

WAR



HORSE



Newsletter

2018

MAY

ISSUE 2



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Contents

2 LEADERS CORNER

3 ABOUT 2IBCT

4 WAR HORSE HISTORY

5 OPERATION PROPER EXIT

6 SOLDIER FOR LIFE:
RA NCO FOLLOWS FATHER'S MILITARY LEGACY

7-8 1ST BATTALION
12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

9-10 2ND BATTALION
12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

11-12 1ST BATTALION
41ST INFANTRY REGIMENT

13-14 3RD SQUADRON
61ST CAVALRY REGIMENT

15-16 2ND BATTALION
77TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

17-18 52ND BRIGADE ENGINEER BATTALION

19-20 704TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION

21 MEET SPC. JOSH LEDVINA
WALK TO KOSOVO/AFGHANISTAN

22 A DAY IN TAAC-SOUTH: ANZAC DAY

23 STAFF MESSAGE: CHAPLAIN

24 CAMPAIGN PAGE

25-26 STAY CONNECTED
RESOURCE PAGE

This newsletter is brought to you by the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team "War Horse" out of Fort Carson, Colorado. The War Horse Brigade is composed of over 4,000 Soldiers spread throughout seven battalions. The brigade is composed of three infantry battalions, one cavalry squadron battalion, one field artillery battalion, one engineer battalion, and a brigade support battalion. The War Horse Brigade is led by Col. Dave Zinn and Command Sgt. Maj. Anton Hillig. To learn more about each battalion turn to page 3 of the newsletter.

ON THE FRONT COVER



Soldiers of Train, Advise and Assist Command-South, composed of Soldiers from the 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard and 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, welcome retired Master Sgt. Leroy Petry, medal of honor recipient, April 5, 2018, during Operation Proper Exit on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Petry and six other wounded warriors visited the service members of KAF and TAAC-South. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield/TAAC-South Public Affairs)



Leader's Corner

The WarHorse Brigade continues to remain vigilant and steadfast with the announcement of the fighting season in Afghanistan and tensions rising in Kosovo. You would all be very proud of the discipline, honor and commitment your loved ones are demonstrating while forward deployed. It is amazing to watch them operate, they are true professionals, experts of their craft and are proud of what they are doing.

The brigade remains extremely busy and we are making a difference each day within our area of operations and with our Afghanistan National Army (ANA) counterparts. The ANA is in a fight each day and continue to make positive momentum in the defeat of the Taliban. The military pressure being applied is beginning to crack the damn and we will hopefully watch reconciliation begin to wash over this country during our tour.

CSM Anton Hillig

There will be times where communication back home may be difficult because of the location your Soldier is temporarily serving. Also at times, the conditions at distant expeditionary locations remind them of being back at JRTC, but the morale I witness within those companies is simply amazing. I don't think they would change their experiences for anything. From firsthand knowledge, I know they truly appreciate all the care packages you continue to send as it makes life just a little bit better.

We are grateful for the visitors who come to Afghanistan, like Senator Gardner from Colorado last week, because they get to see the amazing Soldiers serving in this brigade and get a glimpse of the sacrifices our families make for our country. I find myself standing amongst giants whenever I get to showcase our Soldiers and every visitor leaves with a sense of pride and patriotism because of you and your Soldier.

I want to extend my thanks to the Soldiers who remained at Fort Carson and continue to train to be ready. We follow your training progression very closely and COL Zinn and I are extremely proud. We wish you were here with us, but know you are representing the Brigade back at Fort Carson and have an awesome reputation. To our rear-d cadre, a special thanks for what you do each and every day. You allow us to all focus on the mission at hand with little distractions. We know you are extremely busy and have many burdens, but we are amazed at how disciplined you all remain and we appreciate what you are doing.

Again, thanks to each and every one of you for your patience, sacrifice and patriotism.

May God bless us all.

CSM Anton J. Hillig



About 2IBCT



The 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment “Red Warriors” is one of the War Horse Brigade’s light infantry battalions. Light infantry means that the battalion emphasizes on speed and mobility over armor and firepower. The Red Warrior battalion is currently deployed throughout Afghanistan and their primary mission is to deter enemy operations. The Red Warrior Battalion is led by Lt. Col. Troy Mills and Command Sgt. Maj. Vincent Simonetti.



The 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment “Lethal Warriors” is the second of the War Horse Brigade’s light infantry battalions. Like the ‘Red Warriors’ the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. Reg. is also deployed throughout Afghanistan with a primary mission to deter enemy operations. The Lethal Warriors are led by Lt. Col. Kirby Dennis and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Speichert.



The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment “Straight and Stalwart” is the last of the War Horse Brigade’s light infantry battalions. Like the other two battalions, the ‘Stalwart’ Soldiers primary mission is to deter enemy operations. The Stalwart Battalion is led by Lt. Col. Jerem Swenddal and Command Sgt. Maj. Ramon Baca.



The 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment “Destroyers” is the War Horse Brigade’s only cavalry squadron battalion. The Destroyers provide the brigade with reconnaissance, surveillance, and security. The 3rd Sqdn., 61st Cav. Reg. is currently deployed to Kosovo as the main maneuver element for Multi-National Battle Group - East. The Destroyer Battalion is led by Lt. Col. Donald Braman and Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Weaver.



