

Volume 4, December 2013

Sledgehammer Times

"NOT FANCY, JUST TOUGH"



Commander's Corner



Col. Charles Costanza

November was another great month for the Sledgehammer Brigade as we transitioned into the holiday season. In addition to training, the brigade took the time to come together with our community partners, participate in sporting events and donate to a worthy cause.

For the 16th annual Richland Pig Fest. Mayor McLendon and the city welcomed us with open arms, and our Soldiers had a great time. Vendors lined the main street of downtown Richland selling souvenirs and plenty of barbecue and other food. The city also sponsored a car show and hosted a carnival. The people of Richland put on a first class event, and we look forward to joining them again next year.

The Marne Division's birthday was Nov. 21, and we celebrated by participating in Marne Week events at Fort Stewart. We kicked off the week with a Division run, followed by a few days of sports competition.

Our Soldiers did a great job competing against the rest of the Division in events including flag football, combatives, swimming and other events.

We concluded the week at the Marne

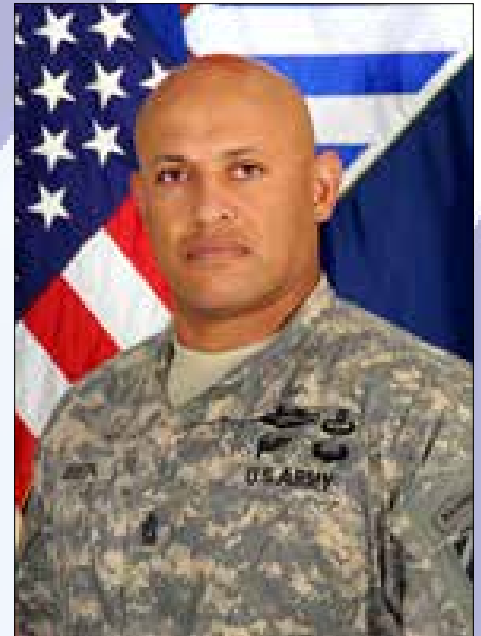


Division Ball. Throughout the ball, congratulatory messages played on the video screen from leaders including our Governor, Secretary of the Army, Army Chief of Staff, Sergeant Major of the Army and others. Entertainers and sports figures sent thoughtful messages as well.

Lt. Gen. James Huggins visited us from the Pentagon to serve as the guest speaker for the ball. Comedian Tim Wilson then followed with a comedy routine that included music. After the formal portion of the evening, Soldiers socialized with their fellow Dog Face Soldiers. It was great to be at Fort Stewart, Ga., with the rest of the Division for a week.

For our holiday food drive, 203rd BSB led the way by donating more than 2,500 pounds of nonperishable food items and the brigade collected more than 5,800 pounds total! These donations helped our very own Sledgehammer Soldiers. Thank you for your kindness during this holiday season.

In addition to the food drive, our Gibson Dining Facility served a first class Thanksgiving meal. Nearly 800 Soldiers, family members and friends



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Green

came to the DFAC to enjoy a meal that included turkey, ham, dressing, greens, and so much more. Special thanks to everyone who works in the DFAC and made it happen.

We closed out the month with our Turkey Bowl flag football tournament. Everyone fought hard, but in the end, the team from BSTB can officially call themselves Turkey Bowl champions. With the win, they earned an opportunity to play against the Columbus Lions professional indoor football team. The Lions scored a last minute touchdown to seal a 14-6 victory but the Soldiers had a great time just being on the field with them.

Thanks to the Lions' owner John Hargrove, Coach Jason Gibson, and the Lions team for making a great event even better.

Thank you for everything you do to make our brigade better. We hope you enjoy this holiday season. Please be safe during the holiday. We look forward to seeing you in 2014!

SLEDGEHAMMER!!

3rd ABCT History



The heritage of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 3rd Infantry Division (ID) at Kelley Hill, Fort Benning, Georgia, is a unique blend of two proud lineages. The brigade traces its roots to the foundation of the 3rd Division in November 1917, during World War I, but also has a special long-term affiliation with Fort Benning - the home of the Army Infantry.

The unit presently known as 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division was originally constituted on 12 November 1917, in the Regular Army as Headquarters, 6th Infantry Brigade, and assigned to the 3rd Division. The brigade was then organized on 1 December 1917, at Camp Greene, North Carolina. From there, the brigade deployed to the European battlefields of the First World War, and received battle streamers for participation in the Aisne, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and Champagne campaigns. The United States had declared war with Germany April 6, 1917, and the 3rd Division arrived in Europe with ap-

proximately 28,000 men during the final series of German offensives designed to end the war. By May 1918, French forces had retreated to within 50 miles of Paris, but elements of the 3rd Division stopped the German advancement at the Marne River. As persevering regiments of the 3rd Division held their ground and eventually reversed the German advancement to Paris, the division earned its nickname "Rock of the Marne." General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing said the division's performance was one of the most brilliant in United States military history.

Headquarters, 6th Infantry Brigade was reorganized and redesignated in March 1921, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Infantry Brigade, and was again redesignated on 23 March 1925 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Brigade (omitting "Infantry") in the title. However, on August 24, 1936, the unit reverted to its previous designation of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Infantry Brigade, restoring the descriptor "Infantry" as an adjective for "Brigade." This organization disbanded on 12 October 1939, at Fort Douglas, Utah, but its legacy, survive through regiments within the "Marne Division." In 1941, the 3rd Division was renamed 3rd Infantry Division. During World War II, each regiment represented in the modern 3rd Brigade fought as part of the 3rd Infantry Division, where they were called Blue and White Devils.

Serving in the Second World War,

the "Dog Face Soldiers," as members of 3rd Infantry Division (3rd ID) soon came to be known, fiercely fought the Axis Powers in north Africa and in the Mediterranean well before the Operation Overlord D-Day Invasion in Normandy on 6 June 1944. The 3rd ID continued to fight in mainland Europe until victory was secured in 1945.

When North Korea invaded the border of South Korea in 1950, the 3rd ID was one of ten active divisions in the U.S. Army. The division arrived in Korea in September 1950, and joined in the operations in the Hamhung-Hungnam area. On 23 November 1950, China entered the war and the overwhelming size of the Chinese Army forced the Allies to retreat. From 30 November to 24 December 1950, the 3rd ID conducted the most massive beachhead evacuation in American military history: 105,000 troops, 100,000 refugees, 17,500 vehicles, and 750,000 tons of cargo. By 1951, elements of the 3rd ID helped recapture Seoul, the South Korean capital, while the Chinese were pushed back to the 38th Parallel.

