



BATTLE SIGHT



Issue 8

30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team

March 2009



“Always Ready - Stay and Fight”

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Public Affairs Guidance for dealing with the media

- Always check media ID and credentials. If none, contact 30th Brigade PAO, Maj. Al Hunt.
- Never discuss troop locations and current or future plans.
- Everything you say is always on the RECORD with the media.
- Only discuss what you know and never speculate. Stay in your lane. If you do not know, say you do not know. NEVER lie to the media.
- Notify chain of command of media presence
- Be prepared by knowing three things you can say about yourself and three things you can say about your job.
- If you don't want to, you do not have speak, grant interviews or answer a reporter's questions, but always be polite.

Remember, if we do not tell the story, the media will be forced to write it on their own. We can be proud of what we are doing and the sacrifices our families are making. Let the world know that you are making a stand and what you are willing to defend.

On the cover: Lower left, upper left and upper right photos by Tech.Sgt. Brian Christiansen, lower right photo by Sgt. Robert Jordan, center photo by Pfc. Nathan LeCompte.

Battle Sight Magazine

Battle Sight, the official magazine of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, was first published in 2004 by Capt. Matthew J. Handley and Master Sgt. Michael P. Welsh during Old Hickory's first deployment to Iraq. Handley was the brigade public affairs officer, and Welsh was the public affairs NCOIC. Both men are innovators and superior leaders within the Army Public Affairs community.

Handley was promoted to the rank of Maj. in 2006 and is currently serving as the N.C. Army National Guard Public Affairs Officer.

Welsh was promoted to Sgt. Maj. in 2006. Later that year he was wounded in a complex ambush while serving in Afghanistan. Welsh retired from the Army National Guard in 2007 and is now working as a military analyst for a Department of Defense contractor.

The founders of this magazine were and are dedicated to the telling of "the Soldier's Story."

In recognition of this magazine's founders and in keeping with "Old Hickory's" reverence for its history, we offer you the March 2009 issue of Battle Sight.

30th HBCT Public Affairs Team

Clinton, N.C. - December 19, 2008 was proclaimed Old Hickory Day by Sampson County and the City of Clinton, N.C. in honor the Soldiers of the 30th HBCT.

Sampson County Vice Chairman Jefferson Strickland and Clinton City Councilman Neal Strickland presented the proclamation

to Brigade Commander Col. Gregory Lusk, and HHC, 30th HBCT Commander Capt. Timothy Trull in a ceremony at the Clinton Armory.

The proclamation was in recognition of Old Hickory Soldiers past and present, and in recognition of the brigade's upcoming second deployment to Iraq.



Photo by Pfc. Kelly S. LeCompte

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER

“Our mission will be to assist the Iraqi government, to take the fight to the insurgents, and to help the people of Iraq rebuild their lives.”

GREETINGS FROM YOUR COMMANDER

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women of the 30th HBCT, North Carolina Army National Guard for all your hard work done for your state and country—past, present, and future. As we continue to train and prepare for our upcoming deployment to Iraq, I want to share with you my thoughts regarding this special time in history by focusing on three historical events of great significance.

For the first time in history, we have an African-American as the President of the United States of America—the leader of the free world. President Barack Obama, our Commander-in-Chief, was sworn in as President on January 20, 2009—the 44th person to hold that prestigious office but the first African-American to do so. I, like you, take great pride in experiencing this special moment in our nation’s history. Let us celebrate this extraordinary moment together.

Another first of historical significance recently occurred when Beverly Perdue was sworn in on January 10, 2009, as the first female Governor of the State of North Carolina. Governor Beverly Perdue, our State Commander-in-Chief, became the 100th person to hold the office since Colonial times, but the first female to do so. This is another extraordinary moment in our history.

The third great historical event is that the 30th HBCT will be deploying to Iraq at a time when a new Security Agreement exists between the United States and Iraq. The last time the 30th HBCT deployed to Iraq during 2004-2005, we operated under a United Nations Security Council Resolution. The Security Agreement, effective January 1, 2009, greatly



COMMANDER
COLONEL GREGORY A. LUSK
30TH HEAVY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

increases the Iraqi role in our counterinsurgency fight. The Iraqi forces will now be more heavily involved in all aspects of our operations, with them taking the lead and us providing a supporting role. Our mission will be to assist the Iraqi government, to take the fight to the insurgents, and to help the people of Iraq rebuild their lives. Our valiant efforts will support, reinforce, and ensure that the democratically elected government of Iraq remains legitimate in the eyes of the Iraqi people, thereby allowing us—the United States military—to stand down and ultimately return home with victory and honor.