The 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment “Steel” is the War Horse Brigade’s only field artillery battalion. The Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 77th FA Reg. provide the brigade with the ability destroy, neutralize, or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket, and missile fire and to help integrate all fire support assets into combined arms operations. A portion of the Steel Battalion is deployed to Afghanistan. The Steel Battalion is led by Lt. Col. Donald Cherry and Command Sgt. Maj. Amara Fofana



The 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion “Patriots” is the War Horse Brigade’s only engineer battalion. The Soldiers of 52nd BEB provide construction engineer support to units at Fort Carson and prepare to support Full Spectrum operations throughout the world. The Battalion is currently leading the remaining War Horse Soldiers on Fort Carson, Colorado and the acting rear-d command team is Lt. Col. Larry Workman and Command Sgt. Maj. Perlandus Hughes.



The 704 Brigade Support Battalion “Blacksmiths” is the War Horse Brigade’s support battalion. The battalion provides the brigades with quartermaster, ordnance, medical, and much more combat service support. Assets of the Blacksmiths are spread through the different battalions in Afghanistan. The Blacksmiths are led by Lt. Col. Mike Wroblewski and Command Sgt. Maj. Kerstin Montoya.



WAR HORSE HISTORY

The 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team “War Horse,” 4th Infantry Division was first constituted on November 19, 1917, in the Regular Army as Headquarters, 7th Infantry Brigade, an element of the 4th Division.

The War Horse Brigade served valiantly during World War I ultimately earning five battlefield streamers.

WORLD WAR I



The Battle of Saint Mihiel was fought from September 12-15, 1918. The battle marked the first use of the terms “D-Day” and “H-Hour” by the Americans. The battle involved the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) and 110,000 French troops under the command of General John J. Pershing of the United States against German positions. The U.S. Army Air Service (which later became the U.S. Air Force) played a significant role in this action.



The Battle of Lorraine, 14 August-7 September 1914 (First World War), began as part of the then current French war plan (Plan XVII). This called for a general offensive across the Franco-German border at the outbreak of war.



The battle took place over the course of 15 July-5 August 1918, in the final year of the war. The Second Battle of the Marne was an important victory. The primary importance of the battle was its morale aspect: the strategic gains on the Marne marked the end of a string of German victories.



Also known as Battles of the Meuse-Argonne and the Meuse-Argonne Campaign) was a major part of the final Allied offensive of World War I that stretched along the entire Western Front. It was fought from 26 September 1918 until the Armistice of 11 November 1918, a total of 47 days. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was the largest in United States military history, involving 1.2 million American soldiers.



The Aisne-Marne campaign marked the beginning of a series of victories that, in three months, led to the end of World War I. The Aisne-Marne Offensive was the second phase of the Second Battle of the Marne (15 July-6 August) and marked a major turning point in the fighting on the Western Front in 1918. The first phase of the battle had been the German Champagne-Marne Offensive, which had begun on 15 July with attacks east and west of Reims.



Operation Proper Exit



Retired Sgt. Franz Walkup fires a M77 Howitzer, April 5, 2018, during Operation Proper Exit on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)

On June 12, 2012 an improvised explosive device hit Staff Sgt. John Hosea's vehicle during a routine patrol severely wounding him, but his only thought was "where is Davis."

Then Capt. Patrick Devine, the chaplain on duty, began to comfort and pray with Hosea until Capt.

Joel Britton, Hosea's unit chaplain, notified him that Spc. Nathan T. Davis did not make it.

Six years later Devine, now a major and chaplain for Train, Advise and Assist Command-South and 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, watched as Hosea stepped off an aircraft in Afghanistan.

Hosea, recently medically retired, and six other wounded warriors returned here April 7, as part of Operation Proper Exit.

Operation Proper Exit began in 2009, by Feherty's Troops First Foundation, and has since allowed over 150 wounded warriors to return to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The last time I saw sergeant Hosea he was flat on his back with severe back injuries, a broken leg and crushed ankle," said Devine. "When you see Soldiers leave the hospital you don't know how their life will be afterwards, so when I saw (Hosea's) name on the list of Soldiers coming I knew I wanted to see him."

The other wounded warriors included Cmdr. William Danchanko, retired Master Sgt. Leroy Petry, retired Staff Sgt. Jaymes Poling, retired Sgt. Franz Walkup, Sgt. Johnathan Harmon, and retired Spc. Justin Lane.

The program allows wounded warriors to witness firsthand the progression in the country, speak to service members currently deployed, and ultimately provide closure, according to its official website.

"I spent six months in the hospital learning how to walk, how to talk and how to function," said Hosea, a native of Las Vegas, Nevada. "I got taken out of the fight and I didn't want to be taken out. I came back for closure because when I got hurt I left under someone else's terms."

Devine said he hopes the wounded warriors' stories of triumph help TAAC-South Soldiers during rough times.

"When our Soldiers get hurt it affects everyone not just the (individual) Soldier... it affects everyone on the sidelines," said Devine. "It's important for us, as Soldiers, to know that being wounded is not the end, that life continues and we build on those experiences."



Soldier from Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan pose for a group photo with the wounded warriors from Operation Proper Exit. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)



Maj. Patrick Devine (left), chaplain, officiates the re-enlistment ceremony for Staff Sgt. Marcus P. Levering, religious affairs noncommissioned officer, March 17, 2018, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)

SOLDIER FOR LIFE: NCO FOLLOWS FATHER'S MILITARY LEGACY

When U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Marcus P. Levering, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, raised his right hand and repeated the oath of enlistment he wasn't just making the Army his career, he was also continuing his father's legacy.

