

# THE MAINTAINED PROFESSIONAL

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- **RE-ENLISTMENT**
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# Social media

encourages understood distributed  
 communities effectively audience  
 line sites interests new allows seen sharing  
 loves blurs group show rarely  
 making everyone  
 share transmitted services information photography broadcast  
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# the Mounted Rifleman

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## Gen. Dempsey returns to Regiment

When Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 67th Colonel of the Regiment, stopped by 3d Cavalry Regiment June 28, he not only brought the prestige of the office he holds—Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff—he paid homage to the illustrious history of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen.

“There is a tremendous sense of history about the Regiment, and it’s important to know that those who served before you are nudging you to live up to the legacy that is the 3d Cavalry Regiment,” Dempsey said during his address to Brave Rifles leaders.

Dempsey was my first battalion commander, back when I was a 2nd Lieutenant, and what I remember most about then-LTC Dempsey was that he ALWAYS led by personal example; but what made his battalion a cut above the rest was his empowerment of junior leaders and the loyalty and trust that sprung from that empowerment.

That trust is what each of us strives to foster and embody here in the Regiment as we build a team of teams prepared to fight where we are told and win, with honor, where we fight.

In his humble manner, General Dempsey was quick to downplay his role as a former commander of the Regiment, saying he didn’t invent anything new in that capacity, but instead was “a continuum of history, with a long line of predecessors supporting him,” he said.

There are a number of renowned



former commanders of the 3d Cavalry Regiment, but the 67th Colonel is by far the most influential former commander of the Regiment—some would argue the smartest General of his generation. His influence on our profession and specifically on leader development in the Army over the last decade has been significant to say the least.

Understanding that the purpose of the Regimental Leaders’ Club is to be a place where we conduct formal leader development sessions while building camaraderie

amongst leaders, it only seems fitting that the meeting space has become affectionately known as “Club 67” in honor of the Regiment’s 67th Colonel. The visit concluded with the chairman leading the crowd in song, joined by the 74th Colonel in a rendition of an old Irish tune “Morning Glory.”

*John B. Richardson IV*

JOHN B. RICHARDSON IV  
COL, AR  
74th Colonel



# Stryker Fielding

The overall purpose of Stryker Operator New Equipment Training is to train our Troopers on the capabilities of the Stryker, how to operate the Stryker, and how to utilize the Stryker during Full Spectrum Operations. As the RCSM, my vision is to complete our OPNET with fully trained teams, crews, squads, platoons, troops, and squadrons who are technically and tactically proficient on and off the Stryker platform and who can deploy anywhere at any time to conduct our wartime mission.

Admittedly, hands-on-learning is the best method to absorb what we are taught in the classroom. But first our Troopers must hit the books. It's good for our Troopers to receive classroom training and then reinforce it with practical application. This, I believe, is how we will win.

I am truly impressed with the Stryker platform and the capabilities it brings to the fight. Once OPNET is complete, the Regiment will have an inventory of 322 Strykers and all ten variants. I have no doubt in my mind that the Regiment will be fully prepared for our upcoming Mission Readiness Exercise late next year as well as our future deployment to Afghanistan.

I want to express my deepest thanks to all the Troopers of the Regiment for your hard work and dedication throughout OPNET. As I conduct my battlefield circulation, all I see is "Brave Rifles" getting after it and fully embracing the Stryker concept. I am truly impressed with your vigor and tenacity during training and would not want to be on the receiving end when we "Roll the Regiment" into Afghanistan.

Brave Rifles!  
Blood & Steel!  
AI-EE-YAH!



PATRICK K. AKUNA JR.  
XIX Regimental Command  
Sergeant Major



## Association Address

The 3d Cavalry Regiment Association, formed in 1995, needs Troopers, active and retired, to join its fine organization and preserve the history, traditions and heritage of 3d CR. The Association supports the Regiment by funding Family Days, Regimental Balls, Farewell, Ceremonies, Spur Rides, the 3d Cavalry Regiment Museum and is working on a review board for scholarship funding.

