

## Sledgehammer chefs turn up the heat

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler  
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

Army cooks are usually the first ones up in the morning and some of the last ones out at night. They work hard to prepare three meals a day, sometimes seven days a week.

Hard work paid off for cooks who run the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Gibson Dining Facility. On March 4, food service evaluators with the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence (JCCoE), at Fort Lee, Va., spent the day grading the soldiers as the final step in the Department of the Army's 46th Annual Philip A. Connelly Competition.

See HEAT, Page 11





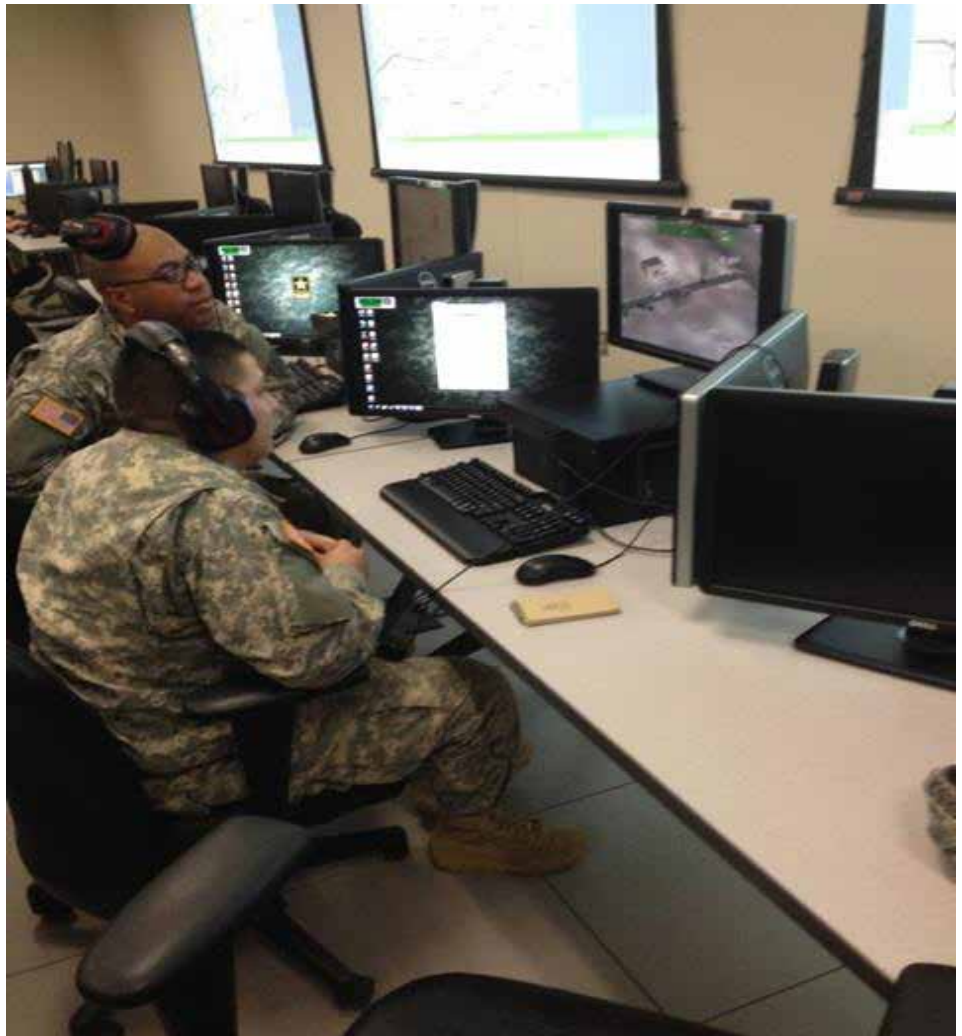
Spc. Shannon Sellers, Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, monitors a simulated video feed during the Military Intelligence Simulations Exercise at the Clarke Simulation Center.

## CoISTs train on intel capabilities

Story and photos by  
1st Lt. Eileen Poole, 203rd BSB  
*Unit Public Affairs Representative*

Military Intelligence Soldiers from throughout the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team participated in a simulation exercise (SIMEX) at the Clarke Simulation Center on Harmony Church.

The training focused on training the Brigade's Company Intelligence Support Teams (CoIST) to work in the Defense Support to Civil Au-



Sgt. William Harrison, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, and Pfc. Matthew Holguin, Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, participates in the SIMEX.

thorities (DSCA) operating environment. The CoIST teams were from 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment; and 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. Soldiers working in the intelligence sections from 203rd Brigade Support Battal-

ion and 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion also participated as the staff elements during the exercise.

The SIMEX provided a realistic simulation environment in order to allow the CoIST to exercise their intelligence functions in a group setting.

