



177th AR BDE SPEARHEAD NEWS

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From the Commander's Desk



I am extremely proud of the work being done by all members of the Spearhead Brigade. The team at Camp Shelby has continued to excel in mobilizing, training and demobilizing National Guard and US Army Reserve formations. I have heard more than one commander say they pushed to get their unit trained at Camp Shelby because of the reputation for excellence you build.

I have been pleased with the training focus of our LSB. Keep up the good effort. Finally, our Soldiers who remain deployed continue to excel and have represented the brigade well.

Please keep the Soldiers in your prayers until they return safely home.

Talking with the Command Sergeant Major



We have done great things this past quarter. The 177th continues to demonstrate to First Army that we set the standard in mobilization training and validation. It takes every member of our team to continue to lead the way. We have the holidays coming up on us very quickly, it is very important you take the time you can with your families now. Remember safety during your time off and if you're going to deep fry a turkey don't deep fry your house along with it.

December looks like the brigade will hit the ground running again. Although the half day schedule is set to begin December 18th, the 177th will have missions. Everything that we do is for the Soldier about to deploy and redeploy! Mission first.

Unit Ministry Team (UMT) – CH Thomas & SFC Brock

In recent months the UMT bid Ch. Yarber and his Family farewell. We welcome our new brigade chaplain, Ch. Thomas and his Family .

My family and I would like to thank you for allowing us to serve with you as your added spiritual family. First, I would like to share with you a little about myself as we embrace Camp Shelby with the attitude of spearheading our duties as one team. I'm proud to say that my wife, Petra (12 years of marriage) supports my efforts greatly. Also, joining us are our five sons and one daughter. I have served in the military since 1988 as a seaman recruit in the Navy where I began my military career. This has truly become my career and after serving for a total of 16 years, I think you will agree: I am Sailor and Soldier!

Upcoming Event(s):

What: Quarterly Prayer Luncheon

When: December 5, 2012

Where: Consolidated DFAC at 1130-1230

Guest speaker: Pastor Darryl Craft,
Temple Baptist Church

Contact information: CH Donald Thomas, 601-297-7155 and SFC L'Quitha Brock 601-297-3640

Safety – CPT Wangen "Be Aware and Be Safe"

As we transition from summer to fall and winter there's a shift in emphasis from water sports to other sports, such as football and hunting. Protect yourself and your friends and take the time to evaluate the risks before you do something you shouldn't. Also, just because the weather has cooled off, doesn't mean that you don't have to drink water and use sun block. The cold weather poses a hidden danger that doesn't always provide the extra warning. Staying hydrated and protecting your skin from the sun's harmful rays is extremely important.

Families and friends will also be celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas soon. As you decorate and cook, take the time to ensure you take the proper precautions. Avoid creating fire hazards and review the instructions to properly set up, install, or prepare prior to starting the festivities.

The safety office bids farewell to Mr. Ken Brumfield. After serving in the safety office as a Soldier and a civilian, Mr. Brumfield departed to continue serving with the 377th Theater Support Command in Belle Chasse, LA, though we expect to see him often as the unit often trains at Camp Shelby.



Finance—Mrs. Perren

GOVERNMENT TRAVEL

Privately Owned Conveyance (POC): The Per Diem, Travel, and Transportation Allowance Committee (PDTATAC) has determined that POC use on TDY is to the Government's advantage for TDY to locations within 800 miles (round-trip) of the Permanent Duty Station. There is no requirement for any cost comparison. Our command may authorize POC use for TDY travel of 800 miles or less round-trip (400 miles one-way) at its discretion. GSA vehicles are our first-line mode of ground travel at the 177th however if none are available you may be interested in POC travel.

Air Travel: Beginning October 1, 2012, any travel authorization that includes air travel must be approved and ticketed at least 72 hours in advance of the scheduled flight departure to avoid airline reservations from being cancelled. This is due to a new policy being instituted by the airlines under the FY13 GSA City Pair contract.

TRAVEL VOUCHERS

What can you do to ensure that your TDY travel is settled properly and timely?

1. Update your Profile in the Defense Travel System (DTS) today! This will include your address, e-mail, checking/savings account number and your current Government Travel Charge Card account number. If any of these are missing or incorrect it can cause a delay or disruption of your EFT disbursement to both you and the travel card.
2. Know the per diem rate to the area that you are traveling. If you overspend on your travel card you will owe more than your voucher will cover thus creating a debt to be paid out-of-pocket. For a full list of all 2013 per diem rates per location visit www.GSA.gov/perdiem.
3. File your travel voucher within 5 days of your return from TDY. This is very easy to do and very important! Little known fact: all TDY completed for more than 5 days with no voucher filed is reviewed at higher HQ level and questioned. Don't let yourself be one of them. Army standard is 5 days!