As the Chinese tried to recapture Seoul, the brunt of the attack fell on the 3rd ID's sector and the Marne Division became the "Rock of Seoul." Again, the Chinese were driven back to the 38th Parallel and the 3rd ID settled into front-line duty, defeating all hostile attempts to seize strategic positions. The armed conflict concluded in July 1953, and by the end of October 1954, the division had returned to the United States.

The brigade's special association with Fort Benning, Georgia began when the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade ("Sledgehammer") was organized in September 1962, as a distinct brigade to support the Infantry School (now part of the Maneuver Center of Excellence [MCoE]).

This set the precedence of a separate Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) unit being assigned to Kelley Hill on Fort Benning. The brigade was later assigned a worldwide rapid deployment mission as part of the XVIII Airborne Corps. However, the bulk of what is now 3 ABCT reflagged on 18 April 1963, as 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division in Aschaffenburg, Germany, and officially activated on 20 June 1963.

The division had relocated to Germany in 1958, where it remained on constant alert to counter the threat of the Warsaw Pact. Third Brigade continued to serve in Germany until after the conclusion of the Cold War, and subsequently relocating to Fort Benning in 1996. In October 1990, the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade deployed to Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm, attached to the 24th Infantry Division.

The 24th Infantry Division, which was based at Fort Stewart, Georgia at the time, deactivated 15 February 1996, and then reflagged as 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). The 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division was attached to the 1st Armored Division during this conflict. Serving alongside the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade, they jointly spearheaded the Coalition ground attack to the Euphrates River. In June 1991, upon return from Operation Desert Storm, the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade reflagged as the

3rd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division. In 1996, the majority of 3rd ID cased its colors and departed Germany for Fort Stewart, Georgia. On 24 April 1996, 3rd Brigade, 3rd ID, having a separate new home station, unfurled its colors on Fort Benning, thus continuing the lineage of the 197th Separate Infantry Brigade at Kelley Hill. Having been known in Germany as "Phantom," 3 ABCT inherited the tactical moniker "Sledgehammer" from the 197th Infantry Brigade. The 197th Infantry Brigade, having been given a new mission, continued its service on Fort Benning as a training unit assigned to Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

In January 2003, 3rd Brigade deployed to Kuwait in support of the Global War On Terror, and postured for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). On March 20, 2003, the "Sledgehammer Brigade" spearheaded the Coalition ground attack into Iraq, leading the 3rd Infantry Division's attack during three major battles. Over a period of 21 days and 600 kilometers of continuous offensive combat operations, 3rd Brigade's drive culminated in the isolation and seizure of northwest Baghdad, setting the conditions for the removal of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's oppressive regime. Having successfully completed its mission, the Sledgehammer Brigade redeployed to Fort Benning in June 2003, and soon began to reorganize under the Army's new Brigade Combat Team (BCT) construct.

Undergoing the transformation into a BCT, Headquarters, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division reorganized and was redesignated on 16 March 2004 as Headquarters, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry

Division. The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (known as "Heavy" Brigade Combat Team prior to 2012) deployed to Diyala Province in Iraq during January 2005, in support of the 42nd Infantry Division (Army National Guard).

During this deployment, the Sledgehammer Brigade contributed to the success of the constitutional referendum and Iraq's first free national elections in December 2005. After redeploying to home station in January 2006, the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (3 ABCT) again prepared to deploy for the third time in support of the Global War On Terror. Having begun Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training in November 2006, 3 ABCT conducted a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California in February 2007, and immediately began preparations for its third deployment to Iraq.

Deploying approximately two months sooner than originally scheduled, 3 ABCT arrived in Kuwait for training in early March 2007, prior to joining the 3rd ID Headquarters in Iraq by the end of that month. The brigade joined other 3rd ID units, and other American and Coalition Forces to compose "Task Force Marne," also known as Multi-National Division - Central, in April 2007.

Quite different from other recent combat operations, this deployment to OIFV, spanning some 15 months, was part of the "Surge" force, which proved critical to the reversal of insurgent momentum and the stabilization of Iraq amid an asymmetric conflict. In late March 2007, the Sledgehammer Brigade occupied an area of operations where no other American or Coalition units had yet been based,

and established Forward Operating Base Hammer and seven combat outposts or patrol bases and four joint security centers in the Mada'in Qada - an area comparable in size to the Washington, D.C. metro area, and populated by an estimated 1.2 million Iraqi citizens (composed of a mix of both Sunni and Shia Muslims).

The brigade began conducting full spectrum combat operations by the beginning of May 2007. Over the course of the following year, 3 ABCT denied insurgents freedom of movement and simultaneously conducted various Civil-Military Operations to aid the people of Iraq. This marked the transition from focusing on simply providing security to establishing lasting security and prepared Iraq for self-governance. In May of 2008, 3 ABCT conducted a Transition of Authority to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and redeployed home to Fort Benning, Georgia.

In October 2009, 3 ABCT was temporarily designated as the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade and deployed to Iraq for OIF VII. The Brigade occupied five provinces in the mid-Euphrates region, covering area of operations roughly the size of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Sledgehammer Soldiers conducted advise and assist operations supporting the Iraqi military, the Iraqi police, and the Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

The Brigade worked tirelessly to provide intelligence, training, and logistic support in order to enable the development of a sovereign and stable Iraq. The brigade conducted a transfer of authority with 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in September 2010, and returned to Fort Benning, as Operation Iraqi

Freedom transitioned to Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

In March 2012, preparing for its next overseas deployment, the Sledgehammer Brigade conducted another training rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. In June 2012, 3 ABCT deployed to Kuwait and assumed the Central Command's Theater Reserve mission. Approximately 2,000 troops from 1-15th Infantry Regiment, 1-10th Field Artillery Regiment, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, and 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, including the Brigade Headquarters, deployed to Kuwait.

After relieving 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the Sledgehammer Brigade conducted training and joint exercises with its Kuwaiti counterparts and continued military cooperation with Kuwait and other regional partners in the Persian Gulf. Having preserved the security of Kuwait and maintained a formidable American ground presence in the region, 3 ABCT was relieved in this capacity by 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. Troops who were deployed to Kuwait returned to Kelley Hill in February and early March 2013.

Today, 3 ABCT's mission is to generate combat power and deploy on order to conduct unified land operations to defeat enemy forces, control land areas, and secure populations and resources in support of U.S. national interests.