I am proud of each and every one of you—Soldiers of the 30th HBCT—and especially the great sacrifice of your families. Let us continue to focus on our mission by training hard, completing our tasks and returning safely home to our precious loved ones. But now, let us embrace this special moment and celebrate these three great historical events by taking pride in our great nation—the United States of America.

OLD HICKORY!
GREGORY A. LUSK
COL, IN
Commanding
“Always Ready—Stay and Fight”

Fighting Father Phil

Back home they call me Father Phil. It sounds gentle and peaceful and I like it. I was surprised, then, when someone called me Fighting Father Phil. I shouldn't have been. As a Christian pastor and priest I help carry the fight to the enemy; the one on the inside.

The hardest fight any of us has is spiritual. Inner conflicts and doubts, emotional pain and loneliness, fear and anxiety litter the inner battlefield. No one is immune, so arm yourselves now. Here's how.

It's hard to fight in the dark. Soldiers train at night, but the fight within doesn't need to be a night fight. So, turn on the lights by staying well informed. Not knowing what's happening on either the Soldier or Family front creates a vacuum which is



quickly filled by your worst fears and anxieties. Stay connected. Walking in the dark is easier when you're not alone. Soldiers and families alike need battle buddies, someone with whom you can share your concerns. Pray alone and with others. I can't imagine walking into a fight without prayer and seeking the mighty power of God. Fight the good fight!

More to follow,
Fighting Father Phil +

Need to talk?

Unit Ministry Teams maintain an open door policy. Soldiers are welcome to contact Chaplains directly or through their chain of command.

Chaplains have points of contact with some local churches and services are also available at Greer Chapel (601-558-2378).

There are seven chaplains in the brigade.

30th HBCT	Lt. Col Philip Glick
30th STB	1st Lt. Vaughn Benner
230 BSB	Capt. Melissa Hale
150 ARS	Capt. Michael Allen
113 FA	1st Lt. Thomas Watson
252 CAB	Capt. David Malcom
120 CAB	1st Lt. Matthew Ward



Short Trackin'

Camp Shelby, Miss. - Pvt. Henry Manis, Sgt. Dustin Butcher and Pfc. William Rauch, all of B Co., 252 CAB perform track maintenance on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle during gunnery training Jan. 14. The 30-ton Bradley Fighting Vehicle has a crew of three Soldiers: a commander, a gunner and a driver. Bradleys carry six infantrymen across the battlefield at over 30 miles-per-hour and engage enemies with a 25 mm chain gun and a 7.62 mm machine gun.



Photo by Pfc. Nathan LeCompte

Brigade Bradley Fighting Vehicles Receive Upgrade

Crew survivability, fire protection, ammo storage improved

By Pfc. Kelly S. LeCompte

Bradley Fighting Vehicles of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team began receiving a new add-on kit in January that will improve crew survivability.

The Bradley Urban Survivability Kit is designed to reduce the risk of injury to troops in Bradleys by use of three key upgrades, said Scott Mortensen, the site lead of Bradley Urban Survival Kit #2.



“It’s all about bringing the Soldiers home safely”

- Scott Mortensen, BUSK site lead

The kit features bench-like seats called Bradley Advanced Survivability Seats that use foot rests, harnesses, and links between the individual seats. These components absorb energy during a blast and reduce the amount of impact transferred to soldiers, as well as reduce the likelihood of head and neck injury.

“The key is wearing the four point harness and keeping the soldiers’ feet off the ground,” Mortensen said. “Doing this keeps the shockwave from traveling up their legs and transferring between Soldiers.”

The second key feature, called the Hot Box Restraint, more safely contains onboard ammunition with energy absorbing straps and Kevlar containment bags.

In the event of a hard impact, such as an improvised explosive device blast, the Hot Box Restraint prevents rounds from detonating inside the vehicle.

