



TCM-ABCT/BFSB
Fort Benning, Georgia

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BFSB Monthly

Director's Message

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

BFSB Community,

Greetings from Fort Benning to the extended BFSB community. I'd like to start off by formally welcoming LTC(P) Raymond D. "BOZ" Bossert Jr., the new "Spear 6," Commander, 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BFSB), Georgia Army National Guard. I'd also like to mention COL Paul Norwood's command of the 201st BFSB is drawing to a close; his change of command will occur on 1 March 2013.

This BFSB Monthly Newsletter reminds us that several of the Army National Guard BFSBs' span of control includes organizations beyond their MTOE. 1st Battalion 175th Infantry winning the 58th BFSB "Best Warriors" Competition represents this. If you ask a LRS Soldier from the 525th BFSB, "When is a good time to go to the Army Mountain Warfare Course?", you'll get this response: "I did it in January to check out the ice walls". Troopers from Phantom Recon, 504th BFSB, revisited the Tactical Tracking Operations School (TTOS) in Sierra Vista, Arizona, a course they introduced to the BFSB community over three years ago. In a future BFSB Monthly Newsletter, we may hear more from the 504th on what they did (I'm being intentionally cryptic). The 201st BFSB's 3-38 Cavalry is re-establishing an old tradition of "Border Operations," but with a new twist to the cold war border mission and those performed in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. BFSB MI Battalions continue to "RIP" with sister MI battalions in Afghanistan. Who jumps from a German C-160 under control of Uruguayan jumpmasters? Members of 1-158 Cavalry, 58th BFSB did. Soldiers landed on Drop, Luzon DZ, at Fort Bragg during "Operation Toy Drop," which culminated with toy donations for local families.

Also in this BFSB Monthly Newsletter you will find information about how to access the BFSB SOP folder which can be found on the BFSB Warfighter Forum homepage on Army Knowledge Online. Please feel free to share your products with the rest of the BFSB Community. As always, you will find in this newsletter links to other warfighters' forums and professional symposium activities.

In closing, I ask you continue to keep in mind those BFSB Troopers from the 201st and 525th BFSBs and individual augmentees who are now deployed and accomplishing key missions for their supported commands.

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Disclaimer

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BFSB Warfighter Forum & Monthly Newsletter Point of Contact

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

Note: The BFSB Warfighter Forum is directed by the Assistant TCM-BFSB. POC information listed on page 3.

TCM-BFSB Points of Contact



Director, TCM-ABCT & BFSB

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

Assistant Director, TCM-BFSB:

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

XO, TCM-BFSB:

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

Materiel Integrators:

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

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

Doctrine & Training Integrator:

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

Materiel & Organizational Integrator:

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

BFSB Analyst & CAC LNO

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

58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade announces top Soldiers

SGT William White of B Company and SPC Samuel Clark of A Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry, came away with top honors after a tough day of competition Jan. 19, as the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade selected its "Best Warriors."

The day started at Ruhl Army in Towson, MD with a welcome briefing by Brigade Command Sergeant Major Donald R. Connelly. Following the briefing, candidates proved their proficiency on weapons and medical evacuation procedures. The Soldiers then moved to a nearby trail for testing on individual movement techniques and a four-mile ruck march (or run, for some candidates). Returning to Ruhl Armory, the candidates completed a map reading examination before changing uniforms for a board appearance. Each noncommissioned officer and Soldier faced a battery of questions by the senior brigade's senior NCOs.

Evaluators tested the candidates on their personal and professional achievements, Soldier skills, performance, and a wide variety of military knowledge. While all candidates from the subordinate units performed well, in the end there could be only one winner for each of the two categories.

Both winners spent most of 2011 and part of 2012 deployed to the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt with the 1-175th Infantry supporting the Multinational Force and Observers mission. During the deployment, Soldiers had plenty of time to focus on developing their military knowledge and physical conditioning. It certainly paid off in this competition.

White and Clark will represent the brigade in the Maryland Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition in April.



