



299th Brigade Support Battalion

# The Heartbeat



July 2012



**From The Desk Of The Command Team  
LTC Eric Schwartz & CSM Bryon Starks**



## Lifeline 6 & Lifeline 7



This month we had the privilege of promoting and re-enlisting Soldiers, holding a Battalion Awards Ceremony, and hosting a Kid's Day for the Battalion. Among the Soldiers promoted were three First Lieutenants who enjoyed their promotion to the rank of Captain with a large feast of subs and cake amongst family, friends, and battle buddies. Congratulations to Captain Michael E. Higgins, Captain George M. Hotaling, and Captain Dallas J. Nivens!

In addition, we would like to congratulate the following Soldiers who re-enlisted in the Army over the past 30 days: SPC Gutierrez from Bravo Company, SSG Scott from Alpha Company, SGT Deese from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, SSG Sampson from Alpha Company, SPC Miller from Alpha Company, SPC Jones from Alpha Company, SPC Barrera from Alpha Company, and SGT Di-allo from Bravo Company.

We also enjoyed some time with our family this month during Lifeline Kid's Day 10 August 2012. The day was filled with family fun activities, from a baby ceremony to a relay race, and sno-cones and popcorn to tours of the military vehicles. We enjoyed seeing the Family that stands behind this Lifeline Battalion.



This article was featured in the Oakdale Leader, Oakdale, CA in February 2012. The article goes on to say, "Oakdale residents and twin brothers Kevin and Kristopher Sheppard are currently serving in the U.S. Army. Both graduated from Oakdale High School in 2009 and are sons of John and Theresa Sheppard. Kevin Daniel Sheppard, PV2, is a combat medic and is based at Ft. Hood, Texas." 1st Infantry Division has the privilege of being home for the other brother, PV2 Kristopher Joseph Sheppard. He is a wheeled vehicle mechanic currently serving in Bravo Company with the Lifeline Battalion.

# Battalion News



*CPT Higgins*

*CPT Hotaling*



*CPT Nivens*

# Lifeline Kid's Day



*Thank You for your Support*

# Battalion Awards Ceremony



# Battalion News

## Chaplain's



School time is here! Kids and parents have much to adjust to, and the roads on Fort Riley are not as fast as they are during the summertime. Are you ready? It is important to set some family rules so that both parents and kids can get through this time without too much trouble. The first is talking with your kids. During the summer we have more control over who they see and what they are exposed to. It is good to have a daily "debrief." Talk about what happened over the day and discuss the good and the bad. For you praying folks, daily prayer as a family can be a time to give thanks and ask for help for each of your kids. Most of all, know that it takes time to adjust to new friends, teachers and schools. If we are patient it can be an exciting new school year.

Blessings,  
CH (CPT) Williams

## NCO of the Quarter

SGT Matous Allen (A)



## Soldier of the Quarter

SPC Ernestina Opoku (HHC)



# Family Readiness

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**2012 FALL APPLE DAY**  
**FORT RILEY, KANSAS FESTIVAL**  
**SEP 22, 9AM-3PM**  
**ARTILLERY PARADE FIELD**

**LOOK FORWARD TO:**

Apple Pie Sales	Laser/MILES Range
ATV Rodeo (closed toe shoes required)	Motorcycle Rally
Cavalry Competition (Sep 19 - Sep 22)	Music & Entertainment
Community Health Experience	Obstacle Course
Expo Tent	Paintball Range
Fire and Rescue Display	Period Re-Enactors
Food Tent and Picnic Area	Petting Zoo
Inflatables	Rock Wall
K-9 Demo	Scout Day
	Static Displays
	Treasure Hunt

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REMEMBERING 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD FREEDOM THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

**NO PETS ALLOWED AT THE FESTIVAL.** **OPEN TO ALL.**

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As the next few months approach, our Battalion will be in the field for a lot of training and Families will be on their own some of the time to take care of the home front. Even though this training will never compare to a deployment, there are frustrations of odd schedules and the unknown. With that said, please try to attend your next FRG meeting so that you can hear our very own LTC Schwartz explain what our Battalion is training for and what the mission ahead is looking like! This will be your time to ask questions so that you can have a full understanding of why there are so many crazy hours and trips to the field over the next 4 or 5 months! As always, we are here to support our Families!

