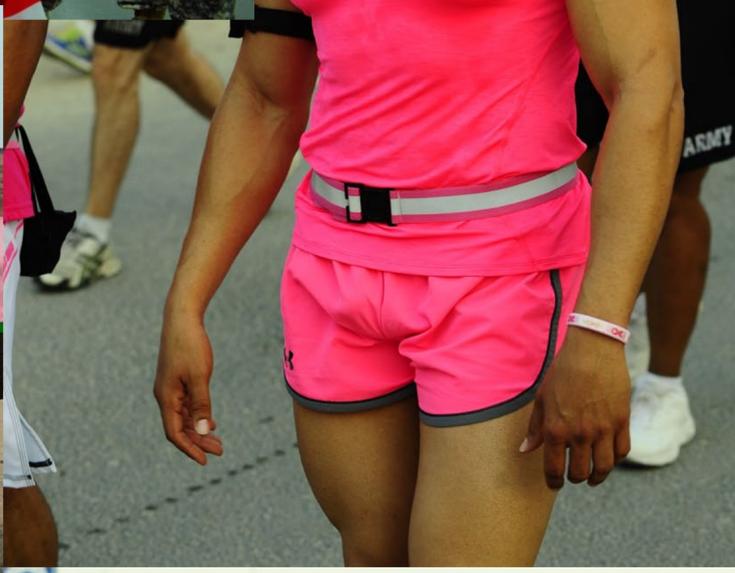
Chandler also answered questions Soldiers had about such topics as a proposed new tattoo policy, reenlistment bonuses, and military downsizing.

After the questions, Chandler took the time to take photographs with Soldiers.



Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III speaks with Spc. Catherine A. Ford, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Oct. 1, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, before presenting her with a coin. Chandler visited Camp Buehring to discuss the shape of the Army and gather feedback from Soldiers. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs)

Breast Cancer Awareness Day



Support & Defend

Lt. Col. Monica L. Burnhauser
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 203rd BSB Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Kent A. Galvin
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 203rd BSB Command Sergeant Major

Eagle Families and Friends,

Greetings from Kuwait!

Temperatures are getting cooler, but the training is heating up as the Soldiers of the Eagle Battalion continue to train with intensity and focus. Soldiers conducted training events to include squad designated marksmanship, protective services detail (PSD) training, convoy academy classes, night vision device (NVD) drivers training, land navigation, Modern Army Combatives, and a litter relay competition. The highlight of the month was our Sustainment STX in which we established battalion operations out in the field and conducted situational training exercises. Eagle Soldiers executed Tactical Convoy Operations (TCO) with blank ammo and Motor-

ized Platoon Live Fire (MPLFX) with live ammo. It was a great opportunity for our Soldiers to set up operations in the field, react to IEDs and local nationals, and conduct MEDEVAC and recovery operations. Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and I are very confident in our Soldier's abilities to accomplish all missions with precision for the upcoming field training exercises.

We would like to welcome our newest member of the Eagle Battalion, Capt. Aaron Griffin. He has assumed command of Charlie Company and comes to us from the Brigade Surgeon Cell. His energy and enthusiasm will take the "Painkillers" to the next level. We also bid farewell to the outgoing company commander, Capt. Sean Colley, as he assumes the role of Brigade Medical Planner. He did an outstanding job during his time at 203d BSB and we wish him well in the future.

Several Eagle Soldiers were promoted this month which is always good for the morale in the ranks. It shows if you try hard and live the army values, you are rewarded for your dedication. Congratulations to Sgt. Davis, Spc. Brawner (HHC),

Sgt. Kinsey, Spc. Dockery, Spc. Reyes (A Co), Staff Sgt. Patterson, Spc. Green, Spc. Painter, Spc. Foster, Spc. Killingsworth (B Co), and Spc. Nelson (C Co).

It was extremely busy for our Retention NCO, Staff Sgt. Lewis, as he assisted over 20 Eagle Soldiers to reenlist this month: Staff Sgt. Coleman, Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Edwards, Spc. Collins, Spc. Christopher, Spc. Reyes (A Co), Staff Sgt. Ojeda, Staff Sgt. Acquah, Sgt. Tipton, Spc. Elliott, Spc. Clay, Spc. Bennett, Spc. Morreale, Spc. Brum, Spc. Wallace, Spc. Juarezledesma (B Co), Sgt. Bradford, Sgt. Conklin, Spc. Gavitse, Spc. Nolke, Spc. Windham (C Co).