The **Sledgehammer Times** is published in the interest of the service members of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. The **Sledgehammer Times** is an Army-funded newsletter authorized for members of the U.S. Army under the provisions of AR 360-1, contents of **Sledgehammer Times** are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army. The **Sledgehammer Times** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

**3rd ABCT Commander**  
Col. Charles Costanza  
**3rd ABCT Command Sergeant Major**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Green  
**3rd ABCT Public Affairs Officer**  
Maj. Ellis Gales Jr.  
**3rd ABCT Public Affairs NCOIC**  
Staff Writer  
Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler  
**3rd ABCT Public Affairs Staff Writer**  
Design/Editor  
Sgt. Stephanie Woodson





# Commander's Corner



Col. Charles Costanza  
Hammer 6

Spring has finally arrived and things are in full bloom here on Kelley Hill. We have been spending a lot of time training the last few weeks in preparation for our homeland defense mission under U.S. Northern Command. It's been an extreme pleasure Command Sgt. Maj. Green and I to spend time with the Soldiers. We've watched each of the units get better with every training opportunity.

Protecting our nation on the homefront is an honor and we're the first brigade ever selected for a mission of this magnitude under USNORTHCOM. We don't know if and when we'll be called upon to conduct security or disaster response missions, but we'll continually train throughout the next year to ensure we're ready.

Outside of preparing for upcoming missions, Sledgehammer Soldiers continue to excel on and off duty. Command Sgt. Maj. Green and I would like to congratulate everyone who works in our Gibson



Dining Facility for being officially recognized for their hard work and dedication. They earned the 2013 Philip A. Connelly competition trophy for best garrison DFAC during the regional competition held by the 406th Army Field Support Brigade, Fort Bragg, NC. They are also one of six dining facilities in the running for best Soldier-ran garrison DFAC. We look forward to seeing how they place in the upcoming weeks!

Of course we can never forget about our local community partners. Each of battalions is engaged with a local school through an initiative called Partners in Education. It's a great program that does a lot for the students and our Soldiers. Some of our Soldiers also teamed up with the local Boys & Girls Club to provide mentorship to local Columbus youth. It's important for our Soldiers to make a difference in the community especially when it comes to the next generation.

Speaking of the next genera-



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Green  
Hammer 7

tion, the brigade also participated in a local bed race which benefited homeless children and their families. It was the first time a military unit participated in the event. We look forward to doing it again next year.

Before you read on, we'd like to say thanks to each and every one of you who make this brigade great. It's with your dedication and support that the Sledgehammer Brigade has been able to accomplish so much. In the upcoming months, training will become more intense and Soldiers will spend more time in the field. The training we do today will better prepare us to respond to contingencies tomorrow. That's what made us successful in the past and that's what will make us successful in the future.

**SLEDGEHAMMER!!**

# 3rd BSTB NCOs inducted into elite corps

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Stephanie Woodson  
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

The 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion held a Non-Commissioned Officer Induction Ceremony, in Marshall Auditorium located inside of McGinnis-Wickam Hall, at Fort Benning, Ga., Feb. 26.

Fifteen newly promoted sergeants assigned to 3rd BSTB, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, were officially inducted to the ranks of the professional noncommissioned officer corps, a corps that builds on the pride that is shared as noncommissioned officers of such an elite corps. This is the first NCO induction ceremony since returning from deployment from last year.

A ceremony based off of tradition and history the NCOs, walked underneath an arch, with the NCO rank embedded in gold, completing the rite of passage.

Each inductee was given the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer and Charge of the NCO, signed by Command Sgt. Maj. Carmelo Cruz, the 3rd BSTB command sergeant major.

“The duties of NCOs are numerous, but the most important one is to train your Soldier in the individual skills necessary for them to survive in combat,” said guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Ferguson, 75th Ranger Regiment signal command sergeant major. “It is incumbent upon you to ensure that your Soldiers are proficient in the individual skills that will enable them to function as a collective team, in order to accomplish your unit’s wartime mission and meet the commander’s objectives.”

He also said NCOs are the



The new inductees stand at attention while waiting for the wetting of the stripes during the 3rd Special Troops Battalion Non-Commissioned Officer Induction Ceremony in the Marshall Auditorium, Feb. 26.

keepers of our standards, from recruiting stations to basic training, to combat zones; from infantry to logistics to medicine; and to the military police who control the roads and keep post secure.

Ferguson said as an NCO, they have started upon a course of labor, where the Soldiers that they are charged to lead, and the officers appointed above them, expect them to be the subject matter expert in their chosen field of endeavor. Over the span and arch of their career, it is necessary they develop the “skills, knowledge, and attributes” needed to become a competent professional. The other side of the coin of being a professional, he said is the adherence to the codes of conduct that bind the Army profession together. NCOs have a legal and moral obligation to treat soldiers, and their families, with the dignity and respect the surely deserve. The rank recently bestowed upon is a badge of responsibility, and a huge responsibility at that. — do not abuse it—Ferguson told the inductees.

“I am very fortunate to be inducted. It lets you know that you are a part of something bigger. On top of that, I just got to the unit so

it’s a privilege,” said Rifle, Colorado native, Sgt. Samantha Jo Chappell-Riehm, a human resource specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd BSTB, 3rd ID. “When I first enlisted, I was hoping to stay in long enough to become an NCO. It took me longer than I liked, but I’m glad I made it.”

