

Duke



Dispatch

Vol. 11

Duke Morale program gives
Soldiers welcome relief

201st BSB provides
support to TF Duke

June 2011

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Photos from operations of Task Force Duke taken between May 15- June15.
 Top Left: Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins, Top Right: Pfc. Donald Watkins,
 Middle Left: Sgt. Tobey White, Middle Right: Sgt. Tobey White Bottom Left:
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Cover photo-U.S. Army Soldiers Pfc. Mercedes Juarez, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from Los Angeles, listens to Staff Sgt. Jeremy Catron, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from Wichita, Kan., explain some of the finer points of the M1075 Palletized Loading System at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, June 11. Both Soldiers are members of the 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke based out of Fort Knox, Ky. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Zumer, Task Force Duke Public Affairs Office)

Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Toner
TF Duke Commander

As we celebrate the Army's 236th birthday this June 14, don't forget that our 1st Infantry Division was also formed 94 years ago, on June 8, 1917. As the oldest, actively serving division in the United States Army, the Big Red One has seen action in nearly every major conflict since World War I.

As our nation went to war in 1917 against Imperial Germany, it pinned tremendous hopes on the 1st Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, whose proud legacy we've carried ever since. The 1ID arrived in France and saw many battles, including St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and Lorraine. The Big Red One helped bring the last great German offensive in the spring of 1918 to a halt, and played a major role in compelling the Germans to surrender and end World War I.

Unfortunately, peace in Europe proved elusive, but the Big Red One was ready when called upon during World War II. Our predecessors saw action in North Africa during Operation Torch, as well as

combat during Operation Husky in Sicily. They fought in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, and repelled Germany's final offensive during the Battle of the Bulge that helped end Adolph Hitler's Third Reich. In following years the 1ID secured post-war Europe up until the onset of conflict in Vietnam, where they spent nearly five years. In 1991 it was the Famous First who spearheaded the armored attack that breached the Iraqi defenses during Desert Storm's 100-hour war, followed a few years later by peacekeeping operations in the Balkans.

Naturally, the 1ID was again called upon to support our current fight in Southwest Asia, with the Duke Brigade playing a significant role. Since the War on Terror began nearly 10 years ago, 3/1 has deployed three times to both Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, we are the only brigade in the Big Red One to have seen action in Afghanistan, and we've been here twice.

All of us are not only part of a storied division, but part of perhaps the most war-seasoned brigade in the 1ID. Take pride in your Division's history, and especially in the



3/1. We've had a glorious past, and continue that proud legacy today.

Before closing, I must acknowledge two more fallen heroes of Task Force Duke. Chief Warrant Officers Kenneth White and Bradley Gaudet died June 5 in a helicopter crash in AO Duke. Both were pilots from the Fort Drum-based 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Brigade, doing what aviators do best – protecting Soldiers on the ground and taking the fight to the enemy from above. Our thoughts and prayers are with their Families during this difficult period. It's because of the sacrifices of brave men that we can enjoy the freedoms we have.

Duty First! 🇺🇸

Voice of the CSM

By CSM Drew Pumarejo
TF Duke Command Sgt. Maj.

Happy Birthday Army! Have you ever watched an old war movie and thought of the differences between that era and our present Army? Can you imagine our Army in another 236 years? When I joined the Army in 1981, there were 18 active duty divisions and the rumor was our Army was downsizing to 10. I was sure the Army was heading in the wrong direction. Well, PV2 Pumarejo was wrong because our 10 current combat divisions possess more combat power than all 18 former ones combined. What I'm saying is we must continue to change and evolve to remain the world's most powerful and dominant fighting force.

Today's "All Volunteer Army" is every bit as skilled, dedicated, and combat hardened as previous generations. Every Soldier is part of something larger than himself. Whether you're an Infantryman who con-

ducts combat patrols or the Food Service Specialist who prepares the meals for our Warriors, your job is indispensable.

This month, I wish to praise the logistical element of TF Duke, our 201st Brigade Support Battalion. How important are a bunch of Logisticians you ask? Go ahead and try fighting without them. You won't survive too long and you'll soon be requesting emergency deliveries of water, food, fuel, supplies, equipment, ammunition, weapons, and vehicles. Of course, you'll need the logistical Soldiers who purify the water, prepare the meals, pump the fuel, order the supplies, deliver the ammunition, repair the weapons, repair the vehicles, and treat our wounded Soldiers. Get the point?

Our Task Force Duke Logisticians don't just "stay in the rear with the gear." They conduct combat logistics patrols just like our Infantry Brothers. The bottom line is weather and terrain can't stop our mighty



201st Support Battalion. They're coming and there's not a damn thing the enemy can do to stop them... Always Ready!

I've been extremely fortunate to wear the uniform of an American Soldier on our Army's birthday for over 30 years. There's no other place I'd rather be than serving alongside you in combat. I'm also proud to be part of the Army's oldest and most storied division... the Big Red One!

