



READY FIRST REPORT

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Culinary Champions

By PV2 Alyse Cooke

1 HBCT, 1 AD Public Affairs

Teammates of the Fort Bliss Culinary Team competed during the 34th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition, which was held Feb. 25 through March 14 at Fort Lee, Virginia.



Photo by PV2 Cooke

Six members of the Fort Bliss Culinary Team are congratulated by Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling March 17.

Although the competition took place at Fort Lee, it is a worldwide event. All branches of the Armed Services from across the world are welcome to attend and encouraged to compete in more than 400 categories.

“It’s the largest Culinary Arts Competition in the nation,” said Pfc. Lisa M. Daugherty, G Co., 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

The members of the team who were chosen to participate all work at the Dining Facility. The team agreed that they were chosen because they are “the best of the best.”

The teammates earned Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for themselves, then there was a centerpiece competition in which the whole team was involved. The theme of the centerpiece was “Grauman’s Chinese Theatre” in Hollywood, in order to complement the overall theme of “Old Hollywood.” With their effort, the team earned the Silver Medal.

“It was blood, sweat and tears,” said Ramirez. “No, really, we have scars!” said Daugherty.

Ft. Bliss Boxing Victory

1st Lt. Donald E. Hamilton, of 1-37 and one of the coaches for the Boxing Team, coaches his Soldier during a match.

Fourteen 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division Soldiers went to Ft. Hood and displayed real boxing expertise competing in the III Corps Boxing Smoker March 2 through March 5. They slugged their way to second place with two first place winners and four second place winners.





I would like to start by thanking all of the Soldiers of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division for your faithful, selfless service to your country and to your unit.

Standing up and preparing for war has been a challenging undertaking. However, since 1/1 moved to East Ft. Bliss, a lot of exceptional Soldiers have accomplished outstanding feats.

The Combatants Team pulled off an astounding first-place victory at the III Corps combatant's competition at Ft. Hood. With a hastily organized team and little time to practice, they did a great job!

The Boxing Team traveled to Ft. Hood also, competing in the III Corp Boxing competition. There, they battled their way to a second place victory. Way to go!

The Culinary Team also magnificently represented 1/1 by winning one gold medal, two silver medals and three bronze medals in a worldwide Culinary Arts Competition at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Hooah Soldiers!

Many hurtles have been overcome by this unit and great personal and unit-wide barriers have been penetrated by the brains and determination of you all. I am proud to be your commander and proud to serve beside you. Keep driving on.



Col. Emmett M. Schail
Brigade Commander
1st HBCT, 1st AD

The training cycle is well under way as we continue with a variety of New Equipment Training and equipment fielding's in preparation for the upcoming Field Training Exercises and deployment. The 2nd Quarter FY09 was a good Quarter for Ready First retention Team as we continue to reenlist great Soldiers to stay in our team, our Army and a part of the IRON SOLDIER family.

We will continue to improve quality life, and take advantage of the resources here at Fort Bliss. We will continue to build the team, get new Soldiers and their families, and we must quickly receive them and integrate them into our formations and Family Readiness Group programs.



CSM James P. Daniels
Brigade Command Sergeant Major
1st HBCT, 1st AD

Ready First Report

Published by the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

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W4 ORTHEL of 13th ESC Enterprise Logistics Command, fields questions about the Sustainment MNT and Exchange pricing class 9 items from the Ft Bliss Soldiers.

Ft. Hood Visits 501st

“This is a great way to field upcoming issues sustainment operations based off the new turn in standards,” said CW3 Kevin Blanks, electronic missile maintenance, tech materiel readiness branch, of 13th Sustainment Command (expeditionary) Distribution Management Center Fort Hood.

We at Ft. Hood get the doctrine first so we get to field any foreseeable problems, said Blanks. March 4th at the Fort Bliss Sergeants Major Academy the Soldiers got to do just that. A Soldier who participated asked if the SSA has a turnaround when it’s turned in. “Yes, when equipment is turned in and it matches with your issued

equipment, there is no problem,” CW4 Orthel answered.

