



TCM-ABCT/Reconnaissance  
Fort Benning, Georgia

Volume 2, Issue 4  
May 1, 2013

# BFSB Monthly

## Director's Message

By Mr. John Miller III  
Acting Director, TCM-ABCT and Reconnaissance

BFSB Community,

Greetings from Fort Benning, to the extended BFSB community. Time really does fly. It is hard to believe I am writing my second Director's message, as the Acting Director, TCM ABCT and Reconnaissance/ BFSB.

First off, earlier in April during a TRADOC – FORSCOM – Corps level teleconference on LRS there was a discussion which in effect communicated BFSBs were going away (that Army-level decision has not been made). To provide commanders with a better understanding of the current state of the BFSB, on April 30th, LTC Lowry sent an e-mail to the 10 BFSB commanders. You can read it on page 2 of this newsletter.

Now lets get on to BFSB Warfighting. There are a couple of events occurring in early May you will be interested in:

- A BFSB Cavalry Squadron Collaboration Session will be broadcast over Defense Connect Online (DCO) on 9 May from 0900-1100 PDT (1100-1300 CDT; 1200-1400 EDT). See page 5 for more information on this event.

- A TRADOC team will visit 201 BFSB to collect MI Battalion lessons learned 6-10 May; the BFSB WfF will broadcast the 109th & 502nd Military Intelligence Battalions' Lessons Learned over DCO-S on 7 May from 0900-1200 PDT (1100-1400 CDT; 1200-1500 EDT). See page 5 of this newsletter for additional information.

I'd also like to call your attention to the following articles in this BFSB Monthly:

- The 109th MI Battalion was recognized as the Army's top military intelligence battalion.
- 2-38 CAV conducted a Recon Readiness Challenge, a competition held within the squadron to test the Soldiers' ability to demonstrate their warrior skills while under physical and mental stress.
- The 525th BFSB HQ & 1-38 CAV cased their colors on April 19th as the unit deployed to Kosovo.

I'd like to encourage you to continue to submit articles to the BFSB Monthly, we are proud to showcase your achievements.

In closing, I ask you continue to keep in mind those BFSB Troopers from the 525th BFSB, along with individual deployed Soldiers who are augmenting other units overseas.

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## Disclaimer

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## BFSBs: Are they going away?

*Editor's note: Below is the text of an e-mail from LTC Lowry, Team Chief of TCM Reconnaissance, which was sent to the 10 BFSB Commanders on April 30th.*

Gentlemen,

In light of an announcement made during a 16 APR 2013 teleconference between FORSCOM, I Corps, III Corps, XVIII Corps, the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) and the Intelligence Center of Excellence (ICoE), I want to pass on the information we have concerning the future of the BFSB. The telecom was conducted to answer a recent HQDA inquiry on the need for Long Range Surveillance (LRS) and Pathfinder (PFDR) in the future operational force. I have learned that during the conduct of the telecom the MCOE and ICoE action officers stated to the effect that the BFSBs were going away.

I want to emphasize that no final decision concerning the future of the Army's Battlefield Surveillance Brigades has been made.

Here is what TCM ABCT / Recon has pieced together. Some of it may be old news, but I want to provide context for the 16 APR 2013 announcement.

1). During the 3-4 OCT 2012 FORSCOM GO Leader Workshop, one of the recommendations was to withdraw the BFSB FDU (R&S Sqn Scouts, Mortars and Sustainment) as it did not go far enough in providing a recon and security capability for a corps or division.

2). On 12 OCT 2012 the Director, Army Capabilities Integration Center (ARCIC) directed TRADOC to withdraw the BFSB FDU from HQDA. Since that point TRADOC has examined the requirement for a Reconnaissance and Security BCT as a means of providing the corps and possibly the division with that needed capability. The Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE), in partnership with TRADOC recon stakeholders, is preparing an Operational and Organizational (O&O) Concept which lay out how to create the needed capability by augmenting a BCT using a long term Task Organization. TRADOC completed the first two assessments in MAR and APR of 2013. The final two analytical events will occur in JUL and AUG 2013, and I suspect the Recon & Security BCT O&O concept will be finalized in SEP 2013.

3). On 27 NOV 2012 the CSA was briefed on the recommendations from the 3-4 OCT 2012 FORSCOM GO Leader Workshop, and TRADOC's withdrawal of the BFSB FDU. He made no decision on the BFSB but gave guidance that shaped the R&S BCT development activities mentioned above. A follow-on session with the CSA in the MAY 2013 timeframe was pushed to JUL 2013 or beyond. Part of that agenda we believe will include the future of the BFSB and the requirement for Expeditionary MI BDEs (EMIBs).