"No Mission Too Difficult... No Sacrifice Too Great... Duty First" 🇺🇸

Chaplain's Word

By Chaplain (Capt.) Anthony Kelley,
1-6 FA Chaplain

I was supposed to go on leave at the end of May, but due to the rushed surgery of my 17-year old daughter I had to leave earlier. I was on battlefield circulation visiting the gun line at COP Wilderness when my wife relayed the message that my daughter had multiple gall stones. Naturally I was upset, but once I gained permission from my commander I left for home immediately.

During the trip home I learned some valuable lessons that hopefully Soldiers will find helpful to prepare themselves and their family for R and R.

First lesson learned; if you have not eaten at McDonald's for several months, be careful what you eat. Once I arrived in Kuwait I discovered the joy and sorrow of McDonald's. I pigged out on a "McRoyale" meal which I have never heard of before. I guess it was a Kuwait specialty. It tasted good going down but made my stomach churn about 20 minutes later.

The leave personnel in Kuwait were gra-

cious and professional. They expedited my departure to the States quickly and proficiently. Actually, my Kuwait experience was great both leaving and coming back into theater, unlike the flights that were cramped, hot and stuffy. Even though I didn't sleep much on the plane and my legs ached from sitting in one spot for hours on end, my mind was occupied on seeing my family again.

Second lesson learned; try to get some sleep on the plane. Once I arrived at Louisville International Airport my family greeted me at the gate. After all the hugs and kisses, my wife initially wanted to take me out to eat but I wanted a shower and to change out of my uniform first. So upon arriving at home I laid on my comfortable bed for a catnap. That nap turned into a 6-hour deep sleep. I didn't realize how tired I was. Instead of eating out that night my family ordered delivery pizza. Big lesson learned is to expect to be sleepy for the first couple of days. It seemed all the stress of deployment suddenly collapsed on me and I was exhausted.

Third lesson learned;

try to find time for your wife and immediate family first. Due to my youngest daughter Autumn's surgery, all of my extended family wanted to be at the hospital for her and to see me. It was great to reunite with the family and spend time with them. But on the flip side it was hard for me to spend time with my wife and kids. Don't get me wrong. I deeply love my whole family but I also needed the one on one time with my immediate family. After my daughter Autumn eventually recovered, my wife and I departed for a romantic getaway to the beach for a few days. But I also spent some quality time with each of my three grown teens as well. I especially made sure we were all



together the last two days before I departed. We had a great time cooking out, talking and just spending the last valuable moments together.

Fourth lesson learned; try to do some PT while home. Several times each week while I was home on leave, I went on a morning run. This helped not only to control my weight (especially after eating all the great home cooked foods) but also to clear my mind and to focus. Also, when I was on the trip with my wife I would go running along the beach. This was a great time for me to reflect on deployment and the direction of my life. The run also helped me to get in focus spiritually.

The last and fifth lesson learned; leave is short so make the most of every moment you have. Don't waste your R and R time. Too many Soldiers go on leave and sleep too much, not spending enough time with their family and loved ones. Your leave is just as much for your family as it is for you so take great care to spend time with the people who love you and have missed you. Make every moment count. Stay away from arguments and quarrels that cause family division. Instead, focus on love, togetherness and family unity.

The Bible teaches that we are to "make the most of every opportunity" (Colossians 4:4-6). Therefore, during your leave understand there are lessons every Soldier and family can and should learn. Regardless of whether this is your first or sixth deployment, make the most of the time you have as a family. Focus on love for one another. Let the time you have be a joyful experience no matter what circumstance you find yourself in. Rejoice in the fact that your family can be together again. Then you can concentrate on bringing a successful end to the current deployment, when all families across the brigade can once again be joyfully reunited. 🇺🇸





Photo Right: U.S. Army Spc. Franklin Monack, left, of Boulder Creek, Calif., and U.S. Army Cpl. Joshua Hill, right, of Mountain Home, Ark., both military police with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, watch television while enjoying a few days of rest and relaxation at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, May 28. The R&R program is designed for Soldiers who are stationed at outlying Combat Outposts lacking the same amenities a larger FOB like Salerno offers.



Morale program gives Soldiers break from battle

Story and photos by Sgt. Tobey White, TF Duke, PAO

Although it's no island in the Caribbean, Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, stationed at outlying Combat Outposts have the opportunity to visit Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, for a few days of rest and relaxation as part of the

Duke Morale Program.

The program is designed for soldiers who are stationed at remote COPs lacking the amenities a larger FOB like Salerno offers, said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Kerry Crudup, the first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, and a native of Temple Hills, Md.

U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, commander of the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke and a native of Topeka, Kan., said he understands how important it is for soldiers to take a break now and then.

"This is something we did for our soldiers the last time I was here when the conditions at the remote COPs and FOBs were even worse," said Toner, whose previous deployment to Paktika province in 2006-2007 was with the 2nd Battalion, 87th Inf. Regiment, 10th Mountain Div.

"It's the least we can do for our heroes out on the front line who are giving 110 percent every day," he said.

Every week an invitation is extended to all TF Duke battalions to send their soldiers for a much-needed break from the rigors and stress of combat, Crudup said.

"Sometimes the operation tempo out there means they can't spare any personnel and they have to say 'sorry, not this week,'" Crudup said. "But, they're happy to send people if the mission dictates they can."

