

# The Mounted Rifleman

3d Armored Cavalry Regiment

FEBRUARY 2005



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Squadron Updates

“Let Faith Answer Fear”

NMFA Scholarship Opportunity



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MAJ Tim LaCrance 3d ACR Civil Affairs Officer visiting Iraqi children.



**Editors**

MAJ Gary Dangerfield, 3d ACR PAO  
 SFC Donald Sparks, NCOIC, PAO  
 SPC Meredith Nunley, Regimental Artist

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# A Message From the 71<sup>st</sup> COL of the Regiment

As I have mentioned to you previously, the words that President Franklin Roosevelt spoke as soldiers departed to fight fascism in World War II seem equally appropriate today. “To some generations much is given. Of others much is expected. This generation has a rendezvous with destiny.” We are about to embark on a vitally important mission – a mission to defeat terrorists and murderers who would deny the Iraqi people the freedom and security they deserve after suffering for three decades under one of the most brutal regimes in history. You are part of one of our Army’s elite fighting units. You are about to make history as troopers of this great Regiment made history during the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the 1991 Gulf War, Bosnia, and Operation Iraqi Freedom I. I am certain that your actions will preserve the legacy and reputation for excellence that we have inherited from those who have gone before us.



The recent elections in Iraq demonstrated that brave Iraqis are determined to triumph over those who announced a “war against democracy” in the weeks prior to that election. The enemy sought to intimidate the Iraqi people by gunning down poll workers in the streets and assassinating candidates for office. The six thousand Iraqis who stood for political office at the risk of theirs and their families’ lives, the Iraqi Security Forces who guarded polling sites, and the millions of Iraqis who ignored the terrorists’ threat to make the streets run with blood and went to the polls in droves sent a clear message to our enemies – freedom will triumph over tyranny; tolerance will triumph over hatred; and peace will triumph over violence.

The stakes in Iraq are high – perhaps higher for our nation than at any time since World War II. Part of the enemy we are facing in Iraq, transnational terrorist organizations affiliated with Al Qaida, have declared in words and shown in deeds on September 11, 2001 that they consider no Americans or those allied with us innocent. Our enemies have brutally murdered aid workers and other Iraqis and foreign nationals who are trying to reconstruct Iraq. As soldiers we understand that this war against terror must be fought on the offensive. We will, in partnership with Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces, take the fight to the enemy. We will also help build credible and capable Iraqi Security Forces so they can secure their own future and the future of their children.

We should understand the war we are fighting is as important to our own children as it is to the children of Iraq. If we do not defeat the terrorists in Iraq, they will seek to use that region as a base of operations for attacks against us and others who share our values. Failure in Iraq would strengthen those who advocate violence and preach intolerance and hatred. Our enemy is desperate to see us fail because our success in Iraq would clarify our intentions and expose the lies that serve as a foundation for terrorism. A stable, prosperous Iraq would sound the death knell for Islamic extremist terrorism. While our enemy seeks to incite fear, it is he who is fearful. With the arrival of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment – a trained and ready combined arms team who understands the task at hand – the enemy will have even more reason to be afraid.

The training we have conducted and will continue to conduct in the coming weeks combined with the experience and expertise already resident in our units will allow us to achieve the highest degree of combat readiness. We have integrated new equipment and improved the readiness of all our weapons,

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vehicles, and aircraft. We have mastered the fundamentals, what we have called the “price of admission” to Operation Iraqi Freedom, focusing on weapons and gunnery skills, actions on contact, first aid and combat lifesaver skills, reporting, navigation, drivers training, and physical fitness. We conducted training under tough, realistic conditions that replicated combat in Iraq. Our squads, platoons, and troops are confident in their ability to fight together as teams under all conditions of battle. We have developed specialized skills in our formation that will permit us to operate effectively in the complex, uncertain environment in Iraq such as language, cultural awareness, tactical questioning, emergency medical technician, and sniper training. We have leaders in positions of leadership who will ensure that troopers are prepared for every mission. We have tough, disciplined troopers who know how to fight, who understand that this is a war to secure the population of Iraq, and who are capable of overwhelming the enemy in tactical engagements while treating the people of Iraq with compassion, respect, and dignity. We have learned from each other as well as those who are now serving with distinction in Iraq and we will continue to train and get better every day over the next year. Troopers of the Third Armored Cavalry, I am proud of you. I am proud of what you have accomplished in preparation for this mission and all that you will accomplish in combat.

To all our military spouses and children, I want to express our gratitude and deepest respect. You are all members of the extended Brave Rifles family. I hope that your understanding of the importance of our mission and the knowledge that your soldier is well prepared for that mission will provide you some comfort as you confront the hardships and anxiety that you will endure while your soldier is away. I want you to know that the chain of command, our rear detachment under Major Mark Solomon, the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and the entire Mountain Post Team are committed to doing all we can to lessen the burden of this deployment on you and your family. The soldiers in this formation are heroes. You and your families who make possible the service of these troopers are heroes too.

To the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the entire Mountain Post Team, thank you for your support and tireless efforts to assist the Regiment as we built combat readiness and prepared for this mission. You are true professionals and your efforts are deeply appreciated by every member of the Regiment.

Our thanks as well to the members of the Colorado Springs and surrounding communities for the tremendous support you continue to give our troopers and families. We all feel very fortunate to be part of this great post and community and know that our families could not be in better hands.

Troopers, as General Scott told our Regiment on 20 August 1847, “You may rest assured that a grateful country will reward you for your gallant deeds through this campaign.” Command Sergeant Major Caldwell and I consider it a great honor to serve with you as we depart on our important mission. God bless you all.

Brave Rifles!



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## **A Message From The Regimental Command Sergeant Major**

We are starting to wrap up our training focus and priorities in preparation for our deployment. I hope each and every one of you feels comfortable with your training and preparation to ensure our success in theater. The MRX was very successful each unit had a chance to work on their priorities of training. As we get closer to our deployment date many soldiers are coming in daily and I know each unit's shortages. We are working hard to fill all of your vacancies and will continue to strive to get to a 100% fill. It is also a great feeling to see all of the up armored vehicles we will take into theater and all those that are not complete will be done in Kuwait. This will give us much needed protection and help boost our confidence level as we travel the mean roads of Iraq.



The Regimental Commander is trying hard to protect the 19 – 22 February as a four day weekend for the regiment. This will probably be our last long weekend before we deploy so please use it wisely. I ask you to remain flexible during these busy times with all kinds of last minute changes you will face.