(From left) SGT William White, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry CSM Richard Magnum and SPC Samuel Clark pose after White and Clark won their respective levels of the brigade's Best Warrior Competition.

Important announcements and links to other newsletters

[The Thunderbolt Blast](#), December 2012, is the Armor School and Chief of Armor Newsletter. This bulletin contains articles of interest to the Armor force, links for continued dialogue between the Armor community, Armor School, and Chief of Armor, and news updates from the Armor Schools. **Please disregard the information about the 2013 Reconnaissance Summit, which has been postponed.** The Gainey Cup is still going forward as scheduled. On page 2, you will find information about possible courses of action that may affect BFSBs in the future, however, you will find the most up-to-date BFSB-related information in the Director's Message on page 1 of the BFSB Monthly Newsletter.

[The Stryker Bulletin](#), 14 Jan 2013, provides a brief set of notes on the SBCT community of purpose (CoPu) actions and Stryker Warfighters' Forum (SWfF) activities, as well as call attention to resources available to SBCTs to support their endeavors throughout all phases of the ARFORGEN process.

(Below) LRSC Soldiers from the 525th BFSB negotiate an ice wall while attending the US Army Mountain Warfare Course in January.





Last month, eight Soldiers from the 2-38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, attended the Combat Tracker Course taught by the Tactical Tracking Operations School (TTOS) in Sierra Vista, Arizona. For more information on the course, and other courses taught at TTOS, visit their website at <http://www.ttoscorp.com>.

Soldiers from 504th participate in tracking school

Story by Rose L. Thayer,
Fort Hood Herald

Eight soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade got a chance to attend the Tactical Tracking Operations School in Sierra Vista, Ariz., earlier this month.

The two-week course is civilian taught and contracted through Fort Huachuca, Ariz., to train military service members to track people. Following footprints, checking for broken sticks and walked-on grass, determining what type of shoe was worn, determining which direction the wearer was headed — these are just a few of the skills taught in the class, said Sgt. Adam Quick, one of the squadron's members to travel to Arizona.

"It was a good experience, and a really good course. It enhances our capabilities, because we are a reconnaissance unit," he said. "Now I look at things a little bit different."

Training began in a classroom, teaching skills to prepare students for the culminating exercise of tracking an expert.

The final scenario involved tracking a downed enemy pilot to capture him, said Staff Sgt. Matt Overway who also attended the course. The eight soldiers from various elements of the squadron had to work together and after two full days of tracking on the rugged, mountainous terrain, they found the pilot on the morning of the third day.

"We worked from sun up to sun down," Overway said. "You can track at night, but it's a slower process."

Quick said each night the team would sit down and go over a map to plot possible routes of where the pilot could have gone and where he might be headed, such as a water source or village.

"I thought they did spectacular," said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Diggins, who coordinated the trip for the squadron, which is Fort Hood's only reconnaissance unit, complete with an airborne troop. "The skill set they gained while attending the course will be useful."

[More...](#)

BFSB SOP folder on AKO

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

Recent addition to the BFSB Unit SOP folder:

- [201st BFSB S-2 SOP](#)

Link to the BFSB Unit SOP folder:

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/37955883>

CATR Point of Contact

MCoE CATR SME:

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

MCoE Doctrine and Training Division, Reconnaissance Branch





(Above) SGT Anthony Landis, Communications NCO for A/3-38 CAV, successfully transmits data and voice sky wave communications over 14 miles, from Merrill DZ to the A Troop Headquarters, using an AN/PRC-150 high frequency radio kit and a field expedient half-wavelength dipole NVIS antenna, elevated just 1 meter above the ground.

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](#).



3-38 Cavalry prepares for border mission

Story by 1LT Matthew Condon, Scout Platoon Leader, A TRP, 1st PLT, 3-38 Cavalry

The 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment of the 201st BFSB is the I Corps Commander's only dedicated ground reconnaissance and surveillance asset. While 3-38 CAV shares a similar structure with traditional Cavalry units, it has a smaller footprint and a weaker punch, i.e. it lacks an internal support company, it has no mortars, and each cavalry troop has only two (2) platoons. This leaner task organization requires the BFSB cavalry squadron to de-emphasize its traditional security role, but it also makes the organization ideally suited to deep reconnaissance and surveillance at ranges beyond the capability of normal cavalry units.