Soldiers usually spend the weekend at FOB Salerno, arriving on Friday and leaving on Sunday, said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Davis, a chaplain's assistant with HHC, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, and a native of Pompano Beach, Fla.

"We were given the opportunity to give guys from outlying COPs a couple of days to take a knee and get away from the fight," said Davis.

Upon arriving at Salerno, soldiers are given a briefing and a pam-

phlet with the FOB rules. They are also given a tour of the FOB, which includes the Post Exchange, the finance office, the gym, the dining facility and other amenities.

For U.S. Army Cpl. Joshua Hill, a military policeman with HHC, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, and a native of Mountain Home, Ark., the PX was one of his first stops.

Carrying a list of supplies his buddies asked for, he'll be stocking up for himself and his friends before heading back to COP Saberi, Hill said.

"It's pretty nice they have things like this to help out Soldiers who need it," he added.

U.S. Army Spc. Jeffrey Hopkins, with Company B, STB, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, and a native of Sherridan, Ore., also from COP Saberi, said he's looking forward to the opportunity to call friends and family back home.

"Some soldiers don't even leave the room and spend their time sleeping," said Crudup. "They just enjoy the tranquility."

One of the amenities U.S. Army Spc. Harold Badillo, a military policeman with HHC, STB, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, based at COP Bak, and a native of Lanai City, Hawaii, was looking forward to most was having a hot meal three times a day.

Because Bak does not have a full dining facility, soldiers there get a hot breakfast and dinner, but can only get Meals Ready to Eat or snacks at other times.

Since Bak has no laundry facilities and soldiers have to send their dirty clothes to Salerno to be washed, the visit was a good chance to catch up on his laundry, Badillo added.

"It's good to know the higher-ups understand we need this," Badillo said. "Some guys haven't seen Salerno since we came through here on our way to our COP when we first got here." ■

In Spera,

unexpected calm a measure of progress

No news can frequently mean good news in warfare, especially when an enemy knows that fighting will lead to his defeat. Coalition and Afghan National Security Forces partnered for the recently concluded Operation Maiwan III in eastern Afghanistan still felt much was learned during the relatively tranquil mission, especially signs that pressure being applied against insurgents may be making them more reluctant to engage in violent attacks.

The operation, conducted May 14–19 in the Spera District of Khowst province, had several goals. In addition to eliminating insurgents and denying them safe havens from which to launch attacks, planners also felt it important to show the local Afghan population that International Security Assistance Forces can and will conduct operations anytime, even in remote areas near the often-lawless border with Pakistan.

A pre-mission briefing involving many of the assigned units and leaders helped set the needed focus and energy for the upcoming operation.

“Everyone must be ready for a fight at all times, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark Borowski, commander of 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Raider, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, TF Duke, and native of South Hadley, Mass.

Once begun, the soldiers of TF Raider joined with other TF Duke and Afghan National Security Forces to attack and disrupt the enemy in Spera District. The primary objective was to force insurgents to withdraw from the district so they could be met and destroyed by coalition forces from the 4th BCT, 101st Airborne Div., TF Currahee, in neighboring Paktika province.

Additionally, securing main thoroughfares necessary for local commerce and insurgent travel was also emphasized.

For many Afghans accustomed to decades of bloodshed and lawlessness, the operation and presence of troops bent on ridding the area of insurgents was a welcome change of pace.

“The people were happy to see ANA and coalition forces here to stay and provide security,” said Capt. Mahmud Ayi, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, ANA.

“It was a good and effective operation. We stayed here for four days, and showed the enemy that sanctuaries and safe havens can’t be established here,” Ayi said.

The enemy appeared to get the message, and expected levels of insurgent activity that failed to materialize.

“We honestly didn’t see the enemy presence we thought we might see,” said Borowski, adding that a few months ago Spera had been a significant thoroughfare for insurgents travelling across the Pakistan border.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. John Zumer,
TF Duke, PAO



According to U.S. Army Maj. Damon Harris, a native of Leland, Miss., and the operations officer of the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, past history had to be taken into consideration long before the mission commenced.

“We thought we’d have large scale engagements with insurgent forces based on past experience in the area, both during a previous deployment and the previous engagements encountered by the 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., TF Rakkasan when they were here last year,” said Harris.

Despite the low level of insurgent activity, several tactical objectives were met.

Operations were synchronized among the diverse and numerous elements involved, troops and leadership proved they could sustain operations while continuing to focus elsewhere in Raider’s area of responsibility and the all-important gathering of reliable intelligence on the enemy was also broadened.

Perhaps most importantly, however, Operation Maiwan III succeeded on at least two crucial levels; inter-army cooperation and building trust with the local population from coalition and Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan entities.

“The operation was completely partnered. All the ANA that I

U.S. Army Spc. Christopher C. Johnson, a cavalry scout from Thomson, Ga., assigned to the PSD, 6th Sqdn., 4th Regt., 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, scans his sector during a patrol in Spera District, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, May 16.

Top: U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 6th Sqdn., 4th Regt., 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, scale a mountain trail during a patrol in Spera District, May 16.