The third key feature, the Automatic Fire Extinguishing System, incorporates new fire

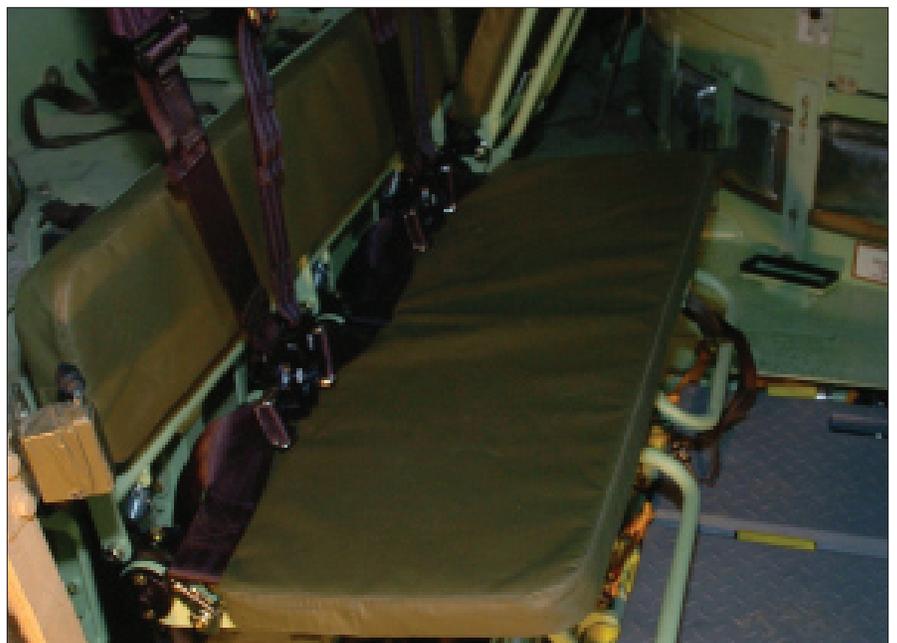
sensors and additional automatic fire extinguishers at new locations throughout the vehicle.

The AFES will replace the “auto/manual” toggle and provide sophisticated automatic fire suppression at all times.

Additions are scheduled to be completed by the end of February for line company Bradleys of 252 Combined Arms Battalion, 120 Combined Arms Battalion and 150 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron.

“It’s all about bringing the soldiers home safely”, Mortensen said.

Photos by Sgt. Robert Jordan



Infantryman recognized in ceremony



Photo by Pfc. Nathan LeCompte

By Maj Al Hunt
The Meritorious Service Medal

was awarded to Sgt. William C. Stroud (left) of B Co., 252 CAB by Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., NCNG Adjutant General, in a recent ceremony at Camp Shelby. Stroud was awarded the medal in recognition of his selection as the North Carolina National Guard Soldier of the Year for 2007 in the Sgt.-Staff Sgt. category.

The Soldier of the Year selection process is competitive and requires the candidate to advance at the company, battalion and brigade levels in order to compete for state level recognition.

This N.C. National Guard Soldier of the Year is an infantry squad leader.

A 2001 graduate of Hertford County High School and a volunteer fireman, Stroud is an Ahoskie native where he makes his home with his wife Sarah, his daughter Kaylee, 7, and one-year-old son, William.

Stroud said, "I joined the National Guard to serve my country."

What he likes most about the Guard is the "camaraderie" and what he likes the least is "Army food."

Sights on Safety

As Soldiers of the 30th HBCT, we have started training and preparing for our rotation to the National Training Center and then on to Iraq to conduct full spectrum operations. Most of our training is focused on protecting our forces from injuries and death that result from combat operations and hostile enemy actions. While this training is critical to our success, we must also understand that losses from accidents will impact our mission as much or even more than combat losses.

The 30th has already experienced ten recordable accidents since departing home station Jan. 2. Fortunately, these incidents resulted in only minor injuries and loss of one tactical vehicle. The common thread running through all these mishaps is that they were all preventable.

So what can we do as Soldiers to prevent accidents?

As the brigade Safety Officer, I need everyone's help to promote safety awareness. Every Soldier in this brigade has the opportunity to be an outstanding and influential leader. A leader is a Soldier with an understanding and willingness to engage and do the right thing.

We need to transform safety from an older, reactive culture to a newer, predictive mindset that incorporates risk management practices into daily activities. As we continue our training and

deployment, your leadership and commitment are priceless. Each time you engage, lead or help your teammates do the right thing to prevent accidents, you make us Army safe and Army strong.



Lt. Col. Mullinax,
Brigade Safety Officer

As a result of conducting hundreds of investigations, I have seen time and time again that engaged leaders could have prevented mishaps. Someone always knows. Someone knows when a soldier routinely fails to buckle up when driving... someone knows when a squad member carelessly handles his/her weapon... that "someone" who knows must step up and engage. It will save lives.

As we continue with our deployment preparations and train to defend ourselves against enemy engagements and actions, let's remember that we are more likely to experience losses from preventable accidents than from combat. By engaging at the most junior level, you can prevent accidents and protect fellow Soldiers. The tools are there and the window of opportunity to positively impact Soldiers is NOW. Please help me integrate safety measures and actions into the 30th HBCT's culture.