She knew from the start she wanted to be an NCO because her father is a retired first sergeant, along with the guidance she received from her mentor.

“My mentor made me step up to the plate. She took care of me and my family. No matter what the situation job, personal, anything—she always went above and beyond, not only for me but any person,” she added. “I was mousy and rebellious, she helped tone my skills toward being a better leader and she made sure I was stronger in my personal life. My goal is to retire after 20 years and attend culinary school.”

Chappell-Riehm said her entire goal for becoming an NCO was so she could take care of her Soldiers, because she didn’t have as much support as she would have liked.

See **INDUCTION**, Page 9





**Lt. Col. Paul Gunnison**

Greetings Blackhawk Families! February represented a tough month of training and preparations with a hint of snow for the Blackhawk Squadron. The month started out calm, but soon transitioned into full stride when the Squadron received an alert for an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE) from 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. This was the kickoff to the Squadron's Blackhawk Focus (platoon evaluations), where the troops were alerted in sequence and then put through a series of deployment tasks before being pushed out the gate and into the local training areas of Fort Benning, Ga. Each Troop executed a series of training lanes that pushed the platoons to the limit and tested not only their knowledge and skills but their teamwork, adaptability, and resiliency under pressure.

The Troops of the Blackhawk Squadron conducted three different lanes during Blackhawk Focus at the platoon level focusing on crowd control and humanitarian relief; site security and traffic control; and a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) incident with the evacuation and treatment of

# 3-1 CAV



civilian casualty and the setup of a deliberate decontamination site.

With the Troops quickly changing focus and redeploying back to garrison, they were not able to slow down. The brief recovery and quick preparation for follow-on missions required the contributions of the entire team. While most of the Squadron was in the local training areas training hard during Blackhawk Focus, the mechanics of Desperado Troop worked hard to complete as many service packets as possible, working a 24/7 cycle to maximize their productivity. Their results were outstanding and a great help in improving our readiness! The training and preparation last month also went very well and the leaders of the Blackhawk Squadron are very proud of all its Troopers and Families who worked hard to make it a success.

Congratulation goes out to Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel Cota, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Green, and Sgt. Brandy Priest, for completing the Master Fitness Training (MFT) course. Additionally, congratulations to Sgt. Dustin Fennell and Sgt. Christopher Myers for graduating Advanced Leaders Course (ALC).



**Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Pinion**

Special congratulations go to Sgt. 1st Class Dan Arnold, of Troop D, who was promoted to Warrant Officer on Feb. 20! He will be a great maintenance technician.

We had a great time at the Squadron Ball Feb. 28, 2014, and people are still talking about it more than a month later. It was an excellent time to break bread, build camaraderie and create new memories for the Blackhawk Team. If you attended, I hope you also enjoyed the great skits put on by each of our Troops.

Currently, our Soldiers are coordinating with Army North to support Maple Resolve, which will be a joint training venture with our Canadian counterparts at their version of the National Training Center. We look forward to the opportunity of training in Canada and building the relationship with our North American partners.

Thanks to every Soldier and family member for your continued support and thanks for what you do for our unit every day.

**Courageous and Faithful!!**

# Gaining focus through the smoke

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Brian Baier, 3-1 CAV  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

There are few training events in the Army as challenging and arduous in the short term as Casualty Evacuation operations in a chemical contaminated environment.

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRN-E) environment demands special uniforms, special tactics, techniques and procedures and even special personal resiliency as Soldiers are asked to conduct difficult tasks in the sensory-deprived environment of protective masks, gloves and poor communication.

The Troopers of Blackhawk Squadron experienced, and excelled in, this challenging mission during their recent Blackhawk Focus Platoon Evaluations.

The international community long ago sought protections against the development and use of the special weapons that exist within CBRN-E rubric by establishing International Treaties and Conventions to punish and mitigate regional and international competitive development.

The Chemical Weapon Convention, entered into force in 1997, secures against the proliferation of specific chemical combinations that nations might utilize for combat capabilities.

The challenge presented to this environment links to the amazing array of completely legal industrial chemicals that exist in the Hazardous Material stockpiles of the world. Blackhawk Troopers faced the challenge presented by this possible hazard, donning their



*Top left:* Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, prepare to extract a civilian casualty from a wrecked vehicle during a CBRN-E exercise.

*Top right:* Soldiers extract a casualty and prepare to evacuate him from a contaminated crash site.



*Left:* Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Troop C, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., evacuate a civilian casualty who was injured in a car accident during a CBRN-E training exercise.

protective equipment to deal with a possible civil response casualty situation.

The evaluations began with a fragmentary order with limited information being provided to the Platoon leadership, forcing them to read and understand quickly the hazard that they would be dealing with.