Bottom: Supplies for Soldiers from 6th Sqdn., 4th Regt., 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke parachute to their destination after an air drop, May 14.



saw and heard about performed well, and proved they could sustain themselves out in the field,” said Borowski.

More significantly, perhaps, the effort to appear strong against the enemies of Afghanistan, in such a remote location, sent a strong message.

Harris felt enemy contact was low due to the overwhelming combat power, both ground and air, that was massed into Spera District, as well as in Paktika province. Insurgents had little choice but to move south into engagement areas established by TF Currahee in neighboring Paktika, he said.

Still, there were measurable successes, said Harris. TF Duke was able to gather critical intelligence that will be used for future operations and the people in Spera District had a chance to see their legitimate government taking an interest in outlying population centers.

“It’s important that we come down here and show the people and the enemy that we haven’t forgotten about this place, and that we can and will go where we need to,” said Borowski. “People were very receptive and willing to talk.”

Ayi agreed, saying the GIRoA officials didn’t forget the local villagers either.

“Khowst Governor Naemi came to the Spera District Center and it was good for the people to see him and hear about upcoming projects,” he said.

Harris also felt the importance of the visit couldn’t be overstated.

“I believe the most beneficial event during the operation was the first key leader engagement conducted at the district center that involved the Khowst Provincial Governor which gave local elders the ability to voice their concerns and what they believe as the way forward in Spera,” he said.

What’s next for the Raiders as they continue to assist the ANA in building a safer and more secure Afghanistan?

“We’re going to go back to focusing on places we had been and focus on whatever missions come down the road,” said Borowski.

One of his soldiers, U.S. Army Sgt. Ismael Rodriguez, a cavalry scout with TF Raider, and native of Santa Ana, Calif., echoed the sentiment.

“I think the insurgents will realize they’re either going to have to fight us or draw down. We’re not going anywhere,” said Rodriguez. 🇺🇸

Supporting the fight

201st BSB provides bullets, fuel, supplies to TF Duke

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. John Zumer, TF Duke, PAO

An army marches on its stomach," said Napoleon Bonaparte quite famously more than 200 years ago. Soldiers can also fight according to how well they're fed, and the 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke not only distributes beans and bacon, but bullets, fuel and many other supplies desperately needed on the battlefields of eastern Afghanistan.

The Fort Knox, Ky.-based BSB deployed in January for a one-year mission providing materiel and personnel support throughout TF Duke's area of operations in Khowst, and Paktia Provinces and also to parts of Ghazni. Besides moving tons of valuable supplies, the BSB has also moved over 8,000 Soldiers in support of battlefield circulation, R & R and technical assistance missions that have improved living conditions for Soldiers throughout the Area of Operations.

"Just think of us as the lifeblood of the brigade," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dave Brown, BSB commander and a native of Dover, Del. "We're like Walmart and your local hospital, because we can provide and coordinate for any type of items and resources the brigade needs as well as medically take care of Soldiers."

The skill sets found in the BSB may be as diverse as any Army unit. Mechanics, machinists, welders, vehicle recovery and fuel distribution specialists help keep vehicles and equipment running. Specialized commodity managers synchronize the movement of all supplies, food, water, fuel, ammunition and repair parts to several helicopter landing zones that are operated by BSB Soldiers. The BSB's medical company including physical therapists, dentists, medics and x-ray technicians provides care comparable to a standard urgent care facility in the United States.

Pre-deployment training that followed the unit's relocation to Fort Knox from Fort Hood, Texas, proved critical for the unit.

"I developed the training path for all logisticians," said Brown. "The train-up at home station was absolutely imperative, which prepared us for NTC," he said, refer-



Lt. Col. Dave Brown, commander of the 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke based out of Fort Knox, Ky., listens to U.S. Army Sgt. Wayne Bussard detail the workings of the service and recovery shop at Forward Operating Base Salerno that, among other things, brings skilled metal working capability to TF Duke., June 11.

ring to the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. The 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. spent last August at the site preparing for the rigors of Afghanistan.

According to Brown, NTC was the capstone exercise that put all logistical aspects together in one place, at one time, in the brigade battlespace.

"The battalion exceeded my highest expectations for execution and performance," said Brown. "It showed the brigade could sustain itself."

"We do some things here (Forward Operating Base Salerno) that we've never done before," said Brown, referring to operating the passenger terminal and pushing out supplies from the helicopter landing zones. A helicopter landing zone at FOB Goode is also maintained and operated by the battalion.

If there's an item needed by troops out in the field, odds are good the BSB regularly delivers it. Each battalion within the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. has a dedicated BSB company synchronizing its logistics, ensuring that food, ammunition, fuel, water, main-

tenance personnel and passengers are all moved throughout the TF Duke operating area as timely and efficiently as possible.

"Terrain and the weather dictate everything," said Brown. Complicating delivery are frequent and intense winds that can also spawn dust storms. Altitude can also create problems, he said, as calm conditions at the base of a mountain may not reflect higher winds at elevation and in mountain passes.

Despite the frequent weather complications, Brown still looks upon any opportunity to deliver airborne supplies as a chance to keep Soldiers and trucks off far more dangerous roads. The entire spectrum of how the BSB operates and delivers cargo is summarized in what Brown refers to as "three-dimensional logistics," by parachute from airplanes, sling-load by helicopter and by trucks on the ground.

