



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,

Last month, I mentioned the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) would receive an update by US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) on courses of action for improving reconnaissance and security capabilities. That session occurred on 27 November with no force design decisions made by the CSA. Instead, TRADOC will continue with analysis that should include two how to fight seminars to examine corps and division recon and security requirements in February and a follow-up session in March to determine doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader, personnel and facility implications. While not specified, I expect both sessions will include both AC and RC Warfighter representatives similar to the past two events recently conducted by TRADOC.

Changing topics, it's not too early to start looking for information on the 2013 Reconnaissance Summit to be conducted from 5-7 March 2013 at the Maneuver Center of Excellence in Fort Benning, Georgia. The inaugural Gainey Cup, a dismounted Scout competition, will be held 3-5 Mar 2013 in conjunction with the summit in an effort to determine the Army's "best scout". The Armor School is seeking nominees for the 17th Annual Frederick M. Franks Award. The Franks Award is presented to a mounted active-duty or reserve officer, noncommissioned officer or DA civilian who has demonstrated a long-time contribution to the Army's ground-fighting and warfighting capabilities. The winner will receive the award during the 2013 Army Reconnaissance Summit. More information about nominations can be found in the "Thunderbolt Blast" newsletter (go to link on page 4).

In this newsletter, you'll also find articles on the 71st BFSB (TXARNG) Best Warrior Competition, along with a 504th BFSB awards ceremony on Fort Hood, where two of its Soldiers were awarded Silver Stars as a result of their actions during an ambush while deployed to Afghanistan.

Additionally included in this newsletter is a link to a Close-Access Target Reconnaissance (CATR) overview video. Please contact one of the CATR points of contact listed on page 4 if you would like more information on the program.

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.

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.

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.*



## 71st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Searches for 'Best Warrior'

Story by SPC Michael Vanpool  
36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

CAMP BULLIS, Texas – Select soldiers of the 71st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, 36th Infantry Division, spent the weekend before Thanksgiving competing for the mantle of top soldier and top noncommissioned officer.

But what does it take to be one of these best? Specialist Greg Campos said it takes a wholly committed will to be tough.

"He [soldier] has that drive to get up there every morning and complete those tasks that

he knows will wear him out physically and mentally," said Campos, of the 197th Support Company. "He just gets up and goes, and just takes it on the chin and toughs it out."

All of the thirteen participants, volunteered to test themselves and pit their abilities against their peers. [Read more...](#)

*Photo (left): Soldiers of the 71st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade square off during the combative portion of the Best Warrior Competition. (Photo by SPC Michael Vanpool)*

*"We were ambushed, ordered to fall back, we fall back, and people started getting hurt." — SSG Adam Davila, 504th BFSB (story on page 3)*

### 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>.



## Riggers host familiarization event for partnership nations

By Staff Sgt. Michael J. Taylor,  
21st TSC Public Affairs

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – U.S. Army Africa and 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 5th Quartermaster Detachment jointly conducted an aerial delivery familiarization event Nov. 5-8 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks with U.S., African and Italian soldiers.

The purpose of the familiarization was to refine and rehearse aerial delivery tactics, techniques and procedures to be applied during two major upcoming exercises - Central Accord 13 and Flintlock 13.

African partnership nations participating in the event were Cameroon and Mauritania. There were representatives from the Italian Army as well as U.S. Soldiers from 824th Quartermasters, 10th Special Forces Group, 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and 11th Aviation Brigade.

"I think this familiarization is a great opportunity, because it allows us to associate soldiers from partnership nations with low-cost, low-altitude delivery system (LCLA) prior to the exercise, which makes things easier. It's also good to meet with some of the soldiers we will be working side-by-side with during the exercise and build a relationship with them," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Orlando Velez, an airdrop assistant technician for 5th QM aerial delivery section and native of Westchester, N.Y.

"This familiarization is important, because instead of 5th QM showing up in Africa during the exercise and taking two weeks to familiarize 50 soldiers about LCLA, they had the opportunity to familiarize a handful of Soldiers who now can take what they've learned back and teach their people prior to the exercise," said Walter L. Murrell, an exercise planner for USARAF and Melbourne, Fla. native.

During the four-day event, 5th QM introduced partnership nation soldiers to the LCLA delivery system. They, along with U.S. Soldiers, were subsequently introduced to the free-drop-delivery system. [Read more...](#)



*On November 2nd, eleven Soldiers from the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade were awarded medals for their actions during an ambush while the unit was deployed to Afghanistan. Two of the Soldiers were awarded Silver Stars.*

## Soldiers Decorated For Courage Under Fire In Afghanistan

*Story by Sophia Stamas,  
KCEN-TV*

Eleven Fort Hood soldiers receive medals for courage under fire during an ambush in Afghanistan.

