



IRONHORSEMAN

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ON THE COVER



Ssg Denny Tajeron, supports a log during the I-7 CAV's Spur Ride Sept. 28.

Photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester

FIDDLER'S GREEN

A song based on Fiddler's Green, called Fiddler's Green or more often Fo'c'sle Song, was written and copyrighted by John Connolly, a Lincolnshire (English) songwriter, and is sung worldwide in nautical and Irish traditional circles, often being mistakenly thought a traditional song.

The song, or poem, "Fiddler's Green" describes the heaven that all Cavalry Troops hope to go to. It is a tradition of Cavalry units to memorize and recite at special Cavalry events, such as spur rides.

Halfway down the trail to Hell,
In a shady meadow green
Are the Souls of all dead troopers camped,
Near a good old-time canteen.
And this eternal resting place
Is known as Fiddlers' Green.

Marching past, straight through to Hell
The Infantry are seen.
Accompanied by the Engineers,
Artillery and Marines,
For none but the shades of Cavalrymen
Dismount at Fiddlers' Green.

Though some go curving down the trail
To seek a warmer scene.
No trooper ever gets to Hell
Ere he's emptied his canteen.
And so rides back to drink again
With friends at Fiddlers' Green.

And so when man and horse go down
Beneath a saber keen,
Or in a roaring charge of fierce melee
You stop a bullet clean,
And the hostiles come to get your scalp,
Just empty your canteen,
And put your pistol to your head
And go to Fiddlers' Green.

1st Brigade Combat Team 1st Cavalry Division Fort Hood, Texas

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IRONHORSE SIX

From the desk of Col. Scott L. Efflandt

Greetings to the Ironhorse Team,

The end of summer marks the beginning of some exciting times ahead. With the slow change of weather has come a resumption of the activities that are traditionally associated with being in the Army. Concurrently, new Soldiers and leaders are joining the team while refurbished and new equipment is issued for our use.

With the reduced force commitment in Iraq, and steady troop requirement in places like Afghanistan, the Ironhorse Brigade is enjoying the benefits of increased dwell time. Although we do not have a deployment order, current plans have us “available” around 1 July 2011. This allows the Brigade the luxury of 17 months at home in Fort Hood; a condition for which I am grateful. No unit in 1st Cavalry Division has enjoyed this much time in CONUS since 2005. With this time, it is incumbent on all of us to make the most of it, professionally and personally.

Professionally speaking, the last quarter has been a fantastic period for the Ironhorse. All units within the Brigade participated in “Iron Warrior Stakes,” a physically and mentally challenging event that grounded us in the truest tenets of Soldiering. This set the base line for the Brigade to host Expert Infantry Badge testing and support Expert Field Medical Badge testing. In addition we had a Soldier excel by earning the coveted Ranger tab and others graduating from the U.S. Army Sniper School. This month we send 6 off to Sapper school. Many of these accomplishments are first for the Brigade, and in doing so have redefined the Ironhorse standard. On a more personal note, I enjoyed the heck out of each Battalion’s organizational day. Whether these were held at BLORA, the Belton Summer Fun Park, or the unit area, it was just plain fun to see the team’s families.

The time we have spent—and will spend—at Fort Hood is not without frustration. The Army designed the recovery/refit period that follows a deployment to take 24 months, and then a unit would be ready to go. While we have the recent luxury of 17 months dwell, it’s still not 24 and as a result things do not go according to plan. Having 17 months, vice 24 months, means we are busier than we’d like, as there is 24 months of work packed into 17 months. This creates some ten-

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sion as we concurrently receive equipment and personnel, train and assist others who are about to deploy in a compressed timeline. There is no fixing this; it is a condition of our environment. Instead, we will take it as it comes and work through it. Another source of tension is the range of tasks we must become proficient on.

The absence of a deployment order and the rapid rate of global political change requires that the Ironhorse be trained and available to respond to a range of contingencies that are far more numerous than anytime in our history. We do not have the luxury of being able to train for a return to an Iraq that will be just like our last deployment. Instead we prepare to assume a number of different missions with a range of conditions. As a result, we will work hard and in the end, when the dust settles, we will remain the flagship of the First Team.