Regardless of whether the resources are flown, dropped or driven to their destination, the scope and volume of the deliveries speaks for itself.

For the average American who buys bottled water in the grocery store or gaso-



U.S. Army Spc. Robert McCubbins welds a gate under construction at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, June 11. McCubbins, a mechanic from Dallas, assigned to Company B, 201st BSB, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke based out of Fort Knox, Ky., works in his unit's service and recovery shop.

line at the pump, the raw numbers the BSB deals with might seem incredulous. Be that as it may, the totals aren't imaginary. In just the first three months of this year, the BSB delivered more than 2-million tons of cargo. At FOB Salerno alone more than 1.8-million gallons of gasoline were dispensed to thirsty vehicles. Factor in thousands of troops needing to stay hydrated, and one can start to comprehend the vast supplies of bottled water needed to keep everyone healthy.

As impressive as the numbers are, leadership admits that much still must be done.

"We can't rest on any of our laurels," said U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Angelucci, the CSM for the BSB and a native of Elizabethtown, Ky.

Brown agrees.

"The challenge for us is I've got to think about the future," he said. "I have to be sure the brigade can do what it has to do, when it has to do it, without worrying about logistics."

Being prepared anytime, anywhere, makes for long days. That comes with the

territory of fighting an unpredictable insurgency according to Brown.

"There's no days off, because the mission never stops," said Brown. "We're always ready for anything," said Brown.

Mission requirements of moving cargo and personnel, however, aren't the only things accomplished on a daily basis.

"The training is ongoing," said Angelucci, citing recent combat lifesaver training. Doing things out of mission character or job description arises as well, although the tasks are made easier through the diverse skill sets found throughout the BSB, he said.

Whether it's fashioning useful items out of scrap iron or devising more efficient ways of doing things, BSB members have proven their worth and ingenuity countless times, said Brown and Angelucci. They take special pride in the team outlook that surrounds the unit, with everybody pitching in and contributing unselfishly.

"I let the members of my team figure things out by themselves. Everybody has a voice," said Brown. That ability to offer input has made Soldiers prideful of their in-

dividual contributions, leading to improved efforts to perform at the highest levels and set examples for peers, he said.

Pride is also evident when looking to those who will follow the BSB.

"We're always looking to hand-off something better to those who replace us," said Angelucci.

Despite the accomplishments and long hours of his Soldiers during their first six months here, Brown feels the most valuable contributors don't even wear uniforms. He feels the very well-led Family Readiness Groups at Fort Knox caring for those left behind are the most valuable players, because they ensure deployed Soldiers have greater peace of mind knowing their loved ones are okay.

"We have an outstanding FRG group that allows Soldiers to focus on what they have to," said Brown.

With their deployment about half complete, future missions will keep the BSB busy. For anybody tempted to think, however, that his Soldiers remain only bean counters, pencil pushers, and fuel jockeys, Brown doesn't mince words.

"All my Soldiers are warriors," he said.

Those depending on the BSB for their daily tools of survival likely agree. ▀

Cavalry scout walks in his father's footsteps

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. John Zumer, TF Duke, PAO

The old saying, "Like father, like son," is certainly true for U.S. Army Spc. Christopher C. Johnson, Jr., a cavalry scout assigned to the Personal Security Detail, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Raider, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, TF Duke, who cites the influence of his father as his main reason for doing what he does.

While it may be fairly common for a child to follow a parent into military service, Johnson's case is somewhat unusual. His father, U.S. Army Capt. Christopher C. Johnson, is still on active duty, at least for another three years.

Chris Jr., a native of Thomson, Ga., said he hopes to follow a similar professional road before his own career ends.

The younger Johnson has only been in the Army two years, and is presently serving his first deployment to eastern Afghanistan with his fellow TF Duke Soldiers.

Like many young people before him, bouncing around to a couple different jobs fresh out of high school left a lasting impression, he said.

"I figured there was more to life than what I was doing at the time," said Johnson. He had been performing maintenance at an apartment complex in nearby Augusta, Ga.

"I wanted a combat job, and the high-speed video the recruiter showed me looked good," said Spc. Johnson, chuckling.

After signing up for an initial three-year enlistment, his first duty assignment took him to South Korea for one year.

That year was eventful in many ways, especially with his meeting a fellow Soldier, U.S. Army Spc. Bobby Nelson, a cavalry scout from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Nelson, who was married, introduced Johnson to his wife's sister. The rest is history, according to Johnson. He is now engaged, with hopes of being married to his fiancée Sarah upon his deployment return.

Johnson arrived at Fort Knox, Ky., from South Korea last August, while the majority of the Duke Brigade was away at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. Even so, much time was spent training in garrison over the following months with his new teammates.

Weapons ranges were paramount along with other types of refresher training like first aid and responding to enemy contact.

That willingness to learn new things and push himself hasn't gone unnoticed.

Johnson's platoon sergeant, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Walter Brogdon, a cavalry scout from Panama City, Fla., said "He is one of the young and upcoming leaders the Army will be able to use with his dedication, determination and willingness to learn."

