



TCM-ABCT/Reconnaissance
Fort Benning, Georgia

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BFSB Monthly

Director's Message

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

BFSB Community,

Greetings to the BFSB and Reconnaissance Community. On behalf of MG H.R. McMasters, the Commanding General of the Maneuver Center of Excellence, we wish you a happy 4th of July. As the United States of America celebrates its 237th birthday we ask you to remember the Soldiers deployed in harm's way around the world and keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this time of celebration.

TCM-Recon continues to move forward with the Reconnaissance Capabilities Based Assessment. The team is in close contact with the recon stakeholders and recon enablers across the force to capture the information generated by the Functional Area Analysis that took place in early June. We will keep the reconnaissance community informed as we move forward with these efforts.

With regards to the Reconnaissance & Security Brigade Concept, MG McMasters is currently scheduled to meet with Army Chief of Staff, GEN Ray Odierno at the Pentagon on 19 July to discuss the ongoing analysis and the courses of action being developed that support this process. While we don't think GEN Odierno will make a final decision on the disposition of the BFSB or the R&S BCT during this brief, it will bring us a step closer to that final decision. TCM-Recon will inform the reconnaissance community on whatever information comes out of that meeting.

TCM-Recon is currently scheduled to conduct unit visits with the 142th BFSB, ALARNG on 25 July and with the 297th BFSB, AKARNG on 28 & 29 September. TCM-Recon will continue this process in an effort to build and maintain relationships with the entire BFSB Community.

I'd like to celebrate one of the small victories that mean a lot to the soldiers impacted. Based on a report from the LRS Commander in 142 BFSB, ALARNG, we quickly determined that for seven of the ten BFSB's their M110, 7.62mm Sniper Rifles had been inadvertently been pulled from their MTOEs. We have a great working relationship with US Army Force Management Support Agency (USAFMSA) and can report the error is corrected for the FY14 MTOE in FMS. This will allow Maneuver Division, Infantry / Armor Branch of USAFMSA to build the affected seven unit's documents and add back in the sniper rifles. Those documents should be in FMSWEB by the end of July this year.

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

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Disclaimer

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

BFSB Warfighter Forum & Monthly Newsletter Point of Contact

Mr. Derek Larson
7533 Holtz Street
Fort Benning, GA 31905
Phone: 706.545.8825 (office)
770.557.4666 (cell)
E-mail: derek.larson@us.army.mil

TCM-Reconnaissance Points of Contact



Acting Director, TCM-ABCT & Recon

Mr. John Miller III
Phone: 706.626.1225
E-mail: john.w.miller.civ@mail.mil

Team Chief, TCM-Recon:

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

XO, TCM-Recon:

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

Materiel Integrators:

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

Doctrine & Training Integrator:

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

Materiel & Organizational Integrator:

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

Analyst & CAC LNO

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

MCoE CATR SME:

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

Maryland lieutenant colonel helps save Soldier after jump mishap

Story by 2LT Jessica C. Donnelly,
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

What began as a routine training jump from the back of a C-27J aircraft, quickly became a matter of life or death for one soldier. As he hung by the neck, unable to release himself from the harness, the response of his fellow Soldiers was crucial, and in this case, life-saving.

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard's C Company, 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment were performing a non-tactical jump over Bitner Drop Zone in Little Orleans, MD, this past December when strong winds and a late exit out of the aircraft led to a serious situation.

"Some of the jumpers landed in the trees at the far edge of the drop zone, which isn't uncommon," said CPT Wade Cleland, C Company commander.

He explained that because of the multiple soldiers suspended from the trees, the company created a detail to help get the members and parachutes down from the branches. Included in that detail was LTC Bradley Martsching, 1-158th commander, who headed over to the edge of the drop zone to assist the unit. [READ MORE](#)



LTC Bradley Martsching performs a Jumpmaster Personnel Inspection on SPC Moises Sanchez

Maryland lieutenants shine at Fort Benning

Story by 1LT Kristofer P. Baumgartner,
Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Three Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers proved themselves among their active duty counterparts by graduating with honors, this month, from Basic Officer Leader Courses at Fort Benning, GA.

1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment lieutenants Benjamin P. Smith and Nicholas A. Riesett graduated from Armor BOLC on May 17, in the top 20 percent of their class. 2LT Riesett ranked number two in the class and was the cycle's honor graduate. 2LT Noah K. Russell, also from the squadron, earned the top spot in the Infantry BOLC and was named the class' distinguished honor graduate on May 2. [READ MORE](#)

National Guardsmen train in Idaho high desert

Story by SGT Edward Eagerton,
Alaska Army National Guard Public Affairs

ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER, Idaho — Approximately 375 Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard participated in the Exportable Combat Training Capability program near Gowen Field, ID.