In the mean time, what can you as a Soldier do? Invest in your family through your professional growth. My number 1 priority remains to send Ironhorse Soldiers to Professional Military Education (PME) schools. Attendance at WLC, ALC, SLC gets Soldiers:

- a) promoted—which subsequently provides more \$ for their families
- b) recognition—which in turn provides them more assignment opportunities
- c) the skills necessary to be a better leader—which in turn improves the unit

PME is one of those things that are a win-win for all concerned. Know where you stand on the order of merit list and what it takes to move up.

Until we talk again, take care of each other!

Ironhorse 6



“Garryowen” Spur Ride



Story By Pfc. Bailey Jester

With the cry of, “Yes, Spur Holder!”, 44 Soldiers from 1-7 CAV looked for initiation into the “Order of the Spur”, here, Sept. 28 - 29.

“The tradition of ‘earning your spurs’ goes back to the horse days,” explained Brooklyn native, CSM Mervyn Ripley, squadron command sergeant major. “You didn’t just get your spurs; you had to earn your spurs. Back in those days there was no basic training, if you enlisted in the Army, you enlisted in the local unit, or regiment. So, if you joined the cavalry you had to learn how to ride.”

When Troopers first arrived at their new cavalry assignment they were assigned a horse with a shaved tail, and in need of extensive training. The horse with a shaved tail was given extra space to operate, since its rider was marked as an amateur.

During this part of training, Troopers were not allowed to wear spurs because it would only cause more problems. Only when they proved their ability to perform with their horse were they awarded spurs.

“The Spur Ride is definitely a tradition I like to see,” stated Dalton,

Mass. native, Spc. Bryan Fitzgerald, a team leader assigned to Troop C. “You are not really a seasoned cavalry Soldier unless you have earned your spurs, and the silver spur is the only spur you can really earn.”

The Spur Ride is an honored tradition and a leadership rite of passage, continued Ripley, who has been a spur holder since 1983.

It’s a great way for Soldiers to test themselves and bond with each other, Ripley said about values learned during the Spur Ride.

“Soldiers learn teamwork, camaraderie, and build character when they participate in the Spur ride.”

“It definitely demanded a lot out of us candidates, both physical and mental,” said New York native, Spc.

Hector Masso, a cavalry scout assigned to Troop B. “It took a lot of teamwork and determination to complete, but it was worth it.”

The demanding event began with a light exercise session followed by a physical fitness test.

“The PT test is where we lost most candidates,” Fitzgerald said about the outcome of candidates who earned their spurs. “It went from 44 to 22. The spur ride required a lot of physical participation.”

The PT test wasn’t the last event that tested the spur candidate’s physical desire to earn their spurs. Immediately following the PT test, the Soldiers were separated into their three- and four-man teams and began an IBA relay run.

After the IBA run the candidates started a chain of three more relays; including water jug and log carries, and tire-flipping race.

The entire ride involved some form of physical activity, but not only was physical determination needed to earn spurs; mental strength and determination were also required.

After the initial morning activities, the candidates took a written test, followed by an oral examination.

During the board, candidates were asked questions about the history of the unit, the Order of the Spur and the Cavalrymen’s poem titled ‘Fiddler’s

Green’.

Once all candidates finished the board, they began a four and a half mile road march and began the nighttime events of land navigation skills, combative drills, and assembling and disassembling weapons.

Finishing the lanes out in the field late the next morning, the exhausted candidates marched back to the squadron area where they were awarded their spurs and a barbecue was waiting.

“I feel great about what I did,” Masso said about his accomplishment. “I am tired and exhausted, but proud that I was able to accomplish such an honorable event.”



Albertville, Ala. Native, Lt. Col. “Dolph” Southerland (center), commander of 1-7 CAV, congratulates the newest spur holders after completing the “Spur Ride”, here, Sept. 29. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.)

“Garryowen’s” newest Spur holders



Welcome newest Spur Holders!