I thank you for your hard work in getting our soldiers in to the dental clinic to ensure we are all dental deployable. On that same note we cannot afford to miss any appointments because time is not on our side. Continue to be safe as we conduct rail operations, gunnery, and our last minute training priorities. I ask the leaders of the regiment to ensure we close out all needed administrative actions prior to our departure. Look especially hard at NCOERs and take them all the way thru end of March, because it will be around the end of April until we're able to start processing them again. Soldiers needing goods picked up from the billets or off post start getting ready for JPSSO to come thru and be available on your scheduled date. As always I thank you for what you do everyday and especially what you will do in the near future. .

**Brave Rifles**  
**RCSM**





## RETENTION BULLETIN



The Regimental Retention Office would like to express our gratitude to the Soldiers of 3d ACR for your hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. As you are about to embark on this deployment, keep in mind that what you do on a daily basis is an example of the high caliber of Troopers to represent our Regiment, the Army and the United States of America.

Your family has served with you proudly and are the foundation of our Military. They are just as dedicated to the accomplishment of the mission and have sacrificed much. Family members, we would like to thank you for all that you do. Without your support, we would not be the strongest force in the world.

As you head to war, keep in mind that any bonus you reenlist for, while in theater, will be tax free. See your servicing Career Counselor for more Information (if qualified).

Point of contacts are listed below for each Squadron:

3d ACR	MSG Leeling	524-0160
RHHT	SSG Henderson	526-3417
TIGER	SSG Cruz	524-1909
SABRE	SFC Paris	524-1912
THUNDER	SSG Jones	526-8896
LONGKNIFE	SGT Day	526-5554
MULESKINNER	SSG Victor	524-0161

The Regimental Retention Staff will be deploying with you and will fight at your side.

**“REENLIST CAV”**  
**“AI-EE-YAH!”**



# TIGER SQUADRON

## SQUADRON UPDATE

### APACHE TROOP

"Apache 6, White 4! Buildings 18, 20, and 22 cleared; WHITE is currently moving to building 12 right now!"

"Apache 6, roger. Nomad just destroyed building 14 with the air-defense artillery on the roof; Building 14 is no longer hostile."

And so went the reports, intelligence gathering, and war fighting for APACHE Troop as they conducted a week-long field exercise in the southern regions of Fort Carson. Originally scheduled as a rotation to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA, this exercise became a condensed version of the NTC as soldiers practiced what will soon become reality: an intense war fighting effort in an ongoing stability and support role for the Army in Iraq. As a service to us, soldiers from the NTC flew out to Fort Carson and provided OPFOR and training personnel. This was a much-appreciated performance from the soldiers of NTC which allowed us to conduct practical training in what is, and has become, an intensely time-crunched deployment timetable. The culmination of this exercise came in a multi-troop raid. Apache spearheaded the main body effort of clearing the town of Medina Jabal of all insurgent forces. The raid was a stunning success and reinforced Apache Trooper's confidence as they prepared to deploy to Iraq.



The completion of this exercise found Apache Troop hard at work back in garrison, preparing all equipment and vehicles for transport to Texas for vessel shipment to the ports of Kuwait. Soldiers packed their B-bags and loaded them into military containers to be shipped. Troopers worked long hours completing vehicle layouts and packing lists of bags, vehicles and containers. Basic Issue Items and other assorted materials were tied down inside vehicles and packed in bubble wrap. Last-minute maintenance was done as repair parts continued to roll in. This two-week long effort entailed such things as stenciling and properly marking all containers and vehicles being weighed, loaded, and properly braced. All in all, intense working days allowed Apache to properly prepare their equipment for deployment.

Apache stands ready to rail load all equipment. By the time the Super Bowl rolls around, all equipment will be on its way to Texas. APACHE will continue with small arms ranges and other miscellaneous requirements in the coming weeks. Apache Troopers will continue to prepare to for its deployment overseas. Finally, the troop looks hard to find time to allow troopers to spend time with their families.

For many troopers, this will be their second tour of duty in Iraq. While a lot of soldiers have Iraq experience, some do not. All Apache Troopers, however, have the complete trust and faith in one-another to execute the mission and take care of each other over the next year.

***APACHE LEADS THE WAY!!***

CPT Michael Davis  
APACHE 6

### BANDIT TROOP

Bandit Troop, 1/3 ACR, conducted a mission rehearsal exercise from 14 to 19 January at Ft. Carson. The troop was given the task of pacifying the most contentious town in Tiger Squadron's area of operation.

On 14 January, Bandit Troop moved down to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Tiger South at Camp Red Devil, screening the route along the way for follow-on forces. During the movement, four possible vehicles borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) were discovered and moved off the road using a M88A2 tank recovery vehicle. Bandit elements also surprised an enemy team emplacing an improvised explosive device (IED) at Cottonwood Junction, successfully foiling their plot to ambush the troop's convoy. SSG Gary Halkowitz (Red 5) actioned on the insurgents, killing all three. This was the only enemy activity during the movement to FOB Tiger South.

Upon arrival at FOB Tiger South, White and Blue platoons initiated the troop's reconnaissance mission by establishing observation posts (OP) over-watching the town of Medina Wasl and Route Long Island. These OPs were extremely instrumental in the interdiction of enemy forces and the denial of enemy activity in and around Medina Wasl and FOB Tiger South. They also provided key intelligence on friendly and possibly enemy activity inside the town. Throughout the six-day exercise, two VBIEDs were intercepted before they could reach FOB Tiger South. A section from Blue platoon led by SSG Matthew Hodges intercepted the first, and a section from Green ¼ troop led by 1LT Anthony Thompson intercepted the second.

1LT Jeffrey Ullmer (Blue 1) was tasked to conduct bilateral meetings with the mayor, police chief and imam of Medina Wasl. He met with the town's key leaders on the morning of 15 January and immediately determined that the town drastically required medical supplies and cold weather gear. 1LT Ullmer's ability to think fast under pressure enabled him to keep the Anti-Iraqi Forces (AIF) in

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town off balance as to our intentions. He devised a plan to setting up a mock rifle range outside city limits. This enabled Bandit Troop during its raid of Medina Wasl to maintain the initiative and offset the enemy's command and control.

On 17 January, Bandit Troop conducted a raid on several targets in Medina Wasl. This raid incorporated elements from King Battery, ISF, Predator Battery, Dragon Company, and Psychological Operations. Dragon provided the outer cordon and a sniper OP team overlooking the town in order to seal off the town and allow Bandit, King, and Predator to maneuver freely. Blue, augmented by Red dismounts, conducted the raids, sensitive site exploitation, and detainee processing. Red and White platoons (led by 1LT Keven Higgins and 2LT Andrew Chegwidden,

## **CRAZYHORSE TROOP**

Like the rest of the Regiment, Crazyhorse Troop has been busy training and preparing for the upcoming deployment. In the past thirty days we conducted M4/M16 zero, qualification and reflexive firing. The reflexive firing was challenging and forced troopers to engage targets with an elevated heart rate and the use of obstacles as cover. The troopers had a great time and agreed that an elevated heart rate has a dramatic effect on the firer's accuracy.