4). On 2 MAR 2013, the DA G3/5/7 directed ARCIC and TRADOC to revise and resubmit an EMIB design limiting personnel and equipment requirements to what is now authorized in the BFSB MI BNs, plus a small portion of the BFSB HQ and support elements. We at MCOE did not track the resourcing guidance that involved using part of the BFSB HQ as a billpayer. While that DA memo would appear to be a de facto Army decision, the DA G3 POC on 17 APR 2013 stated that the memo does not reflect an Army decision.

On a separate note, as part of the Army's downsizing, the Army and TRADOC staffs are discussing the potential deactivation of BFSBs starting with 525 BFSB possibly in FY16. The Army force management community expects a June 2013 Army Structure Memorandum to address the 525th. The bottom line is an Army decision has not yet been made.

We are also aware that the National Guard Bureau is examining COAs to use the ARNG BFSB force structure to meet future reconnaissance requirements but have no information beyond that.

The bottom line is no one knows what the final disposition of the BFSB will be. The deactivation of the BFSBs is a potential COA but the required analysis is not complete and a potential time table has not been published, even in draft. It appears that the BFSB inactivations would be tied to the activation of EMIBs, both in the Active and Reserve Components.

We do not believe there will be a synchronized information campaign to keep you in the loop so I will strive to keep you better informed albeit providing appropriate pre-decisional information and our assessments. Do not hesitate to contact your TCM-Recon reps here at the MCoE with questions or if you require additional information.



*Brigadier General Dean Milner, Deputy Commanding General (Canada), III Corps and Fort Hood, runs with the command group of C Company, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, while following a Soldier's progress through the Recon Readiness Challenge at Fort Hood, April 4th (photo by SGT John Healy, 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment).*

## Recon warriors endure stress to be best

*Story by SGT John Healy,  
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT HOOD, TEXAS - On a cold and dreary afternoon, SPC Brock Messamore of Company C, 2nd "Phantom Recon" Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, sprints down a mud-slick trail deep in the wooded ranges of Fort Hood.

Perspiration melds with the ambient drizzle hanging heavy in the air as SPC Messamore sloshes to a halt, huffing with the exertion of running a half mile under the weight of a full combat load.

SPC Messamore has completed the first leg of the Recon Readiness Challenge, a competition held within his squadron to test the Soldiers' ability to demonstrate their warrior skills while under physical and mental stress.

"This is one of the most important types of training you can get," said 1LT Garry Gorrell, the 1st platoon leader for Company C, 2-38 Cav. "The recon readiness challenge is going to encompass all events of basically simulating a Soldier in combat."

Soldiers proceed through the challenge alone. After the run, their bodies are brought to near exhaustion with kettle bell swings and deadlifts. It is in this state of labored breathing and tired muscles that they must load their weapons and engage a series of targets under the scrutinizing gaze of an evaluator.

"This is the closest to combat that training can get when it comes to marksmanship and bringing up the stress level," 1LT Gorrell said.

1LT Brian Jones, the 3rd Long Range Surveillance Platoon leader for C Company, waits silently at the last station as SPC Messamore bounds toward the wounded Soldier lying in the middle of the path.

He quickly assesses the casualty and performs tactical first aid, cinching off a tourniquet on the upper half of the Soldier's thigh before wrapping the simulated gunshot wound below with a pressure dressing. [READ MORE](#)

### Other newsletters of interest

Click to download a newsletter from the following:

- IWfF (30 APR 2013)
- SWfF (26 APR 2013)
- S-3/ XO Net (26 APR 2013)

*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 NEW!
- BFSB Warfighter Forum on Facebook.
- BFSB WfF on AKO-S:  
<https://www.us.army.smil.mil/suite/page/21502>



MCoE Doctrine and Training Division,  
Reconnaissance Branch



## 109th MI BN wins best in Army award

*Story by Marci Miller,  
National Security Agency Public  
Affairs*

The 109th Military Intelligence Battalion, "TF Disrupter", of the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, learned, April 15, that it had earned top honors as the best military intelligence unit in the Army.

The 109th MI BN rose above nominees from across the Army to earn the prestigious Director's Trophy for providing critical signals intelligence support during the battalion's deployment to Regional Command East, Afghanistan.

The Director's Trophy is awarded annually by the Director of the National Security Agency to the Army intelligence unit or element judged to have made the most outstanding contributions to the mission during the previous calendar year. It is the most prominent award given by the National Security Agency to a unit or element.

