



TCM-ABCT & Reconnaissance
Fort Benning, Georgia

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BFSB Monthly Newsletter

Director's Message

By COL William T. Nuckols
Director, TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance

BFSB and Reconnaissance Community,

The TCM ABCT/Recon Team continues to work hard to improve the combat capabilities of our Army's Armored Brigade Combat Teams and Battlefield Surveillance Brigades.

At the recently concluded Maneuver Center Warfighting Conference, TCM Recon participated in several panel discussions. These included addressing the Army National Guard on the future of the BFSB as well as with 1/7 Cavalry, First Cavalry Division as they participated in the panel on the future Scout Platoon and discussed their upcoming NTC Rotation where they will be validating the 6x36 Common Scout Platoon concept.

I can now report that the Army Chief of Staff has approved the R&S BCT Plan. TCM-Recon in conjunction with the Capabilities Development Division here at the MCoE will be working to develop an execution plan to support this future transition. TCM-Recon will keep the BFSB and Reconnaissance Community informed as we continue this process.

TCM-Recon continues to execute the Reconnaissance CBA. The current government shutdown has forced the team to reschedule two working groups with the Aviation and Intelligence Centers of Excellence. The team does not think these delays will, in the long run, adversely affect the completion of the CBA. More information will follow and the team will work hard to keep the community informed on what comes out of the CBA at the completion of each step.

Look for articles in upcoming issues of both the Cavalry and Armor Journal and the Infantry Magazine for more information on the Reconnaissance CBA, the Long Range Reconnaissance and Surveillance Company and the Close Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) System. Several FOSCOM Units have expressed concerns about the future of CATR. This article and future updates in other forums will go a long way to inform the reconnaissance and intelligence communities on the system and generate feedback on CATR as the Army moves through the funding and Program of Record process.

Finally, I want to recognize the 504th BFSB's MI Battalions currently deployed in Afghanistan and the MI Teams from the 525th BFSB that are currently conducting a battle handover with those 504th units. We wish them success and pray for their safe return.

As always, TCM ABCT/Recon is here to serve you. Do not hesitate to contact me or my team for assistance.

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560th BFSB gets new home in Cumming, GA

*Story and photo by CPT William Carraway,
Public Affairs Officer, Georgia National Guard*

CUMMING REGIONAL READINESS CENTER, Cumming, Ga. Sept. 14, 2013 – Hundreds of members of Forsyth County welcomed the more than 300 Georgia Guardsmen of the 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB) to the community at a ceremony marking the dedication of the Cumming Regional Readiness Center. More than five years in the making, the CRRC represents a cooperative effort between the Georgia Guard and the people of Georgia.

“Your commitment to your service to our country is admirable,” said Cumming Mayor H. Ford Gravitt during his opening ceremony address. “This is a great facility. The City of Cumming in conjunction with the State and Federal Government is very grateful that you are here.”

LTC(P) Ray Bossert, commander of the 560th BFSB, complimented the Mayor’s message of cooperation.

“I look forward to becoming a valuable asset and friend to this region,” said LTC Bossert. “This is YOUR armory. Come have fellowship with us. Come see us during drill weekend.”

The readiness center was a flurry of activity starting well before sunrise as Soldiers and vendors set up displays in the chill morning air. Soldiers of the 3-108th Cavalry demonstrated sniper equipment and vehicle weapons systems. The 230th Brigade Support Company set up a mobile kitchen and distributed MREs and conversed with Cumming residents. Soldiers of HHC 560th BFSB demonstrated satellite equipment capabilities. A particularly popular attraction was the “night vision challenge,” where young and old alike were able to use night vision goggles to negotiate obstacles in a dark room. Representatives from local law enforcement, fire departments and the American Legion brought displays and equipment and added to the sense of community present at the CRRC.

Several dedication ceremonies were held throughout the day. LTC(P) Bossert joined Mayor Gravitt and the Cumming City Council in dedicating the drill hall in the name of COL William Cumming, a life-long Georgia resident and veteran of the War of 1812. The readiness center auditorium was dedicated to the memory of BG Terrell Reddick, former deputy commander of the Georgia Army

National Guard. The 560th BFSB’s Command Sergeant Major, Roy Marchert, presided over roll call of fallen warriors and dedicated a tree to fallen warriors.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, representatives of the Georgia Guard leadership and community leaders noted the significance of the day.



