

TIGER WINS SEC DEF AWARD

LONGKNIFE ASAT

THE MOUNTAIN RIFLEMAN

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

ISSUE 33



EVANS

SABRE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 3d CAVALRY REGIMENT

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the Mounted Rifleman

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Two of the Regiment's own prove themselves during a 13-day course. PAGE 14

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

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The Mounted Rifleman is an official publication of the 3d Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office. The magazine provides information regarding Soldiers and Family members of 3d CR. The views and opinions contained herein do not reflect those of the Department of the Army. Send feedback or suggestions to 1st Lt. Joan Drammeh at: joan.m.drammeh.mil@mail.mil

A year Of Transition

The Regiment spent 2012 converting from an Armored Cavalry Regiment to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Although the main effort was training on the Regiment's new equipment family of Stryker vehicles, the year 2012 was also the year of transition to the mindset of a dismounted infantry squad.

The Regiment completed four major conversions over its 166 years of service. In 1861, it converted from a Regiment of Mounted Riflemen to a horse Cavalry Regiment. Then in 1942, the unit traded in its horses for Iron Ponies—Jeeps and M8 Armored Scout Cars—to become Mechanized Cavalry; followed in 1948 by its conversion to an Armored Cavalry Regiment with tanks, artillery and eventually helicopters. In 2012, the Regiment signed for and trained up on its most current mount—the Stryker.

Like previous conversions, the Regiment did not lose any of its traditions, lineage or history. 3d CR added to its historical journey as one of our Nation's premier fighting formation and 2012 will be marked as they year we celebrated our history in midst of a major conversion.

As everyone enjoys a well-deserved break over the holidays, remember to keep safety at the forefront of your thoughts. Whether skiing, going out on the town with friends and family, or enjoy-



ing a quiet evening at home, always conduct personal risk assessments and mitigate the risk associated with the holiday season. Whether it is cold weather, holiday lights or fire prevention safety, or avoiding the temptation to drink and drive, remember that each of you is a valuable member of our team and we need you back safe and sound as we dive into next year's exciting training events.

Happy Holidays to all the Troopers and Families of the Brave Rifles. You are our Nation's greatest asset and I am proud to be on your team! AI-EE-YAH!

JOHN B. RICHARDSON IV
COL, AR
74th Colonel of the Regiment



Holiday Greetings Veterans

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all the hard work and dedication you have given, in support of the “Regiment”. It has been a little over a year since the 74th and I assumed responsibility of this great organization. During the past 13 months, you have contributed to our conversion, shaping the Regiment into one of the United States Army’s premiere fighting formations; a Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

From Stryker OPNET and FLM-NET with 223 of 322 Strykers and 18 of 18 M777 Howitzer’s fielded to date, to team and squad FTX, STX and Live Fire Exercises. From the Regiments first ever EIB training and testing to the EFMB. From our major barracks move to realign the Regiment, to the numerous Spur Rides validating our Troopers as true Cavalrymen. Not to mention the countless events to support III CORPS and our “Good Neighbors”.

You have all risen to the occasion in support of the “Regiment” and I am truly thankful for each and every one of you. You are all prime examples of what it means to be a Trooper in the 3d United States Cavalry.

Throughout the past 11 years of combat, we have often had to sacrifice our time spent with family and friends in support of the “Mission”. I want each of you to take this opportunity to focus on your loved



ones, reconnect with family you haven’t spoken to in a long while, or simply say ‘Thank You’ to those who support your service back here on the ‘home-front’.

I truly want you to enjoy this long deserve break. But I also want you to do it responsibly. I expect each of you to uphold the Army Values and remember that you are a Trooper in the 3d Cavalry Regiment. I ask you to remain vigilant and to protect one another and if you find yourself in a bad situation, “Break Contact” most expeditiously.

If you are a leader, I expect you to know how your Troopers are

spending their holidays. If they are remaining here on Fort Hood, I expect you to visit the barracks and check on them.

In short, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday. And as we say back home, “Mele Kalikimaka e Hauoli Maka Hiki Hou”.