The Association is currently seeking Troopers to fill positions ranging from board member to president. Please submit your name for nomination, which will be considered during future general member-

ship meetings. As you will read on these pages, our Squadrons are doing wonderful things for their Troopers; so join us and help continue support of our Soldiers and their Families.



HARVEY REED  
CSM(R), Executive Director  
3d Cavalry Regiment Association

## MASS RE-ENLISTMENT

Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., the commanding general of III Corps, re-enlists more than 200 Soldiers from around Fort Hood, during the 2012 Freedom Fest July 4. Twenty-three Brave Riflemen took part in the mass re-enlistment held on Sadowski Field. “With the Army downsizing these days, Soldiers who want to re-enlist are looked at a lot more closely,” said Master Sgt. Ronald T. Calhoun, the senior career counselor of the 3d Cavalry Regiment. “All of the Troopers you see here represent the best of the best – they are the future noncommissioned officers that will lead and shape young Troopers into the greatest fighting force of the 21st century.”

## 3D CR NAMED INNOVATIVE UNIT

The Net Zero Waste (NZW) 2020 Program named 3d Cavalry Regiment “Most Innovative Unit Runner-up” at the Hood Heroes Award Ceremony August 16. Recycle Coordinators Spc. Jamal Saedidaryan, Spc. McKenzie Bailey and Spc. Scott Henry accepted the award on the behalf of the Regiment due to their significant contributions to the NZW Initiative. In April of 2011, Fort Hood was selected as a NZW pilot installation to reach zero landfill by the year 2020. In addition to aiding recycling efforts during the Regimental Birthday Week and Single Soldier Fest, these Troopers took time to make awareness signs and share the NZW message with fellow Troopers. Saedidaryan, Bailey and Henry are not only the innovators behind the award; they are the Recycle Coordinators pushing 3d CR to achieve NZW by 2020.