He's not the only peer who sees the potential, either.

U.S. Army Sgt. Jack Cummings, a fellow PSD teammate and cavalry scout from Placerville, Fla., said that Johnson is always motivated and constantly looking to make his time worthwhile.

"He's always eager to learn more and go to any school," said

Cummings.

One of those schools happens to be Ranger School. After finishing this deployment, Johnson hopes to transition to a scheduled assignment with the 3rd Inf. Div. at Fort Benning, Ga.

"I just like doing high-speed stuff," he joked, adding he wanted to get some schools in, and that Fort Benning is a good place for it largely because of its size and course offerings.

There were other considerations beside schooling opportunities, however, that prompted the request to continue his Army career in his native state.

"I want to be closer to home and family," said Johnson, adding that his father is a physician's assistant there.

The elder Johnson was a gunner's mate in the U.S. Navy for 11 years before switching over to the Army. He hopes to retire within the next three years, said Chris Jr.

"My dad is the whole reason I'm here in the Army," said Johnson.

Like his father before him, the younger Johnson hopes to make a career out of the military, following a similar career path. Spc. Johnson would like to stay enlisted through the rank of staff sergeant before trying his hand at becoming an officer, through the Army's "Green to Gold" program.

This is Johnson's first overseas deployment, not counting his year in South Korea. While much of his day is spent performing basic soldierly tasks like guard duty and other work details, the people he has a chance to work alongside make the days more pleasant, he said.

"Being with my PSD, you get real close, like brothers," said Johnson.

As for supervising others, Johnson and the other specialists in his platoon do what they can to relieve many of the everyday burdens of their non-commissioned officers. That supervision of junior Soldiers includes monitoring supplies of ammunition, sensitive equipment accountability, functions check on weapons and ensuring his Soldiers are eating and hydrating correctly. Building teamwork with those you live and work next to was also cited as a crucial part of a smooth-running team, he said.

"We get a lot of stuff done more easily and quicker," said Johnson.

He copes with the rigors and distance associated with deployment by staying in touch with family, and encourages other young Soldiers in the platoon to do the same. Going to the gym regularly, when not out on missions, is his main hobby for staying in shape and passing the time.

As for looking forward to anything special at the end of the deployment, he's quick to say what's on his mind.

"Getting married, and getting our first place together," he said.

That's still several months away, however. For now, he'll just continue to work hard at what has been a mutually beneficial relationship with his employer.

"I like the Army. It's the best thing I ever did," said Johnson. ■



Warrior's spotlight

Purpleheart

Awarded for: "Being wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces."

Recipients: May 15-June 15

Spc. Ron Beach
B Trp., 6-4 Cav.

Sgt. Justin Brown
A Co., 1-26 In.

Pfc. Daniel Caffery
HHC, 1-26 In.

Spc. Justin Christansen
A Co., 1-168 In.

Cpl. Zachary Enko
615th MP Co.

Sgt. Petricia Flanigan
870th MP Co.

Pfc. Matthew Magid
B Trp., 6-4 Cav



U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus, commander of International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, awards the Purple Heart to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Michael Roszko, platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, June 2. Roszko, an infantryman and native of Bronx, N.Y., was one of 16 TF Duke soldiers awarded the Purple Heart from Petraeus at the ceremony. Petraeus also met later in the day with Khowst Provincial Governor Abdul Jabaar Naeemi for a luncheon and conversations about events and challenges facing the Afghan and coalition partnership.

Re-up

By Master Sgt. David Burgoon
TF Duke Retention

If you have reenlisted down range, congratulations! Many Duke Warriors are reenlisting for assignments to locations and training that will enhance their careers and the diversity of our Army.

Reenlistment is a privilege, not a right, especially today as the Army draws down. You have met the high standards required to remain in the Army. However, it doesn't stop there.

In accordance with Army policy, you are required to maintain your eligibility for reenlistment and your assignment from now through when you PCS and report to your next duty assignment or training location.

Every Soldier is counseled when they reenlist that they must maintain their standards and eligibility for their assignment. It is the Soldier's responsibility to inform their Career Counselor of any item preventing them from departing for training or PCS as scheduled.

There are two categories of events that will cause you to not make your training or PCS as scheduled. These include things in your control and things not in your control.

Items within your control are your ability to pass an APFT, keeping yourself in compliance with AR 600-9 and staying away from adverse UCMJ. If you fail to maintain that once you have reenlisted, you will have until 90 days from your report date to fix it. On day 90, if you are not within standards, the Army is going to take that training or assignment back and give it to another Warrior who is maintaining standards.

However, items you cannot control won't result in you permanently losing your reenlistment option. Some examples of these are illness to you, your family or being held up by an investigation (and later being cleared). If you fall into this category, and you aren't clear to depart at 90 days out, then your training or assignment will be cancelled. However, as soon as you are cleared, your Career Counselor can renegotiate your option for you.

One other area you need to pay attention to, especially as you get closer to redeploying, are life changes that might have resulted in enrollment in the Married Army Couples Program (MACP) or Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). If you find yourself in one of these situations, you need to let your Career Counselor know immediately so they can validate your assignment.