Spc. Andrew Knochelman	HHT
Capt. A.J. Shattuck	HHT
Capt. John Dolan	HHT
Capt. Jared Porritt	HHT
1st Lt. Nathan Miller	HHT
Capt. Michael Dawson	HHT
2nd Lt. Cody Fritz	Apache
1st Lt. Andrew Wilson	Apache
Spc. Jonathan Preston	Blackhawk
Spc. Hector Masso	Blackhawk
SSG Derrick Stephenson	Blackhawk
Sgt. Jimmy Fuentes	Blackhawk
1st Lt. Sheldon Hodges	Blackhawk
Staff Sgt. Denny Taijeron	Comanche
Sgt. James Murdough	Comanche
Spc. Gerald Reid	Comanche
Sgt. Luis Gonzales	Comanche
Sgt. Timothy Bennett	Comanche
Spc. Thomas Campbell	Comanche
Spc. Tenzin Lama	Darkhorse

Centurions end the summer with a splash

Photos by Pfc. Bailey Jester



(Left) Soldiers from the HHT, relax on the side of the pool at the Summer Fun Water Park in Belton, Texas July 12.



(Above) A Soldier from HHC, 1 BSTB splashed down a slide at the Summer Fun Water Park in Belton, Texas July 12.



(Right) A Soldier assigned to 1 BSTB, attempts to cross the rings above the pool at the Summer Fun Water Park in Belton, Texas July 12.



“Lancer” Soldier receives USO Soldier of the year award

Sgt. Zachary C. Dispennette was selected by the USO as the 2010 Army Service member of the Year.

He was honored for his actions of 28 June 2009.

The medic saved his battalion commander in Baghdad when Lt. Col. Timothy Karcher's vehicle struck four improvised exploding devices. Dispennette rushed to the burning vehicle, applied four tourniquets to LTC Karcher's legs and began treating his shrapnel wounds. With help from fellow soldiers, Dispennette extracted his commander from the flaming vehicle and continued to apply life-saving aid as they evacuated the site, single-handedly Saving LTC Karcher's life.



Lancers prepare for future training exercises



Photos by Pfc. Bailey Jester

(RIGHT) Lawrenceville, Ga., native, Spc. Juan Vargas (left) and Standing Rock, N.D. native, Spc. Matthew Franco, both infantry Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, pull security during a Fire Team Live Fire Exercise, here, Sept. 17. The Lancers are preparing for future squad live fire exercises.



(LEFT) Standing Rock, N.D., native, Spc. Matthew Franco (right), begins to “perform” first aid on Lawrenceville, Ga., native, Spc. Juan Vargas (left), both infantry Soldiers assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, after “losing” his leg during a Fire Team Live Fire Exercise, here, Sept. 17.

(RIGHT) San Antonio native, Spc. Tony Celestino, infantry team leader, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, calls up a nine-line medical evacuation report for an “injured” Soldier during Fire Team Live Fire Exercise, here, Sept. 17.



“IRONHORSE” Soldiers

Story by Pfc. Bailey Jester

FORT HOOD, Texas — Twenty Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division spent time with children during the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors Seminar at Meadows Elementary School, here, July 23 and 24.

Created in 1994 by Bonnie Carroll, the widow of Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll, TAPS is designed to support families of fallen warriors.

“I know what it’s like to lose someone very dear to you, and feel as though no one is there to support you,” said Anchorage, Alaska native Carroll. “TAPS helps survivors learn how to cope with their loss and to live a life that honors their loved ones.”

TAPS provides ongoing emotional help, hope, and healing to all who are grieving the death of a loved one in military service to America, Carroll said, explaining the TAPS mission. It meets that mission by providing peer-based support, crisis care, casualty casework assistance, and grief and trauma resources.

TAPS has supported more than 30,000 surviving family members and friends since the organization’s

inception.

Activities for the children and their mentors varied according to their age group, but consisted of the same general idea. Activities included arts and crafts, games and “sharing” time, where the children shared how they feel about their situation.

“The children are great,” said Houston native, Spc. Jonathon Long, an infantry Soldier assigned to 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., who served as a mentor. “I am glad that I was able to help out the way I did, it was a very fun day.”

TAPS Survivor Seminars, according to the TAPS homepage, “Provide an opportunity to join together with survivors for a powerful time of support, care and hope.”

