



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,

New Year's greetings from Fort Benning, first and foremost to those BFSB troopers deployed, but including all you in the extended BFSB community. **Breaking news I want to bring to your attention is the Reconnaissance Summit scheduled for 5-7 March, at Fort Benning has been postponed until this coming fall. The inaugural Gainey Cup, a dismounted Scout competition, is still scheduled for 3-5 March 2013.** Once new dates for the 2013 Reconnaissance Summit are confirmed, we will provide you with the information in this newsletter.

There is no news to report on the Reconnaissance and Security BCT analysis; the next major analytical effort will consist of a series of how to fight seminar video teleconferences to be scheduled in February.

In this newsletter, you'll also find articles on 504 BFSB Troopers participating in a combat stress test, the article includes a link to the Killeen Daily Herald article, which describes the combat stress event in detail. You will see a brief notice on 525 BFSB's future deployment to two different theaters nearly simultaneously. There again the brief article includes a link to additional information on 525 BFSB's future activities. Two articles report on recent 201 BFSB units' operations and training and we'll also provide links to other warfighters' forums and professional symposium activities.

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

Inside this issue

504th & 525th BFSB articles.....	2
502nd MI BN article	3
TCM-BFSB POCs	4
201st BFSB article	4
CATR POCs	4
Announcements.....	5
58th BFSB SSI	5
Recent BFSB photos.....	6

Disclaimer

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



Soldiers participate in combat stress test

Story by Rose L. Thayer,
Killeen Daily Herald

SPC Joshua Smith made it through the 300-meter run, the kettle bells and the first of several shooting positions without any serious holdups.

He even dragged the 180-pound litter toward the long-range shooting position, hitting the metal target on several of his six shots with an echoing ping.

He assessed the casualty, applying a tourniquet to the man's right leg and filled out the nine lines needed for the medical evacuation,

but for some reason, assembling the radio gave him trouble.

"I wasted 10 or 15 seconds on the (battery)," he said, going over the stress shoot training course he'd just finished Wednesday morning.

[Read more...](#)

Photo (left): SPC Tim White, 2nd Battalion, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, runs to his next post Wednesday, December 5, 2012, during the Phantom Recon Stress Shoot at Fort Hood (photo by Catrina Rawson, KDH)

"On a stress shoot, you start seeing that instincts go out the window, and training is all you have to rely on." — SFC Robert Leak, 504th BFSB (story above)

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.smil.mil/suite/page/21502>.



Two Fort Bragg brigades to deploy to Afghanistan in 2013

Story by Henry Cunningham, Military editor, *Fayobserver.com*

The 82nd Airborne Division will send two brigades to Afghanistan next year, Fort Bragg's commander said Wednesday.

"The new year will continue the deployment cycle," said Lt. Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, commander of Fort Bragg and the 18th Airborne Corps, during a speech on post.

In addition, Allyn said, the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade will send two battalions to Afghanistan and the brigade headquarters and a squadron to Kosovo.

The 18th Airborne Corps headquarters expects to deploy to Afghanistan in 2014, he said.

The three-star general made the comments during the holiday luncheon of the Braxton Bragg Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army at the Fort Bragg Club. About 280 people attended.

Allyn did not reveal the number of troops who will deploy. An 82nd Airborne Division brigade combat team has about 3,500 soldiers. The division has four brigade combat teams.

"The size and composition of those units, and a potential date for their deployment, is still not determined," Ben Abel, a Fort Bragg spokesman, said after the luncheon.

National leaders will make the final decisions about the corps headquarters' deployment to Afghanistan, the spokesman said.

Allyn's remarks came at a time when the future of the U.S. mission in Afghanistan is in flux and taking a back seat to budget negotiations.

The Senate on Tuesday approved a defense bill that urges President Obama to move quickly to get U.S. combat troops out of Afghanistan.

[Read more...](#)



Afghan children wait inside the gathering area of a women's meeting at the Spin Boldak District Center, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Dec. 7, 2012. The meeting, led by female Afghan leaders from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, non-government organizations and other local professional women, was held in conjunction with the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign which runs from Nov. 25 to Dec. 10. Women discussed topics such women's rights, education, access to medical care and hygiene.

Global movement comes to rural district of Spin Boldak, Afghanistan

Story and photo by 1LT Veronica Aguila, 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan – As organizations and advocates across the world gathered and hosted events to recognize the official 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, women in the rural district of Spin Boldak learned of the movement during a rare women's gathering at the Spin Boldak District Center in Kandahar province, Dec. 7.