This spring, 3-38 CAV will deploy to Arizona and conduct reconnaissance and surveillance along our southern border in order to assist Joint Task Force— North (JTF-N) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with their ongoing effort to disrupt trans-national criminal and terrorist organizations and activities along our nation's borders. The projected area of operations is enormous (nearly 600 square miles). The terrain within the AO is severely restrictive and there are very few trafficable roads through the AO. The Surveillance section will be operating up to 10 miles from the troop CP, which, in turn, may be as far as 80 miles from the squadron TOC. These distances, combined with dramatic elevation changes and the severely restrictive terrain, will make traditional FM communications impossible between subordinate and higher units.

At these extended ranges, section and team leaders must become nearly completely self-sufficient and must be able to make decisions with little to no guidance from higher leadership. Junior NCOs need to be able to plan and execute operations from receipt of the mission, through planning, preparation, insertion, infiltration, actions on the objective, exfiltration, extraction, and ultimately debrief. Most importantly, they need to be able to accomplish all of this while bringing themselves and all of their men home safely. These extended ranges also require every member of the team to demonstrate absolute proficiency on Non-Line-of-Sight (NLOS) communications systems, including HF and TACSAT radios equipped with the Weapons Mix Tool (WMT0 and tough books. Troop commanders and platoon leaders, therefore, must be able to empower and trust their section and team

leaders, and the best way to arrive at this trust is by continually exposing leaders and Soldiers to challenging and realistic training that forces them to exercise the critical thinking, sound decision-making, and technical expertise required for deep reconnaissance and surveillance operations.

In preparation of the JTF-North mission, A/3-38 CAV recently conducted a week-long reconnaissance and surveillance FTX within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, over fifty (50) miles south of Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Unrelenting rainfall and near-freezing temperatures combined with challenging terrain and a merciless OPTEMPO to provide section leaders with the type of conditions they might face during the unit's imminent border mission. Sections were also forced to develop proficiency on NLOS communications systems, due to the considerable distances between elements, at which ranges FM communications were virtually useless. The experience was exhausting and humbling, and the troop identified multiple gaps in our resident knowledge and prior training. However, for this very reason, the event was hugely suc-



(Above) PVT Matthew Paddock, a recent OSUT graduate, scans his sector during a short security halt.

cessful, for the best training is that which makes us better.

In the near future, A/3-38 CAV will capitalize on its success by continuing to train in non-traditional and challenging environments, similar to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Difficult training will forge mature leaders, strengthen unit cohesion, and prepare us for our mission this spring. Ultimately, 3-38 CAV continues to evolve and to better define its role within the BFSB concept, and will quickly become the I Corps commander's go-to reconnaissance and surveillance asset.



Photos: (Top-left) A child gives a big hug to her daddy, as Soldiers from the 109th MI Battalion, 201st BFSB, returned home from a deployment to Afghanistan. (Top-right): While the 109th and 502nd MI BN Soldiers from the 201st BFSB were coming home, members of the 519th MI Battalion, 525th BFSB, take part in a reenlistment ceremony at the beginning of their deployment in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Center): 2-38 CAV Soldiers from the 504th BFSB pose for a photo while attending the Combat Tracker Course in Fort Huachuca, AZ. (Center-right): Soldiers from 2-38 CAV load into a C-130 military transport aircraft while taking part in a training exercise at Fort Hood. (Bottom-left): Members of 1-158 CAV, 58th BFSB, jump from a German C-160 on December 12, 2012, under control of Uruguayan jumpmasters during Operation Toy Drop, Luzon DZ, Fort Bragg, NC. Each member donated a toy for local families. (Bottom-right): 2nd PLT from A TRP, 3-38 CAV, 201st BFSB, conducts SLLS (Stop, Look, Listen, Smell) shortly after insertion in order to ensure that they have remained undetected and that there are no enemy in the immediate area.