MATCH THE SOLDIER

See if you can match the Soldier to the right civilian occupation. The answers may surprise you...



(1) Staff Sgt. Terry L. Thompson of HHC, 30th HBCT, is a 56M, Chaplain's Assistant



(2) 2nd Lt. Juan Zuluaga of D Co., 120 CAB is a 19B, Armor Officer.



(3) Capt. Michael Lockman of HHC, 230 BSB is a 35D, Intelligence Officer.



(4) Pfc. Robin Almond of A Co., 230 BSB is an 88M, military truck driver.



(5) Sgt. Aaron C. Armes of A troop, 150 ARS is a 19D, cavalry scout.



(6) Spc. Paul A. Baysden, Jr. of HHC, 252 CAB is an 11C, infantry mortarman.

[A] House builder and holds an Environmental Science Degree from the University from Tampa, Fla.

[B] Youth minister from Greensboro, N.C.

[C] Bakery salesperson from Winston-Salem, N.C.

[D] Owner and operator of a computer analyst business from Sidney, Ky.

[E] Defense Attorney from Winston-Salem, N.C.

[F] Christian Academy principal from Jacksonville, N.C.



Photos by Maj. Al Hunt



Taking heat

Camp Shelby, Miss. - Spc. Ariana Higgins of B Co., 30th STB, takes a spin in the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer. (1) The HEAT trainer begins to roll-over. (2) Higgins braces herself in the upside down simulator and (3) exits the trainer.

The HEAT trainer is used to teach soldiers how protect themselves during a vehicle roll-over, and how to best exit the vehicle once it has come to a stop.

Old Hickory's mission in second deployment

the vision from Col. Lusk

By Pfc. Kelly S. LeCompte

The 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team of North Carolina's Army National Guard made history when it deployed to Iraq in 2004 as the first National Guard brigade committed to combat operations in the Global War on Terror. Old Hickory was also the first National Guard brigade committed to combat since World War II.

While in Iraq, Soldiers captured insurgents, began rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure and began establishing security for the people of Iraq.

As the war continued and the surge of 2007 occurred, progress began to take hold in Iraq. Iraq is now a more stable nation with a functioning government and security forces that can stand and fight in partnership with Coalition Forces. In January, Iraq held its first provincial elections.

The time has come for the 30th to return to Iraq.

In a recent interview, Col. Gregory A. Lusk, the 30th brigade commander, shared his thoughts on our 2009 deployment. Here's what he had to say:

There are striking similarities and stark contrasts with this deployment as I see it. Protecting Iraqi citizens and providing security will remain our primary mission. Through civil security, all other aspects of Iraqi life will be enabled. Security will enable economic growth, which creates much needed jobs. Security enables the continued growth of sound governance which links the Government of Iraq to its citizens.

The stark difference exists in our methodology of providing civil security. We will provide this through and in direct partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces (Police and Army).

During our 2004 deployment we executed many operations unilaterally as there was a minimal capability in the then infant Iraq Security Forces.

Having just returned from a visit to Iraq, it is impressive to note the increased professional capabilities the Iraqi Police and Army.

With this increased capability we now have the opportunity to conduct all operations in a combined role, partnering with the Iraqi forces to further their ability to provide and maintain security for their citizens on behalf of the Government of Iraq.

Iraqis are designing and executing the plans, which puts us in a partnership. We are there to assist.

Lusk acknowledged that maintaining a partnership



Photo by Pfc. Kelly S. LeCompte

Col. Gregory A. Lusk and Personal Security Detail member, Staff Sgt. Charles A. Smith participate in IED lanes training Jan. 11.

with Iraqi Forces while remaining alert and prepared to fight is not easy, but he also emphasized the benefit of having a brigade of Citizen Soldiers to do the job.

"We are asking our Soldiers to serve in partnership with Iraqi Security Forces, to be approachable and fair to the Iraqi people, and at the same time we expect our Soldiers to be ready to fight at a moment's notice," Lusk said. "But one thing we have in this brigade is a civil maturity, in that we inherently know how to act with our neighbors. This is a talent that we recognize and will leverage in our mission."

In the upcoming deployment, we must be ready to fight in order to assist in the defeat of insurgents and terrorists. This is why warrior task training is so crucial.

The situation in Iraq today has greatly improved from what it was in 2004 or even 2007, but the potential for violence is a present and constant threat.

This deployment will be about supporting the Iraqi government's efforts in providing for its people. We will work with the Iraqi Security Forces, in combined operations, in partnership.