We are successful here thanks to the love and support that Soldiers and families provide to us. We are grateful to the Family Readiness Groups and rear detachment personnel for building momentum within the regular formation through their dedication to the families and Soldiers. Their contributions

illustrate the care and the concern that continue to carry the companies and its Soldiers throughout this deployment.

In closing, we are an organization that will thrive in uncertainty through our core competencies and self-confidence. We could not be more proud of being members of such an outstanding organization. We are proud of the Eagles and they truly live by our motto, "Support and Defend".

Lt. Col. Monica L. Burnhauser
Command Sgt. Maj. Kent A. Galvin
203d BSB Commander
203d BSB Command Sergeant Major





WANT TO PLACE AN AD?

HERE'S WHAT YOUR AD WILL LOOK LIKE

Soldier's VOICE

Title: Keep it short and to the point. Try to stay around five words.

Wanting to Start a Dodgeball League

SPC Chuck Finley:

Message: Include as much relevant information as you can but be brief. Anything over 7 sentences will be trimmed down.

We've got six guys right now from HHT who are ready to play and we know 3 people from 203rd who are interested too. It doesn't have to be based on company, but we want to get some teams together and start playing. If you want to play, have suggestions for forming teams, or have a team already, contact us. Let's get this going!

Contact: If you are wanting feedback, include some contact information. We will not include this unless you ask.

Contact: Chuck.Finley@gmail.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/beuhringdodgeball](https://www.facebook.com/beuhringdodgeball)

This space is for you to ask questions, post concerns, or to find other Soldiers to set up an event. A submission does not guarantee placement due to space restrictions.

Rules:

Posted content is "clean" in nature. Content that is offensive, or contains generally harsh language will be rejected.

Posts which are derogatory or a direct attack on an individual will be rejected.

Posts will not advertise any for profit content, to include selling or looking to buy items.

Instructions:

Email the Following to pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com

Email Title:

Soldiers Voice Submission (Your Name)

Email Message:

Your Name

Title

Message

Contact Information (Optional)

Rock's Support

Lt. Col. James E. Willard
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-10 FA Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Aaron
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-10 FA Command Sergeant Major

Another busy, productive month is in the books for the battalion as the "Rock's Support" Soldiers continue to perform tremendously well. The month of October is notable for the variety, quantity, and quality of events conducted. These events include providing artillery fires in support of 1-15 Infantry's Platoon Qualifications, executing our own Artillery Platoon Qualifications, participation by numerous Soldiers in the Camp Buehring Ten Miler, and the completion of the finest NCO Induction Ceremony I have ever witnessed.

The month started out with a bang, as the "Can Do" and "Rock's Support" Battalions headed to the field to refine and advance combined arms operations at the platoon level. Throughout the month, both battalions' rotated combat formations to the field to execute platoon level operations

supported by a variety of fire support assets including Paladin Howitzers, Apache Helicopters, and F/A-18 Fighter Bombers. Each iteration was preceded by extensive coordination and rehearsals that lead to realistic live fire training for all involved. It brings joy to an Artilleryman's heart to provide fires in a truly up close and personal manner for our maneuver brothers. There is nothing better than feeling the power of friendly artillery paving the way to an objective.

In addition to maneuver training support, the battalion qualified our artillery platoons as they were challenged by a 72 hour, scenario driven live fire event. Each platoon was required to plan, rehearse and execute an operation that pushed them and their equipment to the limits of performance. Facing a variety of artillery fire missions, time constrained movements, and enemy ground and artillery attacks stressed both the technical and tactical competence of the platoon leadership. All involved performed admirably and I have no doubt this Battalion fields the most capable, heavy artillery in the world, bar none!

Not only are the Soldiers improving

their skills professionally, they are also improving personally. The physical transformation of our Soldiers has been spectacular as the vast majority established fitness regimes that are allowing them to achieve goals that many have never even considered. Indicative of this is the large number of Soldiers who ran in the Camp Buehring 10 Miler on 21 October 2012. Of this group, fifteen Soldiers in the battalion are training to run a marathon (26.2 miles) on the camp in November. I am incredibly proud of all our Soldiers and the hard work they have done.