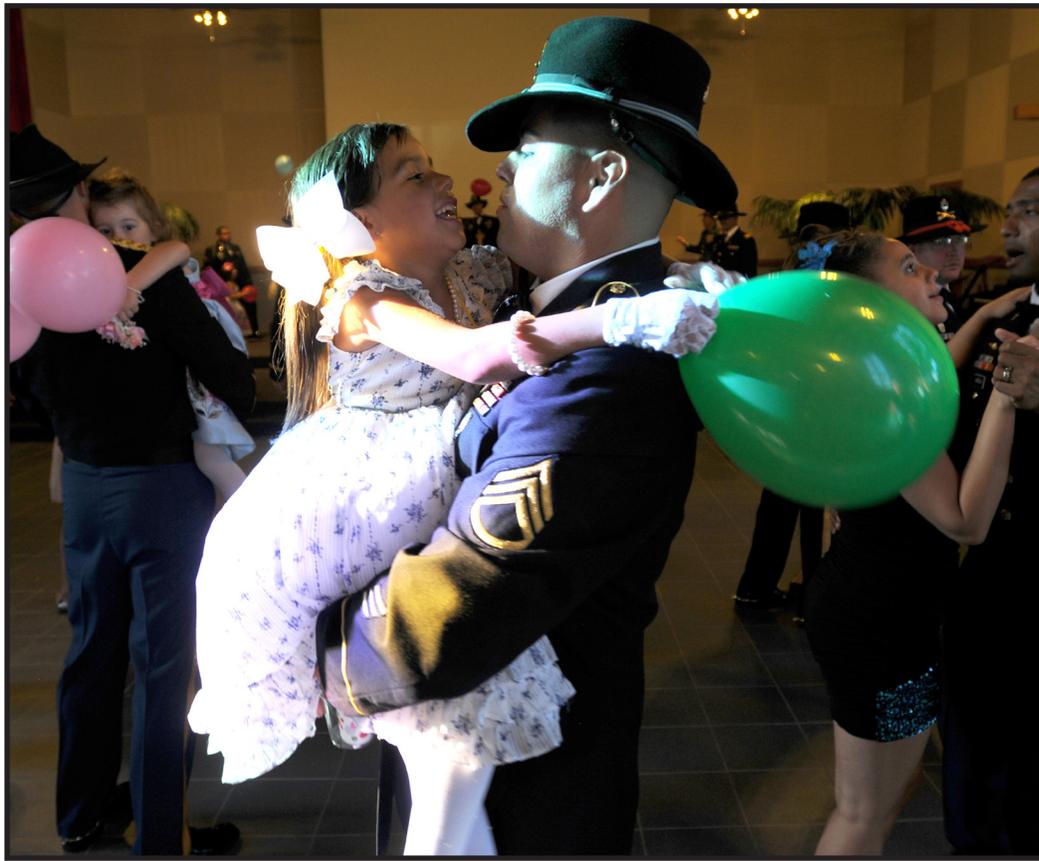


## Single Soldier's Fest

The Regiment kicked off summer with a day dedicated to Fort Hood's 12,000 single Soldiers at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area June 22. The Single Soldier's Fest program was planned by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and turned out to be a great success. Spc. Cher Wheeler, the BOSS president for 3d Cavalry Regiment, said she was pleased when III Corps chose 3d CR to be in charge of the annual event. “Every year they assign someone different to oversee this event,” she said. “3d Cavalry Regiment was happy to take on the challenge and make everything go as smoothly as possible.” She added that BOSS is constantly trying to come up with new ideas to provide events that allow Soldiers to get out of the barracks and involved in activities that are safe and active. Friendly competitions took place throughout the day, along with access to BLORA's water attractions. Football, basketball, volleyball and softball games were going on in the morning, all ending in trophies for the first and second place teams.

# DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Army Service Uniforms and Stetsons mixed with princess dresses at the Ohana Place June 14 as members of the 3d Cavalry Regiment enjoyed the unit's first Daddy Daughter Dance. The sold-out event, featuring a candy bar, cookie decorating, and a spur necklace ceremony, welcomed 200 fathers and daughters for a night of dancing in their finest. The necklace ceremony was the highlight of the dance. In the grand tradition of the Spur Ride and Spouse's Spur Ride, the fathers presented their daughters with a spur necklace, thereby inducting them into the Regiment and identifying each girl as the daughter of a Cavalry Trooper. The volunteer disc jockey got the party going with the 'chicken-dance' and the 'Macarena'.



## RCHAP Food Drive

Regimental Chaplain Senior Assistant, Sgt. 1st Class Beverley Steed, delivered more than 1,833 pounds of can foods to Army Community Services August 17. 3d Cavalry Regiment's food donation was in support of the fourth annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive Campaign. The campaign is a direct response to the "United We Serve Act" signed by President Obama in April 2009, which calls on all Americans to contribute to the Nation's economic recovery by serving in their communities. "Soldiers who participate in the food drive develop a sense of community, which says they are ready to respond to the immediate and critical needs of society," said Sgt. 1st Class Steed. "Such sacrificial giving also personifies our Army core values, especially loyalty, duty, respect selfless service and honor."



**Sgt. 1st Class Beverley Steed**  
3d CR Senior Chaplain Assistant  
254-287-2690





# UNIT EVOLUTION

## Regiment's conversion elevates training to new levels

Story and Photos By Sgt. Lance Pounds

3d Cavalry Regiment's evolution to a Stryker-based unit continued as phase 2 of the Regiment's conversion commenced with the training of new equipment and courses designed to enhance individual Soldier skills.

Troopers received a multitude of training opportunities, both individual and squadron level, focused on creating a fully-trained and qualified unit prepared for future deployments.

Individual training, such as a sniper course given by a mobile training team from Fort Benning, Ga. in June, gave Troopers the knowledge required to improve proficiency on the battlefield.

The Regiment invested nearly two years to the planning process for this particular course and gained the approval of FORSCOM to meet training requirements while allowing the Troopers to remain at Fort Hood with their families. Normally, Troopers selected to attend sniper training must complete a 5-week course at Fort Benning.