The bottom line is that we need to hold a higher standard for Motor Sergeants and SAMS clerks who absolutely need to process the correct DODAC on all equipment. The 501ST continues to grow as the time comes closer to deploy. We are seeing new Soldiers arrive every month in our preparations for our deployment.

Currently, we are in the building and equipping phase known as the “Crawl Phase.” Soldiers are adapting well to the mission at hand and are being trained on skills needed to keep them safe in combat and in Soldier skills.

Providers PIE Still Going Strong

Friday, March 6, the 501st Brigade Support Battalion participated in “Diffendofer Day” at REL Washington Elementary School as part of the Partners in Education Program.

Diffendofer Day was headed by the school’s librarian, Mrs. Lavonya, as a tribute to Dr. Seuss’s book, *Hooray for Diffendofer Day!*

The book was drafted in verse and sketch before Dr. Seuss died in 1991 and was later completed in written and illustrated form in 1998 by Jack Prelutsky and Lane Smith.

The book is centered on a school that is adored by its students because of its unique



Soldiers assisted the school by reading to students of various class size and levels, adorned in their Dr. Seuss hats. Other Soldiers facilitated a mini chess tournament with students and remaining Soldiers participated in physical education classes in the gym.

teachers. The students, however, must pass standardized exams or else be doomed to attend an

adjacent school that is lackluster and even worse—requires them to wear uniforms.

Hello, and allow us to introduce ourselves, I am Brian McHugh and to my right is Anthony Mathis. Together we make-up the Command group of the 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment “BLACKHAWKS.”



As Soldiers who firmly believe that a successful unit must focus on the three “Fs” - Force Readiness, Faith Readiness, and Family Readiness, we intend to use this column to focus on Family Readiness by providing the readers with a summary of what our Troopers and families are doing. This will provide information and insight for FRG events recognition of our great Troopers.

We are amazed daily by the motivation of this unit, and like to joke as we remember back just eight months ago when the unit consisted of nothing but one building, 50 Troopers and a sprinkling of NCOs and Officers. At that time, it was a struggle just to get some office supplies. But through the herculean efforts of BLACKHAWKS and their families, we are now a unit that leads the way in training, community outreach, and caring for families! We are honored to be counted as members of the “BLACKHAWKS” and hope you feel the same. It has been a great eight months for Family Readiness in Blackhawk Country. Because of the fantastic work done by the FRG leaders and our FRSA, we have created a strong and caring environment for Troopers and their families.

Currently, we are drawing our vehicles so that most of the Troopers will have their steeds- no Cavalry Trooper is happy until he has his ride. We will then work on learning how to use these steeds throughout April and early May. Then May through June we are going to conduct gunnery. Of course we will continue with our community outreach and our FRG events during this period.

What we ask is for folks interested in more details on upcoming training, FRG events and Troop specific information as well as family and post resource providers, to check out our VFRG site at: www.myarmylifetoo.com. Talk to your FRG leader for details.

In closing, please be safe and continue leading the way.

Just remember that BLACKHAWKS play and work hard, but safe- so have fun but remain vigilant!

“Courageous and Faithful”



Spartan 6

April marks the beginning of a very busy time for the command as we continue to prepare for numerous training exercises, social events, and conduct our day-to-day missions. On 7 April, we will welcome our new arrivals during our quarterly newcomers brief.

Starting in mid-April till the second week of May, part of the command will deploy to the Dona Ana Range Complex to conduct gunnery. The remaining personnel will deploy away from Fort Bliss to conduct a series of training events focusing on warrior skills. This training event is designed to enhance our combat readiness and team cohesion.

Deployments can be very difficult for our families. Thus, it is important that our family members remain prepared in the event of a unforeseen emergency. There are resources available to help you prepare and forecast the command's training events. I strongly encourage you to use the FRG for support and visit the unit website at:

<https://www.bliss.army.mil/secure/general/general1BCT1ARM/battalions/1-36in/index.html>.

You will find the current unit information on the website which will help keep you abreast of upcoming events. Remember, preparation and planning for scheduled events will make unforeseen contingencies more tolerable.