Photo: LTC(P) Bossert cuts the ribbon commemorating the opening of the 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade’s new armory in Cumming, GA, alongside MG Jim Butterworth, Georgia National Guard Adjutant General, State Senator Jack Murphy and Cumming Mayor H. Ford Gravitt.

“What an incredible day,” said Georgia’s Adjutant General MG Jim Butterworth. “The 560th has an incredible history of service around the world. It is going to continue from right here. You have literally the best Guard community coming here building a house in Cumming.”

State Senator Jack Murphy noted the economic benefit of having such a large Guard presence in North Georgia.

“When I look around and see what this will do for the community I am truly impressed,” said Senator Murphy. “It is going to bring in thousands of dollars to the community. The State committed six million dollars and that contribution survived two presidents and two governors. That is amazing.”

Senator Murphy, MG Butterworth and Mayor Gravitt all noted that the new 106,000 square foot facility is projected to return more than \$500,000 in revenue to the city and county annually.



Army Chief of Staff Raymond T. Odierno presents SPC Megan Stern with the Combat Action Badge and Purple Heart during a ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

319th MI BN (Task Force Cyclone) awards ceremony

Story provided by MAJ Dusty Owens, XO, TF 319th MI BN

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan- 319th MI BN-Task Force Cyclone has been the Regional Command-East General Support-Reinforcing MI Battalion in support of OEF XIII- XIV for the past 7 months, headquartered at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan with subordinate Companies deployed to the Parwan, Kapisa, Nangahar, Kunar, Laghman, Ghazni, Wardak, Logar, Paktika, Pakhtiya, and Khost Provinces. Task Force Cyclone conducts Counterintelligence operations, Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) Collection, AIR HAMMER Operations, SIGINT Terminal Guidance Operations, and Exploitation Operations in support to the Combined Joint Task Force-101 (CJTF-101). Task Force Cyclone's four organic tactical military intelligence Companies are spread across 44,000 square miles, consist of 4 Multifunctional Teams, 13 Counterintelligence Teams, 14 Low Level Voice Intercept Teams, 2 Prophet Analysis Cells, 1 Counterintelligence Operational Management Team, 2 Kandak Advisory Teams, and 1 Unmanned Ground Sensor Team. The Teams are intended to provide collection and intelligence support to assist Afghanistan and enable the Government of Afghanistan to transition to a self-reliant government through the transfer of security responsibilities, defeating terrorists and irreconcilable insurgents, reducing sectarian violence, and neutralizing extremist groups.

TF Cyclone's impressive contributions are clearly evident in the collection and production of intelligence that provided critical targeting, exploitation, and force protection to RC-E elements. The TF's efforts significantly developed the intelligence capabilities of the Afghan National Army to ensure long-term stability of the nation which resulted in 1,278 completed operations, 34 key leader engagements, 5,042 biometric enrollments, 29 close access target reconnaissance missions, 69 AIR HAMMER missions, and 17 Black Fin II operations. TF Cyclone's collective efforts from the Multi-Function Teams, Counterintelligence Teams, Low-Level Voice Intercept Teams and Prophet Analysis Cells produced more than 1,000 intelligence reports to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), its subordinate Brigades, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan (CJSOTF-A), and Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan (SOJTF-A).

Combined Joint Task Force-101 welcomed the 38th Army Chief of Staff General Raymond T. Odierno in the presentation of the CJTF -101 Awards Ceremony. Among the Soldiers that were recognized for their extraordinary heroism and hard work were Soldiers of the 319TH MI BN TF Cyclone. *(continued on page 4)*

Other newsletters of interest

Click to download a newsletter from the following:

- [IWfF \(27 SEP 2013\)](#)
- [Prairie Soldier \(SEP 2013\)*](#)

* Great article on 67th BFSB Annual Training event

Note: It may be necessary to join the newsletter's Community in order to download.