The seminar concluded with a balloon release, where hundreds of balloons were released in remembrance of their fallen, loved ones.

For more information on TAPS or to find the next outreach event, check out their website at

<http://www.taps.org/>.

Expert Infantry Badge!!



(LEFT) Shelburne, Vt., native Capt. Christopher Geoff (far left), a brigade planning officer for 1st Brigade Combat Team, demonstrates his proficiency by performing a functions check on an M249 squad automatic weapon during Expert Infantry Badge Testing, here, Aug. 9. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Seth Model)



(RIGHT) Capt. Christopher Geoff (top) demonstrates detainee search procedures during Expert Infantry Badge testing, here, Aug. 9. The EIB is earned by demonstrating expert knowledge of infantry skills. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Seth Model)



The following **IRONHORSE** Soldiers earned the Expert Infantry Badge at Fort Hood, Texas on Aug. 13. The EIB testing was hosted here by the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team.

Spc. Sean Bonifas, Co. A, 2-5 CAV
Spc. Nicholas Borgeling, Co. B, 2-8 CAV
Capt. Matthew Burch, Co. B, 2-8 CAV
Spc. Tony Celestino, Co. A, 2-5 CAV
1st Lt. Ashton Daily, HHC, 2-5 CAV
Spc. Kyle DePriest, Co. B, 2-8 CAV
1st Lt. Kyle Ferguson, Co. B, 2-5 CAV
Capt. Christopher Goff, HHT, 1BCT
1st Lt. Devin Guilliams, Co. A, 2-8 CAV
1st Lt. Luke Hallsten, HHC, 2-8 CAV
Spc. Edwin Hernandez, Co. A, 2-8 CAV
Spc. Adam Lowe, Co. B, 2-8 CAV
Capt. Anthony Mattazaro, HHC, 2-8 CAV

Capt. Jonathan Murrell, HHC, 2-5 CAV
Staff Sgt. Saski Palik, HHC, 2-8 CAV
Capt. Martin Peters, Co. B, 2-5 CAV
1st Lt. Alexander Pombar, Co. B, 2-5 CAV
1st Lt. Joel Rainey, HHC, 2-8 CAV
1st Lt. Monroe Shaw Jr., Co. B, 2-8 CAV
Spc. Brendan Smitke, Co. A, 2-8 CAV
Spc. Jeremiah Steele, Co. B, 2-5 CAV
Sgt. Wesley Stephens, Co. B, 2-5 CAV
Sgt. Grant Tunell, HHC, 2-8 CAV
Cpl. Queston Vanzant, HHC, 2-8 CAV
1st Lt. Larry Witkovski, Co. A, 2-8 CAV



(ABOVE) Brownsburg, Ind., native, Spc. Nicholas Borgeling, an infantry Soldier assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, races to the finish line to complete the 12-mile ruck march, here, Aug. 13. The ruck march marked the end of the weeklong, Expert Infantry Badge testing. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Seth Model)



(ABOVE) Columbia, Mo., native, Spc. Kyle Depriest, an infantryman assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, completes the 12-mile ruck march to earn the Expert Infantry Badge, here Aug. 13. Depriest was the only "True Blue" Soldier to earn the EIB, he qualified each event on the first attempt. (Photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester)



(LEFT) Los Angeles native, Capt. Anthony Mattazaro (left), the plans officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, receives the Expert Infantry Badge during the award ceremony, here, Aug. 13. (Photo by 2nd. Lt. Seth Model)

(RIGHT) Col. Gary Volesky, former commander of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, and an Expert Infantry Badge holder, congratulates the 1st Brigade Combat Team Soldiers on their success completing the EIB course, here, Aug. 13. (Photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester)



Expert Field Medical Badge

Photos by Maj. Brian Carlin



Sgt. Benjamin Corbett (left), a medic assigned to 2-5 CAV, receives congratulations from Col. Scott Efflandt, the brigade commander for earning the Army's Expert Field Medical Badge, here, Aug. 13.

Spc. Andrew Thomas (left), a medic assigned to 2-8 CAV, shares a laugh with CSM James Norman, after earning the Army's Expert Field Medical Badge, here, Aug. 13.