Friends and leaders gathered, March 17, to watch as Levering, religious affairs noncommissioned officer in charge, Train, Advise, and Assist Command-South and 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, re-enlisted in the Army for the last time.

Growing up, Levering was exposed to the military, especially through his father, Mark Levering, who served in the Army for 22 years as a motor transport operator.

"My dad was stationed at Fort Stewart at that time and I was a freshman in high school," said Levering. "Hearing what had happened really pissed me off and after reading a book called 'The Purpose Driven Life' I thought, what better way to serve god and my country than by becoming part of the (chaplain corps)."

After graduating from Ridge View High School in Columbia, South Carolina, Levering enlisted in the Army as a religious affairs specialist on July 7, 2005.

Now, almost thirteen years later, Mark said he is full of pride for the decisions his son has made and for witnessing his son make the Army his career, as he once did.

"I was gone an awful lot during my career but I owe my wife the upmost gratitude because (the man) Marcus is today has a lot do with his mother," said Mark.

As for Levering, what made the ceremony even more significant was conducting his last re-enlistment as a 4th Inf. Div. Soldier.

"A lot of Soldiers want to be in the 82nd or the 101st but not me," said Levering. "I have always wanted to be a 4th Inf. Div. Soldier, just like my dad once was."

As a retired Sgt. 1st Class, Mark said he can't wait to see the things his son will accomplish in the next chapter of his career.

"(Marcus) has come a long way in his career but I know regardless of how hard it gets he won't give up," said Mark. "It's emotional seeing that my son is following in my footsteps, he is a great NCO and I can't wait to see him when he comes home from this deployment."



1ST BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



‘Red Warriors’ Provide Security Through Patrols



Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, pull security, March 26, 2018, during a stop on their ground defense area patrol in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)

After more than a month in country, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment “Red Warriors,” have a steady routine for ground defense area patrols, here.

The Red Warriors are part of Train, Advise and Assist Command- South. The mission for TAAC-South, which is composed of Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard and 2nd IBCT, 4th Inf. Div., is to train and advise Afghan security forces and assist in counterterrorism operations.

“Our mission is to deter (improvised explosive devices), indirect fire and engage with key leaders of villages we encounter,” said Sgt. 1st Class Vicente Martinez, platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, Company D. “In a way we provide a bubble of safety for the rest of the Soldiers on (Kandahar Airfield).”

“Teamwork is extremely important in these types of missions,” Martinez said. “Things can escalate very quickly, so it’s important to know each Soldier and their mannerisms so you can tell when they are getting frustrated or emotional.”

However, Martinez said the success of the mission comes before even arriving in country.

“We conducted team, squad, platoon and up to battalion level exercises (while on Fort Carson) to prepare our Soldiers for the different missions we would encounter,” explained Martinez. “These guys trained hard in the states and now they are able to put all that hard work into motion.”

For many of the Soldiers in first platoon this is nothing new. Spc. Joshua Ledvina, a team leader with 1st Platoon said that as a team leader it is important for him and his Soldiers to have everything prepared for missions.

“Immediately following the mission brief I go out with my guys to prepare the vehicles and make sure we have all the supplies we need,” said Ledvina. “Ammo, water and ensuring your weapon is clean and ready is crucial because these guys are out here putting their lives on the line.”

Seeing younger Soldiers like Ledvina take initiative of tasks, such as restocking, is what makes leaders most proud, according to Martinez.

“The goal is to make our younger (Soldiers) feel empowered that they can make the right decisions during any situation,” said Martinez. “I won’t be able to be with these guys forever, so I need them to prepare to take over my spot when the time comes.”



Sgt. Patrick Cooperider, with 1st Platoon, Company D, conducts a fingerprint scan with the Biometrics Automated Toolset, March 26, 2018, during a ground defense area patrol in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)



1ST BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



The 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment flag flies over the battalions area of operation in Kandahar Airfield. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)



Bulgarian Soldiers respond to simulated security breach during a Force Protection Exercise with Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment in Afghanistan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Donald Atkinson)



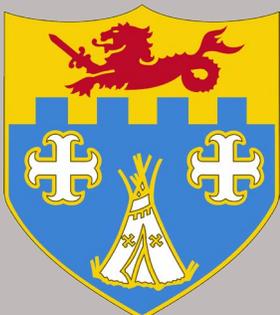
Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment provide security during a force protection exercise in Afghanistan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Donald Atkinson)



Soldiers recited the Noncommissioned Officer Creed during a NCO Promotion Ceremony on Kandahar Airfield. (Photo by 1st Lt. Donald Atkinson)



(Left)
Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment get congratulated on their promotion into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps during a NCO promotion ceremony in Kandahar Airfield. (Photo by 1st Lt. Donald Atkinson)



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2ND BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



(Left) Spc. Kyle Defuentes a forward observer with Apache Company, 2nd Battalion, 12 Infantry Regiment trains on the Laser Target Designator in Afghanistan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Walker)



(Left) Brig. Gen. John Lathrop, commanding general for Train, Advise and Assist Command-South, greets 1st Lt. Dean Jackson assigned to Apache Company 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Walker)



Soldiers from Apache Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment man the operations center during an advisory mission (Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Walker)



Soldiers from Apache Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment return to Kandahar Airfield from an advisory mission. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Walker)



Spc. Kadlec of 1st Platoon leads his Machine Gun Team during a training exercise in Old Soviet structures on Bagram. (Courtesy Photo)