"We are truly honored to have won the DIRNSA Trophy, the first battlefield surveillance brigade intelligence unit to do so," said MAJ Jeremy Dobos, 109th MI BN executive officer. "It's a tribute to the professionalism and dedication to duty of the American Soldiers and Sailors who served with Task Force Disrupter during combat operations in the Regional Command East."

Intelligence units throughout Afghanistan are crucial assets, often helping commanders in theater, and even worldwide, acquire information about terrorist groups and their safe havens.

While all of the Army's intelligence personnel and units played a vital role in supporting numerous intelligence missions throughout Afghanistan, the 109th MI BN excelled at developing and instituting unique and innovative methods of supporting ground forces, while simultaneously meeting national information requirements from governmental intelligence agencies.

*(continued on page 5)*

## Casing colors for Kosovo

*Story by SPC Taryn Hagerman,  
40th Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade cased their colors April 19 in a ceremony on Fort Bragg in preparation for their nine month deployment to Kosovo scheduled for next week.

The Brigade's headquarters and 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment will make up the first active-duty unit deployed to Kosovo in 10 years.

Soldiers in the unit are excited to relieve the South Carolina National Guard from its peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

"It's good to keep peace; make sure everything is alright in other countries," said PFC David Bradshaw III, a Lightning Brigade soldier. "I feel great about it."

The brigade's Command Sergeant Major, Sheryl Lyon, said they were selected because of their unique assets and capabilities as a cavalry squadron.

The unit trained extensively for peacekeeping operations, said Command Sergeant Major Brian Hester, with the 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment. This training included situational training exercises, live-fire training and engaging the population of surrounding towns to understand how agencies operate.

"We spent a lot of time understanding the political structures that are going on in the area, how they compete with one another, identifying those friction points and really getting into the human dimensions of what's happening on the ground," said COL David Woods, the brigade commander.

Soldiers say the training has helped them gain confidence in their abilities to succeed in peacekeeping operations.

"I feel like I'm ready to go," said SPC Jabill Barnes, a soldier with the brigade. "I'm really excited about going on this mission."



*Photo: The 1-38th Cavalry Squadron cased its colors April 19 at Fort Bragg in preparation for its nine-month deployment to Kosovo. They will be part of the first active duty unit to deploy to Kosovo in 10 years (Photo by SPC Taryn Hagerman).*

The unit's first stop when they deploy will be in Germany where they will conduct a training capstone, said COL Woods. This exercise will serve as a culmination of all their training thus far designed to stress the unit's systems and soldiers.

The purpose is to build confidence in the effectiveness of their training, as well as reveal fractures that may exist, said COL Woods. Addressing areas of weakness prior to arriving in Kosovo will allow the unit to polish its procedures.

The unit will join multinational forces to support Kosovo Force's mission of supporting the development of a stable, multi-ethnic, democratic and peaceful Kosovo.

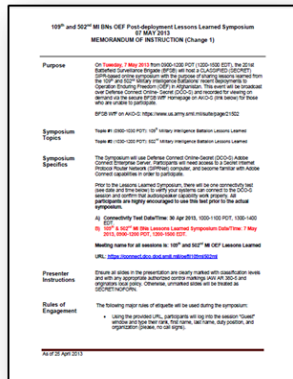
"It's a great opportunity to learn how the other armies train, how they operate, how they think and how they solve problems," said CSM Hester.

# 109th & 502nd MI Battalions' OEF Lessons Learned Symposium

RSVP

**Editor's note: The following event is a change from the original scheduled dates of 7 & 10 May.**

On **Tuesday, 14 May 2013** from **0900-1200 PDT (1100-1400 CDT; 1200-1500 EDT)**, the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB) will host a CLASSIFIED (SECRET) SIPR-based online symposium with the purpose of sharing lessons learned from the 109th and 502nd Military Intelligence Battalions' recent deployments to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan. This event will be broadcast over Defense Connect Online- Secret (DCO-S) and recorded for viewing on demand via the secure BFSB WFF Homepage on AKO-S (link on page 3) for those who are unable to participate.



