



TCM-ABCT/BFSB  
Fort Benning, Georgia

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### Inside this issue

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- 525th Best LT/WO competition...2
- Unit SOP folder ..... 3
- 58th and Hurricane Sandy..... 4
- 504th Pre-Ranger..... 5
- Recent BFSB photos ..... 6

# BFSB Monthly

## Director's Message

By COL Gary R. Nicoson

Director, TCM-ABCT and BFSB

BFSB Community,

Last month I reported on the weekend of 22 September 2012 where leaders, and recent leaders, from eight of the Army's ten BFSBs assembled at Fort Leavenworth for the US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) hosted Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Leaders Workgroup. Their mission was to review TRADOC's first recommended TOE change and to validate BFSB gaps, assess proposed solutions, and couch their assessments in terms of risk mitigation. That event was followed by the 3-4 October Reconnaissance and Surveillance Brigade Study Corps / Division Leader Workshop at Fort Bragg. There was great AC and RC participation in that event; that group of senior leaders assisted TRADOC with the refinement of reconnaissance and security courses of action for presentation to the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) on 27 November. This November update with the CSA will present analysis and answer questions he posed last spring. "Total Army" force design work is a deliberate process, even so I expect I'll have another spot report for you next month on this effort.

Looking to this month's newsletter you'll find the 58<sup>th</sup> BFSB active in recovery operations facing the effects of "Superstorm Sandy" and the 525<sup>th</sup> BFSB wrapped up the "Best Lieutenant / Warrant Officer Competition". We are developing a folder on the BFSB WfF homepage for Unit SOPs that will allow you to share your good ideas. I'd like to welcome home elements of 71 BFSB as they return from the Horn of Africa. I ask you continue to keep in mind those BFSB Troopers from 201 BFSB, 560 BFSB, and individual augmentees who are now deployed and accomplishing key missions for their supported commands. And in closing, I know our thoughts and encouragement go out to those who find themselves responding to the aftermath of this week's superstorm.

## Disclaimer

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**The BFSB Monthly** is published by TCM ABCT & BFSB, 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.

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## 67th BFSB Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



**Description:** A vertical rectangle arched convexly at top and bottom with a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) blue border, fimbriated by a 1/16 inch (.16 cm) white inner edge, 3 inches (7.62 cm) in height and 2 inches (5.08 cm) in width overall, on a blue background a white byl bendwise issuing from base.

**Symbolism:** Blue and white are the colors used for Infantry, the original unit designation. The byl, a form of pike carried by foot soldiers, and one of the earliest Infantry weapons, symbolizes the historical assault and defense traditions of the Infantry.

**Background:** The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the 67th Infantry Brigade on 18 June 1964. It was amended to change the wording of paragraph 2 on 4 December 1964. The insignia was rescinded on 15 July 1988. It was reinstated and redesignated effective 1 September 2008, for the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade with the description and symbolism updated. (TIOH Drawing Number A-1-324)

This information was obtained from the Institute of Heraldry website. Go [here](#) to view additional information on this unit and other Battlefield Surveillance Brigades.

## 525th BFSB Lieutenants, Warrants fight for 'best' slot

*Story by SGT Katryn Tuton,  
50th Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The day began in the dark morning hours for the 33 competitors. They stood shoulder to shoulder swinging their arms and jogging in place, trying to keep warm before beginning the physical fitness test that would either put them in solid standings or leave them trying to catch up.

For the next 48 hours, each participant would represent their individual companies and battalions, battling against one another for the top slot in the first 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade's Best Lieutenant/Warrant Officer Competition on Fort Bragg, Oct. 10-11.

During the competition, the junior warrant and commissioned officers were tested with physical fitness challenges, including a 20K ruck march and an Army Physical Fitness Test, leadership exams and challenges, life-saving skills, marksmanship and land navigation events.

"When we start to challenge ourselves, against our peers, against other battalions, I think that's healthy for an organization," said Col. Xavier Brunson, the 525th BFSB Brigade Commander, who suggested the competition. "A lot of these [officers] want to prove themselves and they want to stand out from their peers... hopefully we're letting them do that."

Quick to stand out from the rest, 1st Lt. Jon Voss, a long range surveillance platoon leader for 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 525th BFSB, was first to come across the 2-mile finish line in 12 minutes, 33 seconds.

"As an infantryman, this is what is expected of me. If I had to do what some of these [military intelligence] guys do, I would do very poorly, I'm sure," said Voss modestly.

In addition to the enjoyment of competing against his peers, Voss also saw practical benefits for the competition.

"The opportunity to be able to talk to [other officers within the battalion], find out what they do, and who they are, has been good," said Voss. "If we are going to work together to create an effective battlefield surveillance element, the better I know them and what their strengths and weaknesses are, the bet-

ter I can serve what they need and vice versa."

Second Lt. Emma Lehner, a platoon leader for Company A, 519th Military Intelligence Battalion, agreed that though the events were both challenging and fun, the ability to meet peo-



*CW2 Carlos Rios-Matias, who serves with the counter-intelligence operations management team, 519th Military Intelligence Battalion, 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, completes the land navigation course on Oct. 10.*

ple she may work with on an upcoming deployment was a significant bonus.

