



Ft. Riley, Kansas



1st Infantry Division Support Command January Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

CSM Corner

'Steeped in Tradition, Embracing Change'



Welcome to the January newsletter. It looks like winter finally arrived here at Fort Riley. This is the last edition of the DISCOM Newsletter because on 15 February we officially become the 1st Sustainment Brigade. The grand event takes place at King Field House at 1000. Families are welcome to attend.

The officers and soldiers of the DISCOM are operating at full speed with more personnel on the way. Our new Special Troop Battalion is beginning to take shape. During the winter and spring we will continue to train and prepare for our projected deployment. I know many are curious about it and more information will be coming as we receive it.

I'd like to take a few moments in this newsletter to talk about safety—an area I'm very concerned about. We can have the finest equipment and people in the world but if we lose someone because of an accident, it's a blow to all of us. Allow me to mention several areas where the human factor kicks in.

1. Complacency—one of the human factors in safety is complacency. Complacency means we're not aware of dangers. Watch out for complacency whether at your computer or the motorpool. I know we have routine schedules but we need to stay alert as we work those schedules.

2. Overconfidence— We all need confidence. Too much can

Commander's Comments continued on page 2

Hello once again from the Noncommissioned officers of the Division Support Command. As most of you already know this issue of our newsletter will be the last one under the Division Support Command name due to the transformation to the First Sustainment Brigade. We will be conducting a reorganization ceremony, transforming DISCOM, 1ID into the First Sustainment Brigade on 15 February 2007, 10:00 AM, at King Field House, in Ft. Riley which your families are cordially invited to attend.

We will all as a family experience a chapter that will become part of history, not just military but of a country that has brought freedom and justice to so many other nations. Our wishes are that we will continue to maintain the same if not better standard that our forfathers instilled in us from the very beginning. We will continue our preparations for our future deployment in support of Operation Iraqi freedom, please continue to support your spouses and their work schedules.

Support to Victory

*1st Sustainment
Brigade Crest*



get you in trouble. No man is an island, someone said. We are all team-mates and we need each other.

3. Untrained and unsupervised. There's nothing worse than not knowing what's expected of you or the feeling that no one really cares what you do. If you need training, please tell someone. We can get you trained. Supervisors, pay attention to those who work for you. Make sure they know your expectations and be sure to give them some encouragement when the product looks good.

4. Finally, undisciplined. This might be the greatest hazard in safety. Anything worth doing is worth doing well and that takes discipline. Being where you should be on time, doing what's right even when no one is watching—those are the tests of true character. Discipline is like the banks along a river—it keeps it going in the right direction. It also produces a stronger current. Discipline is essential for the DISCOM.

Well, that's a little of my thinking on safety. Thanks again for your hard work and the support of our families. Take care of each other. COL O'CONNELL



Signal Detachment

Happy New Year! Another year and the first month is already nearing it's end.

As expected, the holidays went as fast as it came, and the 1st Signal Network Support Detachment came back to work running. We are continuing with our new equipment training and fielding while simultaneously conducting deployment training, and we can't forget that we're prepping for our unit stand-up ceremony.

We are continuing to get our FRG up and running. We welcome Mrs. S. to the 1st SIG DET Team, as she will be our FRG leader. Mrs. S. is very creative and motivated and has a lot to add to the team.

The 1st SIG DET sends a great 'CONGRATULATIONS!' to SPC M. and his wife and family for their new born son. He was born in December and he was a whopping 8 lbs. 4oz!

This month we farewell SPC(P) M. He came to us from 331st Signal Company, well-trained and highly-motivated. He will be leaving us and attending college in the great state of Michigan.

In the next few months we will be preparing for and conducting more training. I want to emphasize the importance of safety in all that we do, on and off duty. It can't just be said and forgotten. We all must take a proactive approach to ensure the safety of ourselves and the persons around us. The winter has not passed and with all the recent snowfall, it is even more relevant we do what we need to keep safe while partaking in outdoor activities.

Birthday Greetings: Congratulations to SGT M. celebrating his birthday in January.

SIG DET, thanks for all your hard work and be safe.

CPT N.

Chaplains Corner

We have some great opportunities coming up in March-May for singles, families and couples. On March 9-10,2007 I will lead a Strong Bonds Pick a Partner Training, at the Rock Springs 4-H Camp, Junction City, KS. Rock Springs Camp is about 15 miles from Fort Riley. The weekend retreat features training in Pick a Partner mate selection with a workbook, free time, four great meals at the camp chow hall and one overnight. Starts Friday, 1000 through Saturday after lunch. There is no cost for the single retreat. Transportation to get there is on you.

Chaplain H.

