

Inside:



Greywolf Ride for Safety
Pg. 4



Tankers Hone Skills
Pg. 5



Pegasus 6 runs with "Greywolf" Pg. 6



Son receives father's award Pg. 8



Baptism by "Fire"

Pg. 3

Battalion Emphasizes Family Readiness

By Spc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – Family Readiness Groups are essential tools for passing information from the command to every member of the unit – Soldiers and family members alike.

The 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Family Readiness Group had the chance to restart the flow of information at it's first meeting with their new commander Lt. Col. Quinton Arnold here April 22.

"One of the key things for the meeting was for me to introduce myself to the families," Arnold said.

"Being the new commander, having been in command for four weeks, I wanted to make sure that they met me, knew who I was and got straight from me what I think family readiness is all about," he said.

"It's an all day, every day, all year-long event," said Arnold. "It's not just for deployments."

Arnold has plans to make his new unit's FRG to be stronger.

"I wanted them to understand the importance to me of the family readiness group, and what the family readiness group does for us as families and for us as Soldiers," he said.

Arnold said he has several goals for the FRG to meet in the upcoming months. The first goal is for families to know what resources are available to them on post.

"I can't make them go there, but I can at least help them understand what is available so they know where to go... when they need some help," said Arnold.

His next goal is to make sure "once they understand what is available... they are maximizing the use of those resources," he said.

His last main goal was to make sure families are ready for the unit's next deployment to the National Training Center, and for the longer deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom, he said.

"NTC is a full dress rehearsal, so to speak, for that deployment," said Arnold.



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Quinton Arnold, commander of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks to Soldiers and families in his unit about the Family Readiness Group April 22.

When the Soldiers deploy to the center in California, it will give the FRGs a chance to find out what they need to fix before the deployment to Iraq.

"So that when you deploy, you have a functioning FRG and your family readiness is where it needs to be," said Arnold.

Arnold wanted to point out that FRGs are not just for married Soldiers and their families.

"It's for single Soldiers as well," he said. "I'm a single Soldier, and my parents always want to know what is going on."

Arnold said his parents are involved in his deployments and are the first people to meet him when he redeploy.

"For single Soldiers, having their parents tie into an FRG, it is a critical piece for that Soldier," said Arnold.

The commander also wanted to emphasize the strength the FRG can give Soldiers and their families.

"It ties you to a unit, it gives you access to information and resources that you didn't normally have out there by yourself," said Arnold. "If rumors are flying you can reach out and touch somebody and find out what is really going on."



The Greywolf Howl is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Greywolf Howl are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of The Greywolf Howl is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.



3rd Brigade Combat Team Commander

Col. Gary Volesky

3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Raul E. Marquez

raul.marquezhernandez@us.army.mil

3rd Brigade Combat Team Staff Writer/Editor

Pvt. Sharla Perrin

sharla.perrin@us.army.mil

“Greywolf” Leader Baptized at Range

By Spc. Ben Fox

3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – At a range, the Soldier began his day by running and firing at targets, carrying heavy loads and evaluating mock casualties.

After completing his test that visually showed his physical and mental capabilities on the battlefield, he would visually show his faith.

1st Lt. Benjamin Harrow, a platoon leader with Headquarter and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, was baptized at House Creek Assault Course on Fort Hood, Texas, May 21.

“I wanted to get baptized before I went over to Iraq, but it just seemed like the timing was never right and things just weren’t coming together for it,” said Harrow.

“Finally when we got back, I talked to the chaplain... about it,” said the Wilmington, N.C. native.

Albuquerque, N.M., native Capt. (CH) Kevin Wainwright, the 3-8 Cav chaplain, baptized Harrow.

“This is a combat unit, he is an infantry officer and this is bringing God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God,” said Wainwright.

“He said he would try to put something together that was pretty special, and this is pretty special, coming out to the field with all the guys here during training and getting baptized out here,” said Harrow.

“It was a little different and I think different, sometimes, is good,” he said.

“Out here with all of the guys and the shooting going on and the tone of religion, it lets you take a step back and realize the bigger picture.”

“This was a Christian sacrament, and I don’t want to take anything away from that, but what I also want to get out is that God loves Soldiers. He loves all Soldiers,” said Wainwright.

“I think this is a visible reminder of God’s love for Soldiers, and also a visible reminder of how important our spiritual core is,” he said.