BRAVE RIFLES!

RLTW!

PATRICK K. AKUNA JR.
XIX Regimental Command
Sergeant Major

3d CR DFAC Named Best Thanksgiving 2012

The Theodore Roosevelt Hall Dining Facility won the Commanding General's "Best Dining Facility Competition Thanksgiving 2012." In addition to receiving recognition from Lt. Gen. Don Campbell Jr., III Corps and Fort Hood commanding general, the DFAC welcomed 654 Troopers for Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 22. The award acknowledged the best overall meal presentation on post.



HIGHLAND GAMES

Dozens of Troopers from the 3d Cavalry Regiment took part in the 51st Annual Salado Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans held Nov. 10 - 11 in Salado. The Highland games combine traditional Scottish dance, music and sports competitions with the nostalgic charm of a county fair. The Regimental color guard led the parade into town during the opening ceremony and celebrations lasted through Veterans Day weekend. Col. John B. Richardson IV, commander of 3d CR, was honored as the grand marshal, and a five-man team represented the unit in the traditional sports competitions such as the hammer throw, caber toss and stone put.

TOUGH MUDDER

Ten military intelligence Troopers from the 3d Cavalry Regiment's S2 shop, also known as "Team Woodchuck," completed the Tough Mudder, a military-style obstacle course Oct. 6. More than 17,000 people competed in the 12-mile challenge designed by British Special Forces. On average, only 78 percent of participants finish the course. "We demonstrated the powerful combination of brains, grit and physical fitness within the Regiment's MI community," said 1st Lt. Ryan Herring.



M-777 ARRIVAL

Fires Squadron, "Steel," received the first M-777 Howitzers Oct. 30, which increases the capability for the Squadron to deliver surface fires. "With the M-777 we have the capability to put 1,800 pounds of high explosives and shrapnel on the objective in less than three seconds," said Maj. William Tolbert, the squadron S3. Steel followed up the arrival of the M-777 with an OPNET Dec. 03-07 to conduct certification of fire direction centers, modification of on-hand equipment and a live-fire event. More than 16 howitzers, which fire eight rounds each, were on the firing line with radar sections to track rounds to the observation point.



TIGER LIVE FIRE

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Schroeder, III Corps and Fort Hood Command Sergeant Major, joined Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Akuna, the XIX Regimental Command Sergeant Major, at a First Squadron, "Tiger," live-fire event Oct. 31. The event marked the first day and night infantry platoon live fire since 1866 for the squadron.



REGIMENTAL RUN

More than 3,200 Troopers from the 3d Cavalry Regiment converged on Battalion Ave. to show off their unit pride during a Regimental run held Nov. 2. Regimental runs celebrate the unit's illustrious history and foster esprit de corps through the act of running to time honored cadences called out by the Regiment's Noncommissioned Officers - leaders that make up the back-bone of the Army.



THUNDER DINING OUT

Third Squadron, "Thunder," held their annual Dining Out celebration at the Shiloh Inn Oct. 12. The main event was the grog presentation where Lt. Col. Jonathan Byrom, commander of the squadron, added the sands of Diwaniya to fortify Trooper courage and constitution.





New training to enhance Troopers

Story and Photos by Sgt. Lance Pounds

A group of 120 scout Troopers from the 3d Cavalry Regiment "Brave Rifles" took part in an Advance Situational Awareness Training course held Oct. 18 - 26 at Fort Hood. This is the first time training like this has been offered on the installation.

Participants learned how to develop their sense of perception in order to become more aware of their immediate surroundings. The skills acquired through the course have the potential to save lives when down range.

The class was split into two groups to maximize their learning. The first half acted as role-players, while the second half conducted training.

The role-players were given specific guidance on how to play their parts. The slightest deviation to this guidance could alter the intent of the scenario.

"It's good training. I personally wish I could have received it prior to my last deployment," said Spc. Steven Simons, a

cavalry scout assigned to Troop K, 4th Squadron, 3d Cavalry Regiment.