Finally, I want to thank the battalion's Non-Commissioned Officer Corps for performing the most professionally executed, dignified NCO Induction Ceremony I have ever witnessed. This event demonstrated the professionalism and meticulous attention to detail for which Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron and the "Rock's Support" NCO Corps have become known. There is possibly no more important moment in our Army than when a Soldier makes the transition to a Sergeant; a leader of warriors. It was an honor to have the sen-

ior Artilleryman in theater, Maj. Gen. Gary Cheek, preside over the ceremony inducting 16 Soldiers into the ranks of the NCO. We were also blessed to have our friend and partners from the Kuwaiti Land Forces Artillery Regiment with us to observe the ceremony; truly a special day in the Rock's Support Battalion!

In closing, I want to thank everyone back home for your continued support, thoughts and prayers as we reach the half way point in this deployment. We couldn't do this without you. It is an honor to have each and every one of you as part of the "Rock's Support" Family.

Hard Rock 6 & 7





We have now seen our first day of rain and the cool weather is becoming a frequent visitor. Most of us have received our influenza shots to help fight off the flu but it doesn't stop there. Cold and flu prevention is ongoing and to avoid getting either of the nasty bugs you must maintain a strong immune system and here is how:

- Eating foods high in protein- almonds, lean cuts of beef and pork are great sources of protein and magnesium which help support a healthy immune system
- Consuming fruits and veggies high in Vitamin A, C and E- each vitamin serves a different purpose in helping your body fight off infections.
- Exercise- antibodies and white blood cells circulate through your body faster allowing for a quicker detection of illness.
- Check vitamin levels- vitamin deficiencies affect how your body responds to illness in your body.

Eagle Soldiers Go Back to the Basics During PSD Training

Story by Capt. Garrick I Guicko
203rd, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Battalion Communications OIC
Public Affairs Representative

Soldiers from the Movement Security Platoon (MSP), Alpha Company,

203rd Brigade Support Battalion participated in Protective Services Detail (PSD) training at Range 5 near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. PSD training was a 3-day program of instruction begin-

ning with individual tasks and ending with a team/detail collective task Live Fire Exercise (LFX) in which training was conducted using the crawl, walk, and run training methodology. The training also included the principles and fundamentals of reacting



to small arms fire, ambush (IED/RPG/VBIED), blocked route and downed vehicle(s). The MSP executed “Break Contact” and Attack on Principal LFX to reinforce Close Quarter Marksmanship (CQM) techniques, target indexing, utilization of the “Bound and Peel” technique, and team communications.

CAMP BUEHRING NOVEMBER MWR EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FACILITIES OPEN 24 HOURS OASIS - MWR PALMS - UDAIRI CENTER PHONE # 438 - 3202 FITNESS CENTER PHONE # 438 - 3130				1 Karaoke Night - Oasis @ 2000	2 Hip Hop Night - Oasis @ 2000	3 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament - The Palms @ 1200
Waistn' a Weigh Till Thanksgiving - Main Gym @ 0800 (16 Sept - 21 Nov) Flag Football League - Multi-Purpose Field @ 1800 (13 Oct - 13 Dec)						
4 4 v 4 Tug of War Competition - Volleyball Court @ 1900	5 Classic Movie Mondays on the MWR Stage - MWR Stage @ 1800	6 Salsa Lessons - Oasis @ 1900	7 3rd Army USARCENT Birthday 5K - Eisenhower @ 0600	8 Karaoke Night - Oasis @ 2000	9 Latin Night - Oasis @ 2000	10 Marine Birthday 5K - Eisenhower @ 0600 Saturday Night Bingo - Oasis @ 1900
Waistn' a Weigh Till Thanksgiving - Main Gym @ 0800 (16 Sept - 21 Nov) Flag Football League - Multi-Purpose Field @ 1800 (13 Oct - 13 Dec)						
11 Veteran's Day STREND Competition - Main Gym @ 1700	12 Classic Movie Mondays on the MWR Stage - MWR Stage @ 1800 Glow in the Dark Chipping Contest - Volleyball Court @ 1900	13 9 Ball Tournament - Udairi Rec Center @ 1900	14 Buehring Weekly 5K - Eisenhower @ 0600	15 Karaoke Night - Oasis @ 2000	16 Of Skool Night - Oasis @ 2000	17 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament - The Palms @ 1800
Waistn' a Weigh Till Thanksgiving - Main Gym @ 0800 (16 Sept - 21 Nov) Flag Football League - Multi-Purpose Field @ 1800 (13 Oct - 13 Dec)						
18 1st Annual Buehring Field Day - Volleyball Court @ 1200 Camel Rides - Camp Buehring Track @ 1500	19 Classic Movie Mondays on the MWR Stage - MWR Stage @ 1800	20 Salsa Lessons - Oasis @ 1900	21 Buehring Weekly 5K - Eisenhower @ 0600	22 Thanksgiving 5K - Eisenhower @ 0600 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament - Basketball Court @ 1800 Karaoke Night - Oasis @ 2000	23 Country Night - Oasis @ 2000	24 Saturday Night Bingo - Oasis @ 1900
Waistn' a Weigh Till Thanksgiving - Main Gym @ 0800 (16 Sept - 21 Nov) Flag Football League - Multi-Purpose Field @ 1800 (13 Oct - 13 Dec)						
25 American Indian Heritage Month Observance - Theater @ 1200 Pull Up Competition - Main Gym @ 1900	26 Classic Movie Mondays on the MWR Stage - MWR Stage @ 1800	27 Ping Pong - Udairi Rec Center @ 1900	28 Buehring Weekly 5K - Eisenhower @ 0600	29 Karaoke Night - Oasis @ 2000	30 Salsa Night - Oasis @ 2000	
Flag Football League - Multi-Purpose Field @ 1800 (13 Oct - 13 Dec)						

