



TCM-ABCT/Reconnaissance
Fort Benning, Georgia

Volume 2, Issue 2
March 1, 2013

BFSB Monthly

Director's Message

By COL Gary R. Nicoson
Director, TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance

BFSB Community,

Greetings from Fort Benning, to the extended BFSB community, and welcome home to the troopers of the 201st BFSB. I'd like to welcome two new BFSB commanders: LTC(P) Chad Parker who took command of the 297th BFSB on 10 February, and COL Dan Soller, who took command of the 201st BFSB on 1 March.

Getting down to business, the TRADOC Capability Manager Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (TCM-BFSB) has a new name and an expanded mission. TCM BFSB is now TRADOC Capability Manager Reconnaissance, or TCM-Recon. LTC Eric Lowry's mission portfolio naturally still includes serving as your voice within TRADOC and Mr. Derek Larson will continue to administer the various aspects of the BFSB Warfighter Forum. What is new is their role of integrating reconnaissance capability development within the Maneuver Center of Excellence and within TRADOC for maneuver brigades and brigade combat teams. TCM Recon also retains the missions associated with being the proponent for Close Access Target Reconnaissance. In terms of Reconnaissance and Surveillance Brigade / Reconnaissance and Security BCT analysis, there is no news to report. TRADOC continues to examine various organizational courses of action for a Reconnaissance and Security BCT, and has an IPR scheduled with the Chief of Staff of the Army on 17 May.

As far as this edition of the BFSB Monthly goes, you'll find articles on: an Alaska Army National Guard Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX), 560th BFSB Pathfinders training paratroopers of the Cameroon Army in support of Central Accord 13, 2-38 CAV Soldiers from the 504th BFSB jumping into Fort Bragg in an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, and information on the Gainey Cup in which Soldiers from the 504th and 142nd BFSBs are competing for recognition as the "Best Scout Team in the U.S. Army."

In closing, I ask you continue to keep in mind those BFSB Troopers from 525th BFSB and individual augmentees who are now deployed and accomplishing key missions for their supported commands.

Inside this issue

Alaska SAREX	2
TCM-Recon POCs	2
BFSB WfF links	3
Other WfF newsletters.....	4
504th & 560th BFSB articles.....	3
Gainey Cup info.....	4
NG Gainey Cup article.....	4
Recent BFSB photos & videos	5

Disclaimer

The **BFSB Monthly** is published by TCM ABCT & Reconnaissance, Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate (CDID), Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE), Fort Benning, Georgia. The purpose of this newsletter is to share information provided by members of the BFSB Community of Interest. Contents of **The BFSB Monthly** are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U. S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, MCoE, the MCoE CDID or TCM-ABCT & BFSB.

BFSB Warfighter Forum & Monthly Newsletter Point of Contact

Mr. Derek Larson
Phone: 706.545.8825 (office)
770.557.4666 (cell)
E-mail: derek.larson@us.army.mil

The BFSB Warfighter Forum is directed by the Assistant TCM-Recon. POC information listed on page 2.

TCM-Reconnaissance Points of Contact

Director, TCM-ABCT & Recon

COL Gary Nicoson
Phone: 706.545.2517
E-mail: gary-nicoson@us.army.mil

Assistant Director, TCM-Recon:

LTC Anthony Lowry
Phone: 706.626.2444
E-mail: anthony.e.lowry.mil@mail.mil

XO, TCM-Recon:

Mr. Pete Rose
Phone: 706.626.2443
E-mail: peter.rose@us.army.mil

Materiel Integrators:

MAJ Tony Thornton
Phone: 706.626.1120
E-mail:
tony.lapatrik.thornton@us.army.mil

Mr. John Clements
Phone: 706.545.4950
E-mail: john.e.clements.civ@mail.mil

Doctrine & Training Integrator:

Mr. Dave Hinzman
Phone: 706.626.2438
E-mail: david.f.hinzman.ctr@mail.mil

Materiel & Organizational Integrator:

Mr. Mike Dunn
Phone: 706.626.2442
E-mail: michael.d.dunn.ctr@mail.mil

Analyst & CAC LNO

Mr. Andy Fowler
Phone: 913.306.2258
E-mail: fowler_andrew@bah.com

MCoE CATR SME:

Mr. Keith Frawley
706.545.7388 (office)
931.801.8258 (mobile)
E-mail: keith.frawley@us.army.mil

Alaska National Guard conducts major search-and-rescue exercise

By SGT Edward Eagerton, Alaska National Guard

In a remote area northeast of Bethel, the Alaska National Guard conducted a major search and rescue exercise 6-10 Feb. to test the recovery operations for a simulated B-737 plane crash.

“The purpose of the mission was to test the arctic sustainment package by deploying it out of an aircraft with a team who can handle a mass-casualty situation in an arctic environment,” said Air National Guard SSgt. Patrick Gault, a pararescueman with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

In the frigid early-morning hours of Feb. 7, about 25 volunteers from the Alaska National Guard, tasked to role-play as crash survivors during the exercise, were transported by a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the Army Aviation Operations Facility #2 in Bethel to a remote frozen region northeast of their location.

There, an element of Alaska National Guardsmen were pre-positioned to support the operation. Tucked in a patch of trees to protect them from the wind and snow, two 10-person tents were set up to house the support element, or “white cell.”

As for the “survivors,” their sustainment package (to include food and shelter) was to be dropped in, along with Guardian Angels from the 212th Rescue Squadron and Soldiers from C Company, 1st Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.

The mission began when the 11th Rescue Coordination Center received word that a 737 went down, with an unknown number of survivors, in a remote area that first responders couldn’t reach by road.

According to the plan, rescue personnel were to be inserted by a C-130 Hercules airplane into the area, locate the survivors of the crash, assess the situation, and coordinate for the delivery of additional support personnel and equipment to sustain the survivors. The weather, however, does not always work in the favor of the mission.

As the day wore on, the sky and the ground began to blend in a windy haze of snow and fog. With the clouds getting lower and the snow getting thicker, the window of opportunity to drop the pararescuemen and equipment was vanishing as quickly as the horizon.

On the drop zone, the concern escalated. Air National Guard Capt. Jay Casello, a combat rescue officer with the 212th Rescue Squadron, using both a radio and satellite phone, communicated with a C-130 Hercules from the 144th Airlift Squadron of the Alaska Air National Guard about the situation on the ground.

The C-130 Hercules airframes are capable of dropping personnel and equipment at low altitudes, but by the time the plane arrived over the drop zone, the weather had become so inclement that they were forced to turn back to Bethel.

Heavy snow and freezing rain at Joint Base Elmendorf–Richardson delayed the departure of the C-17 Globemaster III, flown by crews from the Alaska Air National Guard’s 249th Airlift Squadron. The C-17 was to drop additional rescue personnel, as well as the sustainment package.

When the C-17 showed up, night had fallen on the drop zone. Capt. Casello communicated with the crew of the plane, who were loitering above the site at 24,000 feet. He radioed up that the ceiling was within limits to drop the personnel and equipment.

The crew of the C-17 then began its descent through the clouds to get a visual confirmation of the drop zone, but by the time it completed its descent, the snow had picked up and the cloud ceiling had dropped.

The plane, in low light and heavy snow, began making passes over the drop zone.

Then, with great elation, the voice over Capt. Casello’s radio called out, “we’re coming in hot.” The drop was on.

Over a number of passes, the bundles were pushed out at low altitudes, the chutes having just enough time to deploy. After the equipment, the troops jumped into the night, ready for the mission.

They packed their chutes and deployed the gear – tents, heaters, fuel, all-terrain vehicles and rescue equipment. From the drop zone, pararescuemen went to work locating the survivors.

“It’s very critical to get this equipment set up quickly,” said PFC Dillon Gilroy, a scout with C Company, 1-297th RSS. “We have patients who are hypothermic or have broken limbs.”

(Continued on page 3)



Two Soldiers from C Company (Long Range Surveillance), 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance, carry their rucksacks while on patrol during a three-day surveillance training mission on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, 9 Feb 2013 (Photo by MAJ Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs Office).

