



299th Brigade Support Battalion

The Heartbeat



April/May 2012



A Little Bit About Your Command Team LTC Eric Schwartz & CSM Bryon Starks



Lifeline 6



Lieutenant Colonel Eric Schwartz was commissioned into the Quartermaster Corps in 1995, after graduating from the University of Rio Grande, Ohio with a degree in Communications. His military assignments have taken him to Fort Campbell, Kentucky on a couple different tours; Giessen Germany; Bamberg Germany; Mclean, Virginia; Scott Air Force Base, Illinois; and most recently Fort Riley, Kansas.

Lieutenant Colonel Schwartz's military education includes the Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Staff Services School, and the Naval Command and Staff College. Lieutenant Colonel Schwartz also holds a Masters of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

Lieutenant Colonel Schwartz's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Armed Forces Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Parachute Rigger Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Schwartz and Command Sergeant Major Starks have five priorities of work to include: The Team, Discipline, Fitness, Maintenance, and Accountability. Lieutenant Colonel Schwartz's focus is for every Soldier to be prepared, professional, and have pride.

Lifeline 7

Command Sergeant Major Bryon K. Starks, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, entered the United States Army on 28 July 1987. He completed basic combat training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Virginia. His assignments have led him all over the world including Fort Ord, California; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Clarksville, Tennessee; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Cakmakli, Turkey; Kitzingen, Germany; Vicenza, Italy; Kaiserslautern, Germany; and now Fort Riley, Kansas.

His military education includes the United States Army Recruiter Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, and the First Sergeant Course. Command Sergeant Major Starks is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Battalion Pre-Command and Command Sergeants Major Course, and Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Touro University International.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Army Recruiter Gold Badge.

Command Sergeant Major Starks' focus for every Soldier is discipline, standards, and safety.



Battalion News

Chaplain's

It is great to be back with you! We have been busy in the Chaplain's office since we hit the full day schedule. With Strong Bonds retreats for Couples, Families and Singles and opportunities to be trained in counseling and Suicide prevention, we are ready to help the 299th BSB Soldiers and their families. We even got the popcorn machine up and running! We are grateful that people come in to share their struggles and successes. We have much to be grateful for in the Battalion. Each day we try to share our thoughts with the Battalion. It is my prayer that each of you feel free to come in and see us. Work hard and play hard and Keep Safe! Enjoy each free hour that you have. Have a super month and I'll talk with you soon.

CH (CPT) Williams

Soldier of the Month

April: SPC James Holbrook (HHC)
May: SPC James Smith (C)

NCO of the Month

April: SGT Mamadou Diallo (B)
May: SGT Henry Luna (A)

Promotions



APRIL

To PFC: PFC Dennis (HHC), PFC Downey (HHC), PFC McGrew (A), PFC Pangelinan (B), PFC Walker (C)

To SPC: SPC Chihara (A), SPC Cruz (A), SPC Delgado (A), SPC Edwards (A), SPC Kamella (A), SPC Turner (A), SPC Mendoza (B), SPC Garcia (C), SPC Lubinski (C)

TO SGT: SGT Allen (C)

MAY

To PFC: PFC Camacho (B), PFC Green (B), PFC Spencer (B)

To SPC: SPC Snow (HHC), SPC Diaz (A), SPC Stoermann (B)

To SGT: SGT Bozeman (C), SGT Pace (HHC)

To SFC: SFC Norris (C)

Re-enlistments

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who re-enlisted in the Army over the past 60 days:

SPC Rigoberto Chavez Jr (B)



SPC Jamie Winslow (C)



SPC Christopher Staniszewski (HHC)



SGT Charles Pugh (A)



Battalion News

Hails & Farewells

May 19, 2012 we held a Hail & Farewell at Bobby T's in Manhattan. Although we got to welcome many new faces to the battalion, we were also saddened to say goodbye to some of our battle buddies as they take the next step in their career or move on to the civilian world. We farewelled 1SG Barnes (C), 1LT Mclean (B), 1LT Gaston (C), and CPT Egan (C).



