

BLACK JACK ROUND UP

MAY 2010

Back to the basics

**Call in the big guns: Army Soldiers learn to call in
aerial support**

ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE

**SOLDIERS RELEASE STRESS WITH
PAINTBALL**

INSIDE.....



Table of Contents

Pg. 1 - Commander's comments

Pg. 2 - All volunteer force

Pg. 4 - Logisticians leave lasting landmarks

Pg. 6 - Career Soldiers, available for anything

Pg. 8 - Painting their ACUs: Soldiers release stress with paintball

Pg. 10 - Back to the basics

Pg. 12 - Call in the big guns: Army Soldiers learn to call in aerial support

Pg. 13 - Spartans Soldiers flex their muscles

Pg. 16 - Medal of Honor

Black Jack Round Up

2nd Brigade Commanding Officer

Col. John Peeler

2nd Brigade Deputy CO

Lt. Col. Hugh McNeely

2nd Brigade XO

Maj. Shawn Creamer

2nd Brigade Command Sgt. Maj.

Command Sgt. Maj. Emmett Maunakea

2nd Brigade Public Affairs Officer

Maj. James Rawlinson

Round Up Staff Writer

Spc. Justin Naylor

Round Up Broadcaster

Spc. Jessica Hayes

I'm proud to be a member of Team BlackJack; a team that has consistently proven itself as capable of successful mission accomplishment, no matter the conditions, circumstances or hardships. From our early days patrolling the Mexican border to the island-hopping of the Pacific Theater to the harsh winters of Korea to breaking ground as one of the first Air Mobile units in Vietnam, we have always been trailblazers and history makers.

Our multiple deployments to the Middle East have proven that wherever we go, we are always the right Brigade Combat Team, at the right place at the right time to ensure successful mission accomplishment. We launched the first ground strike in Operation Desert Storm, patrolled western Baghdad and Fallujah following the initial invasion of Operation Iraqi Freedom and were an instrumental and decisive effort during the surge operations in Baghdad.

And we were a part of history as recently as just this last year, arriving in Kirkuk at a critical time in which civil war rooted in deep-seated ethnic tension was a very real possibility. Not only did we successfully transition security responsibility to the Iraqi Security



Forces, reduce violence by 80 percent and create 16,000 desperately-needed jobs; we also saw the political environment improve significantly. In March 2010, Kirkuk participated in national elections for the first time since the invasion in 2003.

Today marks the beginning of the future. We are now standing at the doorstep of another great BlackJack adventure. Whatever our experience may be, we must be prepared to face any challenge, accomplish any mission or overcome any obstacle. Like any great

football program, following a championship season, we don't rest on our laurels. We get back to work on the basics--blocking and tackling drills--ensuring our fundamentals are sound, until we have the "muscle memory" established that will allow us to execute in a variety of conditions. At our core, BlackJack Troopers are warfighters who must be prepared to fight anywhere, any time.

We begin that training now and continue it as we gain more of our Combat systems and platforms this summer, leading up to our first major event--Gunnery in September. Between now and then, we will focus on building teams and units who understand how to do their jobs together, seamlessly and professionally.

So, as we grow and re-develop into a first-class fighting formation, let's not forget our history. Let's embrace what Team BlackJack is about and continue to honor our heritage through hard work and teamwork...together.

Trish and I are honored by the welcome we have received and continue to be impressed by that professionalism of BlackJack Soldiers and Families. Thanks for what you do every day.

Army Strong!--CAV Tough!--BlackJack!



ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE



Story and photos by Maj. Scott Rawlinson



Amy Chaffin devotes much of her personal time at the St. Paul Chong Hasang Catholic Church in Harker Heights, Tx, leading Bible studies and assisting with Sunday school.

As the cliché goes, there are just not enough hours in the day. Those rare few who manage to stay on top of personal, professional and familial responsibilities stand as examples of industriousness and efficiency to others. Yet, there are still others who manage not only their own calendar well, but find the time and energy to help others.