The 3rd ID has one of the most successful combat records in the United States Army, and the men and women of 3rd ABCT have contributed to that and share in its legacy. Whatever the brigade's next mission may be, the Soldiers of 3 ABCT will be ready to answer their

nation's call, and serve proudly in a manner honoring their rich heritage. The Sledgehammer Brigade is currently configured as follows:

- 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment
- 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment
- 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 10th Artillery Regiment
- 203rd Brigade Support Battalion
- 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion (includes Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Troops)

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

WORLD WAR I

- Aisne
- Champagne-Marne
- Aisne-Marne
- St. Mihiel
- Meuse-Argonne
- Champagne 1918

SOUTHWEST ASIA

- Defense of Saudi Arabia
- Liberation and Defense of Kuwait Cease-Fire

WAR ON TERRORISM

- Iraqi Sovereignty
- New Dawn
- (Additional Campaigns yet to be determined)

DECORATIONS

- Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2003



Table of Contents

Pg. 7	1 -15 IN Commander's Corner
Pg. 9	Track or Treat
Pg. 10	Sledgehammer Soldiers train with XM2010 Sniper Rifle
Pg. 11	2-69 AR Commander's Corner
Pg. 12	Bayonet Company Field Training
Pg. 13	3-1 CAV Commander's Corner
Pg. 14	Sharpening the Saber
Pg. 15	Turkey Bowl Collage
Pg. 16	1-10 FA Commander's Corner
Pg. 17	Golf Battery Conducts Unstablized Training
Pg. 18	Marne Week
Pg. 19	BSTB Commader's Corner
Pg. 21	Buffalo Soldier Earns Citizenship
Pg. 22	203rd BSB Commander's Corner
Pg. 23	203rd BSB Visits Anniston Army Depot
Pg. 24	Soldiers, Partners Unite During Annual Pig fest
Pg. 25	Thanksgiving in the DFAC Collage
Pg. 26	Columbus Lions Slip Past BSTB in Annual Turkey Bowl
Pg. 27	FRSA Contact Roster

1-15 IN



Lt. Col. Scott Mueller



Command Sgt. Maj. Phil Barretto

Since our last newsletter, the Soldiers of the CAN DO Battalion have continued to train hard in the Fort Benning training areas.

The battalion's Forward Support Company led the way in unstabilized gunnery operations. Five of the distribution platoon's wheeled vehicle crews and one of the maintenance platoon's M88 wrecker crews conducted gunnery this last month, with the wrecker crew setting the standard for the rest of the brigade qualifying with the highest gunnery score earning the coveted "Top Gun" distinction.

The Forward Support Company, participating in the gunnery density with 3-1 CAV, 2-69 AR and the 203rd BSB, quickly established a solid working relationship with our sister units.

The battalion continues prepa-

rations to shoot tank gunnery in 2014, and the tank companies continue to work on individual gunnery skills that will set them up for success.

From vehicle identification to gunnery simulations, the companies are taking a steady approach to building up new tank crews and giving them the training and skills required to qualify their vehicles. Additionally, the mechanics and crews are working tirelessly to improve the maintenance of a fleet that has not been used since April 2012.

This attention to detail will minimize the maintenance problems that can derail gunnery operations and allow the battalion to maintain the positive momentum that we have established over the last couple of months.

This last month, the battalion participated in Thanksgiving celebrations with company com-

mand teams, the battalion field-grade officers and the battalion command team serving Thanksgiving meals to Soldiers in the Gibson Dining Facility here on Kelley Hill.

Following on the success of that event, the battalion fielded both a Soldiers flag football team and a spouses "Powder Puff" team (including spouses from 2-69 AR) to participate in the annual 3rd Brigade Turkey Bowl. The Soldiers and spouses played well and it was an enjoyable event.

This was the latest event to build Soldier and Family resiliency and build a cohesive team. The event was well attended and allowed our families to continue to connect and build stronger relationships.

These relationships will prove to be crucial as the battalion transitions to increased field and

training time after the Holidays.

Finally, Soldiers from the battalion continue to represent the unit well in various professional development schools. Sgt. Dillard (D Co) graduated Warriors Leaders Course on the Commandant's list and earned the Iron Warrior Award (highest APFT score - 352) and Sgt. Ornellas (D Co) also graduated on the Commandant's List. Staff Sgt. Wasson (A Co) graduated Advance Leaders Course as the Distinguished Honor Grad; Staff Sgt. Marstrel (Headquarters and Headquarters Company) as Honor Grad; Staff Sgt. Whitehead (B Co) awarded the Draper

Leadership Award; and, Staff Sgt. Kullerud (A Co) graduated on the Commandant's List. Spc. Santana (Headquarters and Headquarters Company) graduated Sniper School. 1st Lt. Gatlin (D Co) was selected by the Armor Commandant, Col. Quintas, to accompany him to the U.S. Military Academy to speak with future armor officers on lessons learned as an armor platoon leader.

These Soldiers' achievements are a continued demonstration of the battalion's commitment to excellence across all spectrums of military training. Command Sgt. Maj. Barretto and I are con-

fidant these outstanding leaders will take the skills and lessons learned and share them across the formation.

Command Sgt. Maj. Barretto and I are continually impressed with this great battalion. The Soldiers and Families continue to serve proudly and prove to be the best this country has to offer.

Every day that we are associated with this organization is a privilege and we are honored to stand in the ranks of true professionals.

CAN DO!!



The Soldiers, families and friends of the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry regiment kicked off their Halloween event Track or Treat with a costume parade Oct. 29 in the Mize motor pool.

Track or Treat

Story by: 2nd Lt. Mason Cloy

The Soldiers, families and friends of the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry regiment had the privilege to share in the Track or Treat Oct. 29 in the Mize motor pool. Soldiers and their families were able to take part in Halloween festivities and a chili cook off. Additionally, tracks were decorated and all were dressed as their favorite superhero or goblin. The Soldiers of the 1-15 IN gave out candy from tracks that were creepily decorated, setting the mood in Mize motor pool for a spooky evening. Soldiers chose to dress as goblins for the track or treating, which kept the light of heart at bay from getting their Halloween treats. Scenes in the motor pool included Soldiers who were smashed under Bradley ramps or stuck under an Abrams tread, spiders crawling over tanks with their webs strung between several vehicles, smoke billowing from main guns, countless gravestones, and fake blood splatter everywhere. In the end, it was stiff competition for who would win best decorated track. Destroyer, 1st Platoon, 1st Squad took home the prize with smoke billowing out of the main gun and live role playing actors matching the theme of the track.