This deployment will be about ensuring that the progress made to date endures, and about ensuring that the sacrifices and hard work of our Warfighters has not been in vain.

It will be about an Iraq that does not harbor terrorists that would do our families and neighbors harm.

This deployment is about winning and maintaining peace for Iraq.

ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON GEARS UP FOR OIF

150 ARS Troops practice urban warfare tactics while at Camp Shelby.

The 150 ARS turned training up a notch December 1, 2008 when it made tracks from Bluefield, W.Va. to Fort Pickett, Va. for pre-deployment training. Soldiers qualified with their individual weapons, and gun truck and Bradley crews conducted gunnery .

In Jan. the Mountaineers convoyed through five states and traveled nearly one thousand miles to reach their next destination, Camp Shelby, Miss. The Soldier's of the 150 ARS resumed training within hours of arrival at the camp.

The training has been rigorous with long days and little down time, to ensure that every Soldier is fully prepared for deployment to Iraq.

Photos by Sgt. Waine D. Haley



A combatives trainer, standing, demonstrates hand-to-hand combat moves to a group of 150th Soldiers during training at Camp Shelby, Miss. Combatives is one of many training tasks required prior to deployment to Iraq.



A 150 ARS gun truck crew fires a MK19, belt fed, 40mm grenade launcher at Fort Pickett, Va. During wheeled gunnery.



A Mountaineer Soldier ground guides a Bradley fighting vehicle toward the range at Fort Pickett, Va.

Street Talk

by Spc Jordan Hayden

The Battle Sight crew hit the streets and asked Soldiers this question: "What item did you bring with you to remind you of home?" Here's what they had to say...



Spc. Ricky R. Dixon of Charlotte, N.C. is an 11B, infantryman and Bradley gunner with B Co, 252 CAB. His answer: "My laptop. I can look at pictures of family, listen to music and watch movies."



Spc. Ryan T. Chinn of Wilmington, N.C. is a 68W, combat medic, with HHC, 120 CAB. His answer: "Family pictures that I keep in my patrol cap."



Pfc. Joshua L. Jarvis of Fort Collins, Colo., is a 35T, military intelligence equipment mechanic, with B Co, 86th MI Detachment, Colo. National Guard. His answer: "My laptop. I have pictures of my family and my wife. I just watched the movie "Wanted" on it"



Spc. Perry W. Hill of Linwood, N.C. is a 19K, M1A1 tanker, currently serving as an MWR specialist with HHC, 120 CAB. His answer: "Photos from home and movies that remind me of home. Also my wife is sending a care package with pictures of my kids and wife. I am a family man."



Spc. Stephanie V. Colvin of Raleigh, N.C. is a 92Y, supply specialist, with HHC, 30th HBCT. Her answer: "My silver cross. My sister gave it to me for religious reasons and also so I can pray when I need to."



Pfc. Christopher T. Canipe of Shelby, N.C. is a 19K, M1A1 tanker, with C Co, 120 CAB. His answer: "My pillow from my sister and my niece. They sewed a prayer on it and my niece put a piece of her blanket from when she was born."

TOP GUN



When it comes to gunnery, Top Gun is the highest honor. As is the case in professional sports, the difference between first and second place is often determined by seconds or a single point. It takes a little bit of luck, skill, determination, and a whole lot of hard work to earn Top Gun honors.

Here are the 30th HBCT Top Gun Crews:

252 CAB

Top Gun Bradley: HHC. Bradley Commander, Sgt. Derek Easley; Gunner, Sgt. Randall Beasley; Driver, Spc. Anthony Queen
Top Gun Tank: D Co. Tank Commander, SSG John Hynds;

Gunner, Sgt. James Bane; Loader, Spc. Nathan Utt; Driver, Pfc. William Page

120 CAB

Top Gun Bradley: HHC. Bradley Commander, Maj. Steve Jackan; Gunner, Staff. Sgt. Michael Shrieves; Driver, Michael Collins
Top Gun Tank: C Co. Tank

Commander, Kevin Epps; Gunner, Sgt. Billy Southern; Loader Pvt2. James Ammons; Driver, Spc. Alexander Bessey

Top Gun Truck: HHC. Truck Commander, 1st Lt. Thomas Edward; Gunner, Sgt. Brian Kalnicki; Driver, Pfc. Matthew Crabtree
Top Gun Mortars:

HHC. Section Leader, Sgt. David Carr; Gunner, Cpl. Darrell Burnett; Ammo Handler, Joshua Kornegay