The Chaffin family, of 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, recently received two brigade “Volunteer of the Year” awards—a one for the mother and one for the daughter.

The mother, Amy, of New Ulm, Minn., was also named 1st Cavalry Division Volunteer of the Year and recognized with a III Corps/Fort Hood Volunteer of Merit award as well. She is the wife of Maj. Jack Chaffin, the executive officer for 15th BSB.

The mother of two says her sense of civic duty has been a part of her regimen since high school, but has become more substantial since she and her husband began serving on active duty.

“I’ve been involved with Family Readiness Groups and other Army volunteer opportunities since 1996,” she said.

In addition to supporting the families of the “Black Jack” Brigade, who recently returned from a 12-month deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq; she also spends time at the St. Paul Chong Hasang Catholic Church leading a youth bible study and helping out the Parent Teacher Organization at Skipcha Elementary School, both in Harker Heights,

Texas.

“The way I select organizations to volunteer for is to make sure that they fit into my priorities of ‘God, family, and country,’” said Amy. “My support of religious education, leading Bible studies, and church activities, is an obvious connection to this prioritization, but it also directly impacts our family. The time I spend in the kids’ schools not only positively impacts their educational experience, but many other kids who maybe don’t have a parent that can be very involved.”

The daughter, Leslie, 12, attends Union Grove Middle School, also in Harker Heights, and volunteers her time as well at the family church as a Sunday school mentor and assists at her former elementary school.

“I’ve always done stuff with the FRG,” stated the younger Chaffin. “But I started helping out at school and at church two or three years ago.”

Leslie, a straight “A” student and member of the Duke Talent Identification Program (a program designed to identify and nurture academically gifted children) says she began her volunteer service watching her mom.

“I watched my mom and wanted to try it out. It makes me happy, and it’s good to see how you can give back to your community.”

Amy humbly defers questions about her employment.

“I am very blessed to be able to be an at-home mom,” she said. “Most of my volunteer commitments are with the schools, my kids’ activities, or with religious organizations they’re involved with.”

Amy is also an active member of her son’s Cub Scout Pack Committee and on numerous occasions has coached little league sports teams.

“We’re very proud of our family members who go out of their way to serve their communities,” said Col. John Peeler, the 2nd BCT commander. “As much as our families sacrifice when we deploy, it’s good to know we have people like Amy and Leslie who always offer a friendly hand.”

Leslie plans to continue to volunteer. In fact, she expressed a desire to also work with the Skipcha PTO.

“It’d be cool to help the PTO,” she shrugged. “But, you know, I’m still a kid.”

Amy, for one, understands the value of service.

“I firmly believe that it is not just the Soldier that volunteers to serve his country, their family volunteers to serve too,” she said. “Volunteering with various organizations is another way to live that call to serve.”



Leslie Chaffin, 12, wakes up early to help set up the library at Skipcha Elementary School in Harker Heights, Tx. Leslie was recognized as the youth “Volunteer of the Year”.

Logisticians leave lasting landmarks



Story and photos by Spc. Justin Naylor

How hard would it be to believe cooks and fuelers may have had significant impact on the future of the American presence in Iraq?

Providing food, fuel, water and supplies are only part of what it means to be a U.S. Army logistician. In modern warfare, they also have to be prepared to confront a myriad of tasks in support of battlefield operations and host country partnership.

Over the course of 2009, the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, showed what true logisticians are capable of.

The battalion boosted some staggering accomplishments during its 2009 tour in Iraq.

According to Lt. Col. Christopher Whittaker, the battalion commander during this rotation, it distributed 7.2 million gallons of potable water, delivered 500 gallons of fuel to bases throughout the Kirkuk province of Iraq daily, assisted in the running of a dining facility that served nearly 5,000 service members and civilians on Forward Operating Base Warrior, and partnered with key support elements within the Iraqi Army.