Two from the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade received Silver Stars.

It's the third highest honor in the military.

"We were ambushed, ordered to fall back, we fall back, and people started getting hurt," said Silver Star recipient SSG Adam Davila.

"At that point, it was how can I get them out of harms way as soon as possible," said Silver Star and Purple Heart Recipient 1LT Steven Hail.

Those moments on April 25, earned Hail the medals.

His unit was moving into a cave near Kandahar when the enemy opened fire.

"I had a couple guys pinned down, and they needed help," said Hail.

Conner Daley had a broken leg, and SGT John Lowery was shot in stomach.

Still both continued to fight, earning themselves Army Commendation Medals.

Hail said, "At that moment, with the men we had on the ground, I knew we needed to move to help SSG Davila and bring SPC Daley back to safe cover."

So he left his covered position, rushing to the aid of Davila, who stayed in harms way to protect Daley.

Hail dragged both to safety.

Davila said, "Had it not been for our excellent training and leadership, it would have been a lot worse," and when asked what got them through, he said, "Just everybody doing their job."

[Read more...](#)

### 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 Integrator:

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

Materiel Integrator:

Mr. Phil Cheatham  
Phone: 706.545.4952  
E-mail:  
malcolm.p.cheatham.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

## CATR Points of Contact

### CATR Program Manager:

Mr. Rick Huber  
813.826.7403 (office)  
E-mail: huberr@socom.mil

### MCoE CATR SME:

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

### MCoE CATR Materiel Integrator:

Mr. Robert Silva  
706.545.2243 (office)  
254.368.1005 (mobile)  
E-mail: robert.c.silva.ctr@mail.mil

### MCoE CATR Doctrine & Organizational Integrator

Mr. Wayne Cason  
706.545.2906 (office)  
502-718-6788 (mobile)  
E-mail: wayne.cason@us.army.mil

### MCoE CATR Training Integrator

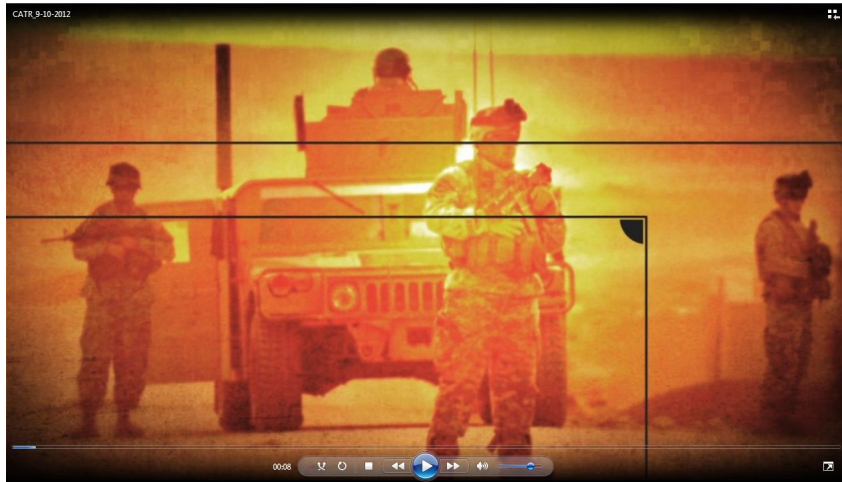
Mr. Frank Johnson  
706.545.7382 (office)  
502.457.0958 (mobile)  
E-mail:  
frank.carter.johnson@us.army.mil

### To receive CATR training, contact:

Mr. Greg Hoogendoorn  
813.390.9951 (mobile)  
E-mail:  
ghoogendoorn@blackbirdtech.com

## MCoE Doctrine and Training Division, Reconnaissance Branch

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



*A CATR Overview Video was recently uploaded to the BFSB Warfighter Forum Homepage on Army Knowledge Online. Watch the video by clicking on the about image, or by going to: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/38233966>. You can also contact Mr. Keith Frawley in the "CATR Points of Contact" section on the left side of this page.*

## Important announcements and links to other newsletters

[The Thunderbolt Blast](#), October 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. You will also find important information about the upcoming **Reconnaissance Summit**, which will be held on Fort Benning from 5-7 Mar 2013. Is your unit sending a team to compete in the **Gainey Cup**? Find more information about it here.