(Continued from page 2)

The survivors had been given cards that described their wounds. When the pararescuemen arrived at the site, the “survivors” began their act, screaming and moaning until they were found; one cried for her lost baby.

Moving through snow at times waist-deep, the pararescuemen began treating the wounded, relocating them in a central spot and transporting them back to the tents until they could be extracted.

Throughout the next day and a half, the Alaska National Guardsmen kept the survivors fed and warm. The Soldiers from the 1-297th RSS then began to prepare the equipment for sling load operations by bundling up the gear, securing it in cargo nets, and attaching the loads to HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters of the 210th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard and a UH-60 Black Hawk from B Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard.

The survivors were extracted from the scene in groups based on the severity of their wounds and flown back to Bethel.

With the mission complete, the participants were able to assess the mission and learn from it to better prepare for a real-world situation, should it ever arise.

Exercises like this prepares the units to respond, SSgt. Gault said.

“Usually when we do rescues here in Alaska, we have two- to four-man teams, and we’re able to help just a few people,” SSgt. Gault said. “When you have more than 10 patients, you need to involve a lot more people and equipment. This exercise helps us bring all of that together and employ them to see what works and what doesn’t work.”

Members of the Coast Guard and participants from the University of Alaska Fairbanks also participated in the exercise.

“The biggest challenge is a lot of different agencies working together, and that creates a lot of gaps in communication sometimes,” SSgt. Gault said. “Closing those gaps and making everything fairly fluid to get everybody to work together, when we don’t work together all the time, is the most important part.”

BFSB SOP folder on AKO

A unit SOP folder was created on the BFSB Warfighter Forum Homepage on Army Knowledge Online a few months ago, so that Battlefield Surveillance Brigades can share unit SOPs. Select personnel have been granted “read only access” to each of the 10 BFSB unit folders, while having “administrator” privileges to their own unit’s folder, so that they may upload select unit SOPs, or other documents they would like to share with the BFSB-Community. If you would like access to this folder, or have any additional questions or concerns, please send an e-mail to derek.larson@us.army.mil. **Only those personnel with “read only” and “administrator” rights can view or download any of the materials found in these folders.**

Link to the BFSB Unit SOP folder:
<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/37955883>

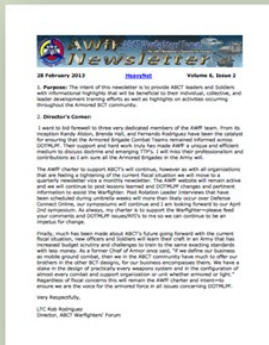
BFSB Warfighter Forum (WfF) Links

- [BFSB WfF Homepage](#) (Includes links to BFSB unit homepages)
- [BFSB Collaboration Site](#) (CAC required to register)
- [BFSB Warfighter Forum on Facebook](#)

MCoE Doctrine and Training Division, Reconnaissance Branch



Other Warfighter Forum Newsletters



AWfF Newsletter (28 FEB)



IWfF Newsletter (28 FEB)



SWfF Newsletter (8 FEB)



Pathfinder's blaze the trail for Central Accord 13

Story by SSG Brian Gordon,
New Hampshire Army National Guard

SPC Donnie Kessler joined the Army because he wanted to go as many different places and help as many different people as he could. However, he never expected to find himself standing in a sweltering basement classroom in Africa teaching basic pathfinder instruction to Cameroonian soldiers, only six months after completing pathfinder school himself.

Kessler, and other members of the 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade are part more than 150 U.S. service members participating in Central Accord 2013. Central Accord is an annual U.S. Army Africa exercise that brings together Central African countries such as Cameroon and neighboring countries' militaries, to promote regional partnership while strengthening aerial resupply and medical readiness capabilities.