Rock Highlights Platoons; Role of the NCO

Over the past month, the Rock's Support Battalion spent multiple days in the field conducting platoon level training and supporting 1-15 Infantry Regiment's Gun Tables. Throughout the month, batteries took advantage of the cooler weather and further trained their respective units. During platoon level training, Battery Command Teams focused their training on the successful completion of Artillery Table XII tasks. These tasks focus on platoon operations and effective Paladin platoon employment. During the month, each platoon culminated with Artillery Table XII qualifications. The qualification consisted of 72 hours of continuous operations. On Day 1, platoon leadership completed Troop Leading Procedures and prepared their respective element for live fire. On Day 2 and 3, platoons

conducted a host of live fire missions and artillery specific operations to validate planning and mission command. Senior leaders from the Battalion staff provided oversight and feedback to each platoon's leadership on their performance at a variety of tasks.

Concurrently, the Battalion supported 1-15 Infantry Regiment's Gun Table XII. Similar to Artillery Table XII, Gun Table XII also tested the maneuver platoons in a variety of Troop Leading Procedures and core competencies. The "Can Do" Battalion created several tactical maneuver lanes that enhanced their platoon techniques, tactics, and procedures. In addition, maneuver platoon leaders integrated indirect fires into their planning. During iterations, the Rock's Support Battalion had elements on station providing accurate, timely indirect fires during multiple day and night iterations. This training proved invaluable as it further enhanced the close relationship between both battalions and reinforced platoon level ma-

neuver and fires integration.

NCOs took center stage throughout this past month. The month began when the Sergeant Major of the Army came to visit the Soldiers of the Rocks Support Battalion. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Chandler conducted a walkthrough of the Soldiers living areas and fielded a question and answer session with enlisted personnel of all ranks. Furthermore, he took time to discuss current issues facing the NCO corps at the luncheon here at Camp Buehring. His visit proved insightful and helped NCOs of all ranks better understand the future of the Army as the force contracts after a decade of combat operations. Later on in the month, the Rock's Support Battalion took time to recognize the achievements of all junior NCO's by holding an NCO Induction Ceremony. The first rate production



highlighted the NCO's unique role within the Army and served as a reminder of the critical role that NCOs have within our formation. Special guests for the event included Maj. Gen. Gary Cheek, Col. Johnnie Johnson, and the Kuwaiti

Field Artillery Regiment commander, Col. Khalid.

As the month concluded, the Battalion took part in the Brigade Organizational Day. The Rock's Support Bat-

talion fielded multiple teams to include basketball, flag football, dodge ball, tug of war, and a squad competition team. Soldiers competed against the other battalions to give leaders and soldiers a break from their daily tasks. The day allowed the Battalion to build esprit de corps among the ranks as we cheered on Battalion teams.