The Guardsmen from the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade trained at the facility from June 1 until Thursday (13 June).

The Exportable Combat Training Capability program was a field training exercise designed to certify unit proficiency and is validated by graders from the 1st Armored Division.

"This exercise allows us to work on our information flow and reporting techniques, and it allows us to establish and confirm our standard operating procedures," said 1LT Vance Johnson, Executive officer of C Company, 1st Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, 297th BFSB, Alaska Army National Guard. [READ MORE](#)



CPT Daniel Stephens maintains his balance during the 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade's free fall training Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at iFLY Austin Indoor Skydiving. (Photo by Marianne Lijewski, Killeen Daily Herald)

Fort Hood soldiers train for airborne missions at iFLY

Story by Sarah Rafique,
Killeen Daily Herald

AUSTIN — When CPT Daniel Stephens entered a wind tunnel blasting air at more than 100 mph, the soldier's cheeks flapped against his face.

"The first time you get kind of mad because the opposite happens of what you really expect. I tried to reach for the door and ended up flying back," said CPT Stephens, commander of Charlie Company, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. "Once you get relaxed (and find a stable position), it's kind of calm actually."

CPT Stephens was among 11 soldiers in the company who trained for future airborne missions Wednesday at iFLY Austin Indoor Skydiving.

The company is the only airborne unit at Fort Hood and the only one qualified to use military free fall in operations, with four jumpers qualified through the Military Freefall School at Yuma Proving Ground, AZ, as well as nine more preparing to go to the school.

"It's a tremendous honor. I'm definitely very blessed to be here," CPT Stephens said. "I feel very lucky to be with the guys."

LTC John P. Cogbill, squadron commander, said the wind tunnel introduces soldiers new to the airborne unit to the free fall sensation.

"(Training) is extremely important because military free fall operations are inherently risky just due to the fact that you're not tethered to anything and you're leaving an aircraft anywhere between 12,500 and 25,000 feet," LTC Cogbill said. "Once you're up there, there's no one really that's going to be able to help you, so in order to mitigate that risk, we need to take every opportunity that we have to practice and maintain proficiency in a controlled environment."

SFC Nicholas Ford, platoon sergeant for the 2nd Detachment, said working with experts who traveled with them to Austin was beneficial.

[READ MORE](#)

Other newsletters of interest

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- [AWfF \(1 JUN 2013\)](#)
- [IWfF \(13 JUN 2013\)](#)
- [SWfF \(14 JUN 2013\)](#)

Note: It may be necessary to join the newsletter's Community in order to download.

BFSB Warfighter Forum (WfF) Links

- BFSB WfF Homepage (Includes links to BFSB unit homepages)
- BFSB Collaboration Site NEW!
- BFSB Warfighter Forum on Facebook.
- BFSB WfF on AKO-S:
<https://www.us.army.smil.mil/suite/page/21502>



MCoE Doctrine and Training Division,
Reconnaissance Branch



525th BFSB major receives Knowlton Award

MAJ Heather Clevenger, the Multinational Battle Group-East Intelligence Officer and Virginia Beach native, was presented the Knowlton Award for her exceptional performance in promoting the Army Military Intelligence community at a ceremony held on Camp Bondsteel June 27.

MAJ Clevenger's former battalion commander, LTC Kevin A. McAninch, the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion commander, had recommended her for the prestigious award and was able to join the presentation from Afghanistan by video teleconference. Clevenger's husband, Cliff, was also able to participate in the ceremony by VTC from Fort Bragg, NC, with the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade's rear detachment. Clevenger is currently deployed to Kosovo as a part of Kosovo Forces 17. The Knowlton Award recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army Military Intelligence in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipients, their superiors, subordinates, and peers. These individuals must also demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and moral character, display an outstanding degree of professional competence, and serve the MI Corps with distinction. The award was established in 1995 by the Military Intelligence Corps Association (MICA), in support of the MI Corps. MICA is the sponsoring agency and provides financial resources, administrative control, and publicity.

Editor's note: For more information about the Knowlton Award, visit [this site](#).

Paratroopers help with test of new chute

*Story by Eloise Lundgren,
U.S. Army Operational Test Command*

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate conducted a rigorous operational test recently on the new Military Free Fall Advanced Ram-Air Parachute System, a non-developmental item to replace the nearly 20-year-old MC-4 parachute system for all service branches, according to the test officer.

Supported by 30 static line qualified paratroopers from C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment under the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and 50 military free fall paratroopers from the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 10th Special Forces Command groups, Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate testers conducted the operational test to validate the system's effectiveness, suitability and safety, said Roderick Manke, test plans analyst.