"The leaders reaction course is something we can't train for, so it was the most fun for me," said Lehner, talking about a memory test and problem-solving exercise. "But to be honest, I don't know a lot of the other warrants and lieutenants in the other battalions. So, today gave me a chance to get out here and make connections throughout our brigade."

Day two concluded with rifle marksmanship, and point totals were unofficially posted with Voss' name at the top.

Finishing first in both the physical fitness test and the 20K ruck march, along with performing consistently in the remaining challenges, helped push him to the top slot.

"This competition proved that there's some really, really good people in this unit," said Brunson, who wishes to have a competition for the enlisted soldiers next.

Brunson will officially award Voss the "525th BFSB Best Lieutenant/ Warrant Officer" trophy in a Nov. 2 ceremony.



*Leaders from the 109th Military Intelligence Battalion, 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, met for a Commanders Conference while deployed to Afghanistan.*

## Unit SOP folder added to BFSB Warfighter Forum

A Unit SOP Folder was added to the BFSB Warfighter Forum in October. The purpose for creating the Unit SOP Folder was for units to be able to share their products with other BFSBs, who are in the process of developing their own.

Currently, only BFSB S-3s at brigade, squadron and battalion level, along with designated personnel have "read only" access to the folders of all BFSBs, while unit representatives have "administrator access" to their unit's BFSB folder. If you have been granted administrator rights, please feel free to add sub-folders to your unit folders, if necessary. If you would like to add someone from your unit as an administrator, please send me their name(s), and I will also include them on the "read only" list to view folders from other BFSBs.

Some recent uploads:

- 201<sup>st</sup> BFSB LRS SOP
- 201<sup>st</sup> BFSB CPOF SOP
- 504<sup>th</sup> BFSB TACSOP
- 504<sup>th</sup> BFSB MFT SOP
- 504<sup>th</sup> BFSB COIST SOP
- 504<sup>th</sup> BFSB FET SOP

A direct link to the "Unit SOP Folder" can be found by going to this site: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/37955883>. You can also go to the BFSB Warfighter Forum on AKO by going here: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/552532>. Personnel without "read only" or "administrator" rights to this folder will not be able to see, or open, the folder. It is also required to use a CAC to open the folder since many of the documents are designated as FOUO.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding how to use this folder, or are unable to upload/download any of the documents, please contact the BFSB Warfighter Forum Administrator, [derek.larson@us.army.mil](mailto:derek.larson@us.army.mil).

## Upcoming Events

- 15 Nov: SWfF Symposium
- 13 Jan (1330-1500 CST): AWfF Symposium.
- 5-7 Mar: 2013 Reconnaissance Summit. Prior to the Reconnaissance Summit, there will be an inaugural "Gainey Cup" which will be a dismounted scout competition. Stay tuned for additional information about these events.

Members from TCM-BFSB will be conducting BFSB unit visits on the following dates:

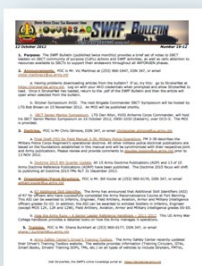
- 7 Nov: 67th BFSB
- 1 Dec: 58th BFSB
- 9-10 Feb: 71st BFSB

## 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](#).
- SIPR info: The BFSB Warfighter Forum on AKO-S: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/21502>.



## Other WfF Newsletters



SWfF Newsletter (11 Oct 12)



IWfF Newsletter (31 Oct 12)



AWfF Newsletter (24 Oct 12)



MIWfF Newsletter (21 Sep 12)



CSM Aaron Henderson, Joint Task Force and 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade command sergeant major, speaks with Steve Marshall, director of emergency services Somerset County, in the Emergency Operations Center (click on the image above to watch the video).

## Maryland National Guard prepares for Hurricane Sandy

*Maryland National Guard Public Affairs,*

REISTERSTOWN, MD, Oct. 28, 2012- The Maryland National Guard is preparing to support its neighbors across the state today as it prepositions Soldiers, Airmen and equipment in advance of Hurricane Sandy's anticipated landfall late Monday.

The upcoming weather phenomenon, called a "perfect storm" by some, is expected to combine a rare mixture of a tropical hurricane from the East and an early winter storm from the West. The resulting effects could dump several feet of snow in West Virginia and Virginia and inundate the rest of the Mid-Atlantic Region with up to 12 inches of rain, according to the National Weather Service.

More than 250 Guard Soldiers and Airmen have been called to State Active Duty, and another 4,250 are available statewide if needed.

"Many of our personnel and equipment are prepositioned, allowing our emergency managers to tailor the state's response by putting exactly what we need to handle a situation exactly where we need it," said Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, adjutant general of Maryland. "This is cost effective, and it ensures a quick response and effective use of people and equipment."

The Guard has the necessary equipment such as trucks, "humvees" and helicopters to move troops and supplies in and around the state if affected by a hurricane.

The Guard's generators may also serve a significant role, as Governor Martin O'Malley told Marylanders to expect multiple days of power outages as the storm lingers over the region.