BFSB Warfighter Forum (WfF) Links

- BFSB WfF Homepage (Includes links to BFSB unit homepages)
- BFSB Collaboration Site*
- BFSB Warfighter Forum on Facebook

* If you are not a member of milSuite, you must first register for an account by going [HERE](#).



MCoE Doctrine and Training Division,
Reconnaissance Branch





Task Force Cyclone awards ceremony

(Continued from page 3)

1LT David Younts, 1LT Amanda Leigh Rankin, SGT David Sprenger, SPC William Scott, SPC Devon Pollock, SPC Jason Borne, and SPC Michael Colmenerogarcia, were each awarded the Combat Action Badge, and SPC Megan Stern was awarded the Combat Action Badge and the Purple Heart. Each Soldier was personally awarded by General Odierno and upon completion of awarding each Soldier their award, General Odierno remarked, "It is an honor to pin these Soldiers for their actions. Those who earn the Combat Action Badge and Purple Heart lead from the front." At the conclusion of the ceremony General Odierno thanked all the Soldiers and attendees for their service.

TF Cyclone service-members have been awarded over 276 awards and ribbons, to include 57 Combat Action badges, ensuring that the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Department of Defense Civilians of TF Cyclone have received recognition for their superior efforts in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM XIII-XIV. TF Cyclone is comprised of the 319th MI BN, but also Service Members from 7 other units across the services as well. TF Cyclone could not accomplish their difficult mission within RC-E without the efforts of all of these fine men and women.

Photo (left): Army Chief of Staff GEN Raymond T. Odierno awards 1LT David Younts the Combat Action Badge during a ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

"I'd just like to say everything we do in Charlie Company 2-38, we give 100 percent. We're always in attack mode. When it comes down to it, you do it for your unit, you do it for your country."- SSG Lemma, C CO, 2-38 CAV (story on page 7)



'Blue Watch' families bid farewell to deploying Soldiers

*Story by SSG Gregory Sanders,
504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade*

FORT HOOD, Texas – Family and friends bid farewell to nearly 125 Soldiers assigned to 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, during a ceremony at West Fort Hood Gym Thursday morning, Sept. 19, marking the start of a scheduled nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.

"Our task will be at times dangerous. We will be asked to frequently and constantly adjust to an ever-changing operational environment as we prepare to conclude the 12-year-old mission in Afghanistan," remarked LTC Mark Johnson, commander, 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion. "I will say it again: there is no better trained and ready military intelligence battalion in the Army today to deploy and conduct operations in support of Regional Command East."

The 163rd trained just over a year for this particular mission, honing skills from the individual and small team levels, up to company-sized elements, in order to minimize the danger the commander mentions.

"The soldiers are excited and eager to get started. They have trained for the last 13 months and the time has come," LTC Johnson said of his troops.

Soldiers like SGT Kayla Orna-Cortes display that eagerness, albeit peppered with a bit of nerves.

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Photo (left): Soldiers and families gathered at the West Fort Hood Gym in the early hours of Thursday morning Sept. 19 as they said goodbye to nearly 125 "Blue Watch" troops on their way to Afghanistan. A nap is time well spent for this soldier and his daughter.



CPL Simranpreet Lamba receives congratulations at his promotion ceremony on Joint Base Lewis-McChord Friday, Sept. 27, 2013

Army's only enlisted Sikh soldier earns rare promotion at JBLM

*Story and photo by Adam Ashton,
Staff writer, The News Tribune*

CPL Simranpreet Lamba stands out when he lines up with his fellow soldiers in his Joint Base Lewis-McChord cavalry troop. He's the bearded one wearing the camouflage turban.

As the Army's only enlisted Sikh soldier, CPL Lamba, 29, feels the pressure to prove himself so others of his faith can put on a uniform and serve their country. He took a step toward that goal Friday when the Army promoted him to corporal, making him the first Sikh to earn that rank in more than 30 years.

"I kind of think all my hard work has paid off," said CPL Lamba, whose enlistment in 2009 triggered a 10-month review in which Army officials considered whether he could serve while sporting the articles of his faith — a turban, uncut hair and a beard.

He's one of a handful of Sikhs serving in the Army across the active-duty and Reserve forces, according to the New York-based Sikh Coalition. Two of the others are in the medical field as officers, one a dentist and one a doctor.