The second training event of January was the Mission Readiness Exercise (MRX). During the MRX Crazyhorse had the opportunity to deploy as a troop and conduct a mission essential task list (METL) assessment. As a new commander it allowed me to identify our strengths and weaknesses. The exercise went extremely well and Crazy Troop exceeded all of my expectations. The Opposing Forces (OPFOR) were excellent and allowed the units to train with real world constraints such as language barriers. The Observer Controllers (OCs) did a fantastic job of helping the troop identify our strengths and weaknesses, but more importantly showed us how to improve on our weaknesses.

The Troop's decisive operation was the responsibility for the town of Al Sharq. We initially conducted information and civil-military operations to assess the town and identify areas that the local government and populace were concerned about. Upon completion of the assessment, the Crazyhorse Information Operations & Civil Military Team created a worksheet outlining our plan to assist the local populace. During the exercise we were able to conduct bi-lateral meetings with the local leadership and put some of our projects in place. On day four we conducted a cordon and search of Al Sharq in order to capture a high value target. The mission went very well and was executed as planned. The support from Nomad Troop was essential and contributed heavily in the accomplishment of the mission.

The final mission of the MRX was to support Apache Troop's cordon and search of Medina Jabal. Crazy initially conducted a reconnaissance relief in place of Apache's assets and provided constant intelligence of the town prior to the operation. During the operation Crazy established the outer cordon and successfully prevented the Anti Iraqi Forces from evading the teeth of the regiment.

The month of January was busy and productive. I have no doubt that the training conducted will pay big dividends during our deployment. Once again, the troop exceeded all of my expectations. I would like to thank the leaders and troopers of Crazyhorse Troop for their hard work and professionalism. Great job! The results of my initial assessment are that Crazyhorse Troop is ready to deploy and accomplish the mission at hand. Brave Rifles!

isolate a key AIF leader (the police chief) from town by respectively), augmented by 1LT Matthew Campbell's fire support team, provided inner cordon security using Bradleys and up-armored HMMWVs, and Green platoon (led by 1LT Thompson) postured for quick reaction as the troop's reserve with maintenance. Bandit's mortar section (led by SFC Jesus Romero) established firing points on the south side of town, targeting the center of town and the suspected AIF safe house. The Iraqi Security Forces working with King raided the Arab mosque on the west side of town, confiscating a weapons cache. End of mission results were 17 detainees, 12 enemies KIA, and the town was completely secured and restored to local official control. The raid was such a success that FOB Tiger South did not receive any further enemy attacks for the remainder of the rotation.

**Crazy 6**

## **DRAGON COMPANY**

Speaking on behalf of Dragon Troop I would have to say that the most positive aspect of the Mission Readiness Exercise (MRX) was that it was realistic training. Operations in Iraq during our previous deployment did not consist of giant force on force battles happening on a daily basis. Our operations consisted mostly of observation posts, route reconnaissance, meet and greets, and patrols occasionally interspersed with larger-scale missions like raids and cordon and searches. The tempo for the MRX was more realistic and controlled by our own actions as opposed to a timeline set to achieve certain objectives. The MRX replicated this well, with long gaps in between contact. Platoons were sent to over watch named areas of interest and conduct route clearance and received very little contact in the process, which tested their ability to react when they are not 100% sure they will be attacked. It might be said that there is training lost due to the fact that in all the operations we conducted during the MRX we did not receive any contact (outside of the culmination raid), but we disagree. The soldiers were told that the reason they did not receive any contact was due to their diligence in such "lesser missions" and that is as it should be. Soldiers need to know that those missions are worthwhile and that their efforts are having an effect, something that is hard to quantify in the real situation due to various unknowns, such as how many attacks, ambushes, or IED attacks were avoided by the aggressive conduct of our missions. Whereas at the end of the MRX we were able to tell our soldiers "your missions prevented this many ambushes and this many IEDs." This gives the soldiers a sense of purpose for these very important low profile missions that they would not have been able to get otherwise. Likewise soldiers were able to see the results of intelligence gathering (or lack of) when the MRX culminated with the raids. They can recognize the importance of knowing where the enemy is, meaning specifically which house or vehicle, and what he is armed with.

A second positive would be that Dragon was given an opportunity to test and practice with the new equipment that we have been issued or acquired for ourselves. The soldiers had never worn the new Kevlars, knee pads or Molle system in a field environment. The MRX gave them an opportunity to customize the system to their own personal needs and develop an idea of what works and what doesn't before it is potentially too late in a real combat situation. Likewise soldiers were able to familiarize themselves with the new sights and attachments on the M4/M16 before deploying. Something specific to Dragon Troop was the enormous benefit gained from the opportunity to test our communications in a stressful environment. We discovered that the personal handheld radios were a good idea and discovered that the over the ear PTT microphones

were a great asset, thus prompting us to buy more for the deployment.

As far as things to do differently Dragon Troop would have liked to have had more interaction with civilians on the battlefield. We did not come into contact with any COBS just randomly driving around the battlefield or approaching our posts or checkpoints with problems. This is something that we experienced to be a significant form of contact during OIF I.

## **PREDATOR BATTERY**

Predator Battery demonstrates remarkable flexibility and stamina while guarding providing FOB Security at the MRX. The MRX was a long and bitter-cold five days for the 150+ troopers of Predator Battery. The Air Defenders faced twenty-hour long days while providing security for FOB Red Devil. The battery conducted simultaneous operations to include continuous patrols throughout the area of operations, manning the gates, the towers, communication sites and acting as the quick reaction force (QRF) so that Tiger Squadron could

conduct operations unimpeded. While 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon (Linebacker) conducted operations with King Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons (Linebacker)



scoured the many wadis and mountains surrounding the FOB, preventing numerous mortar attacks and keeping the routes clear from IEDs. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the Avenger platoons, roved the inner and outer perimeter of the FOB and manned the twenty-four hour QRF, always on call to provide firepower whenever and wherever Tiger needed it. While not the most glamorous or glorious of jobs, the troopers of 6<sup>th</sup>, maintenance and headquarters platoons remained alert throughout the freezing nights in the many towers surrounding the FOB. Despite mortar attacks and insurgent operations, Predator held strong and remained vigilant in defense.

Though only five days, Predator Battery has drawn many lessons from the MRX. Throughout the exercise, FOB security was steadily improved and tactics, techniques, and procedures were developed to take to Iraq. The Linebackers and Avengers improved their scouting abilities to prepare for ground-based challenges in OIF. While Predator Battery will always continue to watch the skies, it is now prepared to execute as a scout troop in a ground combat role.