C.E. House
C.E. HOUSE
LTC, IN
Commanding



“With our Shields!”



The Bandits continue to excel and impress. Last month, 46 of our soldiers participated in the BATTAN Death March at White Sands Missile Range. All participated in the Military heavy division and all completed the task.

Congratulations goes to PV2 Pellitier of D Co. for being selected as the Volunteer Soldier of the Year for Brigade. Just another example of the big hearts we have in our battalion.

Training continues as we have received all of our combat vehicles (tanks and Bradleys). The troops are excited and their enthusiasm has been noted in the positive remarks of the New Equipment Training team.

At the April 23rd FRG Pre-deployment briefing, we will give awards to a few of our volunteers as well as introduce our corporate sponsors to the battalion. Then I will give a short brief on the training that FRG must complete before the Soldiers deploy.

The last item I owe you, is an answer on the effects of the changed Stop Loss Policy for the Army. Bottom line, the change will not effect our Soldiers. The new rules take affect in 2010 after the battalion deploys. Once you are in theater the new rules do not apply. Therefore, Soldiers will be locked in 90 days out from our expected departure date. More details will come through command Channels.



LTC Elmer Speights
1/37 Battalion Commander
"BANDITS!"



The Bandits' tanks arrive and are guided into the motor pool on East Fort Bliss.

Dates to Remember

April 15
Battlemind Training for FRG members.
1800

April 18
Post wide Yard sale

April 23
FRG Pre-deployment briefing, award ceremony, introductions.
1800

Commander's Comments

April will be a productive month for the "Gunners" Battalion. We are excited to finally have our Howitzers to conduct vital training. The Battalion will be in the field March 30th through April 3rd. This will be our first occasion to train on our new equipment in a field environment. This training will be crucial to our mission readiness.

Our next major field training event will be May 4th through the 15th. We are very excited. This field exercise will be the unit's first live-fire exercise since 2005. Soldiers, please make proper preparations for your families before these extended field exercises.

 Lt. Col. Arthur Weeks
2-3 Battalion Commander



Dates to Remember

April 24th
Battalion Hail and Farewell

May 4th-15th
Battalion Gunnery and Live Fire

June 12th-14th
Training Holiday/Flag Day

FRG Spotlight

BN FRG Support Assistant:
Angela Collins

FRG Advisor: Christine Weeks

Meetings
April 24th
BCT Training

Victory at Mock Village

By Spc. Mike Potter
STB, 1HBCT, 1AD

Sunny and windy skies in the high desert of Dona Anna Range in New Mexico greeted the Soldiers of HHC and Alpha Company STB 1/1 AD at the mock town of Al-Octtr which was the location for Traffic Control Point scenarios and training on 24 and 25 March 2009. For PFC Bullus and PFC Carrera of HHC STB 1/1 AD, posing as Iraqi Police Officers was their mission for both training days. In the training scenario, the duo had to interact and monitor "Dusty Mohammed," an Iraqi Terrorist who is wanted for \$100,000 Iraqi Dinar and who has direct involvement with Iraqi Nationals masterminding insurgent operations.

This was one of several scenarios played out in three phases that Tuesday afternoon according to SFC Marlon T. Argimon of Alpha Company. "Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Platoons along with Security Element Forces are out here today providing intelligence," said Argimon.

Alpha Company HUMINT Soldiers provided support by conducting source collection operations and gathering information about the insurgents. "Typical scenarios are two-and-a-half hours for training days, we do two lanes at the traffic control point," said 1st Sgt. Patricia L. Manchester. The tactical operations center at Dona Anna Base Camp was

equipped with an antenna, two satellite communications antennae and a small command post to help with the training. "I think everyone is having fun. The soldiers like it because all of the source operations that have been done are in an Advanced Individual Training type environment," said Manchester. "This is the first time they have done it in a tactical situation."



Photo by Spc. Mike Potter

STB Soldiers at the Donna Anna Range conduct security as Iraqi Police Officers.

