

The Big Deuce Bray



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The Commander's Brief by LTC Patrick Gaydon

Greetings to all 2-2 FA Soldiers, Families, and alumni out there. Since my last report, the Big Deuce Battalion has been extremely busy, and my hat is off to our Soldiers for their outstanding duty performance and accomplishments over the past four months. As soon as we returned from a much needed break after the holidays, the battalion moved from the 6000-block of Fort Sill to the 3200 & 3400-blocks of Fort Sill. Our move was directed as part of the Fort Sill Garrison's master plan to construct a new Initial Entry Soldier Reception Center east of I-44 on top of our old footprint. In about two weeks time, we conducted the self-move and were fully functioning in our new buildings and motorpool. Almost all Soldiers, property, and memorabilia are now in their new permanent home... Only Torres Stables with Big Deuce and Short Round remain east of I-44, as we work to gain approval to build a new stable. All the while, our Mule Soldiers continued accomplishing our enduring mission, firing over 15,000 artillery rounds and delivering three times that amount of ammunition in support of the Field Artillery School.

In early April, the battalion took some time to focus on our core competencies, certifying our Ammunition Sections, Fire Direction Centers, and Howitzer Sections. Every section performed extremely well, demonstrating their ability to accomplish our mission. Some, however stood out as the best. I'd like to congratulate our "Top Sections": Alpha Battery's Ammunition Section (SGT Quaresma), 1st FDC in Alpha Battery (SSG Williams), and 4th Howitzer Section in Alpha Battery (SSG Searls). Every member of these sections can hold their heads high as the best of the best for the next six months, until we do it all over again. *(Continued on page 3)*



CSM's Corner by CSM Lamar Walker

Hello Big Deuce Soldiers, Alumni and Family members.

We have been busy since the last article. Of course, we continue to support the Fire Center of Excellence (FCoE) by firing a minimum of 1000 rounds down range each week. Most of our Soldiers go to the field a minimum of two times a week. I have four months in this unit and I truly believe we have some of the hardest working Soldiers in the Army. The entire organization continues to accomplish all assigned tasks while learning and performing their job skill to achieve maximum potential.

In the last 120 days, there has been a huge shift in personnel within our organization. We have lost over sixty personnel and gain about fifty new Soldiers. Most of the new Soldiers are privates straight out of Advanced Individual Training, so we have plenty of teaching and mentoring that must occur in the next several months. Taking care of Soldiers and maximizing their performance is influenced by how well the leader shapes the organization's climate. Climate is how the individual feels about their unit on a daily basis, which effects their motivation and trust towards their team and their leaders. We continue to teach, coach and mentor our Soldiers and families so that they are successful as they filter within our great organization.



We have lots of team building training that will occur within the next several months. The batteries are just completed section evaluations. These are a series of battle drills that an Artillery Soldiers does in order to perform their job. They have been evaluated on how well and fast they accomplish their Battle Drill. They were evaluated by the Senior Leadership of the Battalion. We will crown our TOP sections. They will receive awards and accolades

from the organization during a battalion awards ceremony next month. The best thing I always liked about section evaluations was the bragging rights. It brings out the competitive spirit within the organization that makes Soldiers want to train to be the best. I know our alumni of the past remember the great times that occur during this evaluation time. *(Continued on page 3)*

"... I truly believe we have some of the hardest working Soldiers in the Army."

Continued from page 1, The Commander's Brief

History and legacy are key components of a unit's identity. Back in December, I had the privilege to host a previous 2-2 FA Commander who stopped by to visit the battalion. It was great to meet COL(R) Howard Brown, who commanded 2-2 FA from April 1960 to July 1961. We got to show him how the modern Mule Soldiers are keeping alive the legacy of excellence established by all those that came before us. COL(R) Brown shared his memories of what it was like to be a Mule Soldier in 1960, and we all came to the conclusion that basic Soldiering in the Big Deuce Battalion is pretty much the same.

In the coming months, 2-2 FA will continue accomplishing our enduring mission to fire artillery to train the Army's and Marine Corps' next generation of forward observers. Additionally, we're going to take some time to relax and focus on the organization; our Organizational Day will be held at Ambrosia Springs on 20 May. Org Day is intended to be a family event. We'll have food, games, and other activities going on, and Lawton Public Schools are off that day, so please plan on attending.