# Headquarters & Headquarters Company

*By CPT Jacqueline Ralston, Commander Company*

The last month has been a busy time for the Headhunters as we completed the division's Reset Assistance Visit (RAV), the battalion's Maintenance Week, and the company Training Week.

Prior to the RAV, the staff sections and company headquarters dedicated long hours and worked hard to put systems in place resulting in several inspected areas being satisfactory and only minimum issues needing corrections. Two HHC Soldiers received Coins of Excellence from BG MacWillie for their achievements in preparing for the RAV; congratulations to PFC Downey from S6 and SPC Bishop from the Arms Room.

From 7-9 August, HHC participated in the battalion's Maintenance Week operations. The company started the week with an early (0330!) alert and rolled out a convoy of vehicles to complete the mission as directed. Throughout the week, the Soldiers inspected and tested many types of equipment including the tent heaters, generators, and chemical protection masks in order to improve our overall readiness.

The company completed Warrior Tasks Training from 13-17 August. On the first day, personnel developed confidence in their chemical masks by completing the CBRN chamber (commonly referred to as the "gas chamber"). Later that day, 1LT Dalton and SFC Wernholm led the company through Land Navigation Training. Their familiarization course introduced Soldiers to finding points through land recognition, compasses, and DAGRs. On Tuesday, personnel completed a road march to the training site and executed the Field Leaders Reaction Course (FLRC) which developed both teamwork and leadership among the Soldiers. In the afternoon, SFC Dougherty, SSG Moore, and SGT Motsinger led classroom instruction on radio communications, evaluating a casualty, and crew weapon systems. On Wednesday, the Fort Riley's Counter IED Integration Cell provided the company with convoy and C-IED training. Training included familiarization with types and uses of IEDs, recognizing ground signs, conducting checks, and reacting to a possible IED. The Soldiers completed two convoys during which they used the skills they were taught that day. On Thursday, each section conducted specialized skills training focused on their specific mission. The week ended with recovery operations including cleaning and maintenance on the masks and weapons.

Families and Soldiers had the opportunity to enjoy the battalion's Kids Day on 10 August. HHC led the MRE tasting and the "Soak-a-Soldier" stations. Additionally, the staff cooked and served lunch to everyone in attendance. We were blessed with great weather for the event and truly appreciated everyone who joined us. The company's next FRG event is 10 October. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us in celebrating the Month of the Military Family! Also, Kristin Jackson, the FRG leader, is always looking for more volunteers to be key callers or assist in other ways so please feel free to contact her at: [hhheadhunters@gmail.com](mailto:hhheadhunters@gmail.com) if you are interested.

As always, 1SG Giddens and I are proud of our Soldiers' accomplishments. We had four promotions this month: CPT Hotaling, CPT Nivens, SFC Robb, and SSG Chapman. Additionally, SPC Opoku won the battalion's Soldier of the Month Board and SGT Deese re-enlisted. Both 1SG Giddens and I continue to thank the Families and friends of the Headhunters for their support and dedication to the Soldiers and to the unit.

Headhunters – Supporting the Fight

# Alpha Company

*By: 2LT Lacey Wilson, Distribution Platoon Leader*



In preparation for the upcoming company and battalion field training exercises (FTX), Soldiers from each company went into a reverse training cycle on 16 August 2012 to conduct night drivers training, led by Alpha Company. The day didn't start until early afternoon, and Soldiers spent the evening and much of the night in the field training

with their night vision devices (NVDs). Convoys were conducted first in the daylight to familiarize themselves with the route, then again with no daylight or headlights, constructing a "blackout" environment. This was to prepare the Soldiers for the upcoming FTXs when it becomes necessary to move undetected through a field environment at night, whether it is to accomplish a resupply mission, or to move the Brigade Support Area (BSA) to keep up with the maneuver battalions needing resupply.