Housing—Ms. Pascarella

Hello to all of our Soldiers and Families! The Housing Office currently has a lot happening. We recently bid Mrs. Linda Reed farewell. She retired after 31 years of service to the Air Force and Army! We wish her the very best!

We also welcomed SSG Holmes into the office. He is busy learning all that he can to assist our office. He comes with some housing experience! Brooks Anacker, one of our Corps of Engineer (COE) employees is on a long TDY through December. Gary Lambert currently is the go to guy for all duties regarding COE duties.

For those of you who will be on the new TCS order with 2-346th and need assistance in locating a private lease please request the special questionnaire, fill it out and send it back to me. If you are currently in a domestic leased home and want to keep your family here you will have to either secure a different private rental or you can request to rent it from the homeowner. This takes some time to do so make sure you let us know what your plans are so we can assist you in a smooth transition.

We are working very hard to keep up with all of the work in our office. We ask that if you have a work order to email it to us (see below). If the work order can cause damage to the home please email us and call us. Additionally, please email us once the repair is complete. We are able to forward the email to the COE who in turn reports it to the property manager. I will then email you back acknowledging your email. This will cut down on your wait time in processing your work order. My email is:

Lucinda.m.pascarella@us.army.mil.



Subject: Work order (house address)
Name: SSG Joe Snuffy
Address: 123 Brown Blvd., City, State, Zip
Phone: list sponsor and spouse
Work order: My heat is not working. The fan is blowing air but it is not warm. Problem began today.

Lucinda Pascarella BB: 601 520-3792, office: 601 558-2119

1-346th ADA Battalion



The Spartan Battalion would like to highlight one of our Soldiers for his involvement and support in helping his grandfather receive the French Legion of Honor.

The French Legion of Honor recognizes contributions and acts of bravery of American service members

during the liberation of France. 1st Lt. Rodney D. Brock's grandfather, Mr. Oscar Russell was recognized and awarded the French Legion of Honor for his service in WWII. He was a gunner on a Higgins Landing Craft LC(T) part of the first wave on Omaha Beach on D-Day June 6, 1944. After the battle, he and his crew assisted in casualty collection and supply operations for 25 days. He also saw combat in the Pacific during the Battle of Okinawa while serving as a gunner onboard the LCS (L) 86. After the war, Mr. Oscar Russell continued his service to the public by becoming a school teacher and minister.

1st Lt. Brock wrote the French Consulate and had to gather all the old War Department records for his grandfather to validate his service on French soil during WWII. This process took him nearly two months, while the French approval process took about five. 1st Lt. Brock worked with the PAO and Staff at the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum to plan the award ceremony on Camp Shelby which was held on Aug. 15, 2012.

Keltoum Rowland, the French honorary consul in Mississippi, provided opening remarks on behalf of the French Government. The medal was presented by Lt. Col. Philippe Testart, an exchange officer and instructor at Fort Benning, Ga. The ceremony was attended by the 1st Army Division East Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Kevin Wendel, as well as many other distinguished guests. 1st Lt. Brock received the Division Commander's Coin of Excellence for his efforts in getting his Grandfather recognized for his honorary and heroic service.

1-350th Regiment (LSB) Puerto Rico

It's hard to tell in 200 words all the work we have done over the past three months, without living out on something important.

In August we conducted our annual training (AT) which began immediately with a class on squad movement followed by how to react to direct and indirect fire, convoy operations, communication and signals, MEDEVAC, CASEVAC and M-249 weapon familiarization. If that wasn't enough, we finished with our main event a live fire exercise (with individual movement at the squad level). Ten days of good training!

The pressure was turned on more when we had a visit from the brigade command team: Col. Kuehl and Command SGT Maj. Swanson. The command team participated in the live fire event. Col. Kuehl showed us how it's done by doing the individual movement himself! And yes he got dirty! The Colonel didn't just show his Ranger skills, he provided motivation and encouragement to each Soldier who finished the lane. The Colonel and Command Sergeant Major also took part of the training's after action review (AAR).

Before saying goodbye to the battalion and the tropical weather of the island, Col. Kuehl awarded SPC Jonathan Flores, SPC Hector Marrero and SPC Nydia Butler, with the brigade coin for their hard work and effort during AT. The Colonel's last words to the bulldogs were motivational for every bulldog. "I'm proud of every single one of you. The hard work and the training I have seen from this battalion show the dedication and pride you have for the Army and for our brigade. I'll encourage other battalions to train more on basic Soldier tasks, because believe it or not this is the first battalion of the brigade that has conducted a live ammunition event.

Once again we have exceeded the standards. Bulldogs lead the way!