150 ARS:

Top Gun Bradley: Bradley Commander, Staff Sgt. Travers Brake; Gunner, Spc. Daniel McKinney; Driver, Spc. Charles March

Top Gun Truck: Truck Commander, Staff Sgt. Jason Sigman; Gunner, Sgt. Kellie Hicks; Driver, Pvt2. Nicholas Bonnet

Top Gun Mortars: Section Leader, Spc. Richard Walsh; Gunner, Jody Thomas; Assistant Gunner, Spc. Aaron Fox; Driver, Spc. James Lawson

Culture Savvy in Iraq

By Pfc. Kelly S. LeCompte

Not all Iraqis are insurgents. It is important for American Soldiers to remember that most people of Iraq want to live their lives in peace, earn a living, and enjoy their families.

Here, Spc. Arnest Khalil, Interpreter/Translator and native Arabic speaker with HHC, 30th HBCT, provides some helpful Do's and Don't's to assist us in interacting with our Iraqi partners, and to better understand their culture.

Don't use the thumbs up gesture – this is an obscene gesture to many Iraqis.

Don't point at someone with your index finger – this is considered disrespectful.

Do point with an open hand instead.



الله أكبر



Don't sit with your legs crossed when meeting with Iraqis.

Do sit with both feet planted squarely on the floor. (However, it is ok to cross your legs if you are sitting on the floor.)

Don't sit in any manner that places the bottom of your boot towards an Iraqi – this is a grave insult.

Don't stare at women.

Don't initiate conversation with women.

Do respond to women only if they speak to you first.

Don't ask Iraqi men any questions about their wives or daughters, or any female relative. If an Iraqi man considers you a friend he will tell you about them.

Do ask about an Iraqi's family. For Example, "How is your family? I hope your family is well." Ask general positive questions or make positive statements. Let the Iraqi tell you the details of his family, if he chooses to do so.

Do treat older or elderly Iraqis with respect. Always.

Pay: Frequently Asked Questions

How can I tell if my BAH pay is correct?

You can check with your S-1 (the Human Resources Department within your unit) through your chain of command. They have a BAH chart based on zip code. You can also access the chart yourself online at the following website:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/basic-allowance-for-housing-rates>

The web site has a chart that includes 2009 BAH rates with or without dependents, based on your rank and home of record zip code.

Why am I getting paid partial BAH?

If the home of record you report is someone else's residence (such as your parents'), or if you moved out of your home for the duration of the deployment, you will receive partial BAH instead of full BAH. If you have moved out of your residence, you are also eligible for an allowance to help cover the cost of storing your household goods.

When will I begin receiving my BAH? (Basic Allowance for Housing)

You should be receiving BAH based on your home of record zip code now, and until you are released from active duty at the end of the deployment.

Will I have to pay taxes on BAH and BAS?

No. You have to pay taxes on your base pay and some other allowances, but BAS and BAH are completely tax free. No state tax, no federal tax, and no social security tax. This is an excellent benefit that puts more money in your pocket.

Why is my BAS (Basic Allowance for Subsistence/food allowance) being taken away?

Your food money is not being taken away. All Soldiers brought on orders automatically receive BAS to begin with. Guardsmen on Title 32 orders (state active duty for training) and in a field training status are not eligible for the BAS benefit if the Army is providing meals at government expense. If you receive MREs or free meals at the dining facility, you are receiving meals at government expense.

Since Guardsmen receiving meals at government expense are not eligible for BAS, the automatic BAS pay is eventually stopped, and money already paid to the soldier is recouped.

Note: This information was included in your finance brief prior to the December training.

Why am I not receiving the correct amount for BAH?

If you are not receiving the correct BAH, you have either not reported a change in home of record, or there has been a clerical error made somewhere in the process. Notify your chain of command.

When will I receive BAS?

All 30th HBCT Soldiers will receive the BAS benefit beginning 11 FEB 08 when we begin title 10 orders (federal active duty). You will receive BAS for the duration of title 10 status, even if the Army provides your meals.

Officer BAS is \$223.04 per month, and enlisted BAS is \$323.87 per month.

If I have a pay discrepancy, how do I get it fixed?

You have to report the discrepancy to your chain of command. Your chain of command will then send it to the S-1. If you don't tell your chain of command that your pay is incorrect, then it won't get fixed.

How to avoid pay problems:

Go the web address below and learn how to read your Leave and Earning Statement. Ensuring sure that your pay is correct is your responsibility.

<http://www.dfas.mil/civilianpay/payandentitlements/leaveandearningstatement.html>

If your pay is short, report it.