The situation became more complex as these leaders had to deal with “civilians” in close proximity to incident site, changing their understanding of the situation, right as they were preparing to conduct a reconnaissance of the location. This evaluation technique, closely linked to the continuous adaptive learning model, forced the platoon leadership to react to multiple simultaneously events while

attempting to develop a solution to a singular complex event. The platoons developed their plans, and then aggressively executed their own individual solutions, providing the attendant observers nine distinctly different solutions.

The platoons demonstrated different techniques for task organizing their groups, identifying specific teams to secure the outer perimeter of the chemical spill site, identifying a chemical reconnaissance team, establishing a deliberate decontamination team, while simultaneously maintaining mission command and medical evacuation capabilities. Every Blackhawk platoon met the evaluated criteria and, most importantly, they all learned of the distinct challenges of operating in a CBRN-E environment.



# Crusader Soldiers continue partnership with local Boys & Girls Club

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Stephanie Woodson  
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

Soldiers with Company C “Crusader,” 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, spent the evening with more than 300 children at the Boys & Girls Club of the Chattahoochee Valley, Feb. 27, in Columbus, Ga.

Nearly 15 Soldiers and spouses participated in after-school activities such as reading, arts and crafts, music and sports with children ranging in age from first grade to high school seniors.

The Crusader Soldiers also facilitated a physical fitness challenge for the youths, while other Soldiers in the company talked to the teenagers about their journey to the military and the importance of education.

“The first volunteer event was when I first took command,” said Capt. Jeremy Herron, Crusaders commander, 1-15 Inf. Regt., 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. “We started off just cleaning up the Boys and Girls Club site. The second volunteer event happened in November 2013. It was indoors and we did a physical fitness challenge, helped the children with homework, played video games and talked to the teenagers about what they wanted to do after high school.”

Despite an early work dismissal due to Thursday’s Marne Family Time, the Soldiers took the time to greet the children as they came off the school bus, he added.

Children were divided by age group and placed into separate rooms where the Soldiers would meet them.

“The first half hour the children [were] given a briefing about drugs and alcohol, and then they [were] given a quiz with age appropriate question. The physical fitness challenge doesn’t begin until 4:30 p.m., so we try to keep them engaged as much as possible,” said 1st Lt. Nathan Reynolds, with 1-15 Inf. Regt.

Reynolds said trying to keep more than 250 youths engaged is not easy, but they get pretty creative to keep it.

The physical fitness challenge tested the children in their ability to jump rope, complete pushups and situps and run 40 meters. They were also given a height and weight, just as the Soldiers do during an Army Physical Fitness Test.

With each event running simultaneously, most of the time was spent in the gym, but toward the end he was able to spend with the high school students, said Herron.

See PARTNERSHIP, Page 9



Staff Sgt. Jason Lykins assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division demonstrates pushups during the physical fitness challenge, to a youth who participate in the afterschool program at The Chattahoochee Valley Boys & Girls Club, Columbus, Ga., Feb. 27. Soldiers from the Crusader Company also played sports, read stories and helped youth with their homework during their visit.

# Panther returns to new role in BDE

Story by Sgt. Jacob Stauber, 2-69 AR  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

On March 11, the leadership of the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, welcomed home Sgt. Maj. Judson A. Gee Jr., at the Regional Columbus Airport in Columbus, Ga.



*Courtesy photo*

Alongside Panther leaders were Gee's wife, Debra, and son, Cameron.

Gee returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, as the brigade command sergeant major for the Afghanistan Northern Regional Command's Regional Support Command-North, a multi-national equivalent of a Security

Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) under control of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan.

As Multi-National SFAB command sergeant major, Gee not only focused on the responsibility of caring for more than 1,000 multi-national soldiers, but on corps-level logistics, infrastructure and leader mentorship.

He said he focused on partnering with the Afghan noncommissioned officers, as a way of providing NCO development and mentorship.

On a weekly basis, Gee mentored four Afghan brigade-level command sergeants major with the 3rd Brigade, 209th Corps; 209th Corps; Regional Support Command; and the Regional Corps Battle School, the Afghan equivalent of the U.S. Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

Gee worked to create a weekly

NCO professional development program that focused on character, mentorship and leadership.

"It was never a dull day," he said.

Gee had to overcome challenges. Nearly 30 percent of Afghan NCOs are illiterate.

Under his guidance and mentorship, the 209th Corps set up a semi-centralized enlisted promotion board system, platoon validation lane at Regional Corps Battle School and refined the Afghan NCO Academy Education System.

On April 15, Gee will take the reins as the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team operations sergeant major. It will be a job where, he said, he hopes to further improve staff integration and dissemination of information across the Sledgehammer Brigade.

---

## 1-10 FA: RENDERING HONORS



A Salute Battery from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, fired 19 rounds, March 19, in honor of Congressman and former Secretary of the Army Howard "Bo" Callaway, during his funeral in Pine Mountain, Ga. Callaway, who helped build Georgia's infamous Callaway Gardens, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and served as a representative for Georgia's 3rd District. (Courtesy photo by 1st Bn., 10th Field Artillery Regt.)





Sgt. Samantha Jo Chapell-Riehm receives the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer, Feb. 26, during the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion's NCO Induction Ceremony.