The Maryland National Guard is no stranger to natural disaster response missions. In addition to activating stateside for Hurricane Irene in August 2011 and Hurricane Isabel in 2003, the Maryland National Guard assisted with the relief efforts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. The Guard also helped the state dig out from two massive snowstorms, which blanketed the region in early 2010.

*Editor's note: Since publication of this newsletter, Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard's 58th BFSB have been actively involved in assisting with search and rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Click on the image above this article to watch a video detailing the support being provided by this unit and others. Click [here](#) to watch another video related to this event.*

# Soldiers aim for Ranger School

Story by Rose L Thayer,  
Fort Hood Herald

When a soldier arrives to a new unit with a Ranger tab on his sleeve, his skill set is validated, said Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Cornelison, senior noncommissioned officer of 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.

"It's good for soldiers. They learn about themselves and leadership skills in a way they can't get anywhere else," he said.

Cornelison wears the Ranger tab and spent the first 10 years of his Army career in Ranger-heavy units, even serving in the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Ga. Now serving in Fort Hood's battalion-sized unit with the largest concentration of Rangers, Cornelison is putting his experience to work helping create a pre-Ranger qualifying course for soldiers in the squadron who want to be Rangers.

"I know from the instructor point of view what it takes. I've seen guys make every mistake you can. I've seen them at their breaking point," Cornelison said.

More than half of all Ranger school failures occur within the first three days, or the Ranger Assessment Phase, so the squadron decided to put training emphasis on these events, conducting their first qualifying course Oct. 22-26 with 23 volunteers. Of those soldiers, 20 finished the training event and eight passed all the events and could be off to Ranger School at the beginning of next year.

"We are trying to set these guys up for success," said Sgt. 1st Class David Brigham, who helped prepare the training. "If we can identify those that will be successful, we can get our percentages higher."

Assessment phase events include a Ranger Physical Fitness Test, the Combat Water Survival Assessment, night and day land navigation, weapons and communication equipment assembly, a 2.1 mile two-man buddy run to an obstacle course and culminates with the 12-mile foot march with each student carrying an average load of 35 pounds (without water).

"This is something I've wanted to do since I joined the Army," said Spc. Todd Konrad, a cavalry scout with the squadron. "I want to challenge myself and be part of the elite group. It's something to be proud of."

Konrad said he appreciates being in a unit willing to go the extra effort to make sure he's ready for what is known as the hardest school

in the Army.

"They told me what I need to work on," he said. "The instructors were really professional in instilling discipline and keeping the standards up."



*Soldiers of the 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, go through pre-ranger qualifications on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at West Fort Hood's Ready Field.*

## Shortage of Ranger leaders

To create training that simulated the assessment phase, the unit pulled together all of its Rangers. Being the long range reconnaissance squadron for III Corps, the unit has 59 positions designated for an Army Ranger. Right now only 32 are filled, said Lt. Col. John Cogbill, squadron commander. This shortage, which is seen Army-wide, is partially due to the unit's recent year-long deployment to Afghanistan.

"There's a shortage of Ranger leaders, because of 10 years of war," Cogbill said. Ranger School is a 61-day course.

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Bibb is a cavalry scout in the squadron who has been trying to find time between his three deployments to get to Ranger School.

"It's always something I've wanted to do," he said. "I'm hoping real world experience will off-set the age and wear and tear on my body."

[READ MORE...](#)

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## MCoE Doctrine and Training Division, Reconnaissance Branch

Click on the link below to go to their site on Army Knowledge Online.





Page 6 photos (Top): Congratulations to SGT Janelle Drennan of the 201<sup>st</sup> BFSB & the JBLM Womens Army Ten Miler team for taking 1st place in the womens Commander's Cup trophy category! SGT Drennan ran the 10 miles in 1:04:17. (Center): SPC Martin wins the 205lb Light Heavyweight Division at the Fort Bragg Combatives Tournament, Oct. 20. (Bottom): Task Force Raptor, 3-124 CAV, Texas Army National Guard, cases its colors at a transfer of authority ceremony with 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Kentucky Army National Guard. The Texas National Guardsmen were deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (photo by SSG Malcolm McClendon).

Page 7 photos (Top-left): 1LT Christopher Holden was Knighted into the Honorable Order of Saint George for his honorable service to 1-38 CAV. During his time in the Squadron, 1LT Holden served as an Assistant S-3 Officer, RECON Platoon Leader, and Troop Executive Officer. 1LT Holden departs the Squadron to attend the Infantry Captain's Career Course. (Top-right): 3rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment Conquers the Sea (click on photo to watch a video). (Center-right): SSG Johnathan Dunbar, center, gives instruction on disassembling and reassembling a M240 machine gun as soldiers of 2-38 CAV, 504th BFSB, go through pre-ranger qualifications on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at West Fort Hood's Ready Field. (Bottom): 1LT Voss presents an intel update to leaders of the 82nd Airborne Division's 2BCT before they load aircraft bound for JRTC. 3rd Detachment inserted recon teams into Fort Polk, LA, to observe key terrain and provide reporting to the 18th Airborne Corps prior to 2BCT's Airborne Assault.