“It’s something that we don’t focus on a lot... but when we face that moment of crisis, if you don’t have something



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

1st Lt. Benjamin Harrow, Headquarter and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, completes a stress shoot range before being baptized at the House Creek Assault Course on Fort Hood, Texas, May 21.

to reach back to, it can be a pretty lonely and hard place to be,” he said.

Wainwright said this event was also important to help Soldiers break the stigma that what they do is evil or wrong.

“When I look at scripture and faith and God...

God has a place in his heart for the warrior person of faith,” said Wainwright.

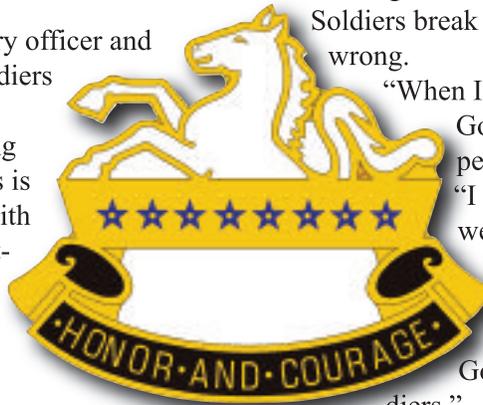
“I think it was a good visual reminder that wearing this stuff (combat gear) doesn’t make you unclean or less loved or somehow God wouldn’t want his presence to be here,” he said. “God wants to be here; God wants to be in the heart of our Soldiers.”

“I think a little spiritual health is good for all Soldiers, especially when you deploy and you go through some tough times, you can realize that God is there to help you get through those tough times,” said Harrow.

Wainwright also said it was important for the Soldiers to see another Soldier making the commitment instead of hearing about it.

“Soldiers are big on rituals and visual,” said Wainwright.

“We can talk about a lot of things, but when you actually see it, it makes a whole lot of difference.”



"GREYWOLF" RIDES FOR SAFETY



Photos by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pause for a photo opportunity at Lake Buchanan, Texas during the 'Greywolf' Safety Ride May 2.

By Spc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BURNET, Texas – Over one hundred motorcycle riders on sport bikes and cruisers stretched out along a central Texas highway.

Each rider was a member or former member of the 3rd "Greywolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, participating in a "Greywolf" safety ride May 2.

"The goal... was to put together an event that would help mentor young riders by pairing them up with more experienced riders," Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, the command sergeant major of the "Greywolf" brigade, who thought of and participated in the event.

"The second part of it was to get the Soldiers out and about in the central Texas area," said Felt.

"I don't know how true it is, but there are a lot of thoughts that say they get on that motorcycle and they crotch rocket themselves to Sixth Street (in Austin, Texas) and party and have a good time," he said.

"My message to them was there is more than (Highway) 195, (Interstate) 35 and Sixth Street," said Felt. "There's lots of stuff around here, and if you're not from this area, take advantage of that and see it.

"We specifically chose some routes through the countryside, across old bridges and around an old square," he said.

"The third part of it was to start at the cemetery and honor our fallen comrades," said Felt, referring to the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery on Highway 195. Felt said he thought it was appropriate with Memorial Day in the same

month.

"The fourth part of it was it was really a team building operation too," said the native of Monroeville, Penn.

"When you put all of these people with a common interest together from six different battalions and the brigade headquarters, there are relationships built, developed or initiated," said Felt.

"You kind of break down the barriers between the crotch rocket crowd and the cruiser crowd and the older crowd and the younger crowd," he said.

"Whether one guy drives a crotch rocket and another guy drives a (cruiser), the point is they both love motorcycles," said

Felt. "There is a common ground by which to start."

The route began at the cemetery and from there the formation rode down country roads to Fort Croghan Museum in Burnet, to fuel up, rest and mingle. Then the Soldiers rode on to Lake Buchanan and stopped for a photo opportunity on the lake.

The next stop was for chow in Lampasas. From there the Soldiers were released to their respective battalions.

"There was plenty of down time off of the bike to let the team work thing start to work," said Felt.

"Now, as the guys walk through the brigade area and they see one of the guys that was on the ride... they have a common ground from which to talk to each other and know a little bit more about each other," he said.

Not only did the event build camaraderie, more importantly it emphasized motorcycle safety, said Felt..

"The ultimate goal here is to save a Soldier's life, limb or eyesight... and encourage the Soldier to do this recreation in a safe and responsible manner," he said.