Throughout the evening, families of 1-15 IN enjoyed many Halloween based activities. The event kicked off with a costume parade where all the children showed off their superpowers and royalty to their on-looking family members. Immediately following the parade, track or treating began featuring bounce



Soldiers of 1-15 IN enjoyed creating a spooky mood for the track or treaters Oct. 29 in the Mize motor pool.

houses and numerous tracks uniquely decorated for children to explore. With all the excitement, everyone worked up an appetite for chili dogs. The chili was provided by contestants of the chili cook-off. The chili cook-off was an opportunity for Soldiers and family members to prove their chili recipe was the best. Many from each company competed, bringing in cauldron sized pots overflowing with delicious ingredients. After the table of judges was served a bowl of each chili, families could smother their hot dogs in chili. The chili winner was Meredith Whitehead from Baker Company. Beating out stiff competition, she won by popu-

lar vote and can now brag about having the best chili in 1-15 IN, but only until next year. Seeing the success of the 2013 Track or Treat, we can count on next year's event producing an even better turnout and an even better time. The 1-15 Infantry Regiment could not have done a better job with the planning and execution of the event. Thank you to all those who were involved, making the entire night a seamless event. We would also like to thank all those who came out and participated. Looking forward to next year and another Can Do event!

Soldiers train with XM2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle

Story by: Sgt. Stephanie Woodson

Soldiers assigned to 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division trained with the XM 2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle Weapon System at the Equipment Regeneration Center Nov. 19.

The enhanced sniper rifle is an upgrade from the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System.

“The XM2010 is a man-portable, direct line of sight weapon system capable of providing precision fire with reduced signature on targets at a distance of up to 1,200 meters,” said David Beesley, an instructor from U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

“The XM2010 Sniper Weapon System is equipped with a fully adjustable right-folding chassis system featuring a monolithic MIL-STD 1913 optic mounting rail, user-positionable MIL-STD 1913 rails and accessory cable routing channels,” added Beesley.

Sledgehammer Soldiers said they are looking forward to firing the new sniper rifle.

“I believe that it is a pretty good weapon system. It’s designed to give us a lot more accuracy,” said Cpl. Zachery Myott, an infantryman assigned to 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID. “I’ve been a sniper for two months, so I’m glad there’s a class to teach us about this weapon system.”

Snipers are not allowed to fire the



Sledgehammer soldiers get hands-on training with the XM2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle Weapon System. “I believe that it is a pretty good weapon system. It’s designed to give us a lot more accuracy,” said Cpl. Zachery Myott, an infantryman assigned to 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. “It allows us to reach out further with more accuracy and we will be able to save more lives during combat.” (Photo by: Sgt. Stephanie Woodson)

XM2010 Sniper Weapon System until completion of the class, said Myott.

“I was using the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System. It’s older and shot out so the capabilities are less and we were only able to shoot 600 meters, so I’m looking forward to this upgrade, plus the XM2010 comes with a better optic,” said Myott.

The advantage of the XM2010 is accuracy and a better optic, but it has a slower rate of fire.

“Overall it is a great weapon system, it allows us to reach out further with more accuracy and we will be able to save more lives during combat,” said Myott.



(L) Spc. Blade Maurer and Spc. Davin Foster, both assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conduct an inventory of the XM2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle Weapon System.



Lt. Col. Dominick Edwards

2-69 AR



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Reed

The 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment continued to work hard during a busy schedule for the month of November. Leaders and Soldiers focused on Bayonet and Cobra Company field training, Civil Disturbance Training, Company Intelligence Support Team (CoIST) Training, participation in “Marne Week” at Fort Stewart, Ga., and finished out the month with a Thanksgiving celebration and flag-football Turkey Bowl.

The company field training focused on training tasks that will require the unit to be ready to deploy within a moment’s notice to support various contingencies. Bayonet and Cobra companies conducted training in support of Defense Support of Civil Authorities. The training consisted of chemical training which is an annual requirement. Soldiers also trained how to properly exercise discretion with the use of force for protection of critical infrastructures and the civilian population.

A select group of Panther Soldiers conducted CoIST Training to validate company intelligence teams

and to teach the Soldiers the goals of the CoIST that support their company’s specific missions. This five day course trained the Soldiers on the requirements of gathering good intelligence and learning the environmental surroundings along with any cultural sensitivities. The annual “Marne Week” consisted of 24 different competitions in many different athletic functional areas. 2-69 AR sent 25 Soldiers to the competition to represent the best “Speed and Power” we can bring to the fight. Our Soldiers competed in five different events consisting of basketball, wheelchair basketball, volleyball, flag football, and combatives. Our Soldiers did a great job of representing our physical abilities and we are proud of their achievements and determination.

On Tuesday Nov. 26, the battalion and company command teams had the opportunity to take part in the Thanksgiving meal with our Soldiers. We understand how hard it can be for Soldiers and Families during the holiday season, and our team cherishes the opportunity

to give back to everyone. It was a privilege to serve our Soldiers an early Thanksgiving meal with the command sergeant major and each company commander and first sergeant.

Following the brigade’s Thanksgiving meal, the annual Turkey Bowl (flag football tournament) kicked off. Each battalion brought their best team to represent them in the single game elimination tournament. Our team played a hard fought game against 3rd Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, but was unable to come away with a win in the tournament. We are proud of how our team represented us and look forward to winning next year. We’re looking forward to the upcoming month as we continue to train for our upcoming mission and as we prepare to spend some well-earned time off to celebrate the Holidays.

SPEED & POWER!

Bayonet Company Field Training

Story by: 2nd Lt. Daniel Giamo

The Panther Battalion and subordinate units are constantly conducting field training exercises (FTXs) to better prepare their Soldiers for the missions they will assume in the future.

Every FTX is meant to challenge the Soldiers at a higher level than before, and Bayonet strived to exceed this goal as they always do. Most Soldiers in the battalion are no stranger to the FTX and understand expectations when going to the field.

This field training was a special one for Bayonet Company. The primary goal was to familiarize the Soldiers with the tactics and techniques required for any upcoming missions the battalion assumes in the future.

This may require the battalion to be ready to deploy within a few hours, if called upon. Many of the Soldiers have not conducted a mission such as this so it was important for the company to learn the basics.

This training was exactly what the Soldiers needed to get prepared. The training consisted of civil disturbance training which showed Soldiers the proper procedures for responding to situations that may arise.

During this training, Soldiers conducted chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) training showing the possible threats that could exist and how to protect themselves during an attack.

This familiarized the company with the equipment they pos-

sess and how to properly use the equipment within a contaminated environment. Bayonet Company was also able to fly their unmanned aerial system while conducting lanes to practice gathering aerial intelligence for the platoon on the ground.