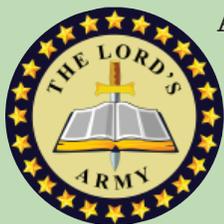
Commander's Message

The past few months have been busy for the battalion. Our Soldiers have been involved in numerous training events. Part of the Military Intelligence Company has been at White Sands Missile Range training how to fly and operate the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. The company is also involved in Detainee Operations training, along with HHC. Our Signal Company is conducting new equipment training on satellite and ground-based communication systems which enable commanders and staff to plan, prepare and execute missions in a tactical environment. Our Engineers have also been training as Bradley crews and on collective tasks focused on Route Clearance and IED Defeat operations. To complement the great training our Soldiers are receiving, there have been plenty of fun events as well. The Signal Company recently held their Organization Day and the Engineer Company hosted an Easter-Egg-Hunt for the Families to come and participate. I would like to congratulate the Air Assault and WLC graduates, participants in the Bataan Death March, Soldiers who were recently promoted or selected for promotion and those that have reenlisted to Stay Army. The Black Knights are supporting one another, learning how to operate as a team and taking care of Soldiers and families. Thanks to all for a job well done!

Lt. Col. Patricia A. Sellers
Commander, Special Troops Battalion

Chaplain's Corner

Maj. Henry D. McCain
Brigade Chaplain



An Artillery wife, Mary Hays McCauly (better known as Molly Pitcher) shared the rigors of Valley Forge with her husband, William Hays. Her actions during the battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778 became legendary.

That day at Monmouth was as hot as Valley Forge was cold. Someone had to cool the hot guns and bathe parched throats with water.

Across that bullet-swept ground, a striped skirt fluttered. Mary Hays McCauly was earning her nickname "Molly Pitcher" by bringing pitcher after pitcher of cool spring water to the exhausted and thirsty men. She also tended to the wounded and once, heaving a crippled Continental soldier

up on her strong young back, carried him out of reach of hard-charging British Soldiers.

On her next trip with water, she found her artilleryman husband back with the guns again, replacing a casualty. While she watched, Hays fell wounded. The piece, its crew too depleted to serve it, was about to be withdrawn. Without hesitation, Molly stepped forward and took the rammer staff from her fallen husband's hands. For the second time on an American battlefield, a woman manned a gun. Resolutely, she stayed at her post in the face of heavy enemy fire, ably acting as a gunner.

For her heroic role, General Washington himself issued her a warrant as a Noncommissioned Officer. Thereafter, she was widely hailed as "Sergeant Molly." A flagstaff and cannon stand at her gravesite at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. A sculpture on the battle monument commemorates her courageous deed.

Women's History

By Staff Sgt.
Christina J. Turnipseed
1 HBCT, 1 AD Public Affairs

1st Brigade 1st Armored Division Soldiers, Families and DA Civilians celebrated Women's History Month with a Women's Day program March 19 at Soldier Hall. The theme for this day of observance was 'Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet.'

The program featured female Soldiers from 1/1 who depicted some of the women in America who have selflessly contributed to improving our world.

The women portrayed in the program were Hillary Rodham Clinton, Rachel Carson, Mollie Beattie and Clara Adams-Ender.

Mrs. Erin McCann, Biology



Photo by PV2 Cooke

Pfc. Rebecca LeMieux portrays Hillary Rodham Clinton

instructor at El Paso Community College was the key note speaker.

"I taught Human Ecology for six years at the Sergeant Major's Academy. I indeed appreciate the sacrifice of our Soldiers. Freedom isn't free," said McCann.

The Women's History program was performed to recognize and celebrate the heritage, accomplishments, selfless service and commitment of women to our nation.

Brigade Safety

Michael J. Metzger
Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
1st HBCT, 1AD

As we in the Ready First Brigade receive our equipment it is vital that we look out for each other's safety, that our first line leaders conduct risk and safety briefs at the beginning of each days operations.

As we complete our training and qualification requirements, the goal is that every one of us has the opportunity to celebrate our successes.

**Army Safe is
Army Strong!**



photos by PV2 Alyse Cooke