The average graduation rate for a mobile training team is approximately 50-60 percent, which is lower than the rate for courses held at Fort Benning, largely due to training factors. Snipers attending the school at Fort Benning receive all of their training in an environment with estab-

lished facilities and standards; with the MTT, the preparation for the course relies on the host unit, said an official from the U.S. Army Sniper School.

"Such a high graduation rate is a direct representation of the Regiment's level of concern for the professional development of our Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class William Bailey, the Regiment's schools NCOIC.

Squadron-level training, currently ongoing, provides Troopers the opportunity to gain familiarization with their squadron's respective variant of the Stryker Combat Vehicle.

Lessons learned through the initial fielding phase of the Stryker will be applied to



the creation of a squadron gunnery program and to identify future training needs. Troopers from 3rd Squadron began their training Aug. 13 at Henson Mountain multi-purpose range, which was the final phase of the squadron's operator new equipment training using the Infantry Carrying Vehicle. Their ICV featured a M2 .50 Cal crew served weapon and a MK-19 40mm automatic grenade launcher mounted to the Remote Weapon System.

To match the caliber of its weapons, the ICV features a 350 horsepower diesel engine propelling it to a top speed of 60 miles-per-hour. The combination of 21 inches of wheel clearance, 4 or 8 wheel drive and a 4 wheel steer platform makes crawling over almost any terrain possible.

At the range Troopers had to qualify using the Stryker RWS in a timed scenario-based course, which is a combination of everything Troopers learned from the equipment familiarization stage of phase one. Phase two centers around the Stryker and its capabilities while the focus of phase three is driver screening and licensing.

"It's like playing a video game," said Pfc. Gerson Cienfuegos, an infantryman from Iron Hawk Troop, 3rd Squadron, as he described his experience firing the MK-19 using the RWS during the qualification phase.

The unit plans to have all Troopers and equipment fully mission capable by spring 2013.

The Regiment's conversion to a Stryker-based unit brought new training and equipment intended to propel the unit into a new era of modern warfare.



[1] Troopers made their way to a wooded area on Fort Hood where they conducted the stalking portion of their training. [2] A Trooper crawled more than 300 yards through thick vegetation while dragging his weapons behind him. [3] Soldiers from 3rd Cavalry Regiment determined the direction of their target, prepared their gear and crawled through thick vegetation during the stalking portion of a sniper certification course on post. [4] Pfc. Dewain Meszaros, an infantryman for 2nd Squadron "Sabre", 3d Cavalry Regiment painted his face in preparation for the stalking portion of a sniper certification course. [5] Troopers from 3rd Squadron, 3d CR lined up their Strykers for a scenario-based exercise that evaluated the Trooper's level of skill during Stryker Operator New Equipment Training at Henson Mountain multi-purpose range. [6] Troopers operating an Infantry Carrying Vehicle Stryker used the remote weapons system to fire the M2 .50 Cal crew served weapon. (Photos by Sgt. Lance Pounds)



# Pushing limits

Soldiers from one flight are towed to the Zodiacs to begin a two-mile paddle on Belton Lake. (Photo by Heather Graham-Ashley)

## Brave Rifles test abilities during exercise

Story by Heather Graham-Ashley

It was not for the weak or faint hearted. Jumping out of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters into Belton Lake, swimming to Zodiacs, then paddling two miles tested the grit and abilities of some Brave Rifles Soldiers July 20.

Part of a confidence- and team-building competition coined “Iron Eagle,” the helocast and Zodiacs were just a part of the exercise that also included a live-fire range and a 10K foot march, designed to test the mettle of the troops and instill a taste of the infantry mindset.

Iron Eagle, an ongoing, “anything goes” competition, is the brainchild of Eagle Troop Commander Capt. Jacob Kerr. He made the first competition fun and challenging to set the tone for Iron Eagle, but Kerr also wanted to hit the ground running and show the Eagle Troop Soldiers the infantry mindset.