Platoons enjoyed ample time to conduct internal training on basic Soldier tasks required by an infantryman. After the training was over, the company had a better understanding of what it takes to operate specific missions.

Bayonet Company plans to conduct an additional FTX Dec. 12 -13, to learn more about the use of force within a non-combat environment. Bayonet Company now stands ready to answer the call.



Sgt. Clayton, a Soldier from Bayonet Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, prepares to launch his unnamed aerial system during the company field training exercise, Nov. 4-6, Fort Benning, Ga.



Soldiers from Bayonet Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, dawn their protective masks as part of a simulated CS gas attack during the company field training exercise, Nov. 4-6, Fort Benning, Ga.



3-1 CAV



Lt. Col. Paul Gunnison

November was a great month for the Blackhawks especially with Desperado Troop in the field for gunnery. Their gunnery qualified unit crews on their combat platforms, increasing crew experience and proficiency, and teaching units how to run a gunnery plan.

Desperado Troop conducted preparation for the unstabilized gunnery qualification at the crew level on Carmouche Range. It's important to train confident and competent crews best prepared for future combat operations. Preparations included the range walk-through, planning, preventative maintenance checks and services (PMCS), and pre-combat checks and inspections of all equipment. D Troop also conducted recovery in order to ensure all equipment and personnel that participated in Squadron gunnery received proper maintenance inspections and property accountability.

After each day and night run, Desperado crews received an After Action Review (AAR) to aid in improving their performance. The video footage system available at the range provided a valuable tool to help our crews see themselves

and improve their skills. As gunnery comes to a close we will validate our scores, capture lessons for future gunneries and award those deserving crews who demonstrated great performance in their qualifying tables.

Maintenance focus after gunnery quickly shifted to vehicle preparations for upgrade. The whole Squadron also successfully completed excess property inventories and preparation for turn-in. For the first two weeks of November, the Squadron participated in the Brigade's Mission Command System Integration exercise. This exercise required the Squadron staff to setup a tactical operations center (TOC), and operate Army Battle Command and communication systems.

In other news, I would like to congratulate Sgt. Bacchus for making the Commandant's List of the Warrior Leaders Course. He continues to do a great job as a scout in the Squadron!

Congratulations also goes to Sgt. Bixler, Sgt. Neal, Sgt. Williams, Spc. Catchings, and last but not least Spc. Holt for completing Warrior Leaders Course. Job well done to

everyone in Class 001-14!

The Squadron's Family Readiness Group, with the input of recipes from each Troop in the Squadron, has produced a Squadron Cookbook. fantastic work and delicious dishes!

Additionally, congratulations go out to these Soldiers and Spouses in the Soldier marathon and half-marathon: Lt. Beaudoin and son, Mac; Laura Garcia; Heather Burchett, Capt.; Barbara Kerrane; Sgt. Myers and all others. Way to represent! For future events, first I encourage all Soldiers to take leave during the upcoming holiday block leave period.

Take the opportunity to relax with your Families. Second, remember the Squadron Ball is around the corner on Feb. 28, 2014. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Thanks for your continued support and for what you do for our Soldiers every day.

Courageous & Faithful!

Sharpening the Saber

Story by: 2nd Lt. Katlyn Culhane

For the first time in more than 12 months, the Blackhawks of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment conducted unit level I gunnery, firing their M3A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1151 Scout Humvees, while sharpening the skills of a new generation of mounted Cavalry Troopers.

This gunnery training focused on the unit qualification requirements for the Armored Reconnaissance Squadron Mission Essential Task List while also supporting the Maneuver Center of Excellence Gunnery Branch for their soon to be published Direct Fire Gunnery Manual.

The Blackhawk Squadron Gunnery density represented the first application of the Direct Fire Gunnery Manual Bradley Live Fire Qualification Standards anywhere in the United States Army. The gunnery proved to be a challenging event, with simultaneous events occurring at different ranges with multiple units involved.

This complex combination of events and the busy training schedules of the tasked Troops resulted in some lower than expected qualification percentages, but highlighted the rapid and significant growth in vehicle crew proficiency, best demonstrated by the superb improve-

ment in engagement scores day-by-day.

Of greater importance than scores was new vehicle commander and gunnery proficiency with their weapons systems and re-learning various aspects associated with running and managing gunnery ranges.

Some of the challenges emerged as the transition of gunnery skills from existing simulations infrastructure to real world live-fire gunnery techniques proved non-linear, requiring additional training on the Bradleys and Humvees on the ranges.

Unit Master Gunners and vehicle crews worked together to train and apply techniques to overcome these challenges by providing gunnery in-briefs, range familiarization briefs, and after action reviews of each day or night gunnery engagement sequence, contributing to the immense improvement.

As Staff Sgt. Miller, the squadron master gunner, stated, "Bradley gunnery is not easy. It requires a focused training plan to achieve the endstate of first-run qualified crews."

Improving for the future remains the foundational goal of the gunnery density, and there were a lot of significant takeaways. The new Direct Fire Gunnery Manual highlights the desired endstate of a full cycle gunnery density, to include tables III (Dry), IV (Live Fire),

V (Live Fire Practice), and VI (Live Fire Qualification) at the crew level. Additionally, a Live Fire Accuracy Screening Test (LFAST)-type zero and screening range would significantly enhance the performance of crews on ammunition loading and target engagement. In the future the Squadron will use the hard learned lessons to plan, prepare, and execute a more effective gunnery. Crew experience gained during gunnery will be evident, either in our next gunnery density or as those Soldiers transitioning to other units throughout the Army.

Upon returning from the field, each Troop in the Squadron conducted gunnery recovery. Gunnery maintenance was facilitated by Desperado Troop. D Troop's Maintenance platoon provided constant technical support around the clock, ensuring that all Bradleys, other tracked vehicles, and wheeled vehicles were mission capable. Capt. Salcedo, the Squadron maintenance officer proudly stated, "My mechanics did an outstanding job of providing quality service and maintaining flexibility throughout gunnery. This mission would not have been a success without their selfless efforts."

Turkey Bowl



1-10 FA



Lt. Col. Kevin Capra

The Batteries continued to focus on individual Soldier training and deployment readiness. HHB updated personnel records for all Soldiers in preparation for their upcoming Soldier Readiness Program (SRP) inspections.

HHB also participated in the Mission Command Systems Integration Training exercise, which helped us identify and validate the systems we will use if we are called to deploy in support of our new mission.

Alpha "Automatic Steel" Battery and Bravo "Raging Bulls" Battery executed a series internal Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDRE) using successively more and more challenging scenarios to train, validate, and rehearse their recall procedures.