Our sponsor Kansas State University Track & Field Team hosted the Big 12 Championships this past weekend where eight Soldiers volunteered and put in a little sweat equity by raking the Long Jump pits. Kansas State University Men take away fourth from the Championships, while the Women Wildcats came away with eighth. Soldiers were also in attendance cheering the home team on during Sunday's finals. One winner for the home team was a Kansas State Junior Erik Kynard. On winning the High Jump Big 12 title he said, "Anytime I am in a competition, the first goal is to win. I am not coming out here to jump eight feet and come in second and be happy. I am coming out here to win. I have yet to lose this season so I will continue."

Enterprise

Our sponsor Enterprise Elementary School held a Spring Music Program May 10, 2012 where Lieutenant Colonel Schwartz and Command Sergeant Major Starks presented fifth-grade Dylan Thornton with the Soldier Award for demonstrating strong academic performance and character aligned with the seven core Army Values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. After presenting the award, the command group along with a packed audience and a group of Soldiers enjoyed the vocal talents, choreography, and special effects of the Enterprise students. Enterprise Elementary will showcase the Soldier Award for future students to aspire to achieve.

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Family Readiness

Come out and join us for this FREE concert!

AIR FORCE RESERVE PRESENTS TOUR FOR THE TROOPS

FREE ADMISSION

DAUGHTRY

SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH - FORT RILEY
OUTSIDE RILEY'S CONFERENCE CENTER

GATES OPEN AT 5 PM - OPENING BAND BEGINS AT 6 PM

No outside food/beverage, glass, coolers or pets.
No ATM onsite.

MWR

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So hard to believe that our Soldiers have been back, and half a year has already passed. As we are to the point where we stop looking back at the deployment and start looking forward to the unbelievable possibilities of the future, we—the 299th Family start this adventure with what the Army is known best for—Change! As our Soldiers have dealt with change in their leadership, our FRG's have also had a lot of changes. Please take the time to get involved and introduce yourself to your FRG Leader as they are growing into their positions and looking forward to helping you feel more of a part of the unit.

FRSA Sabrena Stalnaker

Headquarters & Headquarters Company

By CPT Jacqueline Ralston, Company Commander

It has been very busy for the Headhunters Family over the last few months. We've seen the departure of some close friends and battle buddies while simultaneously welcoming in new co-workers and looking forward to the challenges awaiting our battalion's next mission. Both the company and the battalion conducted changes of command, bidding farewell to the outgoing leaders and welcoming the new commanders. Additionally, nearly every section within the company has seen a change in OIC or NCOIC.

Since its return from Operation New Dawn in October, HHC has completed the reintegration and reset phases. During the last six months, the company ensured that personnel were settling back into their Families and lives in garrison while also resetting and fielding new equipment to ensure it is ready for future missions. Of note, the company's Field Feeding Team received a new Containerized Kitchen and refrigerating unit while conducting focused training on the equipment which will greatly enhance their capability to feed the battalion in an austere environment. The S6 also completed specialized, extensive training on their equipment including the Command Post Node (CPN) and the Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) in order to improve their ability to provide the battalion with communication capabilities regardless of geographical location.



Headhunters graphic created by PFC Wade

From mid-April to mid-May, the company assumed the primary responsibility for the life support area for the division's Expert Field Medical Badge event. For a month, the Soldiers of HHC, augmented by personnel and equipment from Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Companies, established sleeping, eating, and studying areas for nearly 200 candidates competing in EFMB. The Soldiers worked long hours to ensure that tents, cots, lights, food, and other supplies were ready and provided to the candidates. Additionally, some Soldiers served as simulated casualties or squad members for candidates completing combat lane testing (one of six events that a candidate is tested on to earn the coveted badge). The company's S3 section and Support Operations (SPO) played vital roles in the planning and successful execution of this event. Their hard work and dedication to the mission were commended by several senior officials including COL Paul Calvert, the 2d HBCT commander.

Starting in the beginning of May, the unit moved into the Train/Ready phase which includes focusing on individual and section tasks while preparing for battalion operations in support of brigade missions. Over the upcoming months, Soldiers will qualify on their assigned weapons, participate in warrior task training, complete company training exercises, be inspected by brigade and division staffs, and prepare for their sections' role in supporting the battalion's mission. Soldiers will also be provided the opportunity to take approximately 10 days of leave during one of the two battalion block leave periods (one in July and one in August).