[The Armored Warfighters' Forum Newsletter](#), 15 November 2012, provides ABCT leaders and Soldiers with informational highlights that will be beneficial to their individual, collective, and leader development training efforts as well as highlights on activities occurring throughout the Armored BCT community. You will also find information about the **next AWFF Symposium scheduled on 15 January 2013 from 1330 to 1500 CST**.

[The Infantry Brigade Combat Team Warfighters' Forum Monthly Newsletter](#), 30 November 2012, has information about the **18th IBCT Senior Mentor Symposium from 0900-1030 (Eastern) on 6 December 2012 via DCO-5**.

[The Stryker Bulletin](#), November 2012, 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 AR-FORGEN process.

[CALL Movement and Maneuver Newsletter](#), November 2012, is published by the Center for Army Lessons Learned. Topics in this issue include how to build a tank platoon SOP, MGS gunnery, Aviation training, using doctrine to develop battle drills for the company and platoon, and the RAF Milsuite website. Visit the CALL website at: <https://call2.army.mil/>. The CALL team welcomes your feedback. If you want to comment or have suggestions, send an email to: [usarmy.leavenworth.mccoe.mbx.call-m2-wff-team-newslette@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.leavenworth.mccoe.mbx.call-m2-wff-team-newslette@mail.mil).

[The Army Training Newsletter](#), November 2012, is now available on the [Army Training Network](#) (ATN). Articles featured this month include: The second ADRP 7-0 Series article: Have You Read Training Doctrine Lately?; The Army Training Strategy – Updated; ATN is on YouTube and mil-Book; The Leader's Guide to Company Training Meetings – Updated. Also included are Tips of the Month from ATRRS, DTMS, and CATS along with the TD-Institutional Training Hot Topics.

# BFSB Photos



Photos (top-left): SPC Stepney of the 63rd Network Support Company and SSG Irwin of the 109th MI BN Rear Detachment won their respective categories in the 201st BFSB Soldier and NCO of the year competitions, (top-right): Chaplain (MAJ) Timothy S. Valentine serves dinner to the hungry Soldiers of the 201st BFSB during the Courage Inn Dining Facility Thanksgiving Meal, (bottom-left): SGT Starr and SPC Dale, from Alpha Company, 502nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 201st BFSB, participating in a local women's shura at Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, (bottom-right): Leaders from 1-158 CAV, 58th BFSB (MDARNG), utilize BFT and DCO to execute mission command and tracking in support of civilian authorities during Hurricane Sandy and follow-on recovery operations. (lower-right): The 2nd Long Range Surveillance Detachment from C CO, 1-38 CAV, conducts field planning and a mission back-brief using a sand table in their desert patrol base. Observers from the 4th Ranger Training Brigade (4th RTB) provide planning expertise

## 297th BFSB Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



Description: An embroidered insignia 3 inches (7.62 cm) in height and 2 1/2 inches (6.35 cm) in width with a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) Yellow border, a shield blazoned: Per bend Celeste and Argent (Silver Gray) a lightning flash in bend Or between a saber to base point up bendwise of the second and a wolf's head erased Sable eyed with a mullet of the third.

Symbolism: Oriental blue and silver gray, representing loyalty and determination, are associated with Military Intelligence. The yellow/gold border is emblematic of excellence and is the traditional color of Cavalry. The blue and gold are also colors of the Alaska flag where the unit was first organized. The wolf epitomizes the fierce hunter and is symbolic of the brotherhood, bond, and commitment felt within the Brigade. The saber symbolizes the unit's Cavalry scouts. The gold diagonal lightning bolt represents the signal company's part in the Brigade. As a symbol of Alaska, Polaris, the North Star, is shown as the wolf's always true and steady eye, guiding the unit forward with absolute focus and direction. The two sections of the shield refer to the operational and tactical aspects of the unit's primary mission.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved effective 1 September 2009. (TIOH Dwg. No. A-1-987).



*Photos (top): 1LT Steven Hail and SSG Adam Davila are awarded Silver Stars at a ceremony on Fort Hood for actions during an ambush when the 504th BFSB was deployed to Afghanistan. Nine other Soldiers from the 504th BFSB also received awards (click on the photo to read an article and video of the event), (bottom): LTC Roy Tisdale's wife and children unveil a plaque on the new Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility for the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Nov. 8. The building was named in honor of their husband and father, who commanded the 525th Brigade Support Battalion.*