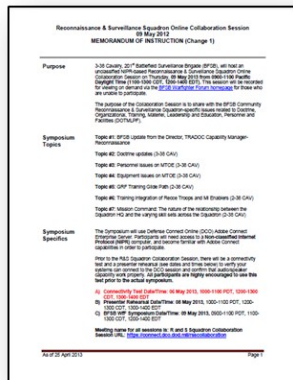
[Click to download MOI \(Change 2\)](#)

RSVP

# R&S Squadron Collaboration event

On **9 May** from **0900-1100 PDT**, 3-38 CAV, 201st BFSB, is hosting a collaborative event over Defense Connect Online to discuss several R&S Squadron-specific topics with the other 9 BFSB R&S Squadron leaders and the Director, TRADOC Capability Manager– Reconnaissance (TCM-Recon). 2-38 CAV, 504th BFSB, will also present topics during this discussion. The Director of TCM-Recon, LTC Lowry, will provide an update to the BFSB Community on the current status of BFSBs.

The purpose of the Collaboration Session is to share with the BFSB Community Reconnaissance & Surveillance Squadron-specific issues related to Doctrine, Organizational, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel and Facilities (DOTMLPF).



[Click to download MOI \(Change 1\)](#)

# Mission Command Staff Trainer

The Mission Command Staff Trainer (MCST) is a stimulator of ABCS systems and is a stand-alone software tool, that can be set up and used "in the unit" using internal resources with minimal setup, time and effort. MCST facilitates individual and collective staff refresher and sustainment training for staff sections or entire staffs, from battalion through ASCC levels. Significant training opportunities afforded by MCST include: maintain and improve highly perishable ABCS skills, train new staff personnel, apply staff coordination/battle drills, battle rhythm development and train-up for exercises/events. This software provides an ability to stimulate battle staff reactions to friendly and enemy force events. It uses real ground force data and allows users to simulate sending various tactical messages on the real battlefield communication networks (ABCS) as well as situational awareness data to the Common Operation Picture (COP) using a built-in lightweight mapping tool.

If you're a BFSB Collaboration Site member on milBook, click [HERE](#) to learn more information about MCST. Not a member? Become one by going [HERE](#). There will be discussions about MCST and various other BFSB-related topics on this site, so please join if you haven't done so already.

# 109th MI BN wins best in Army award

*(continued from page 4)*

While all of the Army's intelligence personnel and units played a vital role in supporting numerous intelligence missions throughout Afghanistan, the 109th MI BN excelled at developing and instituting unique and innovative methods of supporting ground forces, while simultaneously meeting national information requirements from governmental intelligence agencies.

According to the NSA, the 109th MI BN, led by LTC Douglas Woodall, provided unparalleled, continuous intelligence support to multiple maneuver brigades and Combined Joint Task Force-One, while developing target and collection methods to meet ground commanders' priority intelligence requirements.

These innovations garnered the attention of leaders throughout the Army, and led to senior leaders describing the battalion as the "model battalion for future expeditionary intelligence operations." The unit was cited as a future force best practice to the Chief of Staff of the Army.

"It takes a network to defeat a network, and our collaboration throughout Afghanistan and intelligence agencies back home made all the difference. This is an award we share with the entire intelligence community and serves as a testament of where global intelligence operations have progressed over the past 12 years," LTC Woodall said. The 109th MI BN developed and delivered cutting edge capabilities to safeguard our troops while targeting and eliminating an adaptable enemy.

This is the first time in history that an intelligence battalion from a battlefield surveillance brigade has received this honor.

The leadership of the 109th MI BN attribute their success to several key enablers such as their world-class training and their participation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC).

The unit was the first intact tactical intelligence battalion to participate in a JRTC rotation.

The 109th leadership also lauded the combat deployment preparation and support assistance received from the intelligence and security command.

## BFSB photos



Photos: (Top-left) SONSONATE, El Salvador, April 10th - Local media interview PVT Ruth Rios, 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, who translates for LTC Raymond Valas, Joint Task Force Jaguar commander, during a tour at Military District Six. The article from which this photo was used can be found by visiting this link: <http://www.arsouth.army.mil/news/newsarchive/5150-jaguar-acaxual-partner-two-nations-together-for-two-task-forces-working-in-el-salvador.html>. (Bottom-left) JOINT BASE ELMENDORF- RICHARDSON, Alaska, April 19th - Alaska Army National Guard Long Range Surveillance (LRS) Soldiers, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, perform a static-line jump out of a C-23 "Sherpa" on to Malamute drop zone. (Top-right) SGT Luke Katz, an infantry team leader with Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, peers around a wall with his training weapon, March 20, during the Urban Operations task of the 2013 Nebraska Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at the Greenlief Training Center near Hastings, NE. (Bottom-right) PFC Shirer from Multi-Functional Team 1, A Company, 519th Military Intelligence Battalion, 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, engages local nationals during a patrol. Editor's note: Do you have photos you'd like to share in this newsletter? If so, send them to [derek.p.larson.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:derek.p.larson.ctr@mail.mil).