No matter whether your situation is in your control or out of your control due to life changes, the key is to stay in contact with your Career Counselor.

Reenlistments: April 15- May 15

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Staff Sgt. Carol Aliceasantana | Spc. Richard Hayes |
| Spc. David Andrews | Spc. Doug Johnston |
| Spc. John Ankrom | Spc. John Kadleck |
| Spc. Jarad Barnett | Sgt. Thomas Mort |
| Staff Sgt. Kyle Brew | Spc. Tyler Mountjoy |
| Sgt. Nathan Brummer | Spc. Robert Orourke |
| Sgt. Maricus Caruthers | Sgt. Thanh Pham |
| Sgt. Jeffery Clemente | Sgt. Daniel Shirley |
| Sgt. Carl Deaderick | Spc. Marty Smith |
| Sgt. Dexter Eaton | Sgt. Ronald Strowder |
| Spc. Nathaniel Gibbs | Spc. Anthony Webb |
| Sgt. Brett Hayes | Spc. Anthony Weiss |

FRG events

By Ally Reese
FRG

With school finished and summer upon us, it's a great time to plan some fun activities for you and your children. Ft. Knox has a fantastic FMWR program and there are many different camps and activities for your family to take advantage of, as well as a few unique opportunities mentioned below for children of deployed Soldiers:

Exclusively for Children of Deployed Soldiers

Major League Baseball Boot Camp:

July 8th – 16th at Vero Beach, Fla.
For boys ages 13-14, all expenses paid. Coaching and mentoring by former Major League Baseball stars such as George Foster, who played for Cincinnati's "Big Red Machine" in the 1970s.

Operation Purple Camp:

Week long camps in 11 states that focus on children of deployed Soldiers and the accompanying stresses of war and separation.

For Spouses of Deployed Soldiers

Belle of Louisville Sightseeing Cruise:

July 9- A leisurely two-hour steamboat cruise on the Ohio River. free to all Blue Star Card Holders. Transportation and childcare will be provided.

Eastman Park Concert Series:

June 18- Country Artist Darryl Worley
July 23- R & B Night
Free childcare and priority seating for Blue Star Card Holders for all concerts at Eastman Amphitheater

Canoeing Trip:

August 20 at Cave City, Ky.

Fun for Families

Water Park Bash:

June 26 – Free hot dogs, music, and admission to the Water Park for Families of deployed Soldiers.

Summer Jam:

June 11– For kids grades 9-12 free pizza, music and events from 6 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Midnight Movies and Games:

June 25 – 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Youth Sports Complex

For more information on any of the above events, contact Ally Reese, BDE FRSA at 502-624-3161. As always, if you are planning on leaving the area for more than a few days, please notify your FRG so we will know how to contact you in case of an emergency. Have a safe and fun summer!

Safety Corner

Electrical deficiencies at many of our outlying FOBs and COPs continue to be a concern. We recently had a B-hut fire that resulted in thousands of dollars in property damage as a result of an electrical fire and were lucky that no one was injured.



As I conduct safety inspections of facilities, I continue to witness faulty/shady wiring, the use of unauthorized power strips as well as unauthorized power converters. These are items that we must address in order to maintain the safety of the men and women of the Task Force. Leaders at all levels must bring attention to such issues before the TF has a statistic as a direct result of faulty/shady wiring. I need the help of leaders to ensure that this is addressed. Please ensure that Soldiers are not utilizing electrical cords that have faulty insulation that has been fixed with tape. These cords are unauthorized and are a direct violation of code. We must ensure cords are not being pieced together to make unauthorized functional cords. If leaders see questionable wiring please ensure that someone is notified in order to get the issue resolved. This is a reoccurring theme across theater and requires immediate attention. Please help me keep the men and women of the TF safe.

Safety First!

Hostile workplace

Waking up and going to work should put a smile on anyone's face.

However, if a Soldier wakes up and doesn't feel that pride or happiness because they are subjected to a hostile, unpleasant workplace that violates the law, they will hardly be able to head off to work and be productive, let alone happy. Some situations that can bring about a hostile workplace are sexually explicit pictures around the office, offensive, unwanted, and unsolicited comments or behaviors of a sexual nature, gender-biased comments, suggestive pictures, and jokes.

This type of environment is considered to be hostile. If it affects Soldiers adversely, it may and is likely to interfere with their performance. Keep in mind that even when comments and gestures aren't directed at someone specifically, say a third party outside of the conversation, that casual observers can still be offended. We all should watch what we say and do in the workplace, not just because there are existing laws and regulations, but because common courtesy dictates that we act professionally at all times.

As Soldiers and leaders, it is not only our job, but our duty to ensure that every environment we place ourselves and our Soldiers into is free from this form of sexual harassment. We as Soldiers and leaders need to not only preach the Seven Army Values, but we must also live them.

