



181st Infantry Regiment

# Around the Powder Horn

“Keep Your Powder Dry”



August 30, 2010

Volume 2



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Members of the 1/181 conducted a joint exercise with soldiers, sailors and airmen of a Provincial Reconstruction Team early morning Aug. 23.

## Soldiers surprised by heat, but enjoy the Internet and tacos

By Spec. Michael Broughey

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — As the 1/181 touched down at the airport in Indianapolis one thing was clear: August in the Midwest was hotter and more humid than expected by the soldiers mobilizing for the first time.

Also unexpected, but a pleasant surprise, were the comfortable living conditions provided by the camp. As the soldiers of the 1/181 unloaded their rucksacks from trucks and hauled their footlockers to their bunks, they were able to cool off from the sweltering heat in air-conditioned barracks and stand in front of the giant fans placed in every bay.

A mobile taco stand came by the barracks so the hungry soldiers could grab anything from burritos

to hot dogs, including chips and a soda, if the pre-packed lunches of crackers and canned tuna-in-water provided by the camp didn't satisfy.

As dinner time came by the soldiers got to experience their chow hall for the first time.

Sgt. Michael Keough, of HHC, said he's been pleased with the food offered at the dining facility (DFAC), which helps fuel his performance while training and during aerobics class offered at the gym.

“You can have a different salad everyday,” Keough said, adding lunch is the best meal of the day, especially due to the grilled chicken breast.

As soldiers pulled out their laptops, they discovered that a wireless Internet connection was

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## Remembering the YD

By Capt. John Quinn and Staff Sgt. Michael Ingraham

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — Members of the 1/181 honored those who came before them by celebrating the 93rd birthday of the Yankee Division Aug. 22.

The 26th Infantry Division was formed Aug. 22, 1917 for service in World War I. Since it was comprised of units from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, it was nicknamed the Yankee Division, which was symbolized by its diamond-shaped insignia with a YD.

HHC Commander Capt. Timothy Sawyer said, “93 years ago today (Aug. 22) citizen soldiers like us trained to go off to a theater of operation. I appreciate all you do.”

To celebrate, the unit selected Private Tyler Andrade, who enlisted in March, and Staff Sgt. Charlie Sonnier, a long-time supply sergeant from B Co. who's served in the National Guard for the past 30 years, to cut the ceremonial cake which was shared by the troops during a briefing.

“It was a great honor to represent the 181,” Sonnier said after the ceremony.

Andrade, who is assigned to HHC's 2nd Platoon, said

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Photos by Spec. Michael Broughey

Above: Staff Sgt. Charlie Sonnier, left, and Private Tyler Andrade, right, were chosen to cut the ceremonial cake in honor of the 93rd anniversary of the formation of the Yankee Division.

# Revisiting the August 1st Mobilization Ceremony



Above: 1st Lt. Landon Mavrelis leads Delta Company's march down Commerce Bank Field at Foley Stadium towards the crowd.

Below: Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company march by the cheering crowd.



Left: The 181st Infantry Battalion's command staff, from left: 1st Sgt. David Parella, Capt. Timothy Sawyer, 1st Sgt. Scott Brockway, Capt. Frank Baranoski, 1st Sgt. Christopher Demars, 1st Lt. Brian McNeil, Lt. Col. Anthony Couture, guidon bearer Private 1st Class Joseph Guzman, Command Sgt. Major Peter Guiod, Capt. Thomas Clark, 1st Sgt. Richard Sheehan, 1st Lt. Landon Mavrelis and 1st Sgt. Andrew Couture.

Right: Private 1st Class Joseph Guzman stands at parade rest while holding the battalion colors as the crowd awaits the battalion's march to the field. More than 4,000 family members and friends came to support the soldiers.

*All photos by Spec. Michael Broughey*

Below: Friends and family of the battalion cheer for their Soldiers, talk with local media, send their prayers out to their Soldiers, or just enjoy the beautiful day.



For more pictures and to keep track of the 1/181, visit:

[www.facebook.com/Pages/Worcester-MA/1-181st-Infantry-Regiment/132549936783033?ref=share](http://www.facebook.com/Pages/Worcester-MA/1-181st-Infantry-Regiment/132549936783033?ref=share)

For a variety of information and resources for soldiers and their families, visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

# Working together to save lives

By Capt. John Quinn

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — A bold initiative by the 1/181 earlier this year gives the unit an advantage while training and will help save lives as the battalion deploys to Afghanistan this fall.

In January, the battalion hosted four Combat Lifesaver (CLS) courses in preparation for their upcoming security mission. By the end of the month, a total of 455 soldiers from the 1/181 Infantry and 379 Engineer Company were certified as Combat Lifesavers, trained soldiers who can assist medics while serving as combat assets.