Soldiers stand in formation to receive their EFMB, here, Aug. 13. Only 18 of 241 candidates finished the weeklong test and earned the prestigious badge.

“Lancer” Soldier saves life

Story by Spc. Adam Turner

Twenty-year-old Army Spc. Eric Brubaker doesn't want to hear the word hero used in conjunction with his name, he doesn't want to feel a pat on his back or a hand shake followed by the words “good job;” truth be told Brubaker probably doesn't want to see his name in print either.

However, when the infantryman from the 2-5 CAV saved the life of a civilian driver Sept. 17 on Fort Hood, Texas all these accolades would become synonymous with the mere mention of his name.

“I just found out today that everyone knew, I wanted it to stay quiet,” said the former ranch-hand and Cheyenne, Wyo. native.

“I don't like being in the spotlight, this isn't something I felt should have been talked about and traveled all over post, something like this is part of our duty, we are trained to react,” Brubaker added.

The morning of the 17th started out just as many days do for Brubaker, as he was attending his sixth CLS (Brubaker's second refresher course this year) to brush up on his critical Soldiering skills readying himself for another deployment sometime within the next year.

“I was pulling out of the parking lot leaving CLS and witnessed a vehicle that appeared out of control cross the median and strike another car,” said Brubaker. “Being on Fort Hood with these crazy drivers you see accidents every day, but when her SUV came across the median and hit the driver in front of me, I saw the expression on her face, I knew she was [having a seizure].”

Approaching the door Brubaker found the female occupant of the SUV non-responsive with visible bleeding, and a noticeable wheezing and gurgling in her breathing, which Brubaker's CLS certification told him was an obstructed airway.

“I knew from all my training and deployments that I had to help her get air, I had to open her airway back up. I ran to the trunk of my car and grabbed my IFAK and inserted my NPA (Nasopharyngeal Airway) into her.”

The NPA is a tube that is designed to be inserted into the nasal passageway to secure an open airway, and without it Brubaker knew the driver could have died.

“There were individuals checking under the car for leaking fluids keeping me informed of my surroundings, because the last thing I wanted to do was move her not knowing the extent of her injuries,” Brubaker said.

He kept the driver stabilized for what seemed like a few seconds to Brubaker, until emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene and relieved him. The Soldier, now doted as a hero, gives all praise to his Army training.

“This Soldiers action is a testament to all of the Soldiers in

this battalion, I am very proud of not just this Soldier, but all of them,” said 2-5 CAV CSM Ricky Linton, who hails from Apalachicola, Fla. “We train hard here, and this just proves how much they are buying into what the command is all about and that is an expectation of excellence.”

Lots of talk has circulated about what the commendation will be for Brubaker. Many have thrown around the words “Soldier's Medal” since the incident, which is the highest peace time award a Soldier can receive for their actions.

All of this is dismissed with a respectable smile and a shake of the head from a young man who enjoys blending in a formation rather than standing out in front of one.



Cheyenne, Wyo. native Spc. Eric Brubaker, infantry Soldier assigned to 2-5 saved the life of a civilian driver involved in an accident on Fort Hood, Texas Sept. 20. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Adam Turner, 1st Cav. Div. PAO)

Brubaker is always where he needs to be, doing what he needs to do. He is someone that the younger guys look to, and he is always putting everyone at ease when training goes a little long, or if his unit reports early for a 4 a.m. road march. He is the embodiment of a team player, said Spc. Brubaker's first line supervisor, Spc. Randy Meeks, who is from Blooming Grove, Texas.

The unit and his peers are not surprised by the heroics Brubaker displayed that afternoon or that it was coincidence that he was there at the scene.

“Perfect example! Spc. Brubaker has horrible knees, just terrible and they will get him down from time to time, but rather than take a knee and go on profile he would just gut it out every day,” said Meeks. “Four miles, six miles, no matter still there in formation keeping pace, it finally got to the point that we had to escort him to the doc, make him take a profile, and if that wasn't enough we had to guard him and our formation every morning just to keep him from sneaking in there for PT (physical training). He doesn't quit, Spc. Brubaker doesn't know how, that's why we are not surprised in the least about any of this,” said Meeks.