On a behalf of 1SG Giddens and myself I would like to say that we are proud to serve alongside of your Headhunter Soldier. This company has already accomplished a great deal in just the few months since we returned. We look forward to training with the company and working toward becoming both proficient in our skills and strengthening our unit cohesion. A huge part of that cohesion comes from strong, supportive Families. So, we welcome you to join us for our next FRG event along with our FRG co-leaders, Julie Curry and Kristin Jackson. More information on our FRG events will be coming soon but please mark your calendar for 1 June for the Headhunters' Family PT session. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Headhunters – Supporting the Fight!

Alpha Company

Let the Training Begin

By: CPT Matthew Einhorn, Company Commander

In accordance with the Army Force Generation (AFORGEN) cycle, the brigade was officially reset on May 4, 2012 and the training phase began. That means we can expect a summer full of training in preparation for the National Training Center (NTC) rotation in February 2013.

This NTC rotation will be like nothing that many of our Soldiers or young leaders within the brigade have ever seen. The days of falling in on pre-positioned stocks, living in and working out of hardstand buildings or containers, operations out of a forward operating base (FOB) and having contractors provide security and logistical support are over. The Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) is expected to provide all logistical support to the brigade during a new type of combat known as "decisive action" while securing our convoys and the brigade support area (BSA).

As we prepare for NTC, we have many exciting logistical challenges that we have not faced within the last ten years of combat. With challenges ranging from using a logistical truck as a gun truck, to supporting a brigade on the move; supporting a decisive action conflict could be much more complex than our area support mission, in support of Operation New Dawn. Therefore, as the brigade is certifying paladins, Bradley and Abrams crews this summer, the BSB will be busy using these certification ranges as an opportunity to hone the battalion skills and rewrite our tactical standing operating procedures (TACSOP).

A quick look at the brigade's training calendar one can tell this summer is going to be busy, especially for the logistics units. There will be non-stop ranges from now through mid September requiring fuel, ammunition, repair parts, water, and food to be pushed daily. Not only will the BSB be called on to supply all of this, they will have to do it while allowing Soldiers the opportunity to take block leave either in mid July or late August. Before the brigade ranges are complete, units within the BSB will be heading to the field to certify platoons throughout September.

Many people have stated that we are getting back to the basics of the old Army, working and living out of tents, supporting and securing ourselves. Although I have read how to support in such an environment and all my professional military training has trained me for this type of support, I, like so many other Soldiers who entered the Army after September 11th, have never actually supported in this manner. But this summer we will rewrite our TACSOP and make new logistical cheat sheets figuring out how to support a heavy brigade combat team during decisive actions.



"Soldiers from the distribution platoon in Alpha Company, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas work to unload a flatrack full of tents during the setup of the Life Support Area on 30 March 2012 for the Expert Field Medical Badge competition that 2HBCT was in charge of supporting; this event was the first experience that many Soldiers had setting up tents like this."

Bravo Company

By 1LT Aleksandar Jovanovic

Bravo Company, 299th BSB's accomplishments were legendary during their deployment in support of "Operation New Dawn". Since redeployment Bravo Company continues to exemplify what it means to be Soldiers in the Lifeline Battalion by maintaining its mission ready capabilities and upholding the storied history it represents.

Hard work has always been a staple of Bravo Company. We support not only our Battalion during mission exercises but also the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team. Our C & E

section has assisted in resetting 3,500 pieces of communication equipment including 165 pieces of Test equipment. The Armament section gauged and repaired over 3,000 pieces of equipment in support of the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

The Field Maintenance and Ground Support Equipment platoon has been working diligently to complete all of the tasks set before them. Field Maintenance was able to complete a total of 120 Wheeled and Track services during our reset phase. This diverse platoon has excelled by supplying power and keeping the lighting up to standard in support of the EFMB training mission.



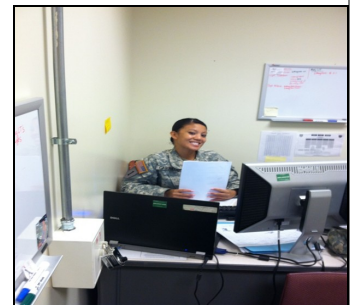
The Service and Recovery section led by Chief Tutt and SGT House have also been tasked to support all of 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team. S & R has already supported 1-7 FA and 1-18 IN in recovery operations and has taken part in the Brigade Recovery Operations class.