The course taught the Troopers how to make observations on the normal activities in a given area. This fundamental skill leads to other areas, such as reading human behavior and spotting indicators that could potentially lead to hostile actions over a period of time.

"By observing people in their natural environment, we can tell when they are up to no good by differences in their demeanor and their body movements," said Spc. Paul Gonzales, a cavalry scout for the troop. "Reacting quickly to these differences could save lives."

Armed with this knowledge, Troopers were then instructed on how to properly communicate these indicators to higher headquarters. This information must be detailed yet concise. Students learned how to generate informative reports using only

the necessary amount of words.

Class instructors discussed what went right and what went wrong after each scenario. Troopers took notes, adding to what instructors call a "mental database of knowledge" that each Trooper can pull from should they find themselves in a similar situation.

"ASAT is absolutely critical to our ability to accomplish our mission as a reconnaissance squadron," said Maj. Larry Croucher, the operations officer for 4th Sqdn. "The lessons learned during this training will not only impact Troopers during their current assignment with (the Regiment), but will have a lasting effect throughout their Army careers."



RSS SPUR RIDE



A test of true grit

Story and Photos by Pfc. Erik Warren

Soldiers assigned to the 3d Cavalry Regiment are a part of an illustrious unit steeped in history and tradition. In the days of old, new recruits in a cavalry unit had to prove themselves through feats of courage and merit in order to earn the respect of their fellow comrades. They were expected to learn how to tame a horse and become proficient in riding skills. They also had to demonstrate the ability to apply these skills in combat. Only then were the Troopers fully accepted into the unit.

More than 25 Troopers from the Regimental Support Squadron, 3d CR, tested their physical and mental endurance in a “Spur Ride” held Oct. 31 – Nov. 2 on post.

The RSS Spur Ride is designed to test the candidates both mentally and physically. The multi-day event requires the participants to accomplish tasks despite physical exhaustion. For most, the reason for putting themselves through such a rigorous experience is to test themselves.

For commissioned officers, the spur ride

is a chance to interact and connect with the Troopers they lead. Officers and enlisted men and women go through the same training side-by-side. The insight gained in the experience gives the leaders a better understanding of some of the tasks they might have to one day ask of their subordinates.

“I think it’s a good way to relate with my troops at the squad level,” said 2nd Lt. Cole Setzer, a platoon leader for Signal Troop, RSS, 3d CR. “I get to learn about what the other troops do, something I normally would not have the opportunity to do.”

Entering the Order of the Spur is an honor bestowed on the few that are able to complete this daunting task. A person wearing silver spurs is highly regarded in the cavalry world. Silver spurs are a mark of distinction



and honor in a community that is full of tradition and pride.

“I did this to set an example for my Soldiers,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Noel Medina, the squadron maintenance technician for the Logistics Support Team 4, Combat Repair Team. “I do this to honor the 3d CR, to be a part of this tradition shows my sense of loyalty to the unit.”



3d CR wins Secretary of Defense Field-Level Maintenance Award

Story and Photos by Sgt. Lance Pounds

First Squadron, 3d Cavalry Regiment received the Secretary of Defense Field-Level Maintenance award at the 2012 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Banquet Nov. 15 at DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan. This made the second time the Squadron has claimed ownership of the award since 2009.

Annually, the Secretary of Defense recognizes the outstanding achievements of field-level units in maintenance by awarding six Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards, two from each competition category small, medium and large. Of the six units chosen, one is singled out as the “best of the best” and will be presented with the coveted Phoenix Award, the highest award for field-level maintenance.

Last year, Department of Defense’s maintenance program spent an estimated \$79 billion on labor, material, and other resources essential to military readiness, accounting for 12 percent of DoD resource allocations. A unit’s dedication, expertise and craftsmanship, as well as the actions

taken to retain weapon systems and equipment readiness, were evaluated, inspected and judged during the selection process for the top two units of each category.

A brief summary of the Squadron’s accomplishments was sent to the Under Secretary of Defense, justifying their selection for the award. The same summary was announced during the Squadron’s acceptance of the award.