“These guys are the first generation of infantrymen to come to the 3d Cavalry Regiment,” Kerr said. “I wanted to bring that mentality to them.”

The Regiment converted from an Armored Cavalry Regiment to a lighter, Stryker-based cavalry unit in November. When the armor disappeared, so did the reliance on vehicles. Brave Rifles Soldiers of today must train as dismounts.

“I want the light infantry mentality,” Kerr said. “We will use the Stryker to the best of its capabilities, but the Soldiers can’t stay inside.”

When Kerr assumed command of the troop in February, he faced a combination of challenges – new Soldiers, some inherited personnel issues and a former tank unit that was converting to Stryker infantry.

“There was no climate established,” Kerr said. “We’re really trying to find ourselves as a unit.”

Combat skills such as getting in and out of a helicopter, night movements and navigating grids were tested in the first competition, but Kerr said it is highly unlikely his troops would find themselves jumping out of helicopters into water or



Staff Sgt. Michael Westmoreland, an infantry squad leader for 2nd Squadron, glances at the terrain below as he is transported in a Black Hawk helicopter to the next event during the Iron Eagle Competition July 20. As the chalk 2 leader, Westmoreland ensured that all of the Troopers in his chalk entered and exited the aircraft safely. (Photo by Sgt. Lance Pounds)



Troopers from 2nd Squadron, jump some 20 feet from a Black Hawk helicopter in the Belton Lake during the Iron Eagle Competition July 20. In this event, Troopers not only had to free fall into the lake but swim to staged boats and then paddle to shore. (Photo by Sgt. Lance Pounds)



maneuvering Zodiacs across bodies of water. He added those components to show his troops another side of the Army and to test their limits.

“This is what this unit is going to be like,” said Kerr.

He noted one Soldier who sprained his ankle on the ruck, the night before the helocast. That Soldier could have quit. Instead, fellow Troopers helped carry his load and the Soldier toughed out the march. “They really gunned it out on the movement,” Kerr said. “They pushed hard. That’s what we wanted to see.”

Eagle Troop Soldiers met Kerr’s objectives for the first competition.

“That was probably the coolest thing I’ve ever done in my career,” Sgt. Joshua Swartz said. “It was a gut check for everybody.”

Swartz said the exercise helped build the team mentality within the troop as platoons were forced to work together to meet the objective and adapt, especially where the inflatable Zodiac boats were involved. Several of the boats deflated on the lake. Of the six Zodiacs planned for the event, only half were used in the paddling competition.

“We definitely had to adapt, especially with the Zodiacs,” Swartz said. “We had to

adapt our plan. It really showed the guys sometimes you gotta dig deep.”

For Swartz, the best take-away from the competition was the mental aspect and knowing a buddy was going to be there to help.

“I saw guys falling back and helping others (on the march),” Swartz added. “I think

**“We’re setting the bar!”**

**--Jacob Kerr**

team cohesion was definitely a big theme.”

The team mentality and working together

showed throughout the challenge, Sgt. 1st Class Reywendy Morillo said.

Swartz said his platoon treated the competition as a mission.

The strategies used by Morillo and Swartz worked because, in the end, their platoon, 2nd Platoon, won the first Iron Eagle Challenge. The platoon received the Iron Eagle trophy engraved with the phrase, “Not for the weak or faint hearted.” How long they will keep it remains to be seen. Kerr is planning other challenges. Some will be individual tests, others will be platoon- or team-sized.

“It’s whatever, whenever,” he said.

Eagle Troop Soldiers are already talking about what they might face next.

Staff Sgt. Michael Westmoreland, an infantry squad leader for 2nd Squadron, notified his team it was safe to move after a successful dismount from a Black Hawk helicopter during the Iron Eagle Competition July 20. (Photo by Sgt. Lance Pounds)



# THUNDER SPUR RIDE



## Squadron integrates tradition with modern technology

Story and photos by Sgt. Lance Pounds

**3**d Squadron “Thunder”, 3d Cavalry Regiment held a traditional four-day spur ride with a modern twist that began July 30 and concluded with a ceremony August 2. The squadron’s decision to incorporate horses, helicopters, boats and the unit’s new Strykers into the event was aimed at setting an example for the next chapter in the Regiment’s history.