As the Battalion looks towards November, the training focus transitions from the collective to combined training as we continue our work with the Kuwaiti Field Artillery Regiment. Various upcoming training events will further refine internal systems while we conduct combined arms live fires with 1-15 Infantry Regiment and the Kuwaiti Land Forces. As always, the Rock's Support Battalion remains prepared to provide timely, accurate fires for the Sledgehammer Brigade regardless of time or location.

Rock's Support!

Sledgehammer Comic: Rise!



Buffalo Soldiers Charge Ahead With Training

As the Buffalo herd continues to charge full speed ahead towards the apex of our deployment, we have become a lethal entity within our specialty areas for the Brigade. As we approach the mid-way point of our deployment, we take the time to reflect on an event filled month that included partnership exchanges with our Kuwaiti hosts as well as unique internal training and morale building events.

Our primary focus continues to be training alongside our partnered Kuwaiti Brigades. We initiated a three week training cycle with our partners that incorporates Soldiers from every company within the Battalion. Each cycle involves a different company from our Kuwaiti partners and will last well into 2013. We have successfully completed two three week cycles and currently are half way





tween the two Armies.

All of the Buffalo Companies continue to sustain their technical and tactical skills through multiple training events. The companies remain sharp and poised to deploy anywhere within the region in support of partnership and designated missions throughout region.

The Alpha Company Raptors experienced a month of executing their technical skills and honing their tacti-

cal skills through marksmanship ranges and aerial support for our sister battalion training events. The Raptors sharpened their marksmanship skills through rehearsals in the Engagement Skills Trainer and tested their abilities on a crew served weapons range. The Raptors soared into the stratosphere this month as they provided aerial coverage with the Shadow for the maneuver and artillery battalions conducting collective training. They also

continue to provide critical intelligence support to U.S. Army Central and the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team by conducting screenings of every foreign national entering our facilities while also keeping us informed of current international developments in the region. The Raptors took the lead with partnership this month as they trained with a company from the 94th Kuwaiti Brigade. They were the first to enhance our partnership plan by incorporating a social hour at the end of the training day. The social hour consisted of the sharing of foods and customs between the Kuwait unit and the Buffalo Battalion.

Bravo Company "Beasts" continue to work hard to ensure the brigade can communicate

across vast lands through multiple means. The company regularly sends Soldiers to a neighboring base to attend a broad range of classes from Microsoft excel to Security Plus to hone their already exceptional skills. Particularly noteworthy, Sgt. Buza was selected as a member of the prestigious Sgt. Audie Murphy Club. This stellar Non Commissioned Officer participated in a grueling board that lasted two days, met the challenge, and in the end



complete with the third. Our soldiers are enjoying the opportunity to train and learn from our Kuwaiti partners. Our interaction with our partners does not end when training is over. Buffalo Soldiers enjoy the opportunity to sample traditional foods and resiliency activities such as board games at the end of the training day. The partnerships allow both the Kuwaiti and our Buffalo Battalion Soldiers to improve their war fighting skills as well as strengthen a lifelong partnership be-



Chaos was the first company within the Battalion to conduct the hand grenade and AT-4 ranges and the first in the Brigade to execute the “Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire command data link”

(TOW) Mis-

sile range. For many Soldiers, this was the first time they fired these weapons which greatly increased the confidence and ability to engage and destroy the enemy.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company is the lifeline to all of our operations. They provide just in time logistic support which enables the remaining

companies to execute ranges and other training events. The Wardog Military Police and Chemical Platoons continue to share their special capabilities across the region enhancing security and partnerships.

As a morale builder, we conducted multiple MWR events this month. Every unit continues to travel to neighboring camps that offer amenities we don't have on Camp Buehring. Some companies took advantage of Camp Buehring's MWR sponsored trips to Kuwait City. They were able to experience the culture, dining, and historical experiences of Kuwait. On October 16, 2012, fifteen of our Buffalo Soldiers were inducted into the Non Commissioned Officer Corp. Our Buffalo First Sergeants introduced the newly promoted Buffalo Sergeants to Command Sgt. Maj. Frennier (Army Central's Command Sergeants Major) and all who attended. The newly promoted Sergeants answered the charge given by Command Sgt. Maj. Guillory to lead, train, and mentor the Soldiers within the Battal-

ion.