“Our mission was to provide logistics for 2nd BCT and units on FOB Warrior,” said Whittaker.

According to Whittaker, while some units were supporting the service members of FOB Warrior, others were working hand in hand with their Iraqi counterparts.

The battalion worked directly with 12th Motorized Transportation Regiment and the locations command at an Iraqi military facility known as K-1, explained Whittaker.

15th BSB—along with the rest of 2nd BCT—left Fort Hood last year expecting to deploy to Baghdad, but was diverted to Kirkuk after arriving in Kuwait.

“We were not expecting to have partners when we deployed,” said Whittaker.

After the battalion arrived in theatre, it learned that the 12th MTR—which was responsible for supporting Iraqi military locations throughout Kirkuk province—was without a U.S. military partner.

Initially, the 12th MTR had minimal logistical capabilities, explained Whittaker.

According to Whittaker, his Soldiers worked closely with the 12th MTR



Soldiers and leaders from the 15th BSB proudly display their cavalry heritage by standing in front of the 1st Cav. Div. Horse Detachment on Cooper Field on Fort Hood, Texas, April 9. 15th BSB returned from a tour in Iraq several months ago where they supported Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Warrior.



A Soldier from the 15th BSB watches as two Iraqi Soldiers check the engine of a transportation vehicle during a vehicle rodeo on K-1 Military Base in the Kirkuk province of Iraq.

to help improve their logistical capabilities by training them on their own equipment, teach them the skills necessary to support their parent unit—the 12th Iraqi Army Division—and help them build sustainable connections within the Iraqi Army

to acquire supplies and equipment.

The partnership culminated in November 2009, when the battalion and the 12th MTR hosted a “truck rodeo” where the Iraqi soldiers showed off their skills. The rodeo consisted of four events; including preventative vehicle maintenance, driving skills, vehicle recovery and casualty evacuation.

“What it does is highlight those essential skills that truckers and logisticians need to have moving cargo, equipment and personnel around the battlefield,” explained Whittaker about the rodeo.

“When we first arrived, they had problems just getting supplies,” said Whittaker. “By the time we left they were running their own missions all over. They went from nothing to a robust, viable unit.”

One of the battalion’s companies, Charlie Medical Company, was also responsible for working with medics from 12th Iraqi Army Division and the medical clinic on K-1.

Company C also built ties with a local hospital, where they helped provide training to medical students, nurses and doctors; and assisted the hospital with equipment issues, such as finding spare parts and teaching technicians how to conduct basic repairs.

The battalion was additionally tasked with the responsibility of providing security for State Department officials from Kirkuk’s Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The battalion conducted more than 100 missions in support of the PRT and logged some 4,000 miles with them, all without serious incident.

Although the missions were diverse and complex, Whittaker felt the unit was successful in all its endeavors, from its assigned job to anything else the environment threw at them.

Whittaker relinquished command of the 15th BSB April 9th to Lt. Col. Matthew Ruedi. Following command, he will be assigned to the Department of the Army to work for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at the Pentagon.

Career Soldiers, available for anything



Story and photos by Spc. Justin Naglor



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bee, a Rochester, Minn. native and an equal opportunity advisor for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, talks with Spc. Darrell Robinson, a Pittsburg native and an infantry Soldier with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT, about his life since returning to Texas from Iraq. Talking to Soldiers is one of Bee's most important jobs as the EOA.

Taking care of Soldiers is a responsibility shared by all Army leaders, but for some it goes a step further.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bee, a Rochester, Minn. native and Equal Opportunity Advisor for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, is always available, 24 hours a day, with an open chair and an open mind

For the last five years, Bee has served as both an Equal Opportunity Leader at the company and battalion level, and an EOA. at the brigade level.

"I have assisted Soldiers with a lot of equal opportunity issues," said Bee. "But, I have also helped Soldiers with a variety of personal and professional problems as well."