“It’s a distinguished honor to receive this award because it validates our hard work,” said Sgt. 1st Class Steve Helton, former senior maintenance supervisor for 1st Squadron. Helton is currently assigned to 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division but was invited to the banquet to support his fellow comrades as they accept the award.

Chosen as the top large category winner from a competitive worldwide group of DoD field-level maintenance units, the Squadron once again carried the torch as the sole remaining Army unit in the competition, much like the last time the



Squadron won the award in 2009.

“This prestigious award and the challenging circumstances surrounding it speaks to the extraordinary effort of our operators and maintainers amid deployment, re-deployment and transformation from an Armored Cavalry Squadron to a Stryker Squadron,” said Lt. Col. Steven Cho, the squadron commander.

“Achieving these results took hard work, creativity, a thorough understanding of maintenance systems and a devout commitment to the development of more efficient systems that provide the same level of maintenance while using less of the Army’s money,” said Cho.

The banquet began with an introduction from the host, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Maintenance John Johns, during which he announced the six main-





tenance award winners.

When called upon, the Squadron representatives captivated the audience when they mounted their chairs and loudly cried out the Regimental accolade.

***“Prepare for the
Regimental Accolade!”
“Prepare to sound off!”
“Brave Rifles!”
“Veterans!”
“Blood and Steel!”
“AI-EE-YAH!”***

After which, Command Sgt. Maj. O’Brien, the Squadron senior enlisted advisor, approached the podium to adorn Johns with a Cavalry Stetson, presented him with a

Squadron coin and pinned a Regimental crest to his lapel. Johns seemed pleasantly surprised and wore the Stetson for the remainder of the banquet.

“I wanted Johns, as well as everyone in the room, to feel the essence of what it means to be a U.S. Army Cavalryman,” said O’Brien. “I wanted our presence to be known among the other services in the audience.”

Although the squadron did not win the coveted Phoenix Award, this year made the second time 1st Squadron, 3d Cavalry Regiment had won the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award, the only Army unit to do so. The award was brought back to the “Great Place” where it will be on display in the Squadron’s headquarters for one year.



BUILDING

HARDENED TROOPERS





Prepared to fight anyone, anytime, anywhere

Story and photos by Sgt. Lance Pounds

Leaders of 2nd Squadron (Sabre), 3d Cavalry Regiment recently focused on hardening their Troopers by providing a multitude of challenging training segments, such as the Squad External Evaluations and the Iron Eagle competitions, which were designed to assess the mental and physical abilities of Troopers.

The Squadron first needed to assess the current abilities of its Troopers, which was accomplished through a rigorous multi-event, squad-level exercise. The Squad External Evaluation tested each squad's ability to perform a full range of infantry tasks, live-fire situational training and medical skills.

The exercise also tested the squad leader's ability to integrate all of the different combat assets a Stryker Regiment brings to the fight.

"A Squad Leader in a Stryker formation has a tremendous amount of firepower available to him, and this is the first time since fielding the Stryker Vehicles that our Squad Leaders and Platoon Leaders

have really used combat enablers such as mortars, snipers, and Strykers," said Capt. Joseph McGovern, the Officer in Charge of planning and executing during the live-fire component of the evaluation.

Competitive events such as the Iron Eagle II, designed to inspire and motivate, have also been used to assess Trooper abilities.

Much like the air assault raid into Belton Lake of the first Iron Eagle challenge, a paintball raid was the highlighting challenge that the Troopers were looking for.

"The paintball raid was an adrenaline rush," said Pfc. William Butler, an infantryman in Eagle Troop, who got hit twice in the leg and once in the face by the opposing team while pulling security.

Troop commanders, like Cpt. Jacob Kerr, the creator of the Iron Eagle competitions, reported an 80 percent reduction in Trooper profiles, height and weight failures, or APFT failures in less than a 3-month period.

Kerr added that the increase in Trooper

readiness was a direct result of restrictions he placed on the eligibility to compete in the event.