World News Highlights

Arizona

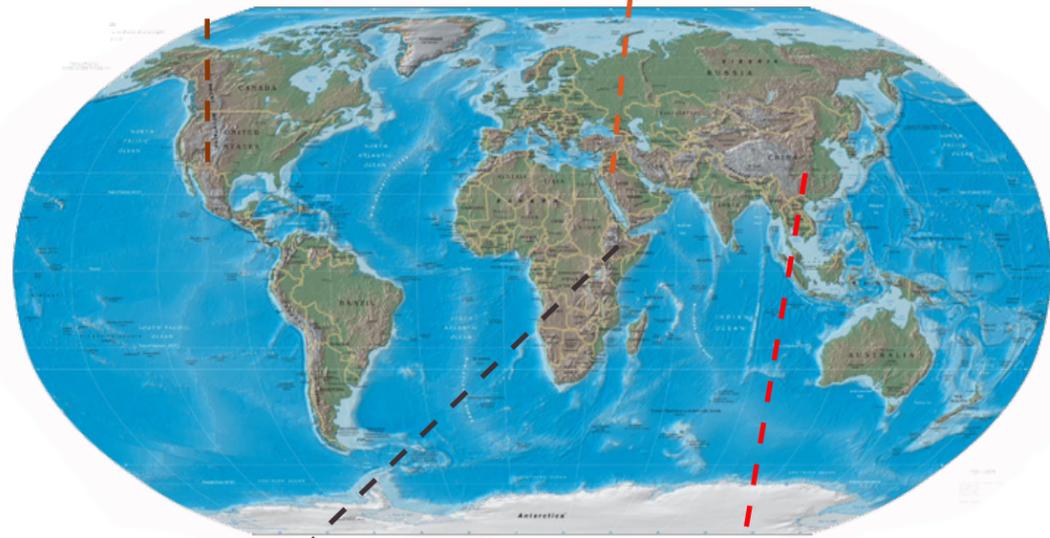
Blaze close to worst in state's history

A 15-day-old blaze in eastern Arizona came closer to being the worst in the state's history, Sunday, June 12. The fire is 38,467 acres shy of matching the Rodeo/Chediski wildfire of 2002 which burned 468,638 acres. The fire started in the Apache National Forest.

Syria

Civil Unrest

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has acknowledged the country's security forces have made mistakes during the uprising against his regime, May 18. He blamed poorly trained police officers at least in part for the crackdown that has killed more than 850 people over the past two months.



Somalia

Top al Qaeda operative killed

Fazul Abdullah Mohamed, a top al Qaeda operative in East Africa, was killed at a Somali checkpoint in Mogadishu, U.S. officials said, Saturday, June 11. He was sought by authorities for his alleged role in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. He was killed when he tried to speed through a roadblock manned by forces of the Somali transitional government.

China

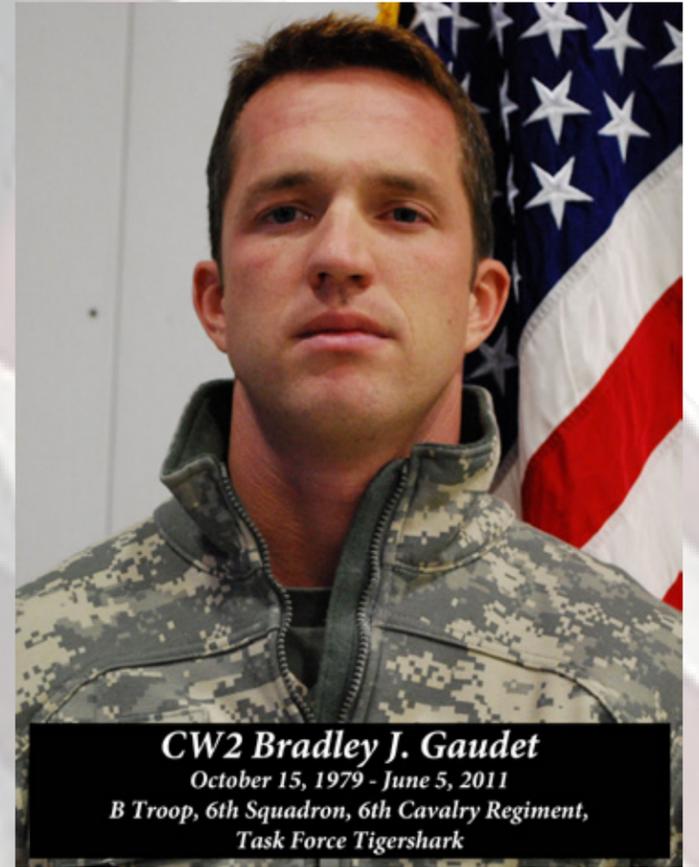
Cyber warfare

Tensions between the U.S., United Kingdom and China appeared ready to escalate significantly, June 1. The issue came to a head after recent cyber-attacks, apparently organized by Chinese hackers who stole the log in details of hundreds of senior U.S. and South Korean government officials as well as Chinese political activists.

IN MEMORIAM



CW3 Kenneth R. White
September 22, 1975 - June 5, 2011
HHC, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division,
Task Force Tigershark



CW2 Bradley J. Gaudet
October 15, 1979 - June 5, 2011
B Troop, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment,
Task Force Tigershark



A Soldier from D Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, surveys a ridgeline during Operation Maiwan III in Spera District.
Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Donald Watkins