If you think you are being overpaid, report it. When the discrepancy is discovered, and it will be, it will be painful.

If your home of record, marital status, number of dependents, or any other status changes, report it.

You are responsible for making sure that your pay is correct. Once you have reported a pay discrepancy, your chain of command is responsible for fixing it.

What is the procedure for reporting a pay problem?

1. If you have not set up a "MyPay" account on AKO, do this first. This is where you can print copies of your LES (Leave and Earnings Statement).
2. Print LES(s) from AKO that show your pay discrepancy. If you do not have internet access, you can request copies of your LES(s) from your chain of command.
3. Your first line supervisor or your S-1 section will then fill out a DA form 2142 based on your LES(s) to report your pay problem. This form will be forwarded to the Brigade S-1 for resolution.
4. It is your responsibility to ensure that your pay is correct, and it is your responsibility to report any pay discrepancies to your chain of command.
5. It is your chain of command's responsibility to make your pay right, but only if your have reported the discrepancy. If your supervisors don't know it is broken, they can't fix it.

Resources:

- "MyPay" on AKO (www.us.army.mil)
- Your front line supervisor and chain of command
- Your S-1 section
- <http://www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/pay/index.html>
- <http://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/basic-allowance-for-housing-rates>
- <http://www.dfas.mil/civilianpay/payandentitlements/leaveandearningstatement.html>



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Mills

Reflexive fire

Camp Shelby, Miss - Sgt. Chris Skeete (front) and Spc. John Graham, both of HHC, 30th HBCT, train on the Combat Assault Course Jan. 22. Skeete is from Jacksonville, N.C. and Graham is from Willow Springs, N.C. Soldiers work in unison and under supervision of senior leaders as they fire live ammunition at targets in a realistic battle environment on the course.

THE VERDICT

“legal news you can use”



With taxes due April 15, you must plan now for the filing of your state and federal taxes. Everyone must file for tax year 2008 and you are responsible for filing your own taxes. Several options exist in accomplishing this mission.

The best option is to file your taxes prior to April 15, 2009. You can hire a professional tax preparer or have a trusted individual prepare and file the return on your behalf. You can also utilize the N.C. National Guard Legal Assistance Program to prepare basic federal and state income tax returns free of charge for you and your family.

Another option is to file an extension, which must be done prior to the April 15 deadline. File for a regular extension using IRS Form 4868 (for state taxes use N.C. Form D-410, W. Va. Form 2008 Schedule L, Colo., no form is necessary). You will receive a six month extension to file the return. You may be charged some interest and a small penalty, although the penalty may be waived for a good reason, in some instances.

Once you file for a regular extension and then enter a combat zone, the deadline for filing tax returns and paying taxes is automatically extended to cover your time in the combat zone and an additional 180 days past your return home. No

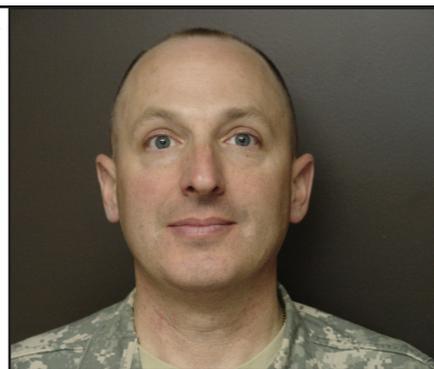
penalties or interest will be imposed during this period. Spouses are also included.

If you use this option, you should notify the IRS of your extension when you enter a combat zone. You can contact them directly at combatzone@irs.gov. Include your name, stateside address, date of birth, and the date of de-

ployment. You may also call the IRS at 1-866-562-5227 (for state taxes call N.C. Department of Revenue at 1-877-252-3052, W.Va. Tax Department at 1-800-982-8297, Colo. Department of Revenue at 1-877-835-3453).

If you do not contact the IRS first and the IRS sends a notice, return it with the words, “Combat Zone” and the deployment date in RED at the top of the notice so the IRS will suspend the action. [Note: N.C., W.Va. and Colo. follow the federal rules regarding this extension of time issue for deployed military personnel. Remember you file state taxes in the state you reside.]

However, the best option is to file taxes before the deadline and avoid troublesome additional paperwork.



Capt. John Gupton,
Judge Advocate
Operational Law



Photo by Pfc. Kelly S. LeCompte

Ready to rock

Fort Stewart, Ga. - Spc. Steven C. Ray, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle gunner, B Co., 120 CAB, takes instruction from the tower Dec. 13, 2008. The 120 CAB conducted gunnery and warrior task training at Fort Stewart in December while the 150 ARS trained at Fort Pickett, Va., and the 252 CAB, 113 Fires, 230th BSB, and 30th STB trained at Fort Bragg, N.C. The 30th HBCT had to train at three different installations in December because none of the three locations could accommodate all the 30th at one time.