## INDUCTION, from Page 4

Thinking on when he first enlisted into the Army back in the early 1990s. His grandmother would always tell church members and friends that her grandson was in the service. He would respectfully chime in and say, the Army is no longer referred to as 'service'.

"How wrong I was! You see, my grandmother was a product of a different time in our society, and our country, Ferguson explained. As someone who was born during the Great Depression, lived during World War II and survived the Deep South during the era of Jim Crow, she had a much different view of things than I.

To her generation, they called the Army 'The Service' because you joined out of a need, or desire, to render 'service' to the country and your fellow man. Coincidentally, by serving you became a leader to those who stayed back, uplifted and supported you in your service to our nation. We serve to make our country, our institution, and our Army better; service was their watchword and so should it be yours.

"Lastly, remember that your star is on the rise and your only limitations in this world are your dreams, your aspirations, your willingness to work hard, and your ability to persevere through adversity," said Ferguson.

## PARTNERSHIP, from Page 7

"It's a great event for them and us. We show up in our T-shirts and act like drill sergeants, and it allows the high schoolers the opportunity to ask the Soldiers questions and share their experience with them before they see a recruiter. It's always good to have a plan because high school goes by fast and before you know it, you're in the workforce," said Herron.

During the discussion about military life, the Soldiers were asked questions like how is life being in the military, where do you sleep, what do you eat, and how is it being an officer?

One of the Crusader's focus is to give back to the community by volunteering and to develop rapport within the city of Columbus.

The club director, Ronnie Bell, recalled a volunteer event in December 2010 when more than 190 soldiers came and spent the day in the life of a youth who participated in the after school program.



Soldiers with Company C "Crusaders" 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, help administer a physical Challenge test to children at the local Boys & Girls Club in Columbus, Ga., Feb. 27.

The tone was set just having the Soldier there, Bell said, because it's the little things, people can do that will make a big difference. He's been at the Boys and Girls Club more than 15 years. He understands and feels everybody needs somebody, even the most senior of leaders. Unfortunately, he only had that from one area of his life, his mom.

He feels there is always more he can do; there is always a child or children needing a mentor, a hug, and word of encouragement or help spelling a word Bells is not saying

he can do it all, but he's going to do his best. He admits it is truly a community effort.

Bell added that volunteer efforts can go well beyond monetary donations and is extremely appreciative of Crusaders continued involvement with the Boys & Girls Club, and looks forward to this continued partnership.

Boys & Girls Club is a year-round youth service agency strives in providing growth for the youth within the community.

# Blackhawks recognized for excellence

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Brian Baier, 3-1 CAV  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

On March 24, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment ‘Blackhawks,’ 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, received the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) for its 2nd runner-up placement for Maintenance Excellence, MTOE, Large Category for fiscal year 2012.

The AAME is an award that not many people know about unless they have been involved in the process of earning it. The AAME is an award based on the recipient’s expertise and professionalism while performing specific tasks.

The AAME was established by the Department of the Army in 1982 to recognize exceptional accomplishment in maintenance and provide added incentive to competitive programs of major Army

commands. The AAME is categorized by the unit’s size and number of authorized personnel--small, medium and large. It is also categorized by component to include active duty, The Army Reserves and the Army National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Peter Jones, Deputy Commanding General – Support (DCG-S) for 3rd Inf. Div., stood before the Soldiers of the mighty Blackhawk Squadron to congratulate them on a job well done, tell them to be proud of what they have accomplished and to encourage them to continue to achieve excellence in all that they do.

A large amount of credit for the award went to the squadron’s maintenance sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Mellick, of St. Louis, Mo., and the squadron’s maintenance officer, 1st Lt. Thomas Malazarte, a native of Bowling Green, Ky., who were in charge at the time the

unit was nominated and judged.

Although there were only two Soldiers recognized in front of the squadron during the award presentation, it was a team effort to get everything accomplished that needed to be accomplished for this award, said Lt. Col. Paul Gunnison, Blackhawk Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. Andrew Hilmes, a former Blackhawk commander. They both said they wanted to reiterate that message to the rest of the Soldiers standing before them.

“I want to thank Major [Timothy] Sawyer for his help, support and guidance he gave to me in order for us to just be able to submit our application,” said Malazarte.

Sawyer was the squadron’s executive officer at the time.



Left: Sgt. 1st Class Scott Mellick (left), a native from St. Louis, Mo., and 1st Lt. Thomas Malazarte, a native of Bowling Green, Ky., pose for a picture with the unit’s Army Award of Maintenance Excellent (AAME). The ‘Blackhawks’ of 3rd squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, won 2nd Runner-up in the Active MTOE, Large category for FY 2012.

Above: The Soldiers of Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, stand tall, March 24, just before the squadron was presented the Army Award of Maintenance Excellent (AAME). Troop D is the Squadron’s Forward Support Troop and home to the mechanics who worked extremely hard to help the unit achieve the award.