“This Soldier deserves the accolades, deserves the recognition, we are talking about a combat veteran that is used to reacting to tragedy, and that's just what he did that day he saw something terrible and where most people would have sat back and not known what to do, he knew how to react and did,” said Linton.

“He doesn't realize what he has done, and that's what you have got to love about this Soldier,” he added. “Brubaker is what we should all want to be and that is a good Soldier. He's quiet, he does what he has to do, and he shines when he needs to shine.”

“This all comes down to training,” Brubaker says. “I found myself in a situation and directly applied what I have been taught during my career to save a life. It's something we all can do; it is like riding a bike. When that switch flips and you see firsthand the benefits of your Army training, the rest is just muscle memory.”



Centurion engineers end the day with a blast

Photos and Story by Pfc. Bailey Jester



“Fire in the hole! Fire in the hole! Fire in the hole!”

Combat engineers from C Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, shouted this warning to surrounding Soldiers to take cover from an impending blast.

The Soldiers implemented a three-day training exercise at the Curry Demolition Range, here, July 27 to 29.

“It is important to continue training the basic skills of our job,” said Centerville, Va. native, Capt. David Park, C Co. commander. “You have to continue to use your skills in order to improve them.”



A combat engineer’s primary job is to perform basic combat construction and operate various light or heavy wheeled vehicles. They are also responsible for the knowledge of explosives, and sometimes tasked to plant bombs, landmines and dynamite.

The Curry Demolition Range is the first time these “Sapper” Soldiers have conducted demolition training since their return from Iraq earlier this year. They plan on returning to the range later to qualify in their military occupational specialty (MOS) as a combat engineer.

It is standard to qualify Soldiers semi-annually.

“We used this opportunity to retrain our Soldiers before we qual-



ify them,” Park explained. “We will return to qualify them later this year.”

The engineers used C-4, a type of plastic explosive, to create different types of devices to ensure they understood how to prepare, build and detonate them properly.

They also practiced how to move obstacles blocking their paths and how to react if caught in the middle of a mine field.

“I really enjoyed coming out here and reviewing the basics of our job,” explained Oconto, Wis. native, Pfc. Bryant Schroepfer. “It’s important to continue practicing that way when it matters, I will feel confident I know what I am doing.”



Safe as a Dragon



Story by Sgt. Christopher Sperandio

1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, held a special Force Protection Day at the Palmer Theater and the Battalion motor pool on Fort Hood to raise safety awareness for all of its 472 soldiers and their family members on Aug. 20.

The Dragon's Force Protection Day was designed to educate its Soldiers on various safety trends as well as provide them with the necessary subject matter experts in order to teach them good safety practices.

"There are two types of error, inherent and human, and we must train away error," said Lt. Col. Miles Brown of Honea Path, South Carolina, the battalion commander.

Sgt. Birkes and Officer McMillen from the Morgan's Point Police Department spoke about the rules and regulations of concealed handgun licenses. Billy Hatton and Cassie Walker from Fort Hood Harley Davidson provided all motorcycle riders with important riding advice. Ulysses Gary from Fort



LTC Miles Brown stands by as his children receive instructions on how to operate and fire the 109A6 "Paladin" howitzer.

Hood's Army Substance Abuse Program discussed the problem of drug abuse in the military and how drugs degrade the battle readiness of the fighting force.

"The decision making process is used to mitigate risk with all the hazards that have the potential to injure, kill personnel and damage or destroy equipment" said David Sullivan, the safety officer for 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

At the conclusion of the classroom training, all the motorcycle riders embarked on a ride around Fort Hood. The ride ended by returning to the Dragon's motor pool where they were greeted by the 1st Cavalry Division Rock Band. There, safety experts were on hand to provide additional technical safety training to all the riders.

Soldiers were then able to partake in the refreshments and enjoy the inside of a cool down tent. As the temperature began to edge above 100 degrees the cold refreshments and fruit became an even more welcomed treat.

Soldiers came to the motor pool with their families and children, ranging from infants to teenagers. Children were provided a Bounce House to play in while the teenagers received entertainment from the band and enjoyed frozen ice at the snow cone truck.