Since getting back to Fort Carson and packing up to once again "Strike Fast and Kick Ass" in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Predator looks to continue to demonstrate the combat power and flexibility it provides to the Regiment. Whatever needs to be done, Predator Battery will rise to meet the challenge.

## **KING BATTERY**

During the Tiger Squadron Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX), Howitzer Battery had the task of training and

integrating the personnel role playing Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in an effort to conduct bilateral operations. The National Training Center (NTC) provided Iraqi expatriates and National Guard soldiers to role play the ISF. In order to be successful in training the ISF, the battery designated instructors and trained them to be tactically and technically proficient in security force tasks. This process began before deployment to the MRX by establishing a curriculum that was used to assess the level of training the ISF has received, validating instructors, and training the battery's soldiers to assist the instructors. Some of the instructors used their experience from OIF I. This proved to be beneficial in regards to customs and courtesies and in developing relationships with the battery's ISF counterparts. The battery also developed a methodology to be used, beginning with assessment of local ISF and ultimately integrating them into Squadron operations.

Initially, dealing with the ISF proved to be frustrating to battery leadership. On the first day of the MRX, the ISF personnel did not even make themselves available to meet with the battery. It was a major setback because it limited the amount of time the battery had to assess the ISF capabilities. On the second day, the ISF did meet with the battery, but another setback occurred. The battery expected to indoctrinate, organize, equip, and train approximately 30 soldiers. Only five showed up. As the battery was unable to assess his soldiers in person, the battery had to base its assessment of the ISF solely on the ISF commander's comments. The battery then had only 24 hours to integrate them into Squadron operations for an upcoming mission.

In order for the battery to win the trust of the ISF, the battery had to provide the ISF with the resources necessary for them to carry out missions. Their commander was pleased that the battery was willing to equip his forces. A piece of key equipment that the ISF was lacking was body armor, which the battery provided to them. The battery also worked hard to make the ISF feel like they were truly a part of the Squadron team. Giving the ISF body armor was an important part of this process.

The assessment, indoctrination, organization, and training phases of the battery's training plan were abbreviated due to the lack of available time and the ISF's ability to provide all of its soldiers for these phases. However, the ISF leadership did cooperate in the Squadron's mission planning process and also provided key intelligence.

The first mission that the Squadron integrated ISF into was a raid on the mosque in the city of Medina Jabal. Given the short amount of time the battery had to integrate the ISF, the raid was a success. The ISF proved to be an asset as they raided the mosque, found a weapon's cache, and confiscated the weapons.

It is imperative for Iraq to have a legitimate security force if democracy is going to succeed. In large part due to its MRX experience, Howitzer Battery is fully prepared to train, organize, and integrate local security forces in Iraq, if given the mission to do so.



# SABRE SQUADRON

## A Message from the Commander LTC Christopher M. Hickey

Greetings! This past month has been both challenging and rewarding for Sabre Squadron. Immediately after the New Year, we successfully completed our MRX. We trained and overcame tough weather conditions and the fast-paced attacks by the OPFOR. The week-long exercise provided our Troopers with realistic and demanding training. We thank the outstanding O/C support from Cobra team, based at Ft. Irwin, in helping us prepare and gain confidence for the upcoming deployment. In addition to the MRX, our Troopers have continued to qualify on their small arms weapons. In Sabre, we understand the importance of sustaining our marksmanship skills. One shot, one kill!

In January, we said goodbye to CPT Denis Lortie, "Grim 5," as he headed to Ft. Knox for the ACCC. His professionalism and contributions to the Squadron will be greatly missed. I am confident he will continue to be an asset to the Army.

Though our Squadron has lost one valuable member of the team, we welcomed seven new officers and a new CSM into Sabre's proud ranks. MAJ Mike Simmering, the new S-3, has taken control of the operations cell without missing a beat. CSM Mark Horsley, the new Sabre 7, will undoubtedly be my right hand man. His combat experience and leadership will provide great guidance to our Troopers. He

is a true role model for all Troopers, and I look forward to working with him.

With less than two months before deployment, we are working hard every day to meet the demands of the changing battlefield. From early morning to late at night, our Troopers are busy packing and rail loading equipment. It's a taxing time for all our Troopers and their families. I appreciate every Soldier's diligence and steadfast dedication to the mission at hand. Hopefully, in the weeks ahead, our hard work will allow us to have weekends off before deployment. Family time is a priority, and we will do our best to give Troopers some time off.

The challenges do not stop. Sabre is first in line to deploy in February. However, our combat teams are set, trained, and ready to fight. We have prepared for the war, and we will win. Thanks to all the Troopers for your hard work, and thank you to the Sabre spouses and families for the outstanding support you have provided. Sabre Ready! Ai-ee-yah!

Saber 6



# THUNDER SQUADRON

## **A Message from the Commander Thunder 6**

The Squadron has been very busy preparing for our deployment throughout this past month. The Troopers of Thunder Squadron have been working long hours to finalize our preparation for deployment in March. I could not be more pleased and impressed by the commitment and motivation that I have observed in our leaders and troopers since I arrived in late January. I see a confidence in their eyes and sense a resolve that will undoubtedly ensure we will accomplish in an exemplary manner all that is asked of us.

I am deeply honored by the privilege to command Thunder Squadron.

**LTC Ross Brown  
Thunder 6**





# LONGKNIFE SQUADRON

## Longknife Update

2005 has arrived and has already proven to be an extremely busy year! January moved in like the proverbial Lion and has been extraordinarily productive for the Longknife Squadron; as we trained and continued to prepare for our upcoming deployment.

Immediately following the New Year, the Squadron found itself participating in the Regimental MRX (Mission Rehearsal Exercise), which encompassed all elements of the Longknife Squadron over a fifteen day period. Each Troop's professionalism and dedication was apparent as they fought both the notional enemy and the freezing winter weather. Observer Controllers were on hand from the National Training Center to observe and further develop the Troopers and Leadership as the Squadron did what we do best; Support the ground Cavalry Squadrons of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment with out Scout, Attack and Air Assault assets.

Throughout the MRX, HHT was fully engaged with all of its varied rolls; The TOC/ALOC (staff personnel) ran 24 hour operations to track the battle and conduct administrative duties. The Motor Pool continued to fix our vehicles, manage the Add on Armor program, and participate in the many combat logistics patrols that the troop was responsible for. The Strikers were under the operational control of Sabre Squadron and found themselves freezing in the woods looking for the bad guys. The Dining Facility prepared outstanding food for breakfast and dinner and assisted with running the field feeding tent. III/V ran continuous 24 hour operations providing fuel for all aircraft and

ground vehicles. The medics provided 24 hour medical treatment and ran an exercise for mass casualties that allowed them to hone their triage skills. Supply continued to receive new equipment and conducted combat logistics patrols. The IAR (immediate aircrew recovery) Team participated in a downed aircraft scenario and performed excellently. Upon completion of the MRX – HHT Troops took negligible time off before transitioning their full focus onto loading containers and preparing their vehicles for deployment.