As a result, only a few soldiers from the 1/181 have to become certified as Combat Lifesavers through a rigorous four-day course while mobilizing.

Lt. Col. Scott Sallaway, a physician's assistant with the 1/181, said this is an enormous

asset to the battalion, which will be operating separately in different geographic areas throughout Afghanistan.

"The skills are simple enough that any soldier who is trained will be able to apply these techniques," Sallaway said.

Some of key skills include applying a tourniquet, relieving pressure on an chest wound, maintaining an open airway and treating shock.

"It gives the soldiers confidence and it gives their buddies confidence," Sallaway said.

Sallaway, who helped certify soldiers, sailors and airmen at a CLS course in August, estimated that a majority of the battalion is trained as CLS.

"That's very unusual. Typically 10 percent of the unit is certified as combat lifesavers," Sallaway said, adding he credits the battalion for

their initiative, which will aid all medics.

Those who took the course in January or at Basic Training will take a one-day refresher class to remain certified for another year.

Sgt. 1st Class Efrain Quinones organized the training in January with his medics in 1/181's medical platoon and their counterparts from their sister battalion, the 1/182 Infantry, based in Dorchester, Mass.

In the past the CLS course in Massachusetts has been taught at the Regional Training Institute at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod, Quinones said, adding it would normally take two years to train so many soldiers.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

From right, Sgt. Bernardino Coelho, Sgt. Ralph Tiscione, Private Kevin Nieves and a U.S. Navy Petty Officer evacuate Private 1st Class Thiago Miranda on a litter as part of a training exercise Aug. 17 during the four-day Combat Lifesaver course.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Soldiers of the 1/181 secure a fellow Soldier in a SKED litter along with sailors and airmen for medical evacuation training as part of the Combat Lifesaver course Aug. 19.

"None of this would be possible if the chain of command and others didn't see the importance of this," Quinones said.

Capt. David Digregorio — Deputy State Surgeon with the Massachusetts National Guard, said he was impressed with the classes when he stopped

Combat Lifesaver during Basic Training and benefitted greatly from the refresher course, which brought him up to date with the latest techniques.

"It's something everyone should be on point with," Fellows said, adding it would be better if he could

**"It gives the soldiers confidence and it gives their buddies confidence."**

— Lt. Col. Scott Sallaway

in to see the first round of training in Worcester, Mass., where the 1/181 is based.

Quinones said the training will be invaluable as soldiers prepare for the deployment.

"They're already getting into the mindset to what they need to do," Quinones said.

Private 1st Class Ryan Fallows, a 1/181 mortarman in HHC's 2nd Platoon, said he was previously certified as a

train on these skills more often throughout the year.

2nd Lt. Robert Gilman, of C Co., said the medical platoon was well prepared, gave great instruction and will directly prepare soldiers to deploy and return from Afghanistan.

"I think the CLS is good so we don't just have to rely on medics for lifesaving measures," Gilman said.

# Soldiers pleased with Camp Atterbury amenities

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available to them in the barracks, for a cost of \$40 per month.

“It’s definitely worth it when you want to talk with your family,” said Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Norman W. LaChapelle Jr.

Sgt. Mark A. Maslon remembers when he mobilized through Camp Atterbury with Alpha Co. 1/181 for a deployment to Kosovo in 2006, and how different the conditions were.

“The barracks had no A/C, we just used fans and kept the doors

open, but the skunks were crazy in this area,” Maslon said. “We also get more space now, they used to fit a whole platoon in one bay. And now we have dividers in the showers, which is nice.”

On top of the improved barracks, Camp Atterbury also offers a new USO building with free snacks, a free Internet room and a TV room, as well as a new driving range and an improved soft-ball field, “that was once nothing but dirt and dust,” Maslon said.



Photos by Spec. Michael Broughey

Soldiers enjoy the latest video games at the post USO building, visit the mobile taco stand for a midday meal or snack while on break from training, and Capt. Thomas O’Loughlin, of HHC chooses from a large variety of options provided at the post dining facility salad bar.

## 1/181 soldiers follow in the legacy of service within the 26th ID

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he feels connected to the original members of the Yankee Division and feels honored to be part of a unit mostly comprised of soldiers from Massachusetts.

The 26th was the first Guard division, and second only to the Regular Army’s 1st Division, to fully arrive in France in the fall of 1917.

The division fought in six campaigns, during which two of its members received the Medal of Honor. It returned home, was inactivated in May 1919 and was reorganized in 1923 – comprised of Guard units from Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Capt. Thomas Clark, a military history aficionado, said a great deal of pride surrounds the Yankee Division in New England since a majority of its members were volunteers, who founded an association following World War I. “They have their traditions and so do we,” Clark said.