Each current Sikh soldier had to gain an exemption allowing him to serve despite Army policies dating back to 1984 that require soldiers to shave, keep short hair and wear standard berets. Those rules prevented Sikhs from enlisting for decades.

They hail from a 500-year-old religion with roots in India's Punjab Region. About 200,000 to 500,000 Sikhs live in the U.S., according to estimates from the Pew Research Center.

CPL Lamba hopes his promotion will show "there's nothing about being Sikh, about our turban and our beard that can stop us from excelling in the Army," he said.

He enlisted through a military program that recruits foreigners with special skills and offers them a path to citizenship. CPL Lamba, who has become a naturalized U.S. citizen, speaks Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi — languages vital to communication with the people of India and Pakistan.

[READ MORE](#)

60 Fort Bragg Surveillance Soldiers Return From Afghanistan

*Story by Will Michaels,
WUNC.com*

September 23, 2013- A small group of Fort Bragg Soldiers returned home from Afghanistan Monday as the military works to transfer its operations to Afghan forces.

Sixty soldiers from the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade are arriving at Fort Bragg. The group has been working with Afghan soldiers and civilians to set up communications and intelligence systems.

"Our unit has been assisting with rebuilding the infrastructure and working with the sister units to improve security within the country," said Sergeant First Class ShaVon Hammons, a member of the 525th who returned home earlier this year.

A Fort Bragg spokeswoman says there about 13,500 of the base's soldiers left in Afghanistan. President Obama has ordered combat troops to withdraw from the country by the end of 2014.

Editor's note: You can follow the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade by "liking" their Facebook page [HERE](#).

297th BFSB unit visit

A team from the TRADOC Capability Manager for Reconnaissance met with the command and staff of the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from September 27-29, 2013, to capture the unit's multi-year resource and training plans, and collect observations, insights, data and lessons learned for the purpose of analysis across the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership & education, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF) aspects of the BFSB formation.

The team conducted an in-brief with the 297th BFSB Commander, LTC (P) Chad Parker and provided the commander with the latest status of the Reconnaissance & Security Brigade Combat Team (R&SBCT), including the CSA decision approving the concept and tasking the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) with developing an execution plan, and the designation of an Armored BCT (ABCT) at Fort Hood and two Stryker BCTs (Alaska and Germany) as the first proof of principle units. The team reiterated a decision has not been made regarding the status of the Army National Guard (ARNG) BFSBs.

The 297th BFSB S3, MAJ Eric Barlow, provided the team a unit capability briefing and a review of their Training Year (TY) 14 Key Events Timeline.

The 297th BFSB conducted an eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) rotation, 4-25 June 2013, at the Orchard Training Area, ID. MAJ Barlow described the XCTC as an "awesome first collective training event for the Brigade."

(Continued on page 7)

303rd Military Intelligence Battalion cases colors for Afghanistan

Story by Rose L. Thayer, Writer, Killeen Daily Herald

WEST FORT HOOD — Exactly 14 months after uncasing its colors from a deployment to Afghanistan, the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion furled them Friday to deploy again.

Just as before, the "Longhorn" Battalion, part of the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, cased its colors on Ready Field to deploy nearly 300 soldiers to Regional Command-East to conduct counterinsurgency and stabilization operations. Soldiers will provide intelligence for the 101st Airborne Division and a Polish brigade, while also working with and training Afghan National Security Forces.

"These soldiers are highly trained, prepared and ready to deploy," said LTC Jan L. Rueschhoff, battalion commander.

Sgt. Deanna Rivera, the battalion's NCO of the

year, agreed that she is ready to get to work on the mission. "We've done excellent training," she said, highlighting the three separate months spent training at Camp Bullis. "They have such a good training plan set up for us down there. It's nice to actually be able to use all our skills there before we get into country where it really matters." [READ MORE](#)



LTC Rueschhoff and CSM Robinson case the 303rd MI Battalion colors

Squad leaders passing word about Performance Triad

By David Vergun,

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA (Army News Service, Sept. 30, 2013) -- Soldiers from the first Performance Triad pilot course are now teaching their own Soldiers how to improve their health and performance through proper nutrition, sleep and activity -- the three legs of the triad.