We realized that none of the great accomplishments could be possible if not for the support and love we receive from family and friends at Fort Benning. We appreciate the letters, care packages, and support you all provide to our deployed Buffalo Soldiers and their families. We know that everyone is working hard whether deployed or back at Fort Benning and look forward to the day when we are reunited in a single location. As always we will remain vigilant and honorable.



was selected as a member of this honored organization. This is a great honor for Sgt. Buza, the Company and the Buffalo Battalion.

Chaos Company enhanced their combat capabilities this month through stabilized gunnery, hand grenade, AT-4, and TOW ranges. They successfully qualified all nine stabilized crews with the highest scores in the company's history.

Military Family Appreciation Month

Each year the President signs a proclamation declaring November Military Family Month. Last year President Obama said that our nation owes “each day of security and freedom that we enjoy to the members of our Armed Forces and their families. Behind our brave service men and women, there are family members and loved ones who share in their sacrifice and provide unending support.”

This annual proclamation marks the beginning of a month-long celebration of the Military Family in which the Department of Defense and the nation will honor the commitment and sacrifices made by the families of the nation’s servicemembers.



My Battle

Written By: Maj. Ellis Gales Jr.

I've always heard that the battle's the Lord's
So why am I the first to pick up a sword?
Why do I long for the battlefield cries,
To look my enemies dead in their eyes?

'Cause I'm bold and courageous, I'm valiant and strong
I'm willing to fight no matter how long.
I stand tall like a soldier, like a general who's
Planned every step, every inch, every move.

I've made up my mind and I laid down my plans.
I'll never turn back, not ever again.
I've put on my armor and picked up my shield
I take up my sword as I turn to the field.

I bend down on my knees as I look through the air
I hold up my hands as I offer this prayer:

Lord you are strong even when I'm weak
You protect me all day and even when I sleep.
I pray to you this day that victory is mine
I know that you're with me, you've been every time
I've stumbled and fallen, looked death in the eyes

But Lord through your mercy I've always survived
No weapon can prosper, of this I am certain
Though I stand undefeated, only you know I'm hurting.
I've been bruised in my battles, and scarred in the den
Persecuted by all, even stabbed by my friends.
A warrior at heart, but a heart that still bleeds
Only you I can trust to supply all I my needs.
Lord give me the wisdom, the knowledge, the mind
To fight all my battles and win every time.

You've blessed me with talents, strength, courage and skill
With You on my side, I know that I will.
With you as my partner, I'm never alone
Lord please protect me until I come home.
I make this request before You I stand
Grant me Your anointing and Your courage, Amen.

Back on my feet with my sword in my hand
I'm closer to battle as I walk through the land.
My enemy's approaching; their fires burn through the fog
The battle won't end 'til I've defeated them all.

With swiftness and violence my sword has been swung
As my enemy surrounds me, now the battle's begun
As fierce as a dragon, and sharp as a blade
I battle my foes until day starts to fade

Surrounded by darkness, but the moon from afar
I battle my foes who outnumber the stars.
My fear has been taken, perseverance's been dealt

With victory comes fame, territory and wealth.

But victory's not easy, feeling battered and pain
But I've fought for too long and have too much to gain
The clashing of swords brings sparks to the skies
Dawn quickly approaching as the light starts to rise

A hand touches my shoulder, so I swing for it's head
But the man is unarmed, not harmed and not dead
I stare in amazement of this wonderful sight
For the light was not dawn, but a man in all white

*"You said I am strong even you're weak
So why is it victory over Me that you seek?
You've battled your enemies, but wounded yourself
If you look all around you, you'll see no one else.
You've planned all your battles and fought them your
best*

*But this wasn't a battle. It was only a test.
You wanted to battle with Me by your side
But I'll fight all your battles; all you do is ride
I've blessed you with talent, with strength, and with skill
But courage and wisdom come from doing My will
I'll give you this Armor if you give Me your sword."
So I lay down my weapon and trust in the Lord.*

I've fought a good battle and I've fought it my best.
Now the battle's the Lord's. It's my time to rest.

Sledgehammer Organizational Day