Alpha and Bravo Batteries also validated their personnel records, trained on individual tasks such as employment of non-lethal equipment and protecting against chemical agents and then trained on platoon level tasks like riot control.

The Golf Battery "Spartans" prepared and executed their un-stabilized gunnery from 18-22 November. They conducted intense

training on their firing crew drills, as well as preliminary marksmanship training prior to firing their machine guns from their vehicles. The Spartans excelled preparing and rehearsing for an operation previously unfamiliar to most of their Soldiers.

A couple of key leaders changed during the month of November as well. On November 7th the Headhunters of HHB, conducted a change of command between Capt. Lucas Leinberger and Kris Lovin-good.

It was a bittersweet day, saying farewell to Capt. Leinberger but we were very excited to welcome Kris and his wife Gina back to The Rock's Support. In addition to HHB, Golf Battery conducted a very professional Change of Responsibility between 1st Sgt. Otis Jerigan and 1st Sgt. Pamela Whitlock.

We wanted to say thanks 1st Sgt. Jerigan for his steady leadership as Spartan7 and welcome to 1st Sgt. Whitlock, who joins us from the 203rd BSB.

The Battalion also stayed busy with our Community Outreach Program and partnership with



Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Wilson

Dexter Elementary School.

The Battalion's outreach group to Dexter Elementary conducted visits on 8 and 21 Nov. The Reading Rangers and Math Mentorship programs were continued and met with their typical success.

Our Soldiers get rave reviews every time they go to the school and the children and teachers love having them. They really do a great job representing The Rock's Support and the Sledgehammer Brigade. November was also a very active month for the family readiness groups in the battalion. In preparation for the upcoming St. Barbara's Day ball, the FRG successfully conducted a class for junior spouses on military customs and traditions as well as appropriate conduct at a military ball.

They also held a joint dress event with 1st Battalion 15th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Squadron 1st Cavalry Regiment in the battalion classroom to help ladies find a great dress for the ball. November finished on a high with the ladies of 1-10 FA playing in the Powder Puff football game against ladies in the Brigade. The "Redleg Hotties," as they named themselves, did an

amazing job on the field and represented the Battalion magnificently. Last but not least, Congratulations are in order for several great Soldiers.

This month, we had four Soldiers graduate from the Air Assault Course at the National Guard Training Center. Sgt. Michael Halbur, Spc. Vincent Fairbairn, Spc.

Don Monreal and Pfc. Ji Liu successfully completed the course and pinned on their Air Assault wings on November 15th.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Leslie McCormick of Bravo Battery for graduating from the 13D Senior Leadership Course at Fort Sill, OK on November 22.

Finally, we were proud to wel-

come two new members to THE Rock's Support family this month. Ava Narbon was born on 20 November to Sgt. Michael and Leena Narbon and Luna Catherine Faris was born on 27 November to CW2 Rob and Annette Faris.

Here is to another great month and wishing you all a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

Golf Battery Conducts Unstablized Gunnery

Coutesy Story

Soldiers of Golf Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment conducted unstabilized gunnery training Nov. 8-22, 2013.

The training, conducted at various locations around Fort Benning, Ga., prepared them for gunnery qualification. The week began with pre-marksmanship instruction at the motorpool which consisted of weapons handling instruction for the M240B machine gun and the M2A2 .50 caliber machine gun to include crew drills, gun truck firing commands, engagements in a Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear environment, and basic radio etiquette.

The Spartans then went on to Engagement Skills Trainer familiarization and simulated gunnery training at the Clarke Simulation Center. Live firing began with familiarization firing at Coolidge Range and then escalated to Validation Gunnery at Carmouche Range.

At Carmouche, gun truck crews tested and validated skills in target identification, truck commands, engaging targets with precision weapons fire, and using optics systems in both day and night engagements.

Newly arrived Soldier, Pvt. Williams, stated "Learning how to place accurate fires from an unstabilized firing platform was challenging."



Pvt. Williams prepares to engage targets during the unstabilized gunnery simulator exercise Nov. 8-22.



MARNE WEEK





Lt. Col. Lenard Thomas II

BSTB



Command Sgt. Maj. Carmelo Cruz

Thank you for your continued support of your Soldiers in the Buffalo Battalion. The holiday season is now in full swing and we have enjoyed some much deserved time down time over the past month as we observed Veteran's Day, Marne Week and Thanksgiving celebrations. Command Sgt. Maj. Cruz and I along with the Company Command Teams were honored to serve Soldiers and their families that participated in the "Thanksgiving Feast" held at the Kelley Hill Dining Facility Nov. 26, 2013.

The month of November was filled with numerous training opportunities and exciting events for our Soldiers. Below are some of the Company training highlights: Headquarters and Headquarters Troop's (HHT) staff

sections participated in the Mission Command Systems Integration Training (MCSIT) held on Kelley Hill.

This two week exercise was designed to train the Brigade Staff on the recently upgraded mission command systems and Tactical Operation Center functions used to facilitate mission command across the entire brigade. This was a great event and was very successful due to the hard work by all Soldiers involved.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) continued training on their weapon systems with Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (CBRN), Reflexive Fire's Night Qualification, and a Buddy Team Live Fire Exercise. These weapons ranges enable our Soldiers to

maintain their weapons skills. Additionally, the Military Police Platoon has been providing critical Riot-Control Equipment training and the Medical Platoon has conducted two Combat Life-Saver classes as we continue to hone our basic Soldier skills.

Alpha Company (Military Intelligence) also participated in the MCSIT exercise which provided valuable training and allowed them to integrate their newly upgraded Military Intelligence systems Soldiers into the Brigade Tactical Operations Center.

The Signals Intelligence Platoon was able to conduct valuable training at Fort Stewart, Ga., and the Unmanned Aerial Systems platoon were very busy conducting progression flights with their Shadow UAV all in preparation for their

“Raptor Focus” Field Training Exercise in early December.

Bravo Company (Signal) also participated in the MC-SIT exercise. Not only were the Soldiers able to develop their tactical proficiency in essential Soldier skills, but they have been able to ensure the Battalion’s radio equipment is fully functional. The Beast Company bid farewell to their outgoing Commander, Capt. Cleophus Breland and welcomed Capt. Rafael Cruceta to the team.

Our Charlie Company (Engineers) was recently selected to augment 1-10 FA. Chaos Company has conducted numerous training activities to include Soldier Readiness checks, area security, civil disturbance and training on Chemical, Biological and Radiation protection. Chaos Company also had a change of command ceremony bidding farewell to Capt. James Walton and welcoming their new Company Commander, Capt. William Berry to the Chaos Family.