Although his duty description primarily involves issues pertaining to race, religion, national origin, color and gender; he has also helped Soldiers cope with financial concerns, educational assistance, and even suicide intervention, he explained.

"I'm an outlet," said Bee. "I feel that I have a special ability to listen to Soldiers' problems. I'm a standalone resource, much like the chaplain or inspector general, who can listen to Soldiers' issues or concerns."

Bee, like every other EOA, didn't begin his Army career as such. He first joined the Army as an armor crewman, where he progressed through the ranks to become a platoon sergeant.

According to Bee, this position gave him insight into the kinds of issues faced by EOAs. An important part of his job was helping Soldiers learn to work together cohesively. He also helped sort out issues that arose out of having people from different races, religions, and cultures working inside the cramped environment of a tank.

"This really helped me prepare for what I was going to experience in the future," he said.

Bee later volunteered for the position of EOA because he felt that the job would allow him the opportunity to help Soldiers understand one another better.

Bee is the only EOA for the more than 4,000 Soldiers of 2nd BCT.

Soldiers are required to participate in classes that focus on EO, and Bee thinks the training reinforces the Army's commitment to his position because it emphasizes his role as a value-added member of the command team.

"The Army cares for our Soldiers, and we are serious about their well-being," he said. As the Army improves on the existing program, Soldiers can expect to see continued emphasis.

Recently, Bee competed against 10 other EOAs in the Department of the Army Equal Opportunity Advisor of the Year competition, an event designed to highlight EOAs who excel at their duties.

Bee said the competition looks at what each EOA has done to make the unit's EO program successful. "They like to see EOAs who are involved in their communities and who live the creed 'Dignity and Respect for All,'" he said.

For the competition, Bee traveled to Washington, D.C., where he and the other contestants attended a luncheon with Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Horne, the director of the Human Resources Policy Directorate. Following the luncheon, Bee and several other contestants were recognized as runner-ups with Department of the Army certificates of achievement and statues in appreciation for the work they had done..

In addition to this competition, Bee earned the EOA of the Year title for Multi-National Corps-Iraq during 2nd BCT's tour in Kirkuk in 2009.

Bee's two-year stint as an EOA—the length of time Soldiers usually spend in that position—will end soon, and he expects to return to his job as a platoon sergeant.

"In the two years that I've been the EOA for the brigade, it has been a very interesting experience in being able to talk to the Soldiers," said Bee.

Although Bee won't be in the same office, he leaves this job with an open invitation to Soldiers.

"Soldiers and leaders can always come see me, call me or email me," he said. "I'm available all the time."

Painting their ACUs: Soldiers release stress with paintball

Story and photos by Spc. Justin Naylor



A team of Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team take aim at targets during a paintball event on the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area's paintball course near Fort Hood, Texas, April 28. The event is designed to help Soldiers relieve stress.

Stress can be extremely detrimental to health. Therefore, relieving stress is something that anyone in a dangerous profession should do. If the act of relieving stress also happens to be fun, so much the better.

For Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT, April 28 presented just the stress reliever they were

looking for: a full day of covering one another with paint on the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area's paintball course near Fort Hood, Texas.

Both 1st Bn., 8th Cav., and 2nd STB returned from deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq, in late December.

"When you get deployed, you're at a high tempo," said Sgt. 1st Class Lenneth Kim, a Sacramento, Calif., native and the non-commissioned officer in-charge of the III Corps Warrior Adventure Quest. "Adrenaline and stress are at their peaks."

According to Kim, people used to believe that a Soldier returning from deployment would easily lose all of the built up stress as soon as he returned home, which has been proven to be untrue. Now, when Soldiers return from deployments, they have to take part in programs that help them deal with these ambient stresses.

Besides paintball, the WAQ also offers units, small groups and individual Soldiers various stress relieving activities that include mountain biking, rock climbing and kayaking.