A spur ride is a rite of passage for cavalymen and is open to any member of the unit, regardless of their occupational specialty. The silver spurs they earn represent the “Order of the Spur” and are protected by current Spur Holders, who are charged with the responsibility of upholding tradition.

“It’s bragging rights! Because many of our Troopers have earned their gold spurs from any one of the Regiment’s many deployments over the years,” said Staff Sgt. Jack Boeker, a mobile gun system platoon sergeant in Thunder, as he explained the prestige of earning silver spurs compared to gold combat spurs that are earned dur-

ing deployments.

This spur ride truly differed from most before it, not only for the multitude of new elements presented but for its secrecy. Candidates were intentionally kept in the dark on the particulars of the event, forcing them to retain a vigilant posture

**“It’s bragging rights!”**

**– Jack Boeker**

throughout the entire challenge.

Forty candidates participated in the event, broken up into five teams of eight, and each faced challenging tasks intended to test them mentally and physically by means of scenario-based training and knowledge of Regimental history.

Day One of the spur ride began with a timed race. Starting in staggered 30 minute increments, each team tactically marched through six checkpoints stretched along a three mile distance. Each team was only allowed to proceed to the next checkpoint after every member correctly answered

a trivia question derived from the Regiment’s history.

“Who is allowed in the Fiddler’s Green?” Sgt. 1st Class James Thurman, a medical platoon sergeant for Thunder, asked the first team to cross his checkpoint.

After the foot march each team picked up one of two Zodiac boats and proceeded to the bank of a rectangular lake for the last leg of the race. Some teams used a more strategic approach by hugging the embankment of the lake while other teams focused on rowing in unison, much like a four-count exercise.

Following the race, three of the five teams geared up for a ride in a classic Vietnam era UH-1 Huey helicopter. This will be one of the last active duty missions for the Huey as it is scheduled to be decommissioned later this month.

Teams were transported using the Huey to their final event for the day, the Stryker land navigation course. There, each team was given coordinates to their Stryker. After mounting the Stryker, teams received





coordinates to the next point, following this pattern until they reached their final point.

Along the course teams encountered numerous simulated mortar attacks, mimicking the level of stress Troopers are likely to endure in deployed environments.

“Know each other’s strengths and weaknesses and believe in yourself,” said 1st Lt. Kip Blake, a human intelligence platoon leader for 66th Military Intelligence Company, as he explained a few ways Troopers could reduce that level of stress.

The other two teams met with staff from Horsin’ Around, a horse ranch at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area, for an 1870’s reconnaissance mission on horseback. Upon arrival, Troopers reported to Steve Draper, 1st Cavalry Division Museum Director, who was dressed in a replica 1875 officer uniform.

Draper provided each team with a half-drawn map on parchment paper and one piece of charcoal. With a 19th century perspective, he instructed the teams to recon the area, fill in missing terrain on their map, and identify two possible locations along the trail to build a fort for protection.

“It is important to incorporate history lessons into spur rides,” said Draper. “It adds to each Trooper’s knowledge and

understanding of what it means to be a cavalryman and a part of the Regiment.”

All teams converged on Day Two for a marksmanship competition. After each Trooper confirmed their accuracy and qualified on their assigned weapons, they returned to their teams and chose the six best shooters to represent their teams for the competition.

In part one of a reflexive fire style of marksmanship, Troopers were forced to adapt to unconventional shooting positions while aiming through a barrier with various shapes cut out of it, designed to simulate shooting in an urban area.

In part two, Troopers were given 27 rounds of ammunition to engage a target at 25 meters and then advancing to the target in five meter increments.

“This was good simulated training for situations that require shooting while in a building,” said 2nd Lt. Anthony Mamunes, a fires support officer for Thunder.