# Bravo Company

*By: 1LT Treone M. Frink, Company Executive Officer*

During the month of July, Bravo Company's overall mission was to continue to be both efficient and effective while losing half of our available personnel due to the block leave period. Both Soldiers and Non-Commissioned Officers worked extremely hard completing every task that was asked of them to standard. Throughout this time period, we balanced



both day-to-day operations, conducted multiple RESET inspections by the Division



Inspector General Office, completed over 100 dispatches, 98 work orders, completed 17 Bradley M2A2 TOW systems 180 day verification test, 18 Javelin missile system verifications, and ordered over \$125,000 of water equipment that will be used to sustain an entire Brigade with fresh potable water. In addition, we conducted multiple training sessions on Traumatic Brain Injury, Communication/Radio, Life Skills, Family Advocacy Training, and Split Rim Safety Training. In July, Bravo had two promotion ceremonies and two re-enlistment ceremonies (SPC Timothy Luan-grath and SPC Andrew

Guttierrez). SPC Kendall Briggins and SPC Miguel Solis have become members of the United States Army Non-Commissioned Officer Corps also known as "The Backbone of the Army" and hold the title SGT Briggins and CPL Solis. The tasks, inspections, training events, re-enlistments and promotions conducted during July has allowed us to improve our overall mission readiness and properly prepare for the upcoming NTC rotation.



# Charlie Company

*By CPT Marietta Squire, Company Commander*

Charlie Company, 299th BSB, recently spent four days in the field from 13-16 AUG 12 in order to become more proficient in individual and collective training tasks as well as to synchronize the efforts of each platoon. Training included low light area of operations set up, ambulance exchange point operations, establishing a secure perimeter, communications training, the set-up of a carrier command post, and night drivers training. The company also performed a night jump which involved breaking down all equipment and setting up in a new location. The company performed superiorly with limited personnel covering multiple roles and responsibilities. SPC Wolf, a Medical Logistician, with Headquarters, commented on what makes HQ Platoon successful by saying, "Each Soldier strives to take more responsibility and perform their duties with maximum effort in order to quickly and correctly accomplish the mission."

During this time Charlie Company also conducted ambulance exchange point operations, which were combined with the night drivers training. Soldiers were able to familiarize themselves and retrain on their driving skills. During this training, Soldiers not only had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the night vision goggles (NVGs), but now understand the complexities associated with this skill set. The Soldiers had to negotiate multiple terrain features in order to complete the route. Initially, the drivers secured the NVGs to their Army Combat Helmet. They were able to get comfortable with the added weight to the helmet, as well as the lack of depth perception looking through the NVGs. Once confident with their equipment and surroundings, the drivers began the course. The drivers then approached the first check point, SGT Schaufler and the Evacuation Platoon Leader, were located there in order to ensure safety of the Soldiers. The Soldiers then maneuvered around the turn around point manned by SGT Matlock. At this point, the Soldiers were required to drive back to the start point located near the entry control point for company area of operations. Upon return to the entrance control point, the truck commander dismounted the truck and conducted ground guiding procedures with NVGs.

The mission will be built upon during platoon STX training in early October and the Battalion FTX during late October/ early November. The tactics, techniques, and procedures used by Charlie Company will be refined during these field events in order to prepare for a successful NTC rotation in next year.

Courage under Fire. Cobras.

# 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
Alpha Company Command Team	CPT Kimberly Soer 1SG Sherry Clark		kimberly.soer@us.army.mil sherry.widow@us.army.mil
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
Charlie Company Command Team	CPT Marietta Squire SFC Jere Parkhurst		marietta.squire@us.army.mil jere.parkhurst@us.army.mil
Charlie Company FRG Leader	Alyssa Clevenger	916.704.5171	299charliecobras@gmail.com
HHC Command Team	CPT Jacqueline Ralston 1SG David Giddens		jacqueline.ralston@us.army.mil david.giddens@us.army.mil
HHC FRG Leader	Julie Curry Kristin Jackson	785.375.8838 330.284.5673	hhheadhunters@gmail.com