The "NOPs" Nomad, Outlaw and Pegasus, each demonstrated their technical and tactical experience throughout the MRX. Working in close conjunction with their habitual ground squadrons; the pilots focused on training as combat crews and integrating all the new members of their teams. The OH-58D Maintenance teams quickly demonstrated their excellence by allowing the three Troops to fly a combined 200 hrs in just 15 days.

Renegade troop continued moving forward in its transformation as the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR's heavy attack troop, and the most sophisticated Attack Helicopter unit in the US Army. Since the Troops completion of UFTP at Fort Hood and return just before the holidays, the AH-64D's have been upgraded again with Blue Force Tracker and an additional internal fuel tank giving it an ever longer range and endurance. During the recent MRX Renegade troop validated battle rhythms and Decision Support Matrixes that will facilitate its role as the Regimental QRF and Reserve in Iraq. Renegade's return to the Squadron after UFTP

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was much anticipated. Their participation in the MRX reminded us all, of their vital role in both the Squadron and the Regimental War fighting team.

Over the past month, Stetson Troop welcomed the New Year by continuing to react and respond to a myriad of operational requirements all the while its fleet of UH-60L Blackhawk helicopters underwent 7000 man hours of extensive modifications to improve its capabilities and survivability. Immediately following the completion of block leave, Stetson Troop's maintainers began the daunting task of returning the fleet to the air to meet operational demands. Simultaneously during the Regimental MRX, Stetson Troop "Carried the Cav" by conducting sling load, Immediate Aircrew Recovery, Downed Aircraft Recovery, and Command & Control operations while facilitating operations throughout the regiment. Focus has shifted once again as each Stetson Trooper diligently prepares the Troop for deployment.

Tomahawk Troop has been extremely busy since before the Christmas Break, coordinating and assisting in the modification and installation of new systems to all airframe types. Some of

these modifications encompassing over 700 man-hours of work per airframe. During the MRX, Tomahawk Troop supported all the flight troops throughout the entire exercise, performing daily maintenance operations and services, as well as trouble shooting and repairing unscheduled maintenance. In addition, Tomahawk has continued to support the aircraft reset operation while preparing the troop for load out and heading up the Squadron port preparation/operation.

The Longknife Squadron was at its best in the month of January as it conducted realistic combat training in preparation for our mission in Iraq. After participating in this training event I am more confident than ever that this Squadron is absolutely prepared to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as the integral Aviation Squadron of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment!

We are now quickly transitioning to prepare the horses and saddles for the journey ahead, but we do so with riders who are confident and competent in the skills of their trade. **Be proud of your trooper and know that what they are doing is important!**

Longknife 6



# SUPPORT SQUADRON

## SQUADRON UPDATE

LTC Rich O'Connor

Greetings and Happy New Year from the Regimental Support Squadron. The Muleskinners started the New Year off with a rigorous and challenging Mission Readiness Exercise (MRX). This exercise came on the heels of our requirement to rail load our equipment in preparation for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom III. The MRX was a good exercise that gave us an opportunity to test our capability to rapidly deploy and validate our ability successfully operates in a field environment. The Observer Controllers from the National Training Center provided us with an external assessment and lessons learned to apply in OIF III. Bottom line; I am extremely confident that the Support Squadron soldiers are not only tactically trained but technically proficient and as such are thoroughly prepared for the challenges we will encounter on the battlefields of Iraq.

Working with the Mountain Post team, we were able to get Add-on-Armor (AoA) installed on more than 50% of all our vehicles. AoA provides additional protection to our soldiers as they travel throughout Iraq.

After we rail load our equipment all soldiers will qualify on their assignment weapon and go through and recertify on a series of Battle Tasks in preparation for deployment.

I have chosen among the best officers and senior non-commissioned officers to stay back and care for our families. This was a difficult task as the rear-detachment is often overlooked. CPT Will Phifer and First Sergeant Warren will be Support Squadron Rear Detachment Commander and First Sergeant.

## **A Regiment without Bounds**

**By: 1LT J. Wm. Guthrie**

To succeed on the battlefield of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, fighting forces require reliable, uncompromised communications. Being the combat proven, premier fighting force that it is – the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment has taken painstaking efforts to ensure that the lines of communication (LOCs) between their units is comprised of the best available technology, and manned by highly trained soldiers.

Drawing on lessons learned from the Regiment's deployment during OIF-1, leaders have identified several critical areas that can make or break the Regiment when it comes to timely, efficient execution of missions. Unquestionably, one of the most important and critical factors in projecting the 3d ACR's combat power, is the ability to fix as far forward and maintain the Regiment's operational readiness amongst its combat and support fleets. Maintenance is the key.

Within the Regiment, there exists 3 separate Supply Support Activity (SSA) warehouses – the Class IX ground maintenance, Class IX air maintenance, and the Class II/III (P)/IV/VII warehouse that carries durable items (such as special tool kits and repair equipment) and petroleum, oil and lubricant (POL) items – all of which significantly affect the Regiment's ability to maintain its equipment.

As troopers fix equipment, and leaders manage maintenance commodities, the 3d ACR needed a way to successfully transmit maintenance requisitions and data over long distances, and in a timely transmission that could be received on the supply channel end and ultimately put the part in the mechanics hands in the most direct manner. Basing maintenance and supply channel expectations off of OIF-1 experience, the Regiment has anticipated for a wide area of operations (geographically) and a system of supply lines that could stretch as far as 200 miles long. Having troopers 'hand carry' supply requisitions, while traveling on these long combat logistic patrols (CLPs) not only puts more soldiers at

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risk, but it is also unnecessary considering the available technology able to transmit the same maintenance and supply requisitions.

The Answer: the Harris Radio. The Regiment has recently found a new logistical use for a communication system that was originally implemented by U.S. Special Operations Command in 2000, and fielded to the Army in 2001. The Harris Radio system is a high frequency UHF multiband tactical digital radio that is a true marriage between radio and computer. Its secure voice and data communications capabilities allow users to transmit maintenance and supply requisitions over ranges as far as 400KM (250 miles), and files as fast as 64 kb/s.