SGT Carreon, Bravo Company's Supply Sergeant, has been busy since Redeployment and continues to set the standard for supply discipline. Her hard work has resulted in Bravo Company's ability to keep 100% accountability of all of the equipment during LBE draw. She and SPC Darden have accomplished great things such as Change of Command Inventories and the drawing of LBE. Our

supply section accounted for a remarkable \$18 million worth of equipment without a single discrepancy showcasing the excellence of the 299th Brigade Support Battalion.

As the Bravo Company Commander, I am very proud of our soldiers and would like to acknowledge the following Soldiers for their significant accomplishments. These soldiers are great examples of what Bravo Company and the Lifeline Battalion represents:

1. SGT Tabor- Distinguished Honor Graduate and Leadership Award for the 91 B ALC class 12-705.
2. SGT Marble- Motivator Award for 91 B ALC Class 12-705.
3. SGT Diallo won the NCO of the Month Board for April 2012.
4. SSG Carreon, SPC Darden, SPC Hallekson, SPC Thomas, PFC Donahue and SPC Briggins represented Bravo Company in the Battalion's BOSS program by helping Senior Citizens in Junction City with their yard work.



Charlie Company

By 1LT Bennett Adams

Medical operations are well underway in Charlie Company. Having recently gone through USAMMA reset, where the company is refit and reset with the latest field medical equipment, Charlie Company is fully operational and capable of performing its medical duties. Treatment platoon has been busy staffing the Troop Medical Clinic with medics to come to the aid of other 2nd Brigade soldiers. The medics typically rotate in and out of the TMC to ensure that all of the medics are receiving training in a clinical setting. The Evacuation Platoon has been busily certifying medics to drive their wheeled and tracked ambulances in order ensure the brigade has the necessary means to safely evacuate soldiers during range coverage and various other brigade training events.

Now that the battalion is settling into the training cycle, coverage for ranges will be very important, ensuring that all the medics are trained and capable to perform their medical duties and react to an evacuation scenario quickly and effectively. As training is ramping up, the need for supplies is as well, Charlie Company is also responsible for running the Brigade Medical Supply office and requests for supplies have been rolling in from throughout the brigade. Recently, the battalion has been engaged in putting on the Expert Field Medical Badge qualification, and Charlie Company soldiers have been steadily occupied with fielding vehicles and providing support for the event. Charlie Company has also sent many candidates to the event with hopes of earning the badge.

The three week event is a comprehensive evaluation of a medic's abilities, including medically demanding STX lanes, a difficult written test, night and day land navigation test and a timed 12-mile ruck march. The soldiers that do earn the badge display incredible knowledge of their medical skills and abilities and tremendous physical readiness. Charlie looks forward to the summer and its further opportunities to hone their medical skills.



FRG Leaders—On Call to Serve

Battalion FRG Leadership

Position	Name	Phone Number	E-mail
Commander	LTC Eric Schwartz		eric.schwartz@us.army.mil
Battalion CSM	CSM Bryon Starks		bryon.k.starks@us.army.mil
FRG Advisor	Melinda Schwartz	931.494.7304	299bsbfrg@gmail.com
FRSA	Sabrena Stalnaker	785.239.5539	sabrena.stalnaker@us.army.mil

Company FRG Leadership

Company	Name	Phone Number	E-mail
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Alpha Company FRG Leader	Amy Hartung	760.458.1194	alphaavalanche@gmail.com
Bravo Company Command Team	CPT David Holbrook SFC Jason Holley		david.holbrook1@us.army.mil Jason.holley@us.army.mil
Bravo Company FRG Leader	Krystal Frink Amber Giddings	919.608.7042 785.784.2666	bcobandits@gmail.com
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Charlie Company FRG Leader	Alyssa Clevenger Nichole Smith	916.704..5171 785.375.6267	299bsbcharliecompanyfrg@gmail.com
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HHC FRG Leader	Julie Curry Kristin Jackson	785.375.8838 330.284.5673	hhcheadhunters@gmail.com