## HEAT, from Page 1

“This competition recognizes excellence in food service,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Princido Texidor, the Army’s top food service adviser with the JCCoE. “It is like the Super Bowl of food services... [The competition] allows Soldiers to showcase their skills and take pride in what they do.”

The Philip A. Connelly Program is regulated by Army Regulation 30-22, The Army Food Service Program. The objectives of the program are to promote and improve Army food service through awareness with incentives and competition, encourage and recognize deserving units for superb performance, award individuals for stellar management practices and honor the traditions of the Philip A. Connelly Awards Program.

In 2013, the Soldiers clinched the regional title by finishing first at the Connelly Competition with Fort Bragg’s 406th Army Field Support Brigade. The win solidified the 3rd ABCT’s spot as one of the top six DFACs out of 189 facilities Army-wide. For the Sledgehammer cooks, this was their final chance to shine and show the evaluators what they can do.

Grading was conducted in ten areas, including supervision, administration, food safety and protection, command support, attitude and appearance of personnel, and food preparation and quality.

“Sanitation and food preparation are a big piece of the competition,” said Master Sgt. James Moore,



Spc. Shantavia Herbet, a cook with 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, checks the temperature on chicken, March 4, at the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division dining facility. Herbet, of Moultrie, Ga., and about 30 other food service personnel with the 3rd ABCT, 3ID, were being evaluated on their administrative actions, recipe cards, and food sanitation and preparation procedures during the 46th Annual Philip A. Connelly Competition.

an evaluator and the Philip A. Connelly program manager. “A bad meal could easily ruin an entire unit if [the cooks] aren’t careful with handling and preparing the food.”

Not only were the JCCoE evaluators ensuring the Soldiers were properly handling and preparing all foods, but DFAC manager, Sgt. 1st Class Crawford Cox, with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, spent the day making his rounds throughout the facility, watching and mentoring the younger Soldiers on his staff.

For a Soldier new to the kitchen, the pressure to perform in a high-level competition could mean that things are easily looked over, explained Cox. But, he said, he knew the Soldiers would finish the competition strong.

That sentiment seemed to be echoed by the entire evaluation staff.

“We look for planning, coordination, training, dedication and motivation,” Texidor said.

“We’ve seen it all here today. The Soldiers are motivated when they are cooking. We have a lot of questions for them, but they also have questions for us. They want to learn.”

However, the learning experience isn’t just for the Soldiers. Texidor said during every evaluation, he and his staff learn something new— a new recipe or a new technique— because every person has their own way of cooking.

“Even though regulation governs the food service program, Soldiers will find ways to get creative, and that’s what we encourage,” Texidor said.

In addition to sanitation, preparation and pure determination, the Soldiers are only as strong as the support they receive from their command, said Texidor.

“The command has demonstrated that they fully support this food service team and are committed to ensuring the cooks are taken care of,” he said. “A command who supports Soldiers 100 percent is key is anything, and it’s been outstanding to see here.”

The Gibson DFAC is in competition with facilities in Hawaii, Texas, Washington, Germany and Korea. The winner of the 2014 Philip A. Connelly Competition will be announced in May.

Regardless of a win, Moore said the Soldiers should be proud of themselves.

“These Soldiers are motivated. Really motivated,” said Moore. “They have great team work and a lot of cohesion. To have even reached this level, you’re a winner.”

# 3rd BSTB Soldier receives Knowlton Award



**Story by 1st Lt. Stephanie Haynes**  
**Photos by 1st Lt. Christopher Siebert**  
**3rd BSTB**

*Unit Public Affairs Representative*

On March 18, the Soldiers and families of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, gathered at a restaurant in Columbus, Ga. for the Battalion Hail and Farewell.

During this event, Chief Warrant Officer Leonardo Macias, Company A, 3rd BSTB, was awarded the Knowlton Award.

According to the Military Intelligence Corps Association, the Knowlton Award recognizes individuals, military or civilian, 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.

The Knowlton Award was



Chief Warrant Officer Leonardo Macias, Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, was awarded with the Knowlton Award, March 18, for his contributions to the military intelligence community, during the battalion's hail and farewell ceremony in Columbus, Ga.

established by the Military Intelligence Corps Association in 1995 in support of the Military Intelligence Corps.

Macias said he “is humbled by the nomination for the Knowlton Award and honored to be recognized among the intelligence community.”

Macias has been a member of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team for three years. During the first two years, he provided his knowledge and passion for military intelligence to the brigade intelligence staff section (S2). He deployed with the brigade to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., followed by the deployment to Kuwait. After returning from Kuwait, Macias was able

to share his enthusiasm for intelligence, becoming the intelligence technician with the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Platoon, Company A, 3rd BSTB.

During his time with Company A, Macias discovered new resources that were adopted to prepare the Intelligence leaders across Kelley Hill. He created realistic and timely training for the Military Intelligence Company, which was incorporated into the brigade’s first exclusively intelligence focused simulation exercise at the Clarke Simulation Center on Harmony Church. The training Macias instituted has laid the groundwork for the future of intelligence-based training for 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

---

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To ensure you have the most updated information regarding what’s going on in the brigade, stay plugged in to your unit Family Readiness Group and Family Readiness Support Assistant. The contact information for each FRSA is posted on the last page of this newsletter. We’d also like to get your feedback on the newsletter. Feel free to visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/3hbct3id](http://www.facebook.com/3hbct3id) and drop us a line.