Granted, the Regiment also employs both VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) satellite, and CAISI (Combat Services Support Automated Information Systems Interface) technology for much of its communication requirements, the Harris Radio is a tertiary communication system that meets the need for data transfers nicely. In an effort to test the Harris in its newest use, the Maintenance Troop of the Regimental Support Squadron configured a mobile SSA that deployed during the Regiment's recent MRX (Maneuver Rights Exercise) and established communications via Harris radio with other Squadrons deployed during the MRX. Each Squadron set up a similar Harris Radio node, and transmitted their maintenance requisitions, maintenance status, and other supply data via the secure net.

Once data was successfully received on the SSA's end, Maintenance troopers processed the Squadron's (customer units') information, and generated a status out of the warehouse's SARSS1 (Standard Army Retail Supply System) computer server. That status was then transmitted via Harris Radio back to the customer unit, thus completing a successful transaction and update of critical maintenance information. Planning could then begin regarding when, where, and how many CL IX maintenance parts were able to be picked up.

Not only does this use of the Harris Radio preclude the need for troopers to physically transport maintenance data, but it also reduces the number of radios required between Forward Operating and Forward Logistic Bases (FOBs and FLBs) because units are able to communicate over greater ranges. Coupled with the NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Sky wave) antenna, the Harris Radio far surpasses the communication limits of the SINGCARS radio. This communication mode is particularly useful in mountainous, heavily wooded terrain, or dry soil (i.e. desert) where ground wave is limited – perfect for the

topographic features throughout the CENTCOM AOR. The Harris Radio and NVIS antenna, combined, weigh only 32 lbs combined, and can be set up by 2 troopers in appx. 25 minutes. This standard was demonstrated as Maintenance troopers quickly set up and began transmitting/receiving data within 30 minutes of hitting ground during the MRX.

As the enemy grows more intelligent, our forces must implement the most advanced technology available – one that will allow missions over a particular geographic area to be accomplished with a much smaller, but smarter, force than was previously required. The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment is meeting this challenge daily, and the Harris Radio is only the beginning...

### Wolf Pack Detention Facility Opens for Customers 20JAN05

For the Wolf Pack (Smoke platoon), 89<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company, the recent Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) was the culmination of months of preparation and training for the assumption of the detainee operations mission for the Regiment. During the MRX, the Wolf Pack Detention Facility incorporated all the units and capabilities that will be part of detention operations in Iraq. These elements included an interrogation team led by SGT Lamb from 66MI, an on call medical staff from Med Troop, a guard force and administrative section capable of building prisoner packets and maintaining evidentiary chains of custody as well as good order and discipline in the detainee facility.

The transition from a mechanized smoke platoon into a unit capable of running and operating a detainee facility has been a very involved process. Introductory training began for most of the troopers during the Squadron FTX in mid-September. Smoke troopers received a crash course on all major aspects of EPW operations and physically fortified a field ammunition holding area into a detention facility. Troopers from across the Squadron volunteered to act as anti-coalition forces and be processed through the detention facility. After the completion of the FTX, Smoke troopers were able to conceptualize the detention facility operations and grasped a basic understanding of the different jobs required to keep the facility operating. Preparation for detention operations continued over the next several months in the form of classroom lessons and hands on application. In late November, a 40 hour block of instruction was taught by the El Paso County Sheriff's Department at their jail located in close proximity to Fort Carson. This in-depth training focused on observation and control techniques inside a prison, use of force, hand to hand combat, and forced extraction of hostile/violent inmates.

At the completion of Christmas leave, Smoke platoon went into the MRX ready to apply their newly learned knowledge of detention facility operations. The MRX detention facility was fully operational and processed detainees completely from the initial search and medical examination through interrogation and release to higher detention authorities. The Smoke platoon is now looking ahead towards OIF III and the successful completion of its new METL task to run a detention facility. The varied and difficult training completed over the last half year will allow smoke platoon to serve safely and with distinction.

ILT Boyle



## RHHT

### A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER CPT ROZELLE

Remington Families,

Well, we are off again. In the town hall meeting, the first month of February, I gave you all information packets on deployment specific information for families. I hope that you find those resources helpful. The Mountain Post agencies are much better prepared for our deployment than they were last time. Please take advantage of all available resources and stay informed.

On that note, please keep our FRG network updated so that we can keep you informed. You may feel like it is none of our business, but if you are planning to be out of town for a few weeks or a few months, just drop an email or a phone call to your platoon POC and let them know. Our goal is to keep families informed, but we are at your mercy.

After an exhaustive training exercise, Remington Troop is combat ready. The good folks from NTC came to us to ensure we were trained to the level necessary for war. Although a lot of our soldiers have combat experience, Iraq is a constantly changing battlefield. To stay smarter than the enemy, we must train at every opportunity.

As I write this, our equipment is loaded and shipped, and we are focused on

the final individual training required for deployment, like weapons qualifications, PT Tests, and shots. As is usual in the CAV, our schedules may seem erratic. But believe me, I am going to try to make the last few weeks here as predictable and family focused as I am able.

Make sure you are using your time correctly and are prepared for the deployment. Make your spouse tell you about as many of those little things that may come up as possible. Also, there is the tendency to go out and have a bunch of last meals. Although we make more money while deployed, it should be a chance to get ahead, not try to make up debt. Enjoy your days but use moderation. Most of all make them share information with you. Now is the time that families should be most informed?

Remington will deploy and help make a difference in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Be proud in knowing that we are an important part of history.

Brave Rifles!

Remington 6  
CPT David Rozelle

# CHAPLAIN

## LET FAITH ANSWER FEAR

Are you afraid? Does something fearful loom on your horizon? Believe it or not, there is very good reason not to fear. Let me explain from a couple of examples.

Chuck Yeager had been recruited in 1947 to test the experimental rocket plane, the Bell X-1, and hopefully to push it beyond the sound barrier (Mach 1 or 760 miles per hour at sea level). Although designed to fly twice the speed of sound, the Bell engineers and pilots who had flown the X-1 demanded extreme caution in Yeager's X-1 tests.

After many preliminary flights, the day finally came to push the X-1 to its limits – October 14, 1947. Yeager reached Mach 0.92. Then he pushed the X-1 faster, to Mach 0.96, and noticed something. After some initial buffeting, at around Mach 0.94, the faster he pushed his plane the smoother his aircraft rode.

Suddenly his Speedometer went off the scale and fluctuated wildly. What was going on? *He had reached supersonic flight! Chuck Yeager had broken the sound barrier!*

But Yeager felt a sense of let-down. He explains, "After all the anxiety, breaking the sound barrier turned out to be a perfectly paved speedway. ...And that was it. I sat up there feeling kind of numb, but elated. After all the anticipation to achieve this moment, it really was a let-down. ***It took an instrument meter to tell me what I'd done.*** There should've been a bump in the road, something to let you know you had just punched a nice clean hole through that sonic barrier. The unknown was a mere poke through Jell-o." (From *Yeager: An Autobiography*)

And so it is with most of the things we fear – they often fail to meet our expectations. They are not the terrifying barriers we envision.