Squadron evaluations and competitions not only test the abilities of those participating, it also tests the capabilities of support personnel. Cooks, fuelers and mechanics from Logistical Support Team, Regimental Support Squadron, assisted in the support of Squadron operations.

Upon completion, Troop Commanders now have a better idea of what individual tasks and skills their squads need to train on before the Squadron conducts higher level Platoon and Troop exercises in the future, as well as a working knowledge of logistical assets.

"The idea was to test the Squads on the five core competencies that are expected of all Sabre Troopers. Every Sabre Trooper must have mastered their tasks to such a degree that even when exhausted, hungry and sore they still perform at the high level expected of them," said McGovern.



EXPERT FIELD MEDICAL BADGE

Hood medics recognized as experts

Story and photos by Sgt. Lance Pounds

During an emotional finale to a grueling 13-day course designed to identify those who possess the highest level of professional skill and proficiency, only a few demonstrated that they earned the right to wear the Expert Field Medical Badge.

Sgt. Gilbert and Spc. Bruce Stack, Troopers from 3d Cavalry Regiment, and 20 other candidates from post, received their Expert Field Medical Badges during a ceremony held at Sadowski Field Oct. 4. This was the first EFMB course to be held on Fort Hood since 2008.

"This is one of the proudest moments of my life, and I feel like I have done every-one proud," said Stack, adding that he has always wanted people to look at him and know that he was squared away.

The Troopers were trained by the course evaluators in a number of individual tasks, such as tactical combat casualty care, communication, evacuation platform, warrior skills and land navigation during the standardization week of the course.

"There typically is a high-failure rate for the EFMB course. On average, only 15 percent of the candidates pass, because should they fail one portion of the course, they are sent home without the option to finish the course," said Maj. Caryn Vernon, the Tacti-

cal Operations Center officer-in-charge.

At Combat Testing Lane 1, candidates were presented with 16 tasks, including a weapons function check and reaction to sniper fire. From there, candidates had to use tactical movements thru thick brush and under-growth treating casualties as they went.

At lane 2, candidates were presented with a 13-task scenario, which included the disassembly, assembly and functions check of a 9 mm pistol, reacting to indirect fire and submission of an unexploded ordnance report, as well as preparing casualties for transport and react to a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attack.

At lane 3, candidates were presented with such tasks as radio assembly and operation, clearing the lane of any traps or obstructions and rendering aid or the evacuation of casualties.

The final test of mental and physical fortitude was a 12-mile road march, which candidates had three hours to complete.

Gilbert, Stack and 20 other candidates proved they had what it took to earn the prestigious badge, among the more than 200 candidates who participated in the course.



In Memoriam

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

***Spc. Keandre Mosha Hall* Maintenance Troop, RSS**

***Spc. Joshua Winn* HHT, RSS**

***Sgt. Leevon Ritter* HHT, TIGER**

***Pfc. Seth Soulsby* F Troop, SABRE**

***Sgt. Jeremy Berczik* B Troop, TIGER**

***Staff Sgt. Chad Williams* 43d CEC, SABRE**

3d U.S. Cavalry Association

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

The 3d Cavalry Association will be conducting a 10-year reunion of OIF Veterans May 2013 in conjunction with the 167th birthday of the Regiment. Please pass information on to all Troopers you know to visit the 3d Cavalry at this event. The Association is also taking orders for bricks placed at the 3d Cavalry Memorial. Please contact me for orders on information. These bricks can have your name or a fellow Trooper's name on them. We are planning to donate three scholarships for the 2013 school year. The scholarships will be given to students of military families of the Regiment. Thank you for your support. The Association is now involved in “Project Christmas” to give a Christmas basket to Troopers within the Regiment to ensure a Merry Christmas.

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.



Harvey Reed

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

3d U.S. Cavalry Association
P.O. Box 5277
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YOU AND YOUR WEAPON: NEVER HAVE BOTH LOADED AT THE SAME TIME

**Never handle a weapon
under the influence.**

Alcohol was identified as a factor in many fatal off-duty privately owned weapons handling accidents.



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**ARMY SAFE
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