'Charger' tankers hone infantry skills

By Spc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – “Death before dismount.” The traditional tanker adage has been thrown out of the window.

In today’s modern warfare environment, tankers have been asked to dismount from their vehicles to fight insurgents on foot.

The 1-12 “Charger” Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, prepared tankers for their next deployment at the Elijah military operations in urban environments site at Fort Hood the week of April 28.

“You get the same thing out of this as you get out of any training,” said Sgt. Daniel Kawakami, Co. D, who was raised in Elmira, N.Y. “They try to make it as real as possible.”

Kawakami said he is used to being out of his tank while deployed.

“85 percent of the time I’ve been deployed, I’ve been on the ground,” he said.

“The most important part of the training is getting a lot of interaction with the guys,” said Spc. Jason Ware, native to Chicago. “This is our first time as a company putting everything together.”

Capt. Damasio Davila, the Co. D commander, said the training “gets them to start thinking about the urban environment.”

The training is “just getting them used to going up and down the stairs with all of their gear, getting them used to clearing rooms and doing the close quarters marksmanship,” Davila said.

“It isn’t traditional for them to be on the ground and clearing rooms, but they are doing it, and I would put them up against an infantry company or platoon,” he said.

“Some of the younger guys like it, because they’ve been exposed to it in basic training,” he said.

“I think it’s interesting. It’s definitely not what I signed

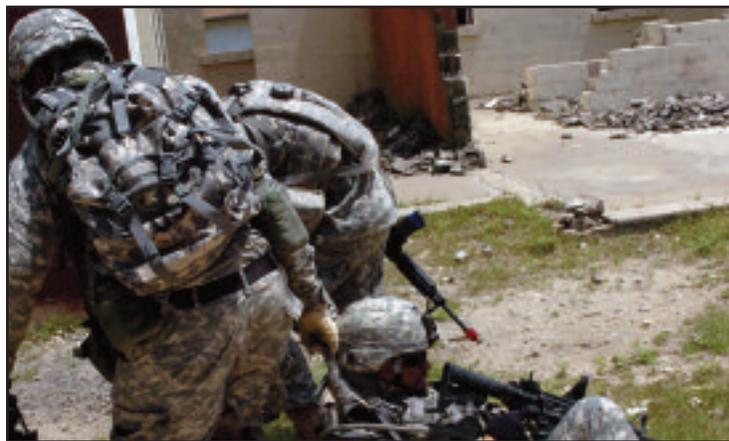


Photo by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

Soldiers with the 1-12 Cav, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, drag a mock casualty to a secure area during urban operations training at the Elijah MOUT site, Fort Hood, Texas May 1.

up for,” said Ware.

“The transition is rough, but it is happening, and they are able to get down on the ground and clear rooms,” said Davila.

“It’s not so much that they are having trouble clearing rooms, they know how to clear rooms,” he said. “It’s just that mentality, ‘I’m a tanker, and that’s what I do.’”

“I would definitely rather be on a tank,” said Ware.

“In the beginning, I had a bunch of gripes and complaints,” he said. “After a while, you have to do it anyway, so you might as well get it done.”

“It is a double load, and it is tough some time, but when we get to MOUT sites like this we take advantage of it,” said Davila.

Overall, the Soldiers still maintain their identity as tankers.

“I think it’s a little bit easier for them to get back on the tank, because that’s where their roots are,” said Davila.



Care, go teams train to help grieving families

By Spc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – The death of a Soldier is never easy for loved ones, but there is a group of trained volunteers who help the family after they are notified.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, began training sessions for their go team and care team volunteers May 14 here in preparation for a possible deployment.

“The reason why we conducted this training for the

brigade is because we have all new advisors at the battalion and brigade level and a lot of new company Family Readiness Group leaders,” said Bennington, Vt. native Lori Carpenter, the brigade’s Family Readiness Support Assistant.

Go teams and care teams are part of the brigade’s family readiness group (FRG) with different jobs. Go teams are the first responders after a family has been notified of their loved one’s death.

“Their initial job is to go and assess the situation to see if they (the families) need further assistance,” said Carpenter.

see **Families** next page

Families

From Page 5

Care teams assist the family with the needs the family asks for.

“Our care teams, the majority of the time, are preparing food, and (giving) comfort and support during the memorial and during the funeral,” Carpenter said.

“It’s important to get them trained on the important tasks they might be doing, especially during the deployment,” said Carpenter, though she also said the teams are always ready for family emergencies while the unit is not deployed.