Photo by Sgt. Robert Jordan

Gettin' to know “MAW”

Fort Bragg, N.C. - Spc. Michelle Howard trains fellow Soldier Spc. Phylicia Maxwell on the M-2 .50-caliber machine gun Dec. 4, 2008. Both are Military Police Officers of 30th STB. Howard is from Stokesdale, N.C. and Maxwell is from Greensboro, N.C.

Changing the fate of the wounded

more Soldiers learn skills that could save lives



Photo by Pfc. Cleve Meadows

Pfc. Daniel Parker starts an I.V. on Sgt. Arron Arms Jr. both of 150 ARS.

By Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Mills

The 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team had a challenge. Or as Soldiers say, it had an “opportunity.”

This North Carolina Army National Guard Unit of about 4000 Soldiers was trying to increase the number of Combat Lifesavers well above the Army standard of 10 percent before deploying to Iraq in the spring of 2009.

Combat Lifesavers are non-medical Soldiers trained to provide emergency care as a secondary mission. Any Soldier, from truck driver to infantryman can be a Combat Lifesaver. But the “challenge”, was that with time and resources in limited supply, how would the 30th Brigade increase the number of trained Soldiers?

Enter Stanley Community College Emergency Services Coordinator Matt Lowman of Salisbury, and Instructor Jason Shue of Mount Pleasant, who first taught the course in May of 2008, and again in January at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Conducting it under the auspices of the National Guard’s North Carolina Military Academy, Shue noted that the Soldiers were more attentive than his average students and even “apologized for falling asleep.”

Both instructors, though not military, do have field experience such as working with police SWAT teams and fire departments, and assisting with the Army’s Special Forces training in their roles as

Emergency Medical Technicians.

Spc. Elise Jensen of Wilmington, an Army National Guard Medic assisting with the course, said, “ This increases the instructors’ credibility with the students, since they have the tactical experience Soldiers respect.”

With this mutual respect comes the knowledge that their new Combat Lifesavers could very soon be saving lives.

According to Lowman, studies have shown that 7-15 percent of all battlefield deaths could be prevented if help is immediate.

Brigade Surgeon Lt. Col. Timothy V. Mauldin of 30th HBCT helped to coordinate the course and is deploying with the brigade.

“The rule of getting the casualty to medical care in the ‘Golden Hour’ has changed to the ‘Platinum 10’,” Mauldin said, “and the Combat Lifesaver is a huge part of increasing the patient’s survivability during that time.”

Or as Civil War Surgeon, Col. Nicholas Senn said over a hundred and fifty years ago, “The fate of the wounded lies in the hands of the man who applies the first dressing.”



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Mills

Spc. Thomas Bakker simulates being a casualty as class instructor, Matt Lowman, explains proper litter technique.

113 Fires A Battery

Pfc. Samuel Bonilla, Field Artillery Ammunition Support Vehicle driver from Winston-Salem, N.C., and Sgt. Charles McClure, team chief from Stony Point, N.C., move to the assembly area, prior to live fire Feb. 8 at Camp Shelby, Miss.



Spc. Vlad Clocan, FAASV loader from Greensboro, N.C., prepares to set the head-space and timing on an M-2, .50-caliber machine gun.



THE OLD HICKORY SOLDIER

By Sgt. Robert Jordan

World War I has been fought for four years to a stalemate and the Allied armies need a breakthrough.

The Nazi launch a brutal counterattack against the Normandy landings.

Late at night a hurricane has displaced thousands, and local leaders call for help.

The Army needs Soldiers who can serve as both warrior and diplomat. Soldiers who can fight an enemy and at the same time help reconstruct a nation.

Who can answer this call?

They are first responders, business men and women, students and teachers.

These modern day minutemen are grunts, tankers, and cannon cockers.

Mechanics, logisticians, communicators and medical personnel who can move the equivalent of Benson, N.C. half way around the world and execute any mission asked of them.

They are linguists, cultural experts, and reconstruction teams who bring hope and progress by building schools, water systems and other infrastructure.

Professionals trained for “full spectrum operations.” They are the armored fist and the open hand.

These men and women are from nearly all races, creeds, and walks of life, yet they are bound together by common values. They are the Citizen-Soldiers of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat team.

They are the “who” that has answered that call for more than 90 years.