[Read more...](#)



SPC Donnie Kessler, a pathfinder instructor, with the 560th BFSB, Georgia Army National Guard, gives a class on basic pathfinder skills to soldiers from Cameroon and the Gabonese Republic. The soldiers were participating in Central Accord 2013, a joint exercise in which U.S., Cameroon and neighboring Central African militaries partner to promote regional cooperation and increase aerial resupply and medical readiness capacity. (Photo by SSG Whitney Hughes, 114th PAD, New Hampshire National Guard)

Fort Hood soldiers head across country for intensive training

By Rex Castillo, waco.ynn.com

A group of Fort Hood soldiers took part in an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise Thursday (21 Feb) as a way to evaluate the units which have to prepare and deploy in a short timeframe.

Fort Hood's 2nd Squadron from the 38th Cavalry unit was given 24-hours to prepare for their mission Thursday.

"The training is invaluable, especially for these young soldiers who have never done something similar to this," CPT Russell Mitscherling said. "They'll remember this for the rest of their life."

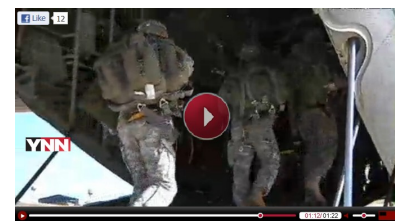
After a short mission briefing, the troops gathered their gear and boarded a C-130 military cargo plane.

"It's a little bit nerve racking because I'm not used to this kind of mission," SGT Daniel Cisneros said. "It's going to be a huge learning experience for me."

At approximately 1,000 feet above Fort Bragg in North Carolina, the troops are expected to bail from the plane and parachute to the ground. In this mission, Fort Bragg will serve as

a surrogate for an enemy base.

"After we get down in Fort Bragg and we get situated. That's when we start ramping up," CPT Mitscherling said.



[Click the image above to watch a video.](#)

Once in the ground, the troops will scout the area for any potential dangers.

"They're getting top-notch training," CPT Mitscherling said. "This is the premiere training event for the United States Army."

Editor's note: On February 5th, 2013, Soldiers from HHT and C Company, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, participated in the unit's first Military Freefall Operation. [Click here](#) to watch a short video of this historic jump.



PFC Zachary Patterson, from Foley, AL, disassembles a .50-caliber machine gun as his teammate, SGT Casey Grissett, a native of Mobile, AL, watches. The five-man Alabama National Guard team, from the 142nd BFSB, will be one of nearly 20 to compete in the Gainey Cup.

National Guardsmen prep for Gainey Cup

Story by Cheryl Rodewig, army.mil/news

Fort Benning, GA (Feb. 27, 2013) -- For the first time, the Army has invited Cavalry Scouts from across the nation to showcase their skills and vie for top honors with the Gainey Cup, an inaugural four-day competition kicking off Saturday. Three Army National Guard teams have already prepared for the challenges with a preliminary training event that began last week.

Hosted by the Warrior Training Center, the training mirrors much of what will be included in the Gainey Cup. The eight-day event includes land navigation, weapons qualification, combat lifesaver tasks, an obstacle course, a six-mile road march and a scenario-based situational training exercise.

The latter is the culminating event of the training and simulates a Scout reconnaissance mission, said CPT Christopher Pegg, commander of D Company, WTC.

The training wraps up Thursday. Friday, the Soldiers will report to the 316th Cavalry Brigade.

Nearly 20 five-man teams are slated to compete this weekend. Three of those will represent the Army National Guard and their home states of Alabama, Georgia and Nevada.

"I'm excited," said SPC Sam Shuler, Georgia National Guard. "It's a lot of good training. We don't get to do this every day in the National Guard, so anything that gets us out in the wood line behind weapons and equipment is great."

After a morning of land navigation and several hours in the rain, SGT Robert Chapman, Alabama National Guard, said the training offered a great opportunity for the Guardsmen to put into practice what they've learned. [Read more...](#)

2013 Gainey Cup

The United States Army Armor School is proud to host the inaugural 2013 Gainey Cup! From 01-05 March 2013, Troopers from across the nation will compete to determine the "Best Scout Team" in the United States Army. This competition will physically and mentally challenge all Troopers by rigorously testing the Trooper's knowledge, tactical competence, and fortitude in the fundamentals of reconnaissance and security operations!