Later that night, each team had to advance through a simulated urban village for the night raid event. Using a Stryker, each team moved in on their target, dismounted the Stryker and immediately began to assault the village.

Once inside the village, each team moved swiftly in groups of four to navigate their way through the village, clearing each

room they entered while trying to avoid any casualties.

Teams that took longer than 30 minutes to complete this task were attacked by simulated mortar fire, continuing to simulate stress the levels of a deployed environment.

On Day Three, Troopers completed three iterations through the House Creek Shoot House, a facility that allows Troopers to get hands-on practice clearing rooms using live ammunition.

The first iteration involved a safety briefing and a dry run through a room clearing scenario. In the second iteration, Troopers used what they learned to clear each room using blank rounds and firing adapters.

For the final iteration, each team assaulted their way through three rooms using live ammunition against the e--nemy, in this case ballistic dummies.

The fourth and final day of the spur ride began with a trail ride for the Regimental command team and each of the squadron commanders and ended with an “Order of the Spur” ceremony at Horsin’ Around Ranch where the participants received their silver spurs.

The spur ride is a rite of passage for the Troopers of a Cavalry Regiment. It is an opportunity for Troopers to learn from those before them and entrusts them with the responsibility of keeping the tradition alive.

Balancing past and present is a daily part of a cavalryman’s life, as evident in this line from the Mounted Rifleman’s Creed: “With a long line of Cavalry Troopers behind me, I will carry their traditions forward.”





# CLUB 67



The Regiment is proud to announce the opening of the Regimental Leaders' Club, known as Club 67, which offers a relaxed atmosphere ideal for networking. The "AI-EE-YAH!" bar, built by Master Sgt. Ronald Graves, practically beckons Troopers to gather around the solid pine structure. The Regimental S-4 outfitted the facility with signage, monitors, guidons and a sound system. Special thanks to all of those involved in the renovation. Here's looking forward to future ceremonies held in the Regiment's new favorite meeting space. Reservations can be made at the 3d Cavalry Regiment Museum gift shop.

# In Memoriam

**3d Cavalry Regiment remembers the Troopers  
who now gather on Fiddler's Green.**

*John Ashenbrenner B Troop, 43rd Squadron*

*Leonard Boughton B Troop, 3rd Squadron*

*Anthony Crasti E Troop, 43rd, Squadron*

*Burton Genung Group Headquarters*

*George Hansen C Troop, 43rd Squadron*

*Andrew Helmecci A Troop, 3rd Squadron*

*Lawrence Lauletta B Troop, 3rd Squadron*

*Thomas Mastell C Troop, 3rd Squadron*

*Patrick McDonald Group Headquarters*

*Edor Nelson C Troop, 43rd Squadron*

*Floyd Parks F Company, 3rd Squadron*

*Norman A. Pederson Headquarters / B Troop, 3rd Squadron*

*Joseph D. Radanovich Headquarters, 3rd Squadron*

*Marcel Robidart Headquarters, 3rd Squadron*

*Steve Uhelski C Troop, 3rd Squadron*

*Robert Ward Group Headquarters*

*Fred Wysocki F Company, 3rd Squadron*

## 3d U.S. Cavalry Association

***“Connecting the Veterans of today with the Veterans of yesterday.”***

The 3d U.S. Cavalry Association was formed to preserve the history, traditions and heritage of the storied 3d CR. As an active member you will be able to provide input in all activities that support the Regiment and keep cavalry tradition alive. Membership information can be found at: [www.braverifles.org](http://www.braverifles.org).

# CAVALRY!

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## TO THE FIELD!

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THE 74TH COLONEL OF THE  
**3d U.S. CAVALRY REGIMENT**  
IS LOOKING FOR

**4,200 CAVALRYMEN**  
WITH SKILL, CUNNING, & COURAGE  
TO SERVE IN

THE NATION'S ONLY  
**REGIMENT OF MOUNTED RIFLEMEN**  

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**STAND WITH THE BRAVE RIFLES**  
**TO PROTECT THE NATION**