Welcome 2007! A year of transition, change, good byes, hellos, even though it doesn't sound so appealing to our ears, it's not necessarily bad. Lots of good things are offered to us that we should take advantage. This year I encourage you to get involved, like I've said in the past to you, you don't have to feel alone. We are all in the same boat, and we could be good for each other. So that said, our next FRG meeting will take place at the company area on February 7, 2007 at 6:00 pm. For more information call 787-667-0910. Tax season is back, for some it's time of joy and for others more like a funeral, as their getting ready to say goodbye to their precious money, enough said, the Fort Riley Tax Center will once again offer free income tax preparation. It's located in building 7434B, directly across from the bowling alley, hours of operation are 9.am. to 6p.m. Monday through Friday and 9a.m. to 1p.m. on Saturday. For more information or appointment call 239-1040. Good Luck!!!

Hello love birds! Yes, Valentine's Day is around the corner. Give your sweetheart a Valentine gift to remember at the Sweetheart Dinner and Dance from 7 to 11 p.m., February 17 at Riley's Conference Center. There is a \$50 fee which includes dinner for two, champagne and dancing. Don't miss the romantic occasion; remember, love is in the air. For those of you who like to play rough, go knock yourself out at the Fort Riley Dodgeball Extravaganza. The fun will begin at 9a.m. on February 10 at King Field House, the tournament is open to all active duty and local civilian teams. Participants must be at least 18 years old, sign-up begins on January 22 at the Sports Office located in King Field House, bldg 202. Registration fee is \$60. The Central Enrollment and Registration for Child and Youth Services will be re-located to building 6620, beginning January 22, for more information contact 239-4920 or 240-2362. The Enlisted Spouses Club will have their general membership meeting at 6pm January 31 at Custer Hill Lanes on Fort Riley, members will have a short meeting and then do some bowling. Childcare is available. Please RSVP at 717-2753 by Jan 29. Rally Point is hosting a 'Fort Riley Right Arm Night', it's a night of pampering with wings and beverages, February 8 at 6pm, don't miss it!

HHC News

Hello and Happy New Year

The Company had a great 2006 year, and every one is back from the holiday break safe.

Thank you to every one for their support, with the HHC DISCOM events.

This New Year will be a busy one; the 1st Infantry Division is making history, with the transformation of the DISCOM to the 1st Sustainment BDE.

The next few months will be a busy time for the Company and the family members of those soldiers and DOD civilians. HHC DISCOM will be deploying soon, with that comes many concerns and questions. On February 7th the HHC DISCOM FRG will be hosting a monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in the company conference room at 1800hrs. The meeting will give you some insight of the upcoming year, and you can meet the new commander.

The winter months are still here, so please be safe, think safety (Ice on roads, open flames).

As always if you have questions about (the unit deployment or anything else) fell free to e-mail.

This is my last news letter thank you to every one for all your support, hope to see you at the change of command (Feb 9th 0930hrs King Field house)

Top Knight

This years National Prayer Luncheon will be Wednesday, Feb 21, 11:15-1:00 p.m., Riley's Conference Center. The luncheon is open to the Installation's military and their family members, civilian and contract workers. Suggested donation to cover the costs of the meal is \$6.00 payable at the door. This year's speaker is Chaplain (MG) Hicks, the Army Chief of Chaplains. The serving line will open at 11:15 with the program scheduled to begin at 12:00. For additional information, call 239-3359.

SIR

Everywhere you look the Army is transforming! Often the effects do not immediately impact our day to day operations at the company, battalion or even Brigade level. However, one major change that we are about to be experience at all levels is the electronic creation, distribution, correction and submission of performance evaluations. Very soon the S1 will be giving a "How-To" class on the new process. Until then, feel free to get a head start on the training by checking out the evaluations website at Army Human Resources Command: https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/MSD/ESO/FCMP_Webpage.htm. More information will follow on these important changes. Thanks.

CPT P.

MIN

I would like to welcome PFC R. who joined the Brigade S2 shop in December after being assigned with the 2nd Infantry Division in S. Korea. Also I would like to welcome CPT T., my assistant Brigade S2 and his wife who also joined the shop in December after he was diverted from the Transition Team to support the Brigade's deployment.

In preparation for deployment, Operations Security (OPSEC) plays a critical role in mitigating the vulnerability of our organization and personnel to the enemy. We must protect the integrity of our mission at all times because we never know what little piece of information the enemy needs to achieve his endstate. The information that we must protect is generally unclassified - concerning our intentions and capabilities and protecting indicators associated with our planning processes or operations. The perpetrators of September 11th were successful because they knew our vulnerabilities. The mishandling of information can put everything at risk and cost the lives of many Americans. The application of the OPSEC process develops effective countermeasures to help us accomplish our future missions- by analyzing and minimizing the risk that may inadvertently reveal critical information to our enemies. Security/situational awareness is important whether at work or at home. Let us ensure that we keep our radar on so that we can protect the mission, our leaders, friends and families and all redeploy safely.