Awards were then given to the top Soldiers for their safety related accomplishments.



Story by Capt. Andrew Frazzano

Soldiers across 2-5 CAV with various MOSs were certified on level one, Modern Army Combatives training program, here, Sep. 12 to 17.

Soldiers participated in the 40 hour course to learn the fundamentals of ground fighting skills by gaining the dominant body position in a grapple. “Soldiers at the beginning of the course had little experience in rolling around on the mat,” said SFC James Milligan of St. Paris, Ohio. The culminating event to earn their certification was the “clinch drill.”

Students had to close with an advancing “attacker”, that is an instructor with boxing gloves, in a defensive posture in order to disable the onslaught of punches from the attacker. Soldiers had to “achieve the clinch”, within a minute, four times.

Milligan said “At the end of the training, the students were able to last in five minute bouts and place their opponents in chokes and use various submission techniques.”

Sgt. Chad McLeod of Paris, Ill., found that “the course instruction was not that difficult to learn and that by the end of the training I felt more confident that I could defend myself with these new skills and techniques.”

These Soldiers can now share their training with their fellow soldiers in their company and promote their new found warrior skills. All the soldiers who are level one certified are now qualified to receive advance Modern Army Combatives training.



Cavalry Troopers receive upgraded fighting vehicles

Story by 2nd Lt. Seth Model

Cavalry Troopers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, received their M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles from the Army's reset program, here, Aug. 16.

The Bradley Fighting Vehicle was first designed as an Armored Personnel Carrier for infantrymen to safely travel to the battlefield.

Bradleys are now the backbone of any mechanized infantry company and battalion. While they are widely used throughout the Army, it is especially true for the Stallion battalion, a unit with a legacy of cavalry tradition. They have served a vital role in all recent combat and counter-insurgency operations.

Picking up the Bradleys from the reset program is a significant event. The recent empty space in the battalion motorpool has been replaced by rows of large, armored, fighting machines lined up perfectly in formation.

"It shows us preparing for collective training," said Cincinnati native, Capt. Jeffery Johnson, the planning officer for the Stallions. "Stepping away from individual training and bringing us back to the heavy unit we are."



An Army contracted inspector checks the engine of a refurbished M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle prior to return to 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Army vehicles are often refurbished in between deployments to service the mechanics and install technological upgrades. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Seth Model)



Refurbished M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles line up prior to returning to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, motorpool. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Seth Model)

It occurs at an auspicious time in the battalion's Army Force Regeneration process. After returning from deployment, once the reset period is complete, the battalion can re-dedicate their efforts to collective training for eventual future deployments.

The Bradleys were refurbished instead of receiving brand new vehicles. This process saves the Army and the taxpayer's money. They have been fixed up and shipped back to Fort Hood. Like a car dealership, they are inspected inside and out before leaving the lot, bound for the Stallion motor pool.



Familiar Faces



Welcome to the 1st Brigade Family Readiness Group



Definition: Family Readiness Group - "An officially command-sponsored organization of Family members, volunteers and soldiers belonging to a unit, that together provide an avenue of mutual support and assistance, and a network of communications among Family members, the chain of command and community re-sources."

Mission: The Family Readiness Groups of the 1st BCT 1st Cavalry Division provide activities and support that will enhance the flow of information, morale, esprit de corps, and readiness within the unit. Our focus is to provide an avenue of mutual assistance and a network of communication between the Family members and the chain of command, especially during times of deployment.

Who is Family?

Mother, Father, Sister,
Brother, Spouse, Grand-
parent, Aunt, Uncle, child,
sibling, niece, nephew,
grandchild, employer and
even the person who will
take care of your goldfish
while you're away.

**Anyone who
loves a Soldier!**

God Bless Those...



Who Serve Our Country!