"Deploying Soldiers come back, and we take them out to these strenuous activities in a supervised environment, and that helps give them an outlet," said Kim.

According to the WAQ website, this type of training introduces outdoor adventure activities as a positive alternative to high risk [or] destructive behaviors. It also helps the Soldier learn coping skills for managing combat experiences. The events are intended to help decrease the likelihood of Soldiers being injured or killed in a non-battlefield related incidents.

Rather than drinking or driving, or buying a new car and crashing it, Soldiers can use these events to release stress and find new hobbies that keep them busy, explained Kim.

“A lot of our Soldiers have a lot of pent up stress that they need to get rid of,” said Sgt. Charles Hreha, a Bradley systems maintainer with 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.

Hreha himself said he came out to this event feeling tense, and after only a few games, he was already feeling much more relaxed.

“Other than a couple of battle wounds, everyone really seems to be enjoying this,” said Hreha.

Units or individual Soldiers wishing to participate in the WAQ can find more information at www.hood.army.mil/resiliencycampus/warrior.aspx



A group of Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, plan their attack strategy before a paintball match on the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area's paintball course near Fort Hood, Texas, April 28.

A lone Soldier from 2nd Brigade Combat Team dashes over a dirt mound to reinforce fellow teammates as two other Soldiers provide him cover fire during a paintball match on Fort Hood, Texas, April 28.



Back to the basics



Story and photos by Spc. Justin Naylor

Despite the proliferation of Global Positioning System devices, the Army continues to value the very perishable skill of land navigation.

With this in mind, Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd “Black Jack” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, grabbed their maps and equipment and headed out to the field for a land navigation course and competition on Fort Hood, Texas, April 23.

Teams of Soldiers from each of the battalion’s four batteries trained throughout the week for a demanding competition, and the best two teams from each battery competed.

According to Staff Sgt. David Gray, a Fritch, Texas, native and the non-commissioned officer in-charge of the competition, the Soldiers were expected to find 15 points in less than three hours using nothing but a map, compass and protractor.

For Soldiers to be successful out here, they had to train ahead of time and have at least a basic knowledge of reading a map, converting grids, counting pace, and using the land navigation equipment, he explained.

Although most Soldiers have GPSs that allow them to pinpoint exact locations, this tool can’t always take the place of having a basic knowledge of land navigation.

“Stuff breaks,” warned Cpt. Sam Allen, the commander of Alpha Battery, 3rd Bn., 82nd FA. “If you can’t do it without the technology...you’re only good as long as the batteries last.”

All Soldiers are required to learn land navigation during basic training, but finding time for refresher training isn’t always easy.

“I think this is a great opportunity to get the guys back in the mind frame of training,” said Allen. “The Soldiers love it.”

These Soldiers returned from a deployment to Iraq in December, and this was an opportunity to get them back to basic Soldier tasks, explained Allen.

According to Pfc. Colten Schoonover, a Mannford, Okla., native and an artilleryman with Bravo Battery, the last time he practiced land navigation was in basic training, two years ago.



Soldiers from 3-82 plot points and check their maps during a land navigation competition on Fort Hood, Texas, April 23.



One Soldier mans the map and another the compass as they make their way from point to point during a land navigation competition on Fort Hood, Texas, April 23.

“This was a good refresher,” said Schoonover. “You never know what’s going to happen. You could get lost and you wouldn’t be able to find your way with a map if you didn’t know how to do this.”

The winner of this competition, Bravo Battery, earned the battalion’s land navigation streamer, to be flown on their battery’s guidon.

From finding their way around the battlefield to other essential Soldier skills, the 2nd “Black Jack” Brigade Combat Team will be continuing to develop their capabilities to prepare for potential future missions, anywhere the Army needs to put Soldiers on a map.



Soldiers from 3-82 familiarize themselves with a map and plot points before they begin on a land navigation competition of Fort Hood, Texas, April 23.