Finally, I close by personally thanking all of the family members out there. The support you give us is essential to our ability to accomplish our mission. We've got a lot of new Soldiers and families in that battalion, and I encourage each of you to attend your battery's Family Readiness Group meetings and social events. These are great venues for information sharing and for networking with other spouses in your Soldier's unit. April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and my special gratitude goes out to all our FRG volunteers who are doing a tremendous job passing information to our families and helping families overcome all the challenges of Army life.

BIG DEUCE!!!



**Big Deuce 6 Past and Present...
LTC Patrick Gaydon hosted COL(R)
Howard Brown's visit Dec 2010**

Continued from page 2, CSM's Corner

We are also conducting a PT Challenge to determine who the fittest battery in the battalion is. This will be a standard physical fitness test given by the battalion. We will also give out PT Badges, Certificates of Achievements, and find out who is the Top Soldier in PT.

Finally, we will have a Battalion Organizational Day at the end of May. This will be a good time for the families, co-op partners, and alumni of the Big Deuce battalion to come out and spend some good quality time with our Soldiers. I am looking forward to seeing all you at this great event.

The last thing we are all family in this Battalion/Brigade. We must take care of one another. I love the line in the Warrior Ethos, "Never leave a fallen Comrade". To me this applies to everything we do in life. Helping someone else will always make you feel much better than just helping yourself.

Take care and God Bless you.

HSB

Rough Riders

Notes from the HSB Command Team (CPT Paul White & ISG Brian Allen)

The First Sergeant and I want to welcome all the new members of the HSB Rough Rider family. We have had quite a few new Soldiers join our formation since the last newsletter. Most have come as young Soldiers right out of AIT, a few have come with families. "Welcome" and "Thank You" for yours and your loved ones service.

As the summer begins so does our hectic work schedule. The days become longer and the firing batteries that we support have more daylight to fire artillery, so that just makes our day that much longer. I know we

will continue to complete all our missions flawlessly and efficiently as the summer surge begins because of the determination and ability of our excellent Soldiers and NCOs. During the month of February our battery was chosen to participate in testing of an Airborne Weapons Sensor System by crewing and firing a 152mm Russian Howitzer. Our Soldiers were able to shift gears quickly and go from delivering ammunition to firing a Howitzer without issue which provided valuable information that will assist the Army as a whole.

During our hectic pace we have had the addition of three new Rough Riders. I want to say congratulations to SFC and Mrs. Cecil for the birth of their son, Luke, SGT and Mrs. Abyeta for the birth of their daughter, Brookelyn, SGT and Mrs. Scott for the birth of their son, Alexander, CPLs Imamura for the birth of their daughter, Dinah. My wife and I also welcomed a new addition with the arrival of our son, Benjamin. It's also time to say congratulations to two of our Soldiers who tied the knot, PFC Turley and Kacie and SPC McClusky and Jake.



HSB Soldiers support Airborne Weapons Sensor System by crewing and firing a 152mm Russian Howitzer in February 2011.



Rough Rider FRG

All of our FRG meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month at 1700 hrs in the Battalion Classroom in BLD 3410. The meetings are usually held as a potluck and are open to Spouses, Soldiers (married and single) and always kids (just not sick kids). I want to invite all spouses, Soldiers (married and single) to join our HSB FRG FaceBook page. This is a good place to look for information about what's happening on post, within our FRG or to contact each other for assistance or just to make friends. You can find our FaceBook page by searching our e-mail account, hhsfrg@gmail.com. If you have any questions and don't want to post them on FaceBook then just e-mail and we will get back as soon as we can.

Alpha Automatic Steel

Alpha Command Team's Remarks (CPT John Bechtold & ISG Darryl Derrick)

Our organization continues to perform superbly, and the opportunity to serve with our Soldiers has been the highlight of my career! I want to thank everyone for supporting our unit.

What to expect...

After certifying to shoot our howitzers in April, we are scheduled to spend seven days in the field in May. Our time in the field will increase in the summer as Fort Sill continues to train artillery Soldiers.