# Soldiers race down Columbus...

*in a bed?*



Team Sledgehammer and Team Dog Faced Soldiers, representing the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, participated in the 2014 Valley Interfaith Promise (VIP) Bed Race in Columbus, Ga., Feb. 22, to benefit homeless children and their families. The Sledgehammer Brigade was the first-ever military organization to participate in the race since it began in 2008.



# Trail race ‘not for the faint of heart’

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler  
3rd ABCT Public Affairs Office

Racers trudged through hills of red Georgia clay, over fallen trees and under long-growing branches for 13.1 miles, while the “pop, pop, pop” from a distant small-arms range echoed on Kelley Hill, March 15.

The setting was fitting for the 2014 Chesty Puller Trail Race. Perhaps the terrain was reminiscent of the coconut groves Marine Lt. Gen. Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller found himself with his men in 1942, where “many of the trees were shattered” and broken trunks mixed with debris. Or of the sounds as the Marines braved shelling and firefights, according to the Marine Lt. Col. Jon T. Hoffman, author of *Chesty: The Story of Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller*.

“We wanted to bring flavor to the community while representing the values Chesty Puller had,” said Marine Lt. Col. Ruben Martinez, the Marine Corps Detachment, Maneuver Center of Excellence, commanding officer. “He was an American hero, not just a Marine hero.”

Three years ago, retired Marine Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Baumgardner, a Jacksonville, N.C., native, and a few other Marines in the Marine Corps Detachment at Fort Benning, decided to turn their Monday morning trail run into something bigger. Since Baumgardner has retired and left the area, he handed over the race planning to Marine Staff Sgt. Ricky Jordan, a tank maintenance instructor from Bethel Springs, Tenn.

“When we started this [race] three years ago, we never expected it would have grown to be like it is today,” Baumgardner said.

Baumgardner joined the more than 200 service members, civilians, spouses and family members on the day’s race.

“There’s swamp land, dirt roads, gravel, soft sand, large tree roots...you name it, and it’s probably out there,” said Spencer Folds, a sports specialist with the Fort Benning Morale, Welfare and Recreation. “This course is not for the faint of heart.”

The day also featured a 5k Fun Run, which Folds said was just as technical and included some of the same terrain incorporated into the 13.1 race.

Folds, of Dadeville, Ala., spent months working with Jordan, Marines with the Marine Corps Detachment, and dozens of volunteers, to plan the half mar-



A racer jumps over a fallen tree, March 15, while a sign reads “Once a Marine, always a Marine,” during the 2014 Chesty Puller 13.1 Trail Race, hosted by the Fort Benning Marine Corps Detachment and the Fort Benning Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

athon and prepare the trail. With the rough terrain, the team had to ensure that each potential safety hazard was properly indicated with red and gold spray paint and the route was marked with tape and signs. Folds said the Marines’ MWR staff and volunteers’ help setting up the course was invaluable.

“It was tough,” said Army Lt. Col. Kevin Capra, the commander of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team’s 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment. “The hills were the hardest part. The terrain was challenging. I expected some ups and downs, but nothing like that.”

Capra said the only way to really prepare for something like the Chesty Puller Trail Race is to run trails. Having access to Kelley Hill’s wooded areas, where his battalion is located, may have seemed like an advantage, but Capra said there is still work to be done prior to racing.

“Just like any military operation, you have to do a recon and a rehearsal,” said the Mt. Claire, N.J., native. “Mentally, your pride won’t let you quit. You just have to keep on pushing.”

See CHESTY, Page 16



# 'Blackhawks' build esprit de corps in preparation of Hammer Week

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Brian Baier, 3-1 CAV  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

The Soldiers of Fort Benning's 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division enjoyed an organizational day on March 14.

The Squadron used the organizational day to build esprit de corps, but it also gave them an opportunity to hold team tryouts for all the events held during Hammer Week.

Hammer Week is intended to build esprit de corps amongst the units in the brigade through friendly competition, but also to give the

Soldiers a little break from the busy schedule the unit has been operating under.

The Blackhawk Squadron has a lot of very talented Soldiers who were excited to compete and show off the squadron's colors.

The organizational day helped the team captions narrow the fields to the best-of-the-best, so the squadron wins most, if not all, the events during Hammer Week.

The squadron 5k team's average is just under 18 minutes.

"I expect our team to win the 5k race in dominating fashion," said Sgt. 1st Class Jermaine Render, a native of Dayton, Ohio, the squadron's 5k team captain.

The organizational day was given to the unit by the squadron commander, Lt. Col. Paul Gunnison when he spoke to the unit after the change of responsibility for Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Pinion, the squadron's newest senior leader, in appreciation for all of the hard work the Blackhawk Soldiers have been doing.