The 26th was activated for training in January 1941 and entered service for World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor the following December. The division was reorganized in 1942 and had 6,000 troops reassigned to the 23rd “Americal” Infantry Division in the Pacific. The rest of the Yankee Division entered combat in France in 1944 with Gen. George Patton’s Third Army, which participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

During the war, the 26th captured about a quarter million prisoners and had one member awarded the Medal of Honor.

The division was inactivated December 1945, and reorganized two years later.

In 1993 the Yankee Division was once again inactivated, its lineage was passed on to the

26th Brigade of the 29th Infantry Division and is now the patch of the 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade as well as the 1/181 and 1/182 Infantry Regiments.



## Mobilization Training at Camp Atterbury



Above: Soldiers of the 1/181 sniper section, including (from right): Sgt. Andrew Stanton, Staff Sgt. Sean Maguire, 1st Lt. Matthew Tina and Sgt. Mark A. Maslon, take aim and fire at targets up to 1,000 yards away Aug. 22.



Left: Sgt. Mark A. Maslon ejects a round from his M-24 rifle after firing at a target on the 1,000-yard range Aug. 22.

The sniper, mortarmen and artillery observers are specialty sections within the 1/181. While these assets will not be used regularly in Afghanistan, the sections are ready to employ their special skill sets when the mission calls for it.



Above on left: A 1/181 mortar team loads a 60-mm round into the barrel of a mortar during a live-fire training session Aug. 22. The Camp Atterbury range provides old vehicle frames for the mortarmen to use as targets.

Above on right: The explosions caused by multiple 60-mm rounds fired upon the same target in succession — known as *fire for effect*.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

This photo, taken through a night vision device, shows members of HHC's 2nd Platoon maneuver into a firing line during squad training lanes Aug. 24. The exercise was the culmination of an entire day of training, which began shortly after dawn.

**Cheers!**

Congratulations to the family of Sgt. Gregory Piangarelli of Alpha Co., and his wife Emily following the birth of Joseph Craig Piangarelli — who was 7 pounds and 14 ounces, Aug 18.



Photo by Capt. John Quinn

Staff Sgt. Jamie Shepard took advantage of the pleasant weather to review tactics with his squad from A Co., including clockwise from right, Spec. Todd Golden, Private 1st Class Matthew Melanson, Spec. Christopher Brown, Spec. Emile Decker, Cpl. Alan Gagnon, Spec. Roberto Jimenez and Sgt. Chad Harrison.

# Leader's Corner

As I talk to our soldiers, their morale is high. Although the training is demanding, soldiers and leaders at all levels are learning new aspects of the operation, and gaining confidence in their abilities. The counter insurgency aspect to this mission is challenging, but the soldiers are doing great. The junior leadership is doing an outstanding job getting to know their soldiers better, ensuring teams and squads are conducting drills, while also allowing individuals to take care of personal issues. The operational tempo is very busy. Time management is integrated with troop leading procedures to focus efforts.

As a husband with a spouse that deployed, leaving me while she served our nation, I know that being the one at home is as difficult, if not more difficult than being deployed. Something is always biting at your ankles. Please make sure that the networks in place are active, and engage when needed. The Family Assistance Centers and Family Support Groups can provide information about programs, points of contact to a variety of organizations and even some friendly conversation if desired. You can also go to the Military OneSource web page ([www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)) and surf the wide range of resources that are available.

In the beginning of October, the majority of our soldiers will be given an opportunity to take leave or a pass. As we get ready for this brief respite prior to deploying to Afghanistan, all soldiers complete a risk assessment to identify and understand potential hazards associated with re-integration into the family and community environment. Driving an Up Armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle or "HUM-V" is much different from driving the family car. We have also been operating under General Order #1 since arriving at Camp Atterbury, which prohibits drinking alcohol, and places other restrictions on soldiers.

Please, remember moderation if you decide to indulge in alcoholic beverages. Always use a designated driver. Do not hesitate to call a buddy or your chain of command if assistance of any kind is needed is required. Continue to work out, the rugged terrain of Afghanistan is not going away. Be Safe. I want everyone to return from leave, rested and ready for the mission.

Keep Your Powder Dry!

— Lt. Col Tony Couture (Powder Horn 6)



Both the 1/181 and Yankee Division carry a battle streamer for their actions at Lorraine, France during World War I. The American Expeditionary Force arrived in 1917 and brought a much needed boost to French and English troops who had been fighting the Germans for three years.