“The purpose of the training is so that we feel more comfortable if we have the important task of going into a Soldier’s family’s home,” said Carpenter. “We have subject matter experts who work in this field and can train our families.”

Although the training is essential, “I can tell you from past experience when I was volunteering and went on go teams, you are never prepared enough for it,” she said.

“It is something that if we can get the right people in to train them, work with them and meet with them on... it will make it a little easier to prepare them for what they are going to do,” said Carpenter.

“In (Operation Iraqi Freedom II), we didn’t have the go team aspect... it was just a bunch of volunteers that had an hour of training, driving out there themselves and talking to this family member,” she said. “Now it is a little bit more structured.”

The teams now have procedures to follow such as riding together in a military van so they don’t crowd the house with numerous vehicles.

“From the past experiences we have improved a lot,” said



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

Bennington, Vt. native Lori Carpenter (right), the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Family Readiness Support Assistant, shares experiences with a group of go team and care team volunteers at the Oveta Culp Hobby Soldier and Family Readiness Center, on Fort Hood, Texas, May 14.

Carpenter.

The go team is more challenging than the care team in some aspects.

“We are honestly very picky on who is going to be a part of a go team, because not everybody can do it,” said Carpenter. “You are going into a home directly after a family member has been notified of a death of their loved one.”

Carpenter said she envisions a productive future for the new teams.

“From now on, either monthly or bi-monthly we will hold continuous care team training,” she said. “It is improving and it is going to continue to improve.”

“GREYWOLF” RUNS WITH CG



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

(Left) At the head of the pack, Maj. Gen. Bolger, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, runs beside Col. Gary Volesky, commander of the 3rd Greywolf Brigade, during a brigade run, May 12. (Right) Maj. Gen. Bolger speaks to the 3rd Greywolf Brigade Combat Team after the run, at Fort Hood, Texas, May 12.

BRIDGING THE WARRIOR GENERATION GAP

Vietnam Veteran shares experiences with 'Blacksmith' Soldiers



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

Weatherford, Texas, native Michael Gallaway, a Vietnam War veteran, speaks to Soldiers of Co. C, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, about the struggles he faced before and after going to war.

By Spc. Ben Fox

3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – A company of Soldiers listened as the man in the front of the room shared stories and experiences from his era with them.

The stories were about war and life after in the 1960s and 70s.

Michael Gallaway, a Vietnam War veteran, spoke to Soldiers with Medical Co. C, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, about his experiences during and after the war, May 9.

His stories included times when he was on patrol as a K-9 security policeman with the Air Force's 483rd Combat Support Group, as well as his struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder after he returned home from Vietnam, and the effects it had on his

wife and family.

"I'm hoping that... the guys and the



ladies, I was talking to, will find out that there's help out there, and that there's nothing that you have gone through that you can't get help for," said Gallaway.

Gallaway, who is from Weatherford, Texas, said he was originally going to be drafted into the Army, so he joined the Air Force to avoid going to war.

He ended up deploying anyway and returned with several stories to tell. Those stories fell on receptive ears.

"I thought it was interesting to hear the experiences of somebody that had been in (the Vietnam War) and what their life led to long after the war," said Spc. Jacob Trubey, native of Riverside, Calif.

"I think by having a Vietnam veteran come in, it gave (the Soldiers) the opportunity to see what it was like in Vietnam versus what we do today in Iraq," said 1st Sgt. Leonard Donaldson.

Donaldson explained that the combat veteran's personal war recollections lead Soldiers to understand how much more advanced the equipment we have today is in comparison to what they used back in Vietnam.

"Knowing what I know and what I went through, there is no price too small to pay to help just a little," said Gallaway. "These guys out here are making a difference."

"To see what the young men and women of this Army are doing today is just awesome," said Gallaway, who currently works as a ranch manager at Miracle Farms, a ministry devoted to teaching troubled boys the value of hard work.

Even though the Soldiers he spoke with were younger than him, Gallaway said that they share a unique bond.

"You can say what you want to about our age difference, but we are warriors," he said. "To me it was a privilege to share with a younger generation of warriors."

GOT PHOTOS?

If you'd like to see your photos in "The Greywolf Howl," e-mail Maj. Raul E. Marquez at raul.marquezhernandez@conus.army.mil or raul.marquezhernandez@us.army.mil.