Female Afghan leaders from Kandahar province representing the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the non-government organization Women's Economic Empowerment Office and professional local women met with approximately 40 female villagers to spread the news of the campaign and discuss topics of importance in the area.

"We are all like you," said Mahmoona Tarek, a representative from WEEO. "We have husbands, kids, family, and we take care of them. The only difference is we get to go outside and talk with people and share our problems."

Women's gatherings in the district are still very rare, as most women do not travel outside their homes or villages.

"We all have rights," she said. "Females and males have the same rights, and men are not supposed to beat you up."

Tarek spoke to the women as she passed out purple ribbons for attendees to wear throughout the campaign as well as information cards highlighting key campaign facts.

The 16 Days campaign in Afghanistan addresses issues such as the fact that violence against women is against the law, informing women of their rights and how to defend them, and steps to take if their rights are violated.

[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.



SGT Nelson Woods, a Helena, MT., native, and section leader with Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, and SPC Ethan Smith, a Silver Spring, MD, native, and scout gunner with Troop A, put together a radio during surveillance and reconnaissance training Dec. 5. Scouts used the radios to report up the movement of simulated enemy forces.

Scouts train in national forest

Story and photo by SGT Justin A. Naylor, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST, Wash. – With 100-pound rucksacks on their backs, the tired scouts looked up hill. They were cold and wet and climbing was the last thing they wanted. Long days and frigid nights had taken their toll on the soldiers, but they kept pressing forward. Moving was the best way to stay warm in the drizzly Washington weather.

These scouts, with Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, spent a week in early December honing their reconnaissance and surveillance skills while learning to traverse the rough terrain Gifford Pinchot National Forest offers.

“This is a great opportunity for us to bring them out into unfamiliar terrain,” said U.S. Army Capt. Edward Green, a Wilmer, MN, native and Troop A commander. “We are building a skill set these guys have really not used before.”

Each of Troop A’s 9-man reconnaissance teams planned their own missions. The scouts then moved, primarily on foot, to different locations where they set up hidden camps and observed simulated enemies.

Green said reconnaissance teams like these usually operate far ahead of friendly forces collecting information on terrain and enemy positions. The information provides commanders a better understanding of the battlefield.

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest has steeper hills, deeper valleys and a more rugged landscape than what the scouts usually train in.

“They’ve never really seen terrain like this before, and I’m hoping that it will toughen them a little bit and challenge them to think outside of the box,” Green said.

He added that training at the national forest, as opposed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, challenged leaders and soldiers to plan and operate in unfamiliar terrain. [Read more...](#)



Photo (above): This photo showing Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, leaning against a mud wall during a break from combat operations in Spin Boldak district, Afghanistan, was recognized by Business Insider as one of the 65 most beautiful photos of the U.S. Military from 2012 (January 9, 2012 - Photo by SPC Crystal Davis).

Important announcements and links to other newsletters

The **26th ABCT Warfighters' Forum (AWfF) Senior Mentor Symposium** will convene **Tuesday, 15 January 2013, 1330-1500 CST (1930Z – 2100Z)**. Projected topics/presentations include: "Combat Training Centers Trends- 3-UP/3-DOWN" by BG Terry Ferrell, Commanding General, National Training Center and Fort Irwin, CA and BG William Hickman, Commanding General, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, LA; "Systemic Safety Trends Affecting ABCTs", by LTC James Smith, Director, Ground Directorate, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center; "JRTC 12-09 SFAB Rotation and RC-E Lessons Learned", by COL William Benson, Commander, 4th ABCT, 1st Cavalry Division; "NTC 13-02 DATE Rotation Lessons Learned", COL Joel Tyler, Commander, 1st ABCT, 4th Infantry Division; and "Scout Platoon Configuration and Equipment", MG H. R. McMaster, Commanding General, U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning, GA. Symposium logon procedures and instructions are available at [AWfF Symposium 01-2013 MOI](#). The AWfF December Newsletter can be downloaded [here](#).

The next **MI Senior Mentor Symposium** will be held on 31 January 2013 from 0700-0830 AZ Time (1400Z-1530Z) using Defense Connect Online (unclassified). To download a copy of the MOI click [here](#), or you can find additional information by registering on the [Symposium Conference Website](#).

The 2013 Reconnaissance Summit, scheduled for 5-7 Mar, has been cancelled. We will provide you with additional information once new dates have been confirmed. The Gainey Cup, 3-5 Mar, is still going forward as scheduled.