2ND BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



Third Platoon, Chosen Company and our Aviation Partners, Task Force Brawler, conduct Air Assault training. From left to right: one UH-60 Blackhawk utility helicopter, two CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopters, and off in the distance, two AH-64 Apache attack helicopters. Chosen Company and Task Force Brawler continue to conduct training of the highest caliber. (Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Walker)



Third Platoon, Chosen Company following their successful recovery of a civilian aircraft in Kabul. Although tired and covered in the soil all the men were smiling and proud of their accomplishment. (Courtesy photo)



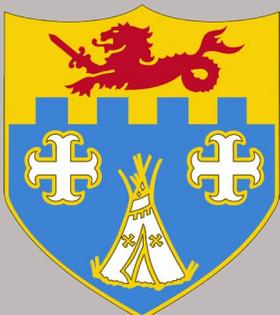
First and 4th Platoon, Chosen Company, pose at the companies headquarters for a picture on a freshly painted Ivy by Sgt. Simonsen. (Courtesy photo)



Baker Company's SGT Jossic observes his soldiers during lateral target engagements. (Photo 1st Lt. Matthew Walker)



Baker Company's 2nd Lt. Nolan Baker congratulates Pfc. Kunkle on his promotion during Baker Company's promotion ceremony. (Photo 1st Lt. Matthew Walker)



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1ST BATTALION 41ST INFANTRY REGIMENT



STALWART SOLDIERS SUPPORT TF SOUTHWEST

STORY BY
1LT CONNOR SHEPARD

Members of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division conducted ground defense area patrols as part of their mission as members of Task Force South West to protect the area of operation from enemy operations.

Task Force South-West is a joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational organization of advisors who train and advise Afghan security forces.

First Lt. Nicholas Shearin, platoon leader, Company D, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Reg, explains that success during ground defense area patrols involves planning and preparation.

“Everything we do to get ready for a patrol is part of a planning process,” said the Clayton, North Carolina native. “We get a notification of a mission a few weeks out and we start planning the whole operation from start to finish.”

As part of the process, Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Arias, platoon sergeant, Company D, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Reg., assists his platoon leader with preparing the Soldiers for combat operations.

“Before we push out, we make sure to conduct all the necessary rehearsals and check our supplies,” said Arias. “We check all our equipment, get a personnel count, maneuver out to the site and interact with the locals we find.”

When on mission Arias said he noticed many of the younger Soldiers receive a culture shock when seeing the living conditions of the local people of Afghanistan.

“During our last patrol we found a tent that had a Family of seven people living in it,” said Pvt. Theodore Zimmer, medic, Company D., 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Reg. “Even though they didn’t have much of anything, they still offered the whole platoon bread and tea, it meant a lot.”

The Carbondale, Colorado native made sure to return the kindness that the Family showed him.

“We saw that they needed medicine so I offered them the Tylenol that we carry with us,” explained Zimmer. “For us it’s nothing, but to them ... it really helps.”

Shearin said he likes to see the positives that come out of the patrols.

“Patrols are vital when it comes to protecting (our area of operation) from external threats like (indirect fire),” he said. “And it’s great to see how positive people are with our presence in the area, being here makes the whole area safer.”



1ST BATTALION 41ST INFANTRY REGIMENT



Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment rehearse in preparation for a ground defense area patrol in Helmand, Afghanistan. (Photo by 1st Lt. Connor Shepard)



Command Sgt. Maj. Ramon Baca escorts Command Sergeant Major Jones on a base tour of Camp Dwyer during their visit to the area. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jasmine Flowers)



Capt. Marc McCulloch, operations officer for 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, competes in the "1000LB" club during the dead lift event. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jasmine Flowers)



First Lt. Samuel McCauley and Sgt. 1st Class Cecilio Ponce, from 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, are congratulated by Lt. Gen. Richard Cripwell for their hard work and dedication to the mission at Camp Dwyer. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jasmine Flowers)



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1st Battalion 41st Infantry Regiment

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3RD SQUADRON 61ST CAVALRY REGIMENT



'Destroyers' conduct CLS refresher

STORY BY
SGT. CASEY HUSTIN

More than 20 Soldiers with 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, culminated a 40-hour combat lifesaver refresher course with simulated trauma lanes on April 11 at the Camp Marechal De Lattre De Tassigny aide station.

"The first three days of the training were didactic, so we went through the slide shows," said Cpl. Sarah L. Shelton, a healthcare specialist at the CMLT clinic who instructed the training. "They got hands-on with all the interventions that we're doing here. They practiced with litters, emergency trauma bandages and tourniquets. Now they're going through their trauma lanes to validate all the skills that they've learned the first three days."

This was the second iteration of CLS training that Shelton had a hand in since coming to Kosovo; however, in the past Shelton assisted training in more than 75 CLS refresher courses.

Shelton made the decision to embrace the often bustling medical field before joining the military.

"I worked in an emergency room before I joined and it was hectic," said Shelton. "It was crazy all the time. There was always something interesting to do. I decided at that time I was always going to want to do something trauma related—emergency related."

As CLS training changes with medical advances, taking the refresher course allows Soldiers to keep perishable medical skills up-to-date in case of an emergency.

"There's really good information they're putting out here," said Sgt. Deion M. Horton, a team leader with the 3-61 CAV. This was his third time taking the CLS refresher course. "I think its pretty great, honestly. I definitely feel like I'd be prepared to use this training if something were to happen."

Shelton said training Soldiers with different military occupational specialties (MOS) is awesome. "They can sit through the class all day and understand the knowledge. When they actually go through, doing a lane, they see how hard it is. It gets them in the mentality where they know how things are supposed to be, but they have to remember it's not going to be exactly how they think it will be in their heads."