"The RA-1 is an individual Soldier's parachute system consisting of a main parachute, reserve parachute, harness and container," Manke said. "It is designed to allow insertion by both Military Free Fall and Double Bag Static Line techniques depending on mission deployment requirements.

"The system also allows for an increase in the jumper's rigged weight of up to four hundred and fifty pounds," he said. "The system is designed to deliver jumpers safely from aircraft flying at elevations from 3,500 feet above ground level to 25,000 feet mean sea level with an objective to go to 35,000 (mean sea level) after follow-on testing."

The main parachute will deliver the jumper safely to the ground during combat and training airdrop operations, Manke said, while the reserve parachute will function across a wide range of parachute malfunctions. The harness container is designed to fit the fifth through 95th percentile Soldiers and houses both the main and reserve canopies.

The test team consisted of Manke, an operational research system analyst, data manager, data collector, T-34 chase plane and pilot, photographer, videographers and an instrumentation technician. The player unit Soldiers were required to undergo new equipment training to include fitting, donning, doffing, recovery, aircraft exit procedures and packing the main canopy.

Members of ATEC's integrated product team from the Army Evaluation Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ; and ABNSOTD developed the design of experiment using performance



Photo: An Army paratrooper flies the new RA-1 parachute system during operational testing at Fort Bragg, NC.

specifications detailed by the team, the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and the combat developer, Manke said.

Using drop zones at Laurinburg, Clinton and Raeford, NC, and Fort Carson, CO, paratroopers executed test jumps from U.S. Air Force C-127, Joint Cargo Aircraft, U.S. Army CASA 212, C-23 Sherpa, Pilatus Porter and contracted Twin Otter aircraft at altitudes from 5,500 feet AGL to 12,500 feet mean sea level in day and night conditions, he said.

"Our test team collected raw data, and we have provided our report to the evaluators at the Army Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground for their final evaluation report to support a milestone C, full materiel release type classification-standard," Manke said. "The program manager is scheduled to begin fielding the RA-1 in the third quarter of fiscal year 2014."

"I'd call this a successful endeavor as we were able to collect the right amount and right kind of data to support the evaluators," said COL Mark Edmonds, director, ABNSOTD. "By selecting a non-developmental item, we will be able to accelerate the acquisition process and get the equipment to Soldiers a lot faster."

ABNSOTD is under the command of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command, Fort Hood, TX, as a subordinate command of ATEC.

Editor's note: For additional information, contact MAJ Tony Thornton, TCM-Recon Materiel Lead (POC info on page 2).

BFSB photos



Photos: (Top-left) LTC Mark Aitken relinquished command of the 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, to LTC Bruce Vitor in a change-of-command ceremony in June. In this photo, LTC Aitken poses with COL Soller, commander of the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, after being presented with an award for his distinguished service. (Top-right) PV2 Robertson from C Company, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, provides sniper over watch from a rotary-wing platform during a riot control exercise in Hohenfels, Germany, in preparation for the unit's deployment to Kosovo. (Bottom-left) Alaska Army National Guard Cavalry Scouts from the 1st Squadron, 297th Cavalry Regiment, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, map out the next phase of their reconnaissance mission to ensure the area is safe for the rest of the unit to follow during their Annual Training at Gowen Field, ID. (Bottom-right) MAJ Heather Clevenger, currently deployed with the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade in Kosovo, is presented with the Knowlton Award in a ceremony at Camp Bondsteel on June 27th. Her husband, Cliff, can be seen in the background as he was able to participate in the ceremony via VTC from Fort Bragg, NC. Editor's note: If you would like to share a photograph in a future edition of the BFSB Monthly Newsletter, please contact derek.p.larson.ctr@mail.mil.

...more BFSB photos



Photos: (Top-left) SSG Christopher Saylor, a Signal Intelligence Guardsman with A Company, 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, participates in Panther Strike; a large-scale, multi-discipline exercise that incorporates human intelligence, signals intelligence, counterintelligence, and imagery intelligence, all acting at the same time in a real-world, deployment-based scenario, to prepare Guardsmen for the kinds of missions they face when deployed. (Top-right) CPT Mitscherling, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, receives the Order of the St. Maurice by the highest-ranking Infantry Officer, COL Hensley, commander of the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. (Bottom-left) SPC Killian R. Piper of C Troop (LRS), 2-152 Cavalry Squadron, 219th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Indiana Army National Guard, takes aim with the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System on June 08, 2013 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. (Bottom-right) Soldiers of C Company, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, take part in a static line jump June 19 at Fort Hood, TX.