-MAJ W., 1st Sustainment Brigade S2

SIG

Soldiers and Families of the 1st Sustainment Brigade,

The S3 shop is busy trying to coordinate training and resources for your Soldiers. This will enable them to be as prepared as possible for our upcoming deployment. The month of Feb, as typical in the US Army, is extremely busy. The following are some dates and events that will affect your Soldiers during the month of February:

February is Black History Month. The Post will host an observance of Black History on 14 February. Reorganization Ceremony: 15 Feb 07; The DISCOM will reorganize into the 1st Sustainment Brigade, and we will activate the Special Troops Battalion (STB) and the 1st SIG Co. Multiple New Equipment Training (NET) events are scheduled throughout the month and include SINCGARS (radio), JNN (Joint Network Node or Satellite Communications Package), and Blue Force Tracker (BFT). All these training events will ensure that your Soldiers are trained on the latest equipment available to ensure that they can effectively communicate and safely operate while deployed.

Additionally training events include:

- o Combat Lifesaver (CLS), Convoy Livefire Training, land navigation, and Warrior Skills Training (WST) for 24th Trans Co and 2-2 HET Platoon.

Warrior tasks, weapons ranges (50 Cal and M249 SAW), and Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV) training for both HHC 1st Sustainment Brigade and the 1st SIG Co

Fort Riley will celebrate President's Day by granting February 16-19 as a long weekend

Upcoming dates of interest include:

- 19-23 March is Spring Break
- 18-28 April is the Brigade's Mission Readiness Exercise at Fort Bragg, NC
- 30 April to 4 May is Battle Staff Integration training

SIG

The brigade S-4 section welcomes CPT W. as its new OIC. CPT W. has served as the HHC Commander for over 19 months and brings a great deal of institutional knowledge and experience into the position.

The S-4 section also welcomes WO1 J. WO1 J., a mobility warrant officer, is the brigade's deployment expert. She fills a critical capability gap within the brigade and provides much-needed movements assistance to the staff, the STB, and companies.

Welcome!

30-4050-03

It is tax season and the Fort Riley Tax Assistance Center is open for business. The tax center will prepare your taxes at no charge and is open to all active duty and their dependents, Retirees and Reservists. The tax center is located on Fort Riley in Building 7434B, across from the Bowling Alley. Operating hours are Monday through Friday, 0900 to 1800, by appointment or walk-in, and Saturdays, 0900 to 1300, by walk-in only. The following items are required in order to file your taxes: valid picture ID; social security card for yourself and all dependents; all W-2, 1098, and 1099 forms; account and routing number for your bank; Power of Attorney if your spouse is unavailable; childcare provider's address and social security number; college tuition payments; and house mortgage for home owners. If you would like to schedule an appointment or you have any questions call 239-1040.

00-40-00



Greetings, 1ST Sustainment Brigade Soldiers, Families and Leaders, I'm Mr. S. (Sparky) the DISCOM Safety Specialist. No, I don't have four legs and I'm not Radar's friend on M.A.S.H. nor am I an electrician. Sparky is a nick name I've carried since a week after my birth. So if you hear the name Sparky and Safety or Safety Guy in the same sentence, they're probably talking about me. My family and I would like to thank all the Soldier's, families and leadership for such a warm reception into the 1ST Sustainment Brigade family. Okay so what does a safety guy do you ask? I will help the leadership in the decision making process to implement safety measures in everything we do, to help reduce injuries, accidents and loss of government equipment, from training to sports and off duty activities for our families and in home safety. I will be sending safety tips and messages in the monthly 1st Sustainment Brigade News Letter to our families at home.

Trips, slips and falls are the #1 accident in the home today. During the winter months shoes, towels, wet clothes and mops are accumulated at the doorways. Most of those doorways have steps near by. Try to keep the walkway or doorway clear to avoid trips. For those of you who have never lived in Kansas before, January and February are the coldest months of the year. With fast approaching storms (Ice storms being the worst) out of the northwest (the Rocky Mountains) or out of the Northeast (off the Great Lakes) we get the best of all the bad weather. Black Ice is very dangerous with the blowing snow. Watch the weather channel and be prepared for the worst. I'll close for now and leave you with this Fort Riley fact - improper backing is the #1 cause of POV accidents on Fort Riley. Look again before backing. Until next time, be safe.

Sparky



A day in the life of DISCOM, 25 January 2007