How about another fearsome figure - Attila the Hun. Just the name evokes images of savagery,

bloodshed and terror. Attila was King of the Huns from AD 433-453. He was so powerful that the Roman Empire was forced to pay him tribute. Just prior to the Battle of Chalons (AD 451) his army numbered 700,000 Huns and Ostrogoths. He was so savage and bloodthirsty that he murdered his own brother (with whom he had shared the throne) and consumed human flesh (supposedly that of his own sons). He was so ruthless in war that he didn't merely conquer. He annihilated. He depopulated entire regions. Only rubble and scorched earth remained after him. Any conquered foe that refused to serve in his army was put to the sword. Cruelty, power and invincibility could be summed up in one name - Attila the Hun.

Yet no one is invincible and no problem is unsolvable. Everyone has his weakness and, believe it or not, Attila had his. And do you know what finally destroyed this unconquerable monster, this terror to the barbarians, this "Scourge of God?" *A nosebleed!* Attila the Hun died in his sleep, on his wedding night, of a nosebleed. With his sudden death the dreaded Huns scattered to the winds.

Sometimes the smallest pebbles can bring down the most fearsome giants in our lives. It's an important lesson to remember. The problem you fear may prove only to be a "bump in the road." The crisis that worries you may prove no match for you – especially with God at your side. The Scripture reminds us, "The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid? ... For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sanctuary and set me high upon a rock." (Psalm 27:1, 5) When fear seizes your heart, answer it with faith in the God who loves you. Someone has said, "Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there."



Everyday is Sunday! 3d ACR chaplains conduct worship for soldiers during the Regiment's Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) whenever the opportunity arises. The Commander views this as part of the Regiment's preparation for combat!



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# SAFETY

## Child Gun Safety

### EDUCATING YOUR KIDS ABOUT GUN SAFETY

As a parent and a firearm owner, you have a responsibility to educate yourself and your children of the dangers of firearms, along with proper use and storage of firearms to prevent the accidental discharge of your firearm and/or misuse by an unauthorized person.

#### What Kids Know About Guns

When a child is old enough to interact with others, even if he doesn't speak yet, he probably has a general concept of what guns are. This comes as no surprise given that the average child sees 200,000 violent acts on television (including 40,000 murders) by high school graduation, according to the National Institute on Media and the Family. These numbers don't include what children see on the big screen or on the Internet.

#### Talking to Your Child about Gun Safety

Whether it's a firearm, or something as common as a carpenter's nail gun, BB gun, or an air gun, all are easy for kids to get, and all are dangerous. Parents should assume that their children are going to come across a gun at some point in their youth and proactively teach them about gun safety.

There are a number of programs that can help you get started. One of the most popular is Eddie Eagle, a program of the National Rifle Association (NRA). It offers this four-step approach to gun safety:

- stop
- don't touch
- remove yourself from the area
- tell an adult

What's hardest for children to recognize that they must remove themselves from the area. Just stopping and not touching a gun themselves is not enough. Removing themselves from the area protects them from being harmed by a child who doesn't know not to touch. A child as young as 3 have the finger strength to pull a trigger. Some studies show that by age 8, 90% of children are capable of firing a gun.

#### If You Have a Gun in Your Home

Many children are raised with guns in the home, particularly if hunting is an important part of family recreation. Families who have guns in the home need to teach children to use guns safely and responsibly. To ensure the safest environment for your family:

- Take the ammunition out of the gun.
- Lock the gun and keep it out of reach of children. Keep cable and lock outside of trigger guards at all times.
- Lock the ammunition and store it apart from the gun.
- Store the keys for the gun and the ammunition in a different area from where you store household keys. Keep the keys out of reach of children.
- Lock up gun-cleaning supplies, which are often [poisonous](#).

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This advice might seem obvious, but 39% of people who say they have guns do not lock them. Almost one third reports keeping their unlocked guns loaded, arguing that difficult access to their gun would keep them from using it in self-defense.



### FIREARM SAFETY TIPS

1. All firearms should always be assumed to be loaded and should be handled as such.
2. Keep all firearms pointed in a safe direction at all times, even when unloaded.
3. Store firearms unloaded under lock and key.
4. Store ammunition under lock and key.
5. Never store firearms in a place accessible to children.
6. Teach children the basic principles of firearm safety. When encountering a gun, teach them to:

*-DON'T TOUCH IT!*

*-TELL AN ADULT!*

#### GUN SAFETY LINKS

[NRA's "Eddie Eagle" program](#)

[airgun-hq.com/links/safety.shtml](http://airgun-hq.com/links/safety.shtml)

[Packing.Org](#)

[gunsavelife.com](http://gunsavelife.com)

[Paxton Quigley's Web Site](#)

[A.W.A.R.E.](#)

[Firearms Training.Com](#)

[Stopping Power](#)

[Safety On](#)

[Hunter's Shooting Association](#)

Laws concerning firearm ownership, storage and handling vary among states and local jurisdictions. Learn and comply with your state and local laws and those of any jurisdiction to which you plan to transport or use firearms.

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# 3d ACR Museum

## REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNITS ENGAGED</u>
Feb 2000	(SFOR7) Advance Party Arrives	2 <sup>nd</sup> and SPT
6-15 Feb 1892	Near Grande, TX	Detachment C
7 Feb 1860	Canyon Del Muerto (Lewis Mountains near Ft. Craig) NM	F and I
8 Feb 1848	San Juan de Teotihuacán, Mexico	I
8 Feb 1859	Dog Canyon, (Sacramento Mountains), NM	Detachment C
9 Feb 1901	Banna, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment K
13 Feb 1871	Sierra Galiuro, AZ	F
18 Feb 1892	Northeast of Palito Blanco, TX	D
18 Feb 1900	Near San Juan, Union, PI	Detachment M
21 Feb 1862	Val Verde, NM	C, D, G, I and K
21 Feb 1901	Near Parar, Ilocos Norte, PI	A and I
22 Feb 1991	(ODS) Began breach of the berm and recon completed 73 breaches into the berm	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sqdn and 43 <sup>rd</sup> CEC
22 Feb 1900	Palasi Pasa, Union, PI	C and M
22 Feb 1901	Near Badoc, Ilocos Norte, PI	I