Cpl. Sarah Shelton (center) instructs Pfc. Jose Gonzales III (left) and Sgt. Deion Horton, Soldiers with the 3-61 Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, to control bleeding, while bandaging a chest wound at a combat lifesaver (CLS) trauma simulation lane during a 40-hour CLS refresher course run by the Camp Marechal De Lattre De Tassigny clinic on April 11, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Casey Hustin, 19th Public Affairs Detachment)



3RD SQUADRON 61ST CAVALRY REGIMENT



Soldiers from each troop in 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, comprised a U.S. Team to play against Swiss soldiers in a friendly game of soccer, April 22, 2018. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kareem Abiose)



A Soldier from 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment smiles while participating in the Danish Army annual 12.6 mile ruck march, April 14, 2018. (Photos by 1st Lt. Kareem Abiose)



Maj. Issac Howard set the record for the fastest time for the first day of the Danish Army traditional annual 12.6 mile ruck march. Howard completed the march in 1 hour and 48 minutes. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kareem Abiose)

Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment conduct scout familiarization skills. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kareem Abiose)



Soldiers with 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment pose for a photo before the Danish Army 12.6 ruck march. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kareem Abiose)



A Soldier with 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment shows a NATO soldier the components of a weapon system. (Photo by 1st Lt. Kareem Abiose)



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3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment

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2ND BATTALION 77TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment hold the 2018 Steel Trophy after the battalion's annual football tournament. (Facebook Courtesy photo)



A Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment holds the 2018 Steel Trophy after the battalion's annual football tournament. (Facebook Courtesy photo)



Left to right: Capt. Abbott, outgoing Bravo Battery commander, Lt. Col. Cherry, 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment commander, and Capt. Mitchell, incoming B Btry commander, stand before the transfer of authority during the change of command. (Facebook Courtesy photo)



Four Soldiers from the 2 IBCT and 2-77 FA BN showing support at the West Point Mission Command Conference. (Facebook Courtesy photo)



Mrs. Abbott receives an award from the battalion command team during the change of command ceremony. (Facebook Courtesy phot)



Lt. Col. Cherry leads his battalion in a five mile run in celebration of being back to Fort Carson from training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (Facebook Courtesy photo)



2ND BATTALION 77TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT



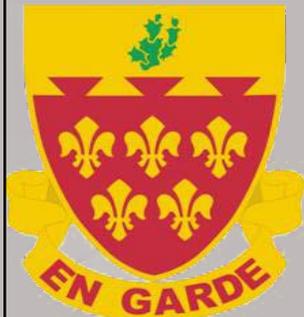
Staff Sgt. Reed and Sgt. Garrett from 1-12 IN FiST with their graduating class of Afghani Terminal Attack Controllers and NATO partners, the Italian Terminal Attack Control Party and U.S. Airforce Joint Terminal Attack Controllers. (Facebook Courtesy photo)



Staff Sgt. Johnson (right) from 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment smiles with retired Sgt. Walkup (left) during Operation Proper Exit in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)



LT Wagner from 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment talks to Senator Roy Blunt, senator for the State of Missouri, during Blunt's visit to Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)



For Soldiers in 2-77th FA, use address for the battalion they are supporting.

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52ND BRIGADE ENGINEER BATTALION



Junior chef claims culinary gold



Spc. Katelyn Tran, culinary specialist, 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, earns a gold medal in the student chef category, during the 43rd Annual Joint Culinary Training Exercise at Fort Team.

The Fort Carson Culinary Team brought home 20 medals from the 43rd Annual Joint Culinary Training Exercise at Fort Lee, Virginia, March 10-15, 2018.

The lone Fort Carson gold medal earned at the competition came from one of its least experienced participants.

Spc. Katelyn Tran, a culinary specialist with 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, earned the gold for her performance in the student chef category, a competition which challenges culinary specialists who have less than two years on the job.

“When I signed up to try out for the culinary team last November 2017, I had no idea that these next few months would be so exciting,” Tran said. “Really, I had planned to separate after my third year, but now, with everything that’s happened, I’m excited to re-enlist.”

Her performance at the JCTE also garnered her a spot on the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team, a squad that will compete at the World Culinary Cup and Culinary Olympics competitions in the future.

“To win a gold medal at your first competition is a big deal,” said Behr, who is a Soldier with 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Inf. Div. “I didn’t win a gold medal my first time competing. It’s very hard to do, but (Tran) is best at executing.”

A native of Seattle, Tran initially enrolled in college courses after high school, but eventually joined the Army in an effort to gain training and experience in the culinary field.

“Actually, I was originally just interested in the baking and pastry side of the industry,” she said. “But, after learning so much about preparing and plating dishes these past few months, I’ve decided to learn as much as I can about the career field.”

Behr selected Tran following her tryout back in November and said it was an easy decision.

“I can teach anyone to cook,” he said. “But, I was looking for people who have a desire, a drive and a passion to learn and improve. And, throughout these past months of preparing the Fort Carson team for the national training event competition, (Tran) stood out.”

Once the team reached Fort Lee, Behr was so impressed with her performance up to that point he chose her to be his apprentice while he competed in the senior chef category at JCTE.

“She was so helpful to me in what is an intense, competitive category,” he said. “I really think she made a difference. This was the third time I competed in the senior chef category and it ended up being my first win.”