In addition to all of the training events across the Buffalo Battalion, there were also many exciting events involving a number of our Soldiers that deserve some special recognition.

Congratulations to the members of our “Flag Football” team, coached by Capt. Deshawn James, who won the 3rd Brigade Turkey Bowl tournament and was able to scrimmage the Columbus Lions Football Team.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cruz and I would also like to congratulate Pvt. Jhon Chavez of Chaos Company who recently became a U.S. Citizen. Chavez, originally from Peru, was selected to lead 103 immigrants in the Pledge of Allegiance during his naturalization ceremony in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 14, 2013, at which Vice President Joe Biden and Bernice King were in attendance.

The Buffalo Family would also like to bid farewell to Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Stitzer. A retirement ceremony was held to celebrate over 26 years of service. He enlisted in the Army in 1993 as a 31B, military policemen serving in various positions culminating as the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team Provost Marshal Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC).

He received the Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony for his contributions to the Soldiers, the United States Army, and our nation during his 26 years of service.

As we move into December we have both Alpha Company and Bravo Company conducting Field Training Exercises and then we shift focus to a Holiday Block Leave period. I encourage all Soldiers to take advantage of this leave opportunity and spend some quality time with your families.

In closing, Command Sgt. Maj. Cruz and I wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to leading the Buffalo Family into the New Year!

Vigilance & Honor!

Buffalo Soldier Earns Citizenship

Story by: 1st. Lt. Stephanie Haynes

Nov. 14, 2013, Spc. Jhon Chavez was naturalized as a United States citizen at a ceremony celebrated by Vice President Joe Biden at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center in Atlanta, Ga.

Chavez is assigned to Charlie Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division on Kelley Hill, Fort Benning, Ga.

A native of Peru, Chavez honorably served his country for seven months as a combat engineer without the rights of citizenship.

The ceremony honored 103 immigrants from 53 countries and was presided over by the head of the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration Services and Bernice King, the daughter of Martin Luther King Jr.

Also in attendance was Vice President Joe Biden.

At the completion of the ceremony, Chavez led the 103 new citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chavez said he was nervous to be chosen, but proud to become an American Citizen. 1st Lt. Leo Lucisano, 1st Platoon Leader in Charlie Company, 3rd BSTB, said the “en-

tire ceremony was a moving and all-American experience.”



(Above) Spc. Jhon Chavez of Charlie Company, 3rd BSTB, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID speaks with Ms. Bernice King after his naturalization ceremony held at the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Center in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 14, 2013. (Right) 1st. Lt. Leo Lucisano, 1st Platoon Leader, Charlie Company, 3rd BSTB, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID stands with Spc. Jhon Chavez after his naturalization ceremony held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 14, 2013. (Below) The Joint Force Colorguard is posted prior to the beginning of the naturalization ceremony held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 14, 2013.



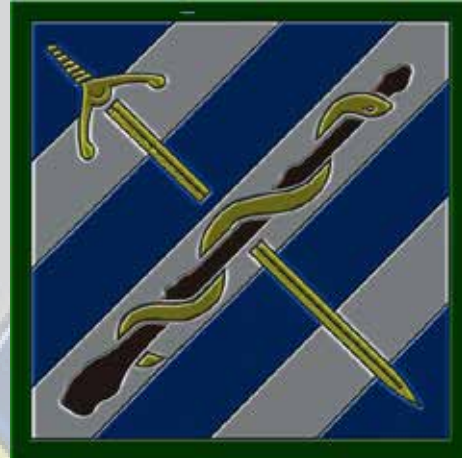
Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the naturalization ceremony held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 14, 2013.





Lt. Col. Brent Coryell

203rd BSB



Command Sgt. Maj. Kent Galvin

This is a special time of year for all Army Soldiers and family members. Allow me to take a moment during this Holiday Season to personally thank each and every one of you for your outstanding and tireless support for your Eagle Soldier!

I count it as the ultimate privilege to serve your husbands, sons, daughters, and wives as their commanding officer – and so does every officer/noncommissioned officer-leader in this great unit.

You should be proud of your Soldier, as he/she is a hard-working, well-trained, and well-prepared young American Soldier.

For many, our focus this time of year turns to our families and friends. We give thanks for both because they help strengthen and sustain us. We are fortunate this year to be able to take some time off and enjoy the holidays with all of you. As of this writing, the

BSB has 300 soldiers taking leave over the holiday.

I am urging all of our Soldiers to take advantage of this time to make lasting memories with you, their families, and their friends. Next year, we most likely will not have the same chance.

The focus for the Eagle Battalion the past month has been unstabilized crew gunnery on Carmouche Range. At its conclusion we qualified 60 crews on a variety of wheeled platforms.

The qualification course consisted of 18 different targets at distances from 200 to 1400 meters. There was a day and night engagement portion. We had one of the highest qualification scores by a BSB ever recorded on Fort Benning.

In early November, 203rd BSB Soldiers volunteered their time to support the city of Richland, Ga., during their annual Pig Fest.

This is an annual BBQ contest and festival. Overall it was a great event for both the Soldiers and the city of Richland.

Later in the month of November the battalion collected and donated over 2,000 pounds of perishable items for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Items included: Turkeys, canned goods, boxed goods, and water.

We want to thank all who helped in supporting our efforts as a Battalion helping many families to have a nice Thanksgiving.

A few other highlights this past month; We sent 25 soldiers to Fort Stewart, Ga., to participate in Marne Week games, and though we didn't win any events, we all had a great week. We sent 32 Maintenance Officers, Warrants, and NCO's to Aniston Army Depot to learn about depot level rebuild operations. HHC welcomed 1st Sgt. Jerigan as their new first sergeant.

Our cooks showed off their culinary expertise in a fantastic Thanksgiving meal at the Dining Facility. Alpha Company Supply Support Activity scored a 91.5% on their inspection from Division. Lastly, we had an 'Ugly Christmas Sweater Fun Run'.

Again, let me thank each of you personally for all the love and support you give your son, husband, daughter, or wife every day. Rest as-

sured that as a part of this highly capable and well-trained battalion, your Soldier is trained and equipped to the highest standards in the United States Army. Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and I consider every Soldier and their family the most precious resource entrusted to our care. Thank you again Eagle Family for being such an important member of our team!