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23 Feb 1877	Hay Creek, near Deadwood, Dakota	C
24 Feb 1901	San Vicente, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment F
24 Feb 1991	Crossed Line of Departure traveled over 90 KM	3d ACR
24 Feb 2000	Deployed to Bosnia and Herzogovenia	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sqdn
25 Feb 1991	(ODS) Secured Corps flank from counter-attack	3d ACR
26 Feb 1900	Near San Juan, Union, PI	D
26 Feb 1848	Zaccualtipan, Mexico	I
26 Feb 1991	(ODS) Occupied OBJ Gray Regiment OPCON to 24 <sup>th</sup> ID Secured Al Bussayah Ne Airfield, Saudi Arabia	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sqdn 3d ACR
27 Feb 1991	(ODS) Fratricide at Umm Hajul Airfield, Iraq (1 friendly KIA—SGT Lance Fielder)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sqdn
27 Feb 1991	(ODS) Attacked Luhays Gas-Oil Separation Plant, Saudi Arabia 48 EPWs without a fight	3d ACR
28 Feb 1991	(ODS) Seized Ar Rumalyah SW airfield, Saudi Arabia 165 EPWs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sqdn
Feb 1945 Bns.	Trier, Germany	3d & 21st Tank

February 21 is the 143d anniversary of the Battle of Val Verde (New Mexico). During the battle Captain Alexander McRae was killed in action. He was the Regiment's only officer killed in action during the Civil War.

In an Army Values series, Paul D. Martin (Director of the Third Cavalry Museum and the Office of Historical Programs) wrote about Captain Alexander McRae's Personal Courage in January 1998.

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The history of the Third Armored Cavalry regiment is replete with outstanding examples of courage in its 151-year history, beginning with the examples set in the Mexican War of 1846-1847 and continuing through Operation Desert Storm. It is difficult to select only one example for discussion.

Perhaps one of the finest, though, was that of the Regiment's only officer killed in action during the Civil War - Captain Alexander Mc Rae at the battle of Val Verde, New Mexico fought on 21 February, 1862.

McRae, a graduate of West Point, had served with the Regiment in the since his graduation in 1851. He was promoted to Captain and the command of Company E in 1861 upon the reassignment of his predecessor due to resignations among the Regimental Staff.

As the clouds of war loomed ever larger, McRae assumed command of the Regiment's provisional battery of artillery (composed primarily of men of Co. I) at Fort Craig, New Mexico.

As Confederate General Sibley's column of 3000 Texans moved from Fort Bliss up the Rio Grande Valley towards their ultimate defeat at Glorieta Pass, they encountered the command of General E. R. S. Canby at Fort Craig, just south of Socorro, New Mexico.

Early on the morning of 21 February, Canby ordered McRae's battery of M1857 12 pound Napoleon Howitzers and M1841 6 pounders across the Rio Grande to the east bank of the River.

Throughout the morning McRae's battery poured grape and canister upon the Texans who had occupied a commanding position 600 yards to the east in an attempt to dislodge them.

His battery was moved up to the front lines in the afternoon in support of the other union artillery and of the Union Infantry against a concerted Confederate attack. The attack on the infantry was repulsed with the Confederate Cavalry losing 29 horses before they had gotten within a hundred yards, thanks in large measure to the actions of McRae and his gunners.

Then the Confederates mounted a full-scale attack on the battery itself, involving at least 1000 Texans. This was followed by a general assault along the entire front.

The green Union infantry providing McRae's support and cover began to retreat in the face of the onslaught. The Confederates were being mowed down by the dozens, but the infantry retreat soon turned into a rout, leaving Mc Rae's Battery standing alone against the horde of oncoming Texans.

McRae refused to abandon his position, standing in plain sight of the enemy yelling encouragement to his men and defiance at the enemy and shouting against the din of battle for reinforcements, which never came.

All around him men fell - dead or wounded. His junior officers were killed or put out of action. His gunners were cut to pieces. Texans were piled in death before his guns. McRae's right arm had been shattered by bullets, but he rested the arm on the muzzle of the

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field gun and coolly began to empty the chambers of his revolvers into the oncoming enemy using his left hand. He was the last man left standing.

Finally, the Texan attack carried the battery. Confederate Major Sam Lockridge is said to have advanced to the gun defended by Mc Rae and placing his hand on the muzzle of the gun, said *'This is mine.'* To which Mc Rae replied *"I shall never surrender my position."*

Other accounts have McRae and Lockridge simultaneously pointing their pistols and killing each other staining the

hot cannon barrel with their blood. An eyewitness to the event reported only that *"...Captain Alexander McRae, who commanded the battery, fell pierced with many bullets."*

McRae's death was reported widely in the eastern press as an example of heroism. Regardless of how it happened exactly, the defense of his position in the face of overwhelming odds meets and exceed all of the commonly accepted definitions of courage and valor.

Captain Alexander McRae was buried initially at Fort Craig and his remains were later moved to a place of honor at West Point.





## 3d CAVALRY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE#: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

UNIT AFFILIATION (SQDN, OR SEP CO.) \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_ LIFETIME MEMBER \$20

\_\_\_\_ OFFICER ANNUAL \$7

\_\_\_\_ NCO ANNUAL \$5

\_\_\_\_ ENLISTED ANNUAL \$3

\_\_\_\_ CIVILLIAN ANNUAL \$7

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### **ASSOCIATION USE ONLY**

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PROCESSED: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER #: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CARD ISSUED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CERTIFICATE ISSUED: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE (ANNUAL): \_\_\_\_\_

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# National Military Family Association

## News Release

For Immediate Distribution

Contact:  
Kathleen Burke  
703-931-6632  
www.nmfa.org

### **Scholarship Opportunity Available to Military Spouses**

ALEXANDRIA, VA, January 13, 2004. — The National Military Family Association (NMFA) is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for the NMFA's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program. The scholarships are awarded to Uniformed Services spouses (active, retired, reserve, guard or survivor) to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school for an academic year.

Scholarships are normally in the amount of \$1,000.00. The scholarship funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees, books, and school room and board, so long as the funds are paid directly to the educational institution involved. The 2005 Awards were made possible through a donation from General Dynamics and several individual donors. Applications are only accepted online and are due on March 31, 2005.

NMFA recognizes that the military lifestyle presents unique challenges to military spouses. Frequent moves can interfere with military spouses' ability to complete their post secondary education, thus negatively impacting their professional development and long-term career progression. NMFA's military spouse scholarship program is one step toward helping military spouses gain the education that they need to reach their full career potential.

### **About NMFA**

The National Military Family Association is the only national organization whose sole focus is the military family and whose goal is to influence the development and implementation of policies that will improve the lives of those family members. The Association's mission is to serve the families of the seven uniformed services through education, information and advocacy. For more than 35 years, its staff and volunteers, comprised mostly of military family members, have built a reputation for being the leading experts on military family issues.