After assisting Behr in the senior chef category, Tran moved on to compete alone in the student chef category, where she was tasked with cooking a chicken meal for two in one hour and plating the dish in less than 10 minutes.

She may have been nervous, but Behr said he couldn’t tell.

“I’d like to say that I was calm but really, there was no time,” she said. “I was so focused on the tasks that I barely even noticed the judges, and they were standing right in front of me at times.

Behr watched intently from across the room and he said he was nervous for her, especially as the last seconds ticked by during the plating session.

“The clock went off just as she finished,” he said. “That was incredibly important. It meant she wouldn’t suffer a deduction and that eventually led to the gold medal.”



52ND BRIGADE ENGINEER BATTALION



Medics from 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion held a Combat Lifesavers class in Fort Carson, Colorado, (Facebook Courtesy photo)



Spc. Kenneth Bacarro, a combat medic with 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, prepares for the warrior, task and battle drills portion of the 4th Infantry Division Best Warrior Competition. (Facebook Courtesy photo)



Sgt. Reid Foster, assigned to 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, was selected as the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson Soldier of the Week on April 6th. led a bulldozer team that improved or constructed 35 miles of fire breaks in Fort Carson training areas over a two week period to help with fire containment and prevention. His team responded to the Orchard Canyon Fire March 9-11, where they buried fires and improved 11 miles of access roads and fire breaks in multiple training areas. (Facebook Courtesy photo)



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52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion

Government organisation

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704TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION



Simplifying Sling Load for Soldiers

STORY BY
SGT. ELIZABETH WHITE

Soldiers with the 3rd Infantry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade conducted a sling load class Apr. 2-3.

The RSSB sling load team showed students proper inspection and rigging procedures and helped them rig up cargo to be transported throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan.

Sling load consists of rigging cargo to helicopters, either with cargo nets or sling legs attached to the containers themselves. The Soldiers inspect the nets and sling legs before rigging up any cargo, ensuring there are no tears that could result in a broken net and lost load.

Over the course of two days, students learned all of these aspects of sling load operations. The first day was made up of classroom training, filling out paperwork and going through regulations. On the second day the class went hands-on and the students were able to rig up cargo loads at the Bagram sling load yard.

“We are training incoming personnel just getting into theater on sling load operations,” said Spc. John Owens, an automated logistical specialist with the 3rd Inf. Div. RSSB, and one of the instructors on the sling load team. “We’re doing inspections of the equipment that we have and how to properly sling load cargo, basically everything needed to have a successful day at sling load.”

Soldiers from various forward operating bases and units came to Bagram to learn proper sling load procedures. Operations are limited at small, outlying bases, but with this class, they can increase capabilities of their FOBs.

“I’m taking this class to better serve my unit,” said Pvt. Bradley Cooper, an ammunition specialist with the 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. “We can get more supplies in and operations will go smoother.”

With choppers flying overhead, 60-pound hooks swinging underneath them, and thousands of pounds of cargo that could potentially come crashing down, sling loading can be a dangerous job for untrained individuals.

The students were able to go hands-on and hook cargo to helicopters to send off.

“My heart shook a little bit the first time, but afterwards it was like a roller coaster. It was really fun,” said Cooper. “People talk about it but when you’re actually doing it it’s a different experience.”



A Soldier with the 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, attaches a cable to a container at a sling load yard on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Apr. 3. Soldiers with the 704th BSB trained under 3rd Infantry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade Soldiers to learn all aspects of sling load operations. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Elizabeth White with 3ID RSSB/Released)



704TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION



SGT Miller, SPC McCrae, SPC Sun and PFC George from Charlie Company pose with the Bulgarian contingent after completing an IFAK training course. This course enhanced our Coalition Partner's ability to apply self and buddy aid enabling them to treat casualties more effectively. (Photo Courtesy of 704th BSB)



Soldiers with the 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, disassemble and reassemble clamps during a sling load class at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Apr. 3. For two days, the Soldiers learned all aspects of what makes a successful sling load operation, from inspecting equipment to rigging up cargo for transport. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Elizabeth White with 3ID RSSB/Released)



Spc. Eyan-Michael Wanyama, assigned to 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, participates and wins the Best Provider Competition. Wanyama will represent RSSB in Kuwait. (Photo by Sgt. Elizabeth White)



Pfc. Kaleb George teaches a tourniquet class to Bulgarian medical soldiers during a condensed Combat Lifesavers class in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)



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FRL POC: Christine Whalen
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704th Brigade Support Battalion

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The 704th Brigade Support Battalion "Blacksmiths". Where you will find Battalion news stories, photos, videos and community updates.

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Meet Spc. Daimon Silvia



Spc. Daimon Silvia, the medical logistics specialist 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is assigned to Charlie Company, 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 2IBCT.

The California native's normal work day consists of collecting medical supply orders from 2IBCT Soldiers not located on Bagram Airfield or Kandahar Airfield.

Silva, who has three years in service, works closely with the material handling equipment team in order to ensure supplies are received in country and then sent to their respective units.

After ensuring all his task for the day are complete, Silva said he likes to go to the USO and participate in the events and activities they put together such as the most recent wiffleball competition.

"I love going outside and staying active," said Silva. "My friends and I usually end up having a good time and it keeps our mind off of being away from Family."

Silva said he likes to talk to his mother and wife as much as he can through WhatsApp, imessenger or any social media app with video capabilities. Silva is currently on his first deployment and said he plans on making the Army a career.