If you have experience using the **Mission Command Staff Trainer (MCST)**, please take a moment to log onto the [BFSB WfF Collaboration Site](#) and provide feedback on your experience using MCST. If you are not a member of the site, you will be required to register with a Common Access Card (CAC) prior to logging on. [Matt Matteson](#), from TRADOC Capability Manager– Mission Command, Fort Leavenworth, KS, is the point of contact for MCST and any questions or concerns regarding this discussion or additional information on MCST.

Other newsletters: [Thunderbolt Blast](#) (Dec 2012), [Infantry Warfighters' Forum Newsletter](#) (28 Dec 2012) and [Stryker Warfighters' Forum Bulletin](#) (21 Dec 2012).

58th BFSB (MDARNG) Shoulder Sleeve Insignia

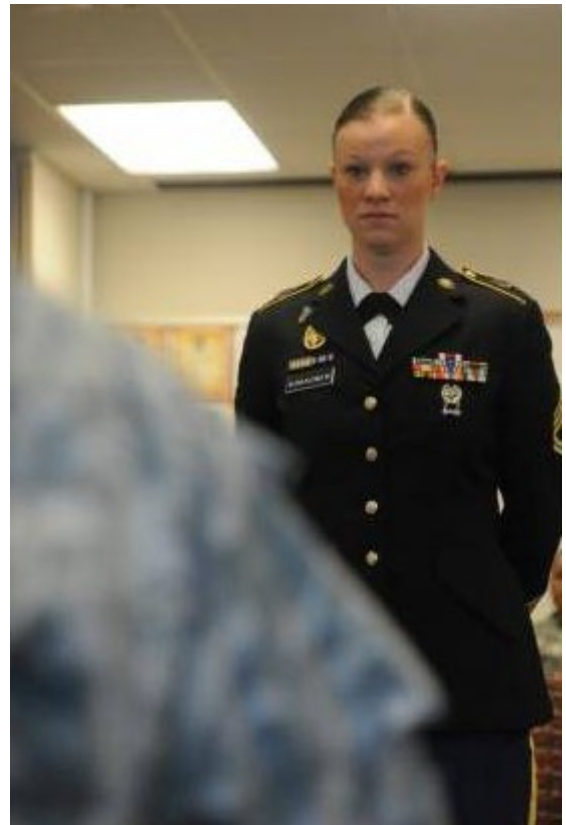


Description: On a rectangular shield arced at top and base 2 3/8 inches (6.03 cm) in width and 3 1/8 inches (7.94 cm) in height overall, quartered gray and blue, a bottony cross 2 inches (5.08 cm) in width and 2 inches (5.08 cm) in height overall quartered red and white, and surmounted diagonally overall by a yellow bayonet (of the period of the War Between the States), the point in upper left, all within a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) white border.

Symbolism: The blue and white are Infantry colors, the original unit designation. The red and white quartered bottony cross is taken from the shield of the coat of arms of Lord Baltimore and appears on the state flag and state seal of Maryland. The blue and gray represents the service of Maryland's units in the 29th ("Blue and Gray") Infantry Division in World War I and World War II. The bayonet represents the achievements of the Maryland Line during the War for Independence and the gallantry of the "Maryland 400" at the Battle of Long Island, August 1776, the first recorded use of the bayonet by American Soldiers.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for the 58th Infantry Brigade on 17 September 1976. The insignia was rescinded on 1 July 1988, when the brigade became a divisional brigade and was no longer a separate brigade. It was reinstated and redesignated for the 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team with the description and symbolism updated on 1 June 2006. It was redesignated effective 1 September 2010, for the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade with the symbolism updated.

BFSB Photos



Photos: (Top-left) PFC Samone Molock, of the 502nd MI BN, 201st BFSB, greets Afghan women and children arriving for women's meeting at the Spin Boldak District Center, Afghanistan, Dec. 7, 2012. At the meeting, women discussed topics such women's rights, education, access to medical care and hygiene. (Center-left): SFC Nathaniel Young (standing) a military intelligence advisor for the 109th MI BN, 201st BFSB, CJTF - 1, conducts an after-action review following low level voice intercept training with Afghan National Army Soldiers near Forward Operating Base Lightning, Afghanistan, December 9, 2012. (Top-Right): SFC Class Amanda Kokkonen, multi-functional team sergeant for A CO, 519th MI BN, 525th BFSB, introduces herself during an Audie Murphy Board at the 82nd Sustainment Brigade Junior Leader Course classroom December 5, 2012. (Bottom): A member of the 3rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment, 525th BFSB, captured this photo via his helmet mounted Go-Pro camera during a training exercise on Fort Bragg, NC, December 13, 2012.