CALL IN THE BIG GUNS: ARMY SOLDIERS LEARN TO CALL IN AERIAL SUPPORT

Story and photos by Spc. Justin Naylor



Soldiers who operate independently, miles away from the closest field artillery support, can still bring down tons of explosive power from aircraft on enemies if necessary. But it takes a little training and a lot of confidence.

Being able to call in aerial fires isn't as easy as just picking up a two-way radio; which is why Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, participated in joint fires observer recertification on Fort Hood, Texas, April 22, refreshing their knowledge and their ability to call in close aerial support.

During the course, the two Soldiers, Sgt. Michael Monk, a Sacramento, Calif., native, and Sgt. Matthew Spiller, a Kalispell, Mont., native, both forward observers with Alpha Company, 1st Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., practiced calling in surface-to-surface missiles, air-to-surface support, naval gunfire and an AC-130 in night and day scenarios.

An important part of the class was practicing communication between Army JFOs and Air Force joint terminal attack controllers, who are responsible for calling in aerial support and acting as middlemen between Soldiers on the ground and pilots in the air.

"This is integrating the Army with the Air Force and teaching Soldiers how to call in aircraft," said Sgt. 1st Class Leo Davis, a Woodward, Okla., native and a fire support non-commissioned officer with 2nd BCT.

According to Tech. Sgt. Shawn Leonard, a JTAC working with the Soldiers, the JFOs are an important part of his job; they allow Soldiers on the ground to relay precise coordinates to pilots, who can provide cover and eliminate dangerous threats to Soldiers and civilians.

"Artillery is not always as accurate as having an aircraft over your head that sees what's going on and has precision weapons," he explained.

"[Forward observers] should know how to do this," said Monk. "You can't always call in artillery. Airplanes can get to the target more easily."

Both Spiller and Monk went through the initial two-week JFO certification course at Ft. Sill, Okla., and are required to attend recertification courses every six-months.

These Soldiers are two of only 12 JFOs in the entire 4,000 Soldier brigade.

According to Davis, it has been difficult to get Soldiers into the JFO course because it is booked so far in advance, but he is working to get a JFO mobile training team to Fort Hood to certify 20 more Soldiers in the brigade. The Army eventually hopes to have as much as 50 percent of forward observers JFO-certified.

While the security environments in Iraq and Afghanistan are different from one another, Monk thinks having assets like joint fires can only improve the confidence of any unit facing hostile fire. "It helps you feel a lot more confident being on the ground knowing that you can call in air support."



Sgt. Matthew Spiller, a Kalispell, Mont., native and a forward observer with Company A, 1-5, plots coordinates during a joint fires observer recertification course on Fort Hood, Texas, April 22.

Spartan Soldiers flex their muscles

Story and photos by Spc. Justin Naglor



A team of five Soldiers from HHC, 2 STB, struggle together as they push a Humvee uphill during a strongman competition on Fort Hood, Texas, April 21.

Pushing Humvees, flipping huge tires and working their way through a challenging triathlon were all in a day's work for the Soldiers of the 2nd Special Troops Battalion "Spartans", 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, during strongman and triathlon competitions on Fort Hood, Texas, April 21.

A Special Troops Battalion is comprised of military specialties as diverse as computer technicians to imagery analysts to dental technicians, but all have something in common: they're all Soldiers and may be required to perform different kinds of strenuous physical activities as part of their normal daily operations.

This particular competition pitted Soldiers from the companies that make up 2nd STB against one another in a fierce, muscle vs. muscle challenge.

The first event was a three-mile rucksack march, followed by a multi-event course for five-man teams to navigate through one challenge at a time.

During the event, Soldiers pushed a Humvee, carried full water jugs, performed hundreds of pushups and sit-ups and flipped enormous tires, and that was only part of the day's activities.