SPC Jonathan Flores, S-3

2-349th LSB (Ft. Stewart, GA)

SGT Michael Adler is a native of Mississippi. He enlisted into the Active Duty Army as a Power Generator Equipment Repairer in 1997, and attended Recovery Operations (H8) School in 2004. He was unable to use the H8 identifier until he re-classed in the Reserves as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic in 2009. The H8 Additional Skill Identifier is a specialized 40-hour course to train Soldiers to operate and maintain recovery vehicles and how to use standard procedures to rig and recover wheeled vehicles with focus on HEMTT wreckers and five-ton MTV wreckers.

SGT Adler has three deployments under his belt: Operation Iraqi Freedom I, III, and V. He left active duty in 2009 and joined the 2-349 LSB as a TPU Soldier. During Annual Training he achieved a Sharpshooter score of 30 out of 40 on the Live Fire Range and Expert on the Engagement Skills Trainer with 38 out of 40. Due to his vast knowledge he was chosen over other NCOs to give a class on Wrecker Recovery Operations during the Battalion's Annual Training in January. One of the Training events consisted of Wrecker Recovery Operations, which SGT Adler completed his mission in 12:28 (in a combat environment recovery must be completed in less than 15 minutes). He is a true subject matter expert in his area of responsibility and a great NCO, always exceeding the standard. Is there anything SGT Adler cannot do? The LSB has yet to see something he is unable to do. Even in APFT SGT Adler consistently scores in the mid 200's on a 300 point scale.

Outside of the military he is a full time Diesel Technician with Peterbilt. His daily duties consist of electrical trouble shooting, mechanical troubleshooting, engine transmission and axle overhauls, and minor body work on 18 wheel tractor trailers. So who is SGT Adler? He is a model NCO that you want in your foxhole, someone that you would want on your team and take to combat. I've done it once before and I would definitely want him on my team again.

~CPT Annaliza Rogers

2-350th LSB (Camp Blanding, FL)

The 2-350th Logistical Support Battalion (LSB) "Bull Dogs" will end the year saying goodbye to two exceptional NCOs: SFC Vilma Gotay, (Battalion Motor Sergeant) and SSG Johnathan B. Hoehn (Battalion Security Specialist).



SSG Hoehn, recently achieved national certification in Radiologic Technology. Upon graduation from Keiser University, The Bayonet Point Regional Medical Center (RMCBP) in Hudson, Fla. rapidly grabbed SSG Hoehn and employed him as their Radiologist. SSG Hoehn will no longer help control secure access to the Army's important systems but perform more "unsecure duties" like trauma imaging, fluoroscopic examinations, surgical fluoroscopy and general x-ray examinations at a level three trauma center that is a nationally accredited stroke center.



After more than eight years of unparalleled loyalty to the Bulldogs at Camp Blanding, the 2-350th LSB also bids farewell to SFC Gotay with one of her favorite Saturday night barbecues accompanied with music, fun and laughter. SFC Gotay spent 23 years conquering all levels of complex assignments as a Maintenance NCO in Ft. Stewart, Ga., Ft. Bragg, N.C., Ft. Polk, La., Palatka, Fla. and several other military installations. She spent many sleepless nights counseling, mentoring and guiding her Soldiers with an array of wrench turning stories persuading them to be the best they can be at all times. After retiring, SFC Gotay plans to use her military experience to serve the civilian community in a maintenance capacity.

2-350th LSB also honored SFC Gotay with a plaque and the Army Meritorious Service Award.

2-410th FA Battalion

Greetings from Soldiers of the 2d Battalion 410th Field Artillery! This last quarter has brought a number of significant changes to the battalion and has been full of new challenges and opportunities. Most importantly our trainers and mentors have continued to provide exceptional training to America's sons and daughters as they prepare for deployment. I continue to hear accolades from the units that we train praising the professionalism of our Soldiers and the quality training that they provide. This is a trend we will continue. Sergeant Major and I are exceptionally proud of the battalion's performance and are confident that even bigger and better things are on the horizon for us.

During the past quarter, we welcomed the new Battalion Command Sergeant Major, CSM Roderick Hodo to the Paladin team. We have also seen the battalion continue to grow and welcomed the following officers and NCOs and their families to the team: CPT Rodrico Vargas, his wife Shauna and son Mateo; CPT Andre Winding; SFC Christopher Kimble, his wife Vonetta and son Jalen; SFC Ottis Crawford, wife Katrina, son John and daughter Katelynn; SFC Michael Spears, his wife Jessica, son Michael and daughters Leah and Loia and SFC Donte Allen and his son Isaiah. Unfortunately we have also had some Soldiers depart the unit and so we bid a fond farewell to these great leaders: CPT Phillip Cole, CPT Douglas Anderson, SFC Darrel Lake, SFC Marlon Lee, SFC Marcus Leavell and SFC David Jones.