Son receives father's posthumous award

By Spc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – After the large memorial rededication ceremony, a smaller ceremony was held across the street.

A young boy received an award for his father, a fallen Soldier, in front of a formation with many of his father's friends and comrades.

Devon Gauthreaux, 5, received the Gold Order of Mercury, an award for fallen signal Soldiers, in front of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, May 16.

Devon's father, Sgt. Jay Gauthreaux was killed in Iraq Dec. 4, 2007.

Zanesville, Ohio, native, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Lee, a close friend of Gauthreaux, read off the award citation.

"This award, as it stated on it, was actually given to Sgt. Gauthreaux for his sacrifice," said Lee.

"The Gold Order of Mercury is the latest in the Order of Mercury line," he said. "For this one here you have to make the ultimate sacrifice which means you gave your life for the U.S. Army.

"It's usually presented to a next of kin, obviously because the person isn't here to receive it on his own, but it's an award for Sgt. Gauthreaux's service to the Army and the Signal Corp," said Lee.

The tearful ceremony was a significant day for Devon.

"It was very important, because his son being so young, he isn't going to have all that many things to remember his father by," said Lee.

"This is one of the proud accomplishments that his father has done that he can look back on and remember," he said.

The event also hit Lee on a personal level.

"It meant a lot because I haven't seen (Devon) for almost



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

1st Sgt. Harold Hall, Co. 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gives the Gold Order of Mercury to Devon Gauthreaux, 5, in front of the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd BCT area May 16. Devon's father, Sgt. Jay Gauthreaux, was killed in Iraq Dec. 4, 2007.



two years. I was really good friends with (Gauthreaux and his son)," said Lee.

"They came over to my house; Devon has been over to my house many times, and he would play with my children," he said. "I saw him grow up for a lot of years so it was nice getting to see him again.

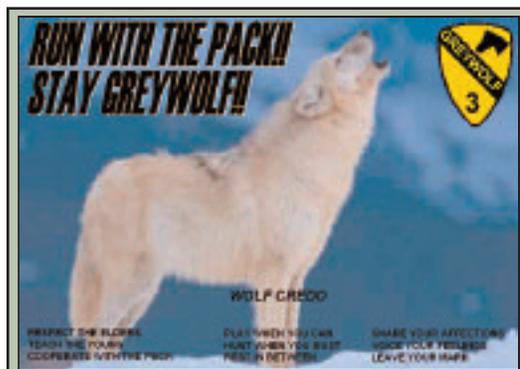
"For him to see how important his father was to all of us, it meant a lot to give that to Devon," he said.

"It was a very emotional and touching ceremony, and it meant a lot to me," said Lee.

"I definitely shed some tears again; it brings up a lot of memories," he said. "It's good to remember good friends that we lost."

After receiving his award, Devon had only one thing to say as he stepped out in front of the formation.

"Thank you for honoring my daddy."



"GREYWOLF" RETENTION TEAM

3 BCT SENIOR COUNSELOR
SGT. 1ST CLASS COLEMAN

3RD BSTB/215TH BSB
STAFF SGT. CONKLIN

1ST-12TH CAV/6TH-9TH CAV
STAFF SGT. ERICKSON

3RD-8TH CAV/2ND-82ND FA
STAFF SGT. FOLMAR

'GREYWOLF' SOLDIERS TRAIN UNDERGROUND

By Spc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – Beams of light pierced the darkness of the tunnel, revealing musty corridors and possible enemy hiding places. At the front of the beam, only rifle tips and dark silhouettes of Soldiers could be seen maneuvering through the black.

During the training event, the troops moved stealthily down the passageways, clearing rooms and detaining suspects. The Soldiers worked professionally and proficiently, making few mistakes.

Many of the Soldiers were new to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and had been training for only a few months.

“All of our (noncommissioned officers) have been saying we are doing really well,” said Pvt. Michael Gonzales.

The training took place the entire week of April 7 on West Fort Hood in underground tunnels, a change of landscape from the unit’s usual training around the battalion area.

Gonzales, a native of Knoxville, Tenn., said some of the veterans were grateful for the training area because they had trained primarily around the barracks before they deployed.

“They said we were really lucky getting up in the tunnels,” he said.

He added that the tunnels provided them with a variety of simulated environments.

“We have rooms on the other side that are like small houses,” Gonzales said. He added that they also used the corridors as alleyways.