Walk to Kosovo/Afghanistan



Goal: 7,380 miles
Completed: 4,578 miles

Congratulations War Horse Family we have accomplished **2** of our goals on the Walk to Kosovo/Afghanistan. Continue to help us reach our goal of 7,390 miles. Keep track of your miles however is easiest for you. Each Battalion Family Readiness Leader will keep track of their battalions miles at www.challengerunner.com for a monthly roundup. Get with your battalion FRL for W2K/A T-Shirts. Make sure to use **#W2KA2018** in any photos you post on social media so we can share them on the Brigade facebookpage so your Soldiers can see you supporting them back home.

The milestones to hit during the next 8 months are as follow:

- Washington D.C. (1,642.5 miles)
- Greenland (3,100 miles)
- Morocco (5,252 miles)
- Kosovo (5,863 miles)
- Afghanistan (7,380 miles)

W2A event:
18 May 2018
hosted by

1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment

POC: 2nd Lt. Angela DiMattia
angela.m.dimattia.mil@mail.mil



A Day in



TAAC-South



Anzac Day



Australian army Lt. Col. Steve Dickie (left) and Lt. Col. Vella Bonavita (right), with Train, Advise, and Assist Command-South, pay their respects to a memorial during an Anzac Day observance, April 25, 2018, on Kandahar Airfield. Very similar to Memorial Day in the United States, Australia and New Zealand recognize Anzac Day as a time of remembrance for those who served and died in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping missions. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Richard Barker/TAAC-South Public Affairs)

Soldiers of Train, Advise, and Assist Command-South observed an Australian dawn service on Anzac Day, April 25, led by coalition Australian service members on Kandahar Airfield.

As a part of coalition NATO forces, Australian army and air force officers work among U.S. service members within the TAAC-South headquarters.

“Anzac Day is perhaps the most important day of the year in the military,” said Capt. Jason Law, an Australian army officer and the force protection officer for TAAC-South. “By observing the service here I felt a connection to my family at home.”

Very similar to Memorial Day in the United States, Australia and New Zealand recognize Anzac Day as a time of remembrance for those who served and died in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping missions.

“I had never heard of Anzac Day until arriving in theater and starting to work with our Australian partners,” said Capt. James Lockett, the command group operations officer for TAAC-South. “It was interesting to learn about the history from my Australian colleagues as we approached Anzac Day.”

The TAAC-South Australian service members coordinated the observance and invited TAAC-South U.S. Soldiers to experience the ceremony, which included a prayer, a history reading of past battles, a moment of silence, and a wreath laying.

“It was particularly nice to celebrate with U.S. Forces,” said Law. “Because we are smaller in numbers we see a lot of U.S. culture, so to be able to share our culture with them made for a positive experience.”

While Anzac Day recognizes the sacrifices of service members in history, the biggest focus of remembrance is for the Gallipoli Campaign where 8,709 Australian service members gave their lives during World War I.

“Experiencing the ceremony was meaningful,” said Lockett. “It gave me pause and an appreciation to recognize the sacrifices and service of the Australian forces.”

TAAC-South, commanded by Brig. Gen. John Lathrop, is comprised of Soldiers from the 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard; and the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.



Staff Message

Chaplain



Maj. Patrick Devine

Many of us have heard or seen the “blindfolded peanut butter sandwich game.” For those that haven’t, it goes like this: One person dons a blindfold, with all the makings of a peanut butter sandwich in front of them, while another person gives them directions on how to make the sandwich. The catch is the blindfolded person must follow directions EXACTLY. So, what generally happens is on the command, “Put peanut butter on the side of the bread,” peanut butter is put on the side – around the edge on the crust. Once it’s properly spread on the flat side, the mess continues when told, “Put jelly on the other side,” which results in a single piece of bread with peanut butter on one side, and jelly on the reverse side. You get the idea.

Now imagine the instant message conversation and phone call last week in which I was trying to explain to Tana, my wife, and our 22 year old son how to jumpstart his car in a dark parking lot. They are in Colorado Springs; I am in Afghanistan. And I thought making a peanut butter sandwich blindfolded was hard!

After the frustration passed, Tana and I laughed about the ridiculousness of what we were trying to do. What we observed was an obvious reality: communication is hard when deployed! While this is not really a profound conclusion (years ago we had a significant disagreement over snail mail during a deployment – talk about frustrating!), it’s one worth considering in some detail at this point in our deployment. Here’s some thoughts you may find helpful to remember as you communicate across the globe with your loved ones:

Don’t mistake frequent communication for effective communication. Instant messenger is very convenient, but is probably the least practical for effectively communicating important thoughts and emotions. Participants are generally doing other things while messaging, even messaging multiple people at once. That’s not the best setting for communicating effectively.

Nonverbal communication (body language, expressiveness) doesn’t work well over long distances, and is only marginally better during a Skype call or Facetime. Some have suggested that 60% of interpersonal communication is nonverbal. If that’s true, what are we missing when the nonverbals are nonexistent?

Set aside exclusive time to communicate with your loved ones. That means no movie watching, game playing, or general multitasking during that exclusive time. Focus on each other, and what is being said. Then, ask thoughtful clarifying questions if you don’t understand what you’re hearing.

Consider making notes throughout your day/week about what you would like to talk about in your next communication, and keep them handy for when you’re talking. Consider sharing them over IM or email in anticipation of the next call. For example, “I’d like to talk about our leave plans for when I get home.”

Finally, every family is different and you may find different practices more or less helpful. I encourage you to share your good ideas with each other. Through thoughtful communication, we can strengthen our relationships, even during deployments, and make sweet reunions even sweeter!