Last week, eleven squad leaders completed the two-week classroom portion of the Performance Triad pilot course. Over the next 24 months, they will impart their knowledge on other Soldiers.

Those squad leaders are from 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

[READ MORE](#)

Taking it back to basics

Story by SGT Samantha Parks, Kosovo Force (KFOR)

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - Cadences, soldiers marching in formation and junior enlisted service members leading from the front, this is what Camp Bondsteel can see at the Joint Regional Detachment-East headquarters every Saturday. Soldiers with JRD-E are getting back to the basics with weekend classes covering everything from marching to basic rifle marksmanship skills.

"For the past two weeks we've gone over rest positions at the halt, position of attention, hand salute, all the way up to marching and now we are doing forming and aligning a squad," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Summerlin, a platoon sergeant with JRD-E from Richland, Miss. "We've basically started at the beginning and are building the foundation over again because a lot of soldiers have forgotten."

[READ MORE](#)



SSG Jeremy Lemma, SGT Matthew Kurz, and SSG Adam Davila, represented C Company, 2-38 Cavalry, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade in the Fort Hood Grand Prix on Aug. 29. The team took home first place in the competition.

Fort Hood Grand Prix builds esprit de corps, promotes teamwork

*Story by SGT Jordan Johnson,
Fort Hood Sentinel*

Service members from across the Great Place converged at Sadowski Field before sunrise Aug. 29 to participate in the Fort Hood Grand Prix.

The Grand Prix consisted of company- and troop-level organizations from Fort Hood fielding three-man teams. Each team had to run three miles while carrying the unit's guidon, and the team members had to cross the finish line at the same time.

Major General Anthony Ierardi, 1st Cavalry Division commanding general and Fort Hood senior mission commander, said he expected leaders had chosen their best to compete in the race.

"What we're going to do here is have a road race. It's not going to be all that long of a road race, but I anticipate company commanders and first sergeants have chosen their three fastest runners to represent the company," MG Ierardi said. "Why the company? Because it's the fundamental command organization in any Army unit that makes the mission happen. It's at the company level."

Before the company-level runners began the race, MG Ierardi reminded those in attendance that the race was not only about trying to finish first, but also to build unit spirit.

"The purpose of this mission this morning is to build esprit de corps and to have a friendly competition," MG Ierardi said. "Let's see who the fastest team is here at Fort Hood."

Shortly after MG Ierardi said those words, the race began. Hundreds of Soldiers lined up near the finish line and up-and-down Support Avenue to watch and cheer on their battle buddies for the inaugural event.

MG Ierardi's first words after the race were similar to his last ones before it began.

"The purpose of this today, to build teams, and here's what I saw," MG Ierardi said. "I saw troops running together, working together to accomplish a single mission."

[READ MORE](#)

297th BFSB unit visit

(continued from page 6)

The unit executed a mission as a BFSB in an Afghanistan based scenario providing Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) for the Corps and a transition to a landowning unit. The unit received an operations order prior to the rotation, and through support from the NG Mission Command Training Support Program (MCTSP) executed the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) and orders development.

In addition to getting an overview on several major training events the unit will participate in during TY 2014, the team observed the planning sessions for the unit's FY 14 Annual Training (AT) event, Cougar Fury, to take place 04-20 May 2014. Cougar Fury is the 297th BFSB's Annual Training (AT) event for TY 14 conducted with their Army Reserve 373rd MI Battalion and the Canadian Army (39th CBG) in British Columbia, Canada. This is a robust training event that should further enhance the opportunities to train on operations-intelligence integration between the Scouts and the MI teams.

FY 2014 297th BFSB events:

- SAREX, 28 Oct – 01 Nov 2013
- Yama Sakura, 29 Nov – 13 Dec 2013
- USARPAC Mission (Korea), Dec 2013
- Vigilant Guard, 27-30 Mar 2014
- Cougar Fury, 04-20 May 2014
- Panther Strike, 08-22 Jun 2014
- Khan Quest 2014, June 2014
- Artic Sentry, Jul – Aug 2014