Sgt. Humberto Dovalina said the troops conducted simulated night missions during the day, by turning of the lights in the tunnels.

Dovalina said the training relates to the Soldiers’ future deployment to Iraq because they are going into an area they are unfamiliar with.

“This training relates pretty well, especially with the way we are dealing with the (opposing force), like getting close to people’s faces and not understanding the language,” said Dovalina, a native of Eagle Pass, Texas.

The Soldiers training in the tunnels have shown improvement since they arrived to the unit, said Dovalina.

“I know that when they came here they really didn’t know too much about it,” he said. “We’ve been doing a lot of training back in garrison,” said Dovalina. “Coming out



Photos by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

(Top) While clearing a room, Soldier’s with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, detain a mock suspect during a training event in an underground tunnel system at Fort Hood, Texas, April 9. (Bottom) Pfc. Josh Macnicol, a native of St. Louis, pulls guard while his fellow Soldiers prepare to clear rooms.

here and actually having them see and do it with full gear, has been giving them a better opportunity (for improvement.)

“They have been advancing pretty quickly.”

Both ‘Grey Wolf’ troopers Dovalina and Gonzalez feel the Soldiers will be ready for the brigade’s next deployment.

“They said the only thing we have left to work on is our speed, but that will come naturally later,” said Gonzales.

'Steel Dragons' 1st to meet re-up mission in Cav Country



Photos by Spc. Benjamin Fox, 3BCT, Public Affairs

(Left photo) Sgt. Andrew Banyi (right) reenlists with the help of his battery commander, Capt. Derrick Borden, commander of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas, April 16. The battalion was the first in the entire division to meet its retention mission. (Right photo) Col. Gary Volesky (left), commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, congratulates Sgt. Andrew Banyi for reenlisting.

By Spc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – The 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team became the first battalion to meet its annual retention mission in the 1st Cavalry Division, April 16.

A day later, 6th Battalion, 9th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron also met its retention mission, making it the second battalion out of the “Grey Wolf” Brigade and 1st Cav to achieve such success.

Sgt. Andrew Banyi, who has been with 3-8 Cav since December 2005, and deployed with the unit to Iraq, reenlisted April 16, helping the battalion take its final step to its retention goal.

Staff Sgt. Bruce Marciszewski, the Steel Dragon Battalion’s retention NCO, said he attributes the success to his predecessor and the command climate.

“I kind of fell into a great program,” said Marciszewski. “The retention NCO that I replaced definitely set me on the right path.

“In 2-82, we have a great command climate, so my job is easy,” he said. “With our command climate and full support from our chain of command, it’s not hard to reenlist Soldiers in our unit.”

Staff Sgt. Jason Folmar, the career counselor for the unit, also said command climate was a critical factor for reenlistment.

“The command climate, in my experience, is one of the greatest attributes to Soldiers,” said Folmar.

Marciszewski said knowing the Soldiers in the unit is also important.

“I’ve been in 2-82 for eight years now, so all of the Soldiers basically know me, and they know I’m not going to

give them a bad deal,” he said. “All I have to do is get out there and talk to the Soldiers basically and let them know their options.

“It’s not just talking reenlistment; it’s getting to know the Soldiers, so that you will actually know what they want and what they need,” said Folmar.

“We are basically making the Soldier feel that the Army wants them. They are not just a number, and that’s not the way I treat my Soldiers,” said Marciszewski.

“Once they reenlist, I don’t just forget about them and move on to the next one,” he said. “I ask them how they are doing and make sure everything’s going alright.”

Folmar said he doesn’t reenlist for the numbers, but for the Soldiers’ needs.

“If you are taking care of Soldiers, then the Soldiers are going to take care of the Army by reenlisting,” said Folmar.

“The Army’s needs are always very important, but if you are taking care of the Soldier’s needs, then you are going to be taking care of the Army’s,” he said.

“One thing we don’t do in 2-82 or in 3rd Brigade or in 1st Cav, is we don’t reenlist a Soldier just to reenlist him.

When a Soldier leaves the reenlistment table after the ceremony and they have recited the oath, we want them to have a good feeling about the Army,” said Folmar.

“We want the Soldiers to be proud of the decision that they made, proud of the decision to continue with the 1st Cav or with the Army in general somewhere other than the 1st Cav.

“By doing that, by taking care of Soldiers, we are fostering good feelings in the Soldiers for the Army and for our country,” he said.