P.S. They got the car started, in spite of my “help!”

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

- Proverbs 25:11



May Campaign

The War Horse “Stay Connected” Campaign for May

War Horse Photo Contest

The War Horse Team has noticed many Soldiers and Families taking impressive photos. As a result, we have decided to recognize your work by hosting a War Horse photo contest.

Winners Recognition

The top **three** winners will have your name and unit announced on our Facebook page along with your photo, and have your photo featured in the next War Horse Newsletter. The first place winner will also have their photo posted as the top banner of our Facebook page.

Photo Contest Theme

Photos from Home – These are photos of Families back home. Photos can be of anything, however, photos that depict how Families are coping with separation during deployment and how they are finding ways to stay connected have a guarantee to tug at our heartstrings.

Photo Submission Guidelines

To submit your photo, email the photo to TAACSouth@gmail.com with the subject line “Photos from Home Photo Contest” by the contest deadline of **May 31** with the following information:

- A description of the action in your photo
- The names of the people in your photo
- The name of the Company and Battalion you or your Soldier is in
- The name of the photographer
- A disclaimer statement giving us permission to post your photo on Social Media



Selecting the winners

The War Horse Command Team will select the top five photos and then we will post them to the War Horse Facebook timeline. Then the top five photos will be up for vote by you, our Facebook community, who will be the final judges to determine the winning photos.

Example photo and write-up winner from a similar contest

Emily, daughter of Debbie and Chaplain Mike DeRienzo, HHT 2-6 CAV, enjoys some quality time with her father via Skype by playing a game of Battleship together. Mike made a makeshift board in Afghanistan and surprised his daughter by inviting her to play. It was a special moment for both of them and resulted in a new way for them to cope with the deployment. It is amazing that over several thousand miles, they can still create new family memories.

Photo by Debbie DeRienzo, HHT 2-6 CAV





Stay Connected

MAILING ADDRESSES



Headquarter and Headquarters Company

(Name)
TAAC-S, (Section)
APO, AE 09355

<https://www.facebook.com/2ndibct4id/>



3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment

(Name)
FCP, CMLT
TROOP, 3-61 CAV
APO, AE 09340

<https://www.facebook.com/361CAV/>



1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment

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(Company), TF Red Warrior
APO, AE 09355

<https://www.facebook.com/one.twelve.infantry/>



52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion

(Name)
(Company), TF Patriot
APO, AE 09355

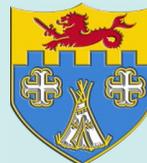
<https://www.facebook.com/52ndBEB/>



1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment

(Name)
(Company), TF Stalwart
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2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment

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(Company), TF Lethal Warrior
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<https://www.facebook.com/lethalwarriors/>



704th Brigade Support Battalion

(Name)
(Company), TF Blacksmith
APO, AE 09355

<https://www.facebook.com/704thBrigadeSupportBattalion/>



2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment

For Soldiers in 2-77th FA, use address for the battalion they are supporting.

<https://www.facebook.com/2-77-Field-Artillery-Regiment-299658250159697/>



Resources Page

MAY 05-06, 2018

FORT CARSON - COLORADO SPRINGS SUPER AND SPRINT WEEKEND

FORT CARSON ARMY BASE, FORT CARSON CO

Welcome to Fort Carson Army Base. This course is as challenging and inspiring as it gets -- you're at high-elevation and you're surrounded by Spartans on a military base. This is an experience you'll be sure...



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Mother's Day Brunch

Date: May 13, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Elkhorn Catering & Conference Center - 1725 Woodfill Rd. Bldg. 7300 Fort Carson 80913

[Google Map](#)

MILITARY APPRECIATION

NIGHT



Save the Date: Sky Sox Military Appreciation Game

Date: May 18, 6:30 p.m.

- In a salute to your service and sacrifice, the Sky Sox would like to invite you and your family to a night of good old-fashioned baseball and wholesome fun.
- Join us at Sky Sox stadium to watch your home team, the Sky Sox, bring the heat against the Memphis Redbirds.
- Game begins at 6:40 p.m. and concludes with a fireworks show.

CAMP WEEKEND DATE

May 18-20, 2018

Registration Period:
April 1 - May 6, 2018 (limited space available!)

Pre-Event Meeting Required

May 11, 2018, 17:30 - 18:30
Southeast & Armed Services YMCA
Community Room A
2150 Jetwing Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
Please bring E1-E5 Military ID card

TIME

1300-1600 Arrival time Friday, May 18
1300-1600 Departure time Sunday, May 20
(Transportation not included)

COST

\$40 per family, non-refundable (over 2 adults and 2 kids)
\$10 per additional kid (max 2 additional kids allowed)
Exemptions on case by case basis.
Children under 2 years of age are free

Accommodation Notes:
• Meals Provided: Friday dinner, Saturday all day dining and Sunday breakfast & Lunch
• *30 family spots available
• Financial Assistance available. Subject to rules and eligibility.
• Priority goes to families of deployed service members and Wounded Warriors.
For more information please contact Military Outreach Director Drew Aquino at daquino@ppymca.org or 719.622.3567 or 719.622.9622.





Retired Staff Sgt. Jaymes Poling, a wounded warrior, signs a bomb during their trip to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan as part of Operation Proper Exit.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield)

Till Next Month...



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment "Stalwart," 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, pose for a 'Band of Brothers' recreation photo.
(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jasmine Flowers)