Support & Defend

203rd Brigade Support Battalion Visits the Anniston Army Depot

Story and Photo by: 2nd Lt. Brittany Daniels

Anniston, Ala., a small town, is the home of the Anniston Army Depot. The Logicians from the 3rd Infantry Division were introduced and educated on the strategic rehabilitation of combat power and support systems, Nov. 14.

It was extremely interesting to see where the vehicles and weapons go when they're unserviceable. All the hard work each worker puts into what they do is amazing. The facility houses more than 6,000 employees and acts as one of the most important components of the Army's strategic maintenance mission. The Depot has strategic goals for: leadership, sustainability, safety, community and people, business, and customer service and quality. The efficiency with which the facility operates is phenomenal.

They have an \$880 million operating budget. The Small Arms Repair Facility is 83,385 square feet and is the primary, small Arms Rebuild Center within the Department of Defense and overhauls weapons for all branches of the Armed Forces. It has a machine shop, two indoor firing ranges (up to 100 meters) and water turbine function firing booths.

The mission of the Anniston Army Depot is to "Provide superior industrial expertise, products, and



203rd BSB, Col. Bolander, and Sgt. Major Maron take a photo in front of the Anniston Army Depot Head Quarters after the tour.

services to support America's Warfighters, Allies and commercial customers". It stands firm in everything they do.

Each worker nests in their own section of what seems like a calm, steady, yet efficient human assembly line.

The smell of gun spent powder fills the air as weapons are broken down to bits

and cleaned rigorously.

"I've worked here for many years, and I enjoy what I do. I'm a proud Veteran so it does my heart good to know I can still serve my country in any way possible," a senior worker expressed.

The Vision of the Anniston Army Depot is, "To be the best value DoD Center for Industrial and Technical Excellence for current and future weapon systems by being uniquely vital, technologically superior, cost effective, and unconditionally responsive to all customers worldwide."

During the visit, the 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers were able to ask several questions to the Depot Commander Col. Bolander and Depot Deputy Sgt. Major Macron on an array of topics such as logistics, strategies, and analysis. The trip to Anniston Army Depot was a tremendous educational experience for all involved. It truly makes you appreciate the personnel

Soldiers, partners unite during annual Pig Fest



Soldiers from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, people within the community and surrounding areas attended the mini carnival at the 16th annual Pig Fest in Richland, Ga., Nov. 9. (Photo by: Sgt. Stephanie Woodson)

Story by: Sgt. Stephanie Woodson

RICHLAND, Ga., (Nov. 13, 2013) -- Soldiers assigned to 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division spent time with their community partner Nov. 8-9 at the 16th annual Pig Fest in Richland, Ga.

More than two dozen Soldiers from the brigade's 203rd Brigade Support Battalion volunteered to man entry points along with Stewart County JROTC cadets.

Those Soldiers, along others from the brigade, took part in the festivities, which included a car show, live music, carnival, children and family activities and plenty of street vendors.

Sledgehammer Brigade Commander Col. Charles Costanza and his wife, Megan, also served as honorary judges for the pulled pork barbecue cook off contest.

Richland Mayor Adolph McLendon expressed his deep appreciation for Soldiers and Family members who attended the weekend festival and said he looks forward to working with the Sledgehammer Brigade in the future.

Thanksgiving on the Hill



Columbus Lions slip past BSTB in annual Turkey Bowl

Story by: John W. Peeler /
john.peeler@thabayonet.com

Although the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, holds an annual Turkey Bowl flag football tournament, this year was the first year the tournament's winner played against the Columbus Lions professional indoor football team.

After the daylong tournament Nov. 27 at Essebagger Field on Kelley Hill, the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion team earned the right to test its football prowess against on the Lions in a 15-minute game that culminated the pre-Thanksgiving Day festivities.

The Lions' offense took the field and methodically moved the ball, scoring on a 30-yard touchdown pass to Earl Alexander.

The extra point was successful and the Lions led 7-0.

BTSB found the going rough early in their first drive, but were able to move the ball to the Lions' 7-yard line where they scored on a 7-yard touchdown pass from Kenneth Shivers to Akeem Brown.

The extra point failed and BSTB trailed by one point, 7-6.

Following a time out, the Lions went on the attack with a new quarterback, Lions' coach Jason Gibson.

Gibson moved the Lions down to BSTB's 40-yard line before finding Cody Percy streaking down the



right sideline for a 40-yard, over-the-shoulder touchdown catch.

The Lions converted the extra point to close out the scoring with the Lions taking the win, 14-6.

BSTB coach Deshaun James said his team met their goal during the game.

"Our goal was just to come out here and be able to score at least one touchdown," he said. "And we did that." James said it meant a lot to be able to play against the Columbus Lions.

"Above all, it lifted the morale of our Soldiers," he said. "My players were extremely excited to be on the same field as these great athletes. Not only to play against them, but to prove that we are great athletes as well.

This was also a great opportunity to show our partnership with the Columbus Community.

Gibson expressed his appreciation for being able for his team to play the Soldiers.

"It's just great to play with these guys," he said. "Nobody plays flag football in front of this many people, so this was fun."

Gibson said the game was a bit of a different challenge than what he, or his team was used to.

"Pulling those flags is hard," he said. "It was a challenge. It's fun to be out here with the guys and Col. (Charlie) Costanza. This is first class ... great commander ... and it was good experience for my guys too."

FRSA

Family readiness support assistants serve as a vital link between the unit commander, the Soldier assigned to the unit, their families and community resources. FRSA duties include coordinating Family Readiness Group events, monthly meetings, childcare, and informational briefings to family members. FRSA's provide information on activities, trainings and events on post and the surrounding area. We assist Soldiers and families when making referrals to local agencies to include but not limited to ACS, Tri-care, and Family Advocacy.

1-15 IN

Sgt. Michael Bailey
(706) 544-3362 (w)

Michael.d.bailey123.mil@mail.mil

3rd ABCT

Vicky Rush
(706) 544-2587 (w)

Torin.j.rush.civ@mail.mil

203rd BSB

Demeka Daniels
(706) 544-3216 (w)

Demeka.n.daniels.mil@mail.mil

3-1 CAV

Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Mcmillan
(706) 544-5788 (w)

Tylerchyski.mcmillan.mil@mail.mil

3-3 BSTB

Staff Sgt. Curtiss Foudray
(706) 544-5923 (w)
Curtiss.j.foudray.mil@mail.mil

1-10 FA

Stacy Gray
(706) 544-3913 (w)
Stacy.a.gray8.civ@mail.mil

2-69 AR

Janel Daniels
(706) 544-3121(w)
Janel.c.daniels.civ@mail.mil



Find us on:
facebook

www.facebook.com/3hbct3id