Congratulations to-

SFC Uvalde Harris and his wife Kendra on the birth of their son, Xavier.

SSG Derek Santos and his wife April on the birth of their daughter Tavi.

SFC Norris Mumford and SFC Rodney Johnson on their retirements after many years of dedicated service to this great Nation of ours.

SSG Joseph Miller, SSG Brian Johnson and SSG Eric Walker for graduating from the 13D Senior Leaders Course at Ft Sill, OK.

Finally I ask that each of us keep our deployed Soldiers in our thoughts and prayers. In conclusion, stay safe this fall. RISE ABOVE DIFFICULTIES! PALADINS!

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD)

SSG Dana M. Knox is a native of San Antonio, Texas. She completed her basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C. in January 2005. She served as an operating room technician based at Ft. Carson, Colo. from May 2005 to November 2007. She voluntarily re-classed to a human resources specialist (42A) supporting the 84th Ordnance Battalion in Ft. Riley, Kan. In support of Operation Iraqi Freedom she completed a one year deployment (2009-2010), in Iraq.

She was assigned to the 177th AR BDE in January 2011. Her duties and responsibilities are to provide personnel support to over 500 Soldiers within the brigade. Her daily functions include: promotions, daily reporting, Soldier/NCO of the month/year boards, awards and unit prevention leader (UPL) management.

SSG Knox has been at Camp Shelby for two years and when asked about her impressions of Camp Shelby she said, "Very different but great experience." And when asked about her work environment, she stated, "Couldn't ask to be in a better place!"

SSG Knox is in the process of obtaining her bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration at Columbia Southern University located in Orange Beach, Ala. At the university she is the Student Veterans Association Vice President where she serves as an advocate and actuary of the Student Veterans Association within the community.



In spite of her busy schedule she still finds time to spend with her husband John and her dog Scout. SSG Knox loves hunting and fishing but mostly enjoys spending quality time with her family.

Capt. Ronnie Burton, HHD Commander

As the unit prepared to demobilize, Maj. Griffin anticipated taking over command from Lt. Col. Rego (who will deploy to Afghanistan in a few months) only because he would be the senior officer when she left. To his surprise, not only would he take command, but he would be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

On the long awaited day of Sep. 27, 2012, 3d Battalion, 349th Regiment (LSB) conducted three ceremonies to wrap up the yearlong deployment. The first was the Welcome Home Warrior Ceremony, second the unit's change of command and third two promotion ceremonies.

The Welcome Home Warrior Ceremony honors Soldiers and their families for hard work and dedication in support of defending our nation's freedom. The event was held at the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby. The battalion was tasked with a logistical support mission at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC). The unit's mission was to provide logistics, transportation, and communications and maintenance support for two brigades and mobilizing units.

Following the Welcome Home Warrior Ceremony the unit conducted the change of command ceremony. Lt. Col. Anna L. Rego passed the guidon to Maj. La-Marcus D. Griffin. The ceremony was attended by many fellow Soldiers, Family and friends. The unit was sad to see Lt. Col. Rego depart but was pleased with the fact of already knowing the new commander so well.

The last ceremony was the promotions for Maj. Griffin and SPC Varnum. The two promotions took place

separately and was followed by a reception at the museum.

3d Battalion 349th Regiment (LSB) would like to thank you all for the trust and support that was bestowed upon us as we trained America's sons and daughters for combat.

Congratulations to the following:
SSG Derence Russell and SGT Kirsten (Bradley) Russell, on their marriage

SSG Zandrey (Burnside) Vaughn and SGT Stephen Vaughn, on their marriage

SSG Percy Crumpton's promotion to SFC

SPC Varnum whom was recently promoted to SGT

"Support Forward"



Medical

What is the process to receive a profile?

Soldiers with medical problems that prevent/alter any of the medical requirements of physical fitness under the functional activities on DA form 3349 and Standards of Medical Fitness AR 40-501 will require a physical profile.

Soldier will complete sections 1-17 on the Standard form 507 and sign. Then take the completed form to their primary care manger (PCM) to complete and sign the Physician Examining Section on the Standard form 600 (Chronological Record of Medical Care).

When both documents are complete the Soldier will take these completed forms, along with any support-

ing documents, to Unit Administrator/unit S1 staff. The Soldier's unit will forward all documents to the BDE Medical Readiness Office (MRO). The documents are reviewed for completeness by the MRO then forward to the Camp Shelby Case management who will issue the profile or make recommendations.

If profile is necessary it is entered into MEDPROS, forwarded to BDE MRO then to Unit administrator/S1 that will give a copy to the Soldiers and place a copy in the Medical Records.

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