September Volunteers

- 1-7 CAV: Heather McDaniel
- 2-5 CAV SFC Andre West
- 2-8 CAV: Sarah Sanders
- 1-82 FA: Ali Snauffer
- 115 BSB: Helen Gardner
- 1BSTB: SSG Andrew Willard

**Not sure who to contact?
Family Readiness Support Assis-
tants for the 1st Brigade**

Brigade--Ironhorse

Chris Robbins
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Chris-
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1-7CAV – Gary Owen

Amie Arrington
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2-8 CAV – Stallions

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2-5 CAV- Lancers

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115thBSB– Muleskinner

Tamika Ford
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1BSTB – Centurions

Trish Cooper
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1-82FA– Dragons

Jamie Case
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Battalion	Meeting	Event	Date
	FRG Delegates	Washington DC	21-27 OCT
1-7CAV	Company/Battery/Troop	Event	Date
	Squadron	Steering meeting	7-Oct
	HHT	FRG Meeting	12-Oct
2-5CAV	Company/Battery/Troop	Event	Date
	HHC	FRG Meeting	4-Oct
	A CO	FRG Meeting	20-Oct
	B Co	FRG Meeting	18-Oct
	C Co	FRG Meeting	13-Oct
	D Co	FRG Meeting	20-Oct
	F FSC	FRG Meeting	12-Oct
2-8CAV	Company/Battery/Troop	Event	Date
	Battalion	Steering meeting	18-Oct
	Cobra Co	FRG Meeting	18-Oct
	HHC	FRG Trick or Treat	26-Oct
	Demon Co	FRG	19-Oct
	E FSC	FRG	19-Oct
1-82FA	Company/Battery/Troop	Event	Date
	Battalion	Steering Meeting	5-Oct
	Bravo Btry	FRG Meeting	19-Oct
115BSB	Company/Battery/Troop	Event	Date
	A CO	FRG Meeting	19-Oct
1BSTB	Company/Battery/Troop	Event	Date
	BN -Social	FRG Meeting	17-Oct



MSG Cynthia Kling – 1BCT, 1CD Senior Career Counselor

And we are off to a new fiscal year! With that comes many questions about Soldiers reenlistment options and the amount of retention bonuses that can come with it.

To slow the momentum of what has been an exceptionally productive year in recruiting and retention, the Army has limited reenlistment options during the last three months of fiscal year 2009. Due to the Army's great success in growing the force and meeting and exceeding our retention mission, the Army has been taking steps to slow retention and overproduction for the remainder of the fiscal year.

As we are now in the new fiscal year, Soldier's are expressing concerns about reenlistment eligibility options and retention bonuses. Policy message 11-02 was released on 1 October 2010 with some new changes. A big change is the traditional reenlistment window which is now a static reenlistment window. Effective 1 October 2010, Soldiers with an expired term of service (ETS) date of 30 September 2012 or sooner are now in their reenlistment window. Although retention bonuses amounts have not gone down, they may not increase.

The Deployment Extension Incentive Pay (DEIP) is an incentive program designed to encourage Regular Army enlisted Soldiers assigned to units scheduled for an Overseas Contingency operation to voluntarily extend their enlistment in order to complete their unit's deployment.

Beginning nine months prior to their unit's latest arrival date (LAD), the DEIP program will be offered to Soldiers who sign a written agreement to voluntarily extend their service in order to deploy with their unit. The DEIP program offers a two-tiered incentive:

A. Soldiers who sign a written agreement under the provisions of the DEIP program between 9 months prior to unit LAD (LAD-270) and 6 months prior to unit LAD (LAD-180) will receive \$500 per month for each full month they extend their service commitment.

B. Soldiers who sign a written agreement under the provisions of the DEIP program after unit LAD-180 and before ETS-90 will receive \$350 per month for each full month they extend their service commitment.

So often now we are not just reenlisting Single Soldiers- we are reenlisting families. When an active duty member reenlists in the military, they are making a decision that will not only impact their life over the next few years, but also the life of their spouse.

If you have any questions or concerns about your reenlistment options and eligibility see your Battalion Retention NCO or Career Counselor today!



It has been an extremely busy year and it will only get busier. I want to express my Congratulations to all Soldiers who made the ultimate commitment to STAY ARMY STRONG!

"For no bonus, no matter the size, can adequately compensate you for the contribution each of you makes as a custodian of our nation's defenses." General Petraeus.

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IRONHORSEMAN