“The idea behind this is that we wanted to get everyone in the battalion together,” said 2nd Lt. Steven Karr, an Abilene, Texas, native and a platoon leader for 2nd STB. “This is a time for everyone to get together for a team building event.”

Karr said this event wasn’t just about challenging a Soldier’s muscular strength, but also demonstrated functional strength in tasks the Soldiers may have to perform.

If a Humvee breaks down, someone has to push it, and Soldiers will always be carrying water jugs, joked Karr.

This was a good event; it challenged the Soldiers beyond normal physical fitness training, explained Spc. Bryan Mender, a Tallahassee, Tenn., native and a combat engineer with 2nd STB.

Mender found the event to be a very positive way to see strengths in his teammates.

“You surprise each other with the effort you put forth in each event,” said Mender. “Something you might be lacking, other people pick up the slack. It builds cohesion.”

Following the strongman competition, a different group of Soldiers competed in a triathlon consisting of a 200-meter swim, a 25-minute bike ride and a two-mile run.

This was yet another chance for the Soldiers to show their mettle, according to 1st Lt. Cary Cohan, a Cleveland, Ohio, native and a platoon leader with 2nd STB.

“It also builds communication skills, cohesion and fitness,” said Cohan.

And while the day wasn’t a typical one, it allowed the diverse Special Troops Battalion to see another thing they all have in common: sweat.



A Soldier from 2 STB completes his portion of 125 pushups his team was required to do as part of a strongman competition on Fort Hood, Texas, April 21.



Pfc. Jeremy Lauderdale, an Atlanta native and a signal support specialist with 2 STB peddles hard as a stop watch ticks away 25 minutes during a triathlon competition on Fort Hood, Texas, April 21.



2nd Lt. Mike Ezell, a Wichita Falls, Texas, native and a platoon leader with 2 STB completes the last steps of a three-mile ruck-sack march on Fort Hood, Texas, April 21.



SGT DAVID CHARLES DOLBY

**B Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment
21 May 1966**

Rank and organization: Sergeant (then Sp4c.), U.S. Army, Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Place and date: Republic of Vietnam, 21 May 1966. Entered service at: Philadelphia, Pa. Born: 14 May 1946, Norristown, Pa. G.O. No.: 45, 20 October 1967. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, when his platoon, while advancing tactically, suddenly came under intense fire from the enemy located on a ridge immediately to the front. Six members of the platoon were killed instantly and a number were wounded, including the platoon leader. SGT Dolby's every move brought fire from the enemy. However, aware that the platoon leader was critically wounded, and that the platoon was in a precarious situation, SGT Dolby moved the wounded men to safety and deployed the remainder of the platoon to engage the enemy. Subsequently, his dying platoon leader ordered SGT Dolby to withdraw the forward elements to rejoin the platoon. Despite the continuing intense enemy fire and with utter disregard for his own safety, SGT Dolby positioned able-bodied men to cover the withdrawal of the forward elements, assisted the wounded to the new position, and he, alone, attacked enemy positions until his ammunition was expended. Replenishing his ammunition, he returned to the area of most intense action, single-handedly killed 3 enemy machine gunners and neutralized the enemy fire, thus enabling friendly elements on the flank to advance on the enemy redoubt. He defied the enemy fire to personally carry a seriously wounded soldier to safety where he could be treated and, returning to the forward area, he crawled through withering fire to within 50 meters of the enemy bunkers and threw smoke grenades to mark them for air strikes. Although repeatedly under fire at close range from enemy snipers and automatic weapons, SGT Dolby directed artillery fire on the enemy and succeeded in silencing several enemy weapons. He remained in his exposed location until his comrades had displaced to more secure positions. His actions of unsurpassed valor during 4 hours of intense combat were a source of inspiration to his entire company, contributed significantly to the success of the overall assault on the enemy position, and were directly responsible for saving the lives of a number of his fellow soldiers. SGT Dolby's heroism was in the highest tradition of the U.S. Army.