The purpose of the Gainey Cup is to bring Cavalrymen together in a healthy, competitive environment while developing Scout proficiency that will extend in both the garrison and tactical environment.

We invite you to come out and show your support for your favorite Scout team or favorite Cavalryman and witness the dedication, professionalism, and lethality of the United States Cavalry! Transportation to the event will be provided by the 316th Cavalry Brigade from Harmony Church to each of the events. Unavailable to witness the Cavalry in action? Track the competition here as the event scores and reports come through on a daily basis. We hope to see your Trooper there and we wish all the competitors the best of luck!

Additional information on the 2013 Gainey Cup can be found by going to the official Gainey Cup website by clicking [HERE](#).

Editor's note: The 142nd and 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigades have each sent teams to the Gainey Cup. Best of luck!



Photos: (Top-left) COL Michael Thompson relinquished command of 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade during a ceremony held at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on February 10th. Guardsmen, family and community members gathered to observe the passing of the colors from Thompson to LTC(P) Chad Parker signifying his assumption of command. (Top-right) On February 21st, the 201st BFSB held a farewell dinner for their outgoing commander, COL Paul Norwood. COL Norwood will relinquish command of the 201st BFSB to COL Dan Soller on March 1st during a change of command ceremony on Watkins Field on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. (Center-left) SPC Jonathan Pampell (left) and SFC Levon Mursier (center), both with the 319th Military Intelligence Battalion and military intelligence mentors to the Afghan National Army (ANA), and an ANA soldier from the 3rd Military Intelligence Company, 203rd Thunder Corps, listen to a transmission during low-level voice intercept training on a hilltop near Forward Operating Base Lightning, Paktya province, Afghanistan, February 20th. U.S. soldiers and the ANA took part in a foot patrol as part of the training mission. (Center-right) SSG Canady, C/2-152 CAV (LRS), 219th BFSB, instructs Soldiers on the live fire react to/break contact lane that was conducted at Camp Atterbury, IN. (Bottom-left) Click on the image to download a unique year-book from last year's 3-124 CAV, 71st BFSB, deployment to the Horn of Africa. (Bottom-middle) Click on the image to watch a video on training conducted by the 525th BFSB, in preparation for an upcoming deployment to Kosovo. (Bottom-right) Click on the image to watch a video of the Alaska SAREX exercise which was conducted from February 6th-10th, supported by Soldiers from the 297th BFSB, Alaska Army National Guard.



Photos: (Top-left) The inaugural Gainney Cup kicks-off on March 1st on Fort Benning, Georgia to determine the "best Scout team in the U.S. Army." All 10 active component divisions have representation along with teams from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, D/1-509 Infantry, 504th BFSB, 142nd BFSB (Alabama Army National Guard), Georgia Army National Guard, Nevada Army National Guard, and the Marine Corps. The following BFSBs have Soldiers participating in the Gainney Cup: (Top) SSG Rodarte, SGT Adam Ganley, SPC Blas Gastelum, SPC Danilo Mateo and SPC Matthew Rodriguez represent the 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment from the 504th BFSB. (Bottom) SGT Robert Chapman, SGT Casey Grisset, SPC Robert Hatchell, PFC Zachary Patterson, and PFC Jameson Ward represent 1st Squadron, 131st Cavalry Regiment, 142nd BFSB, Alabama Army National Guard. (Top-right) On Sunday, February 24th, runners from all over the country, as well as some 525th BFSB Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, participated in the "Run with Roy," in memory of the former commander of the 525th Brigade Special Troops Battalion who was killed on June 28th, 2012. (Bottom-right) B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment pose in front of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. In February, the unit recently conducted a training exercise at Camp Bullis, which is just a few miles to the north of San Antonio. (Bottom-left) SSG Ray Novak with the 560th BFSB, Georgia Army National Guard, leads a class on drop zone operations for Cameroon army paratroopers on February 21st at Regiment du Genie Headquarters outside of the city of Douala.