"I look forward to taking a relaxing week off from my duties in the squadron's intelligence office for some brigade friendly competition to help build camaraderie throughout the hill," said Sgt. Zach Telegenhof, a native of Kingsley, Mich., who is a member of the squadron's volleyball team.



Pfc. Jason Victoria, of Deltona, Fla., widens his stance as he prepares to swing his bat during the softball tryouts March 14, during 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment's organizational day. Victoria was one of two dozen Soldiers hoping for a spot on the team for Hammer Week, March 31 to April 4.



Staff Sgt. David Flores, of Austin, Texas, watches the softball move past him as he waits for the right pitch. Flores was a pitching contender for 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment's softball for the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team Hammer Week.



Pvt. Allen Augustin, of Atlanta, tries to escape the pocket rush given by Pvt. Cesar Encinia, of Los Fresnos, Texas, March 14 during the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment organizational day. Augustin was trying to win the starting quarterback position for the squadron's Hammer Week football team.



## CHESTY, from Page 14

Capra placed second in the 40 to 49 year old men's division, coming in at 2:04:56.

The toughest part for others, however, wasn't the hills but the soft sand that was scattered throughout the course.

"It really sucked!" said 2nd Lt. Tim Nelson, with the 2nd Squadron, 16th Cavalry Regiment, 199th Infantry Brigade. Nelson, of Augusta, Wis., placed first, overall, with a time of 1:28:24, averaging a 6:45-mile pace.

Following the finish, Nelson talked with 2nd Lt. Mike Kurvach, of Victor, N.Y., who placed second, overall, and first in the men's 18 to 29 year old bracket, with a time of 1:29:55. Legs bloodied, Kurvach, a student at the Fort Benning Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course, under the 199th Infantry Brigade, said he shared his disdain for the sand, and the branches, as the two caught their breath after their top finishes.

"I have done that course so many times, and it's tough, but it's what the Marine Corps is about. It's about what military life is about—it's hard," Baumgardner said. "But, you survive and you make it through."



Lt. Col. Kevin Capra, left, commander of the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, receives his second place trophy from Marine Lt. Col. Ruben Martinez, commanding officer of the Marine Corps Detachment at Fort Benning, March 15. Capra finished the race in 2:04:56.



Marine Lt. Col. Ruben Martinez, the Marine Corps Detachment commanding officer, waits to greet Spc. Kirk Meyer at the finish line of the 2014 Chesty Puller 13.1 Trail Race, March 15. Meyer, with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, placed fourth overall, in the men's division, and third in the men's 18 to 29 year old bracket, with a time of 1:43:45. Martinez "coined" each racer as they finished, congratulating them for finishing the grueling half marathon in the name of one of the US Marine Corps' most decorated Marines, Lt. Gen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller.



Medics with the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, pace themselves as they head into the final mile of the Chesty Puller 13.1 Trail Race, March 15.



# FRSA



[www.facebook.com/3hbct3id](http://www.facebook.com/3hbct3id)

1-10 FA/1-15 Inf.  
Stacy Gray  
(706) 544-3362 (w)  
[stacy.a.gray8.civ@mail.mil](mailto:stacy.a.gray8.civ@mail.mil)

203rd BSB  
Demeka Daniels  
(706) 544-3216 (w)  
[demeka.n.daniels.mil@mail.mil](mailto:demeka.n.daniels.mil@mail.mil)

3rd ABCT  
Vicky Rush  
(706) 544-2586 (w)  
[Torin.j.rush.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Torin.j.rush.civ@mail.mil)

3-3 BSTB  
Staff Sgt. Mark A. Berkley  
(706) 544-1216 (w)  
[mark.a.berkley.mil@mail.mil](mailto:mark.a.berkley.mil@mail.mil)

2-69 AR  
Janel Daniels  
(706) 544-3121 (w)  
[janel.c.daniels.civ@mail.mil](mailto:janel.c.daniels.civ@mail.mil)

3-1 CAV  
Sgt. 1st Class Julian Glascoe  
(706) 544-5788 (w)  
[julian.glascoe.mil@mail.mil](mailto:julian.glascoe.mil@mail.mil)

Family readiness support assistants serve as a vital link between the unit commander, the Soldier assigned to the unit, their families and community resources. FRSA duties include coordinating Family Readiness Group events, monthly meetings, child-care, and informational briefings to family members. FRSA's provide information on activities, trainings and events on post and the surrounding area. We assist Soldiers and families when making referrals to local agencies to include, but not limited to, ACS, Tri-care, and Family Advocacy.

## 3-1 CAV, Dimon Magnet partner in education

Soldiers from Troop B "Bonecrushers," 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, spent time with students at Dimon Magnet Academy as part of the Partners in Education program.

The Soldiers brought various military equipment to the school, including optics, an unmanned aerial vehicle and Humvee.

The troop is currently planning a future engagement with the students, which would allow them to come onto Fort Benning to see where the Soldiers spend their days.

*Photos courtesy of 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt.*