You can expect your loved one home after work around 7:00 PM when we deploy to the field. So, please check your FRG calendar for those "field" dates.

Unique Opportunities...

We sent five families to Norman, Oklahoma in early March to participate in a funded retreat at no expense to Soldiers or spouses. They stayed in a four star hotel for two nights, and the hotel package included meals.

There will be more retreat opportunities this year so please consider participating.

Take a look...

Many family events are scheduled this summer. Visit the Fort Sill MWR web site for details at www.sillmwr.com.



Thank you!
CPT John Bechtold
580-458-8595

Unit News

We would like to welcome all new Soldiers and families to our unit.

SGT Ordaz, Dymorie and family

PFC Evans, Holly and family

PFC Sahi

PV2 Grijalva

PVT Pla

PV2 Perkins

PV2 Miller

PVT Sandoval

PV2 Ashley

PVT Daudert

PVT Pierce

PVT McDonald

PVT Thompson

PFC Negrete

PV2 Bittner

PV2 Singleton, Alyssa and family

FRG Corner



I want to thank our FRG volunteers for helping to plan an excellent Christmas party. It was the best unit event that we've sponsored and much hard work made it possible! We raised more than \$1,000 to fund the event.

Unfortunately, we have had to say goodbye and farewell to all of our FRG volunteers and we need

new help. If you feel like you have a special talent and want to contribute to our unit, please contact us at 580-442-4812.

I want to especially thank Carrie Huneke for serving as our FRG leader for more than a year. Thank you for your volunteerism!

Bravo Bulldawgs

Bravo Commander's Remarks (CPT Ken Heebner)

Friends and Family of the Bulldawgs.

Our Soldiers continue to impress us as to how resilient they are through their continued hard work and accomplishments. Since December, we have conducted two salute ceremonies, moved our equipment and offices, and prepared and executed section certifications. All of which were done while still enjoying block leave and safely and accurately conducting our primary mission, providing over 3,000 artillery rounds needed to train the Field Artillery School students.

WELL DONE BULLDAWGS!!

We have had the honor to promote SPC Southon to SGT and PVT Garcia to PV2. Congratulations and keep up the good work! We have had a couple of additions to the Bulldawg family: The Tessiers have added their daughter, Jada, and the Heebners have added their daughter, Audrey.

Bravo First Sergeant's Remarks (ISG Darren Clingham)

First off, I would like to introduce myself. My name is ISG Darren Clingham and I am the new Bulldawg First Sergeant. I hail from Little Rock, Arkansas and have served in the military honorably for over 21 years, coming here from Camp Hovey, Korea. A majority of my career has been spent at Fort Sill, so I am no stranger to the area.

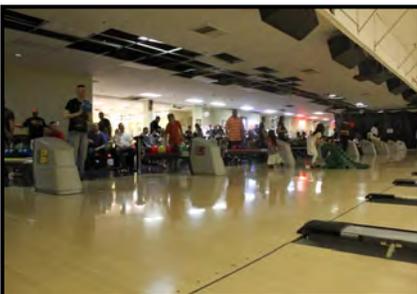
As I have had the opportunity to observe the Soldiers during field operations and see what the Bulldawgs do week in and week out, I must say that we have many young Bulldawgs with much potential. These young Soldiers are stepping up and doing jobs above their pay grade, to include great leaders in place training them. A big thank you goes to the families for your support while the Soldiers do their day to day duties. Unfortunately, we will be losing some Soldiers due to PCSing. I would like to wish these Soldiers and their families the best of luck in their future endeavors, and know that you will always be a part of the Bulldawg family. For those of you remaining, I would like to say, "Mission First, Families Always". HOOAH!

There are a lot of events/activities coming up for both single Soldiers and families. I highly encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities, but do understand not everyone can take advantage at the same time because we do still have a mission to accomplish.

As the ISG, I will instill standards, discipline, and motivation. My two primary jobs as the ISG are mission accomplishment and the welfare of my Soldiers. I'm proud to be a part of the Bulldawg family!

I would like to thank the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major for allowing me the opportunity to serve as a First Sergeant within the Big Deuce Battalion.

Bulldawg 7 signing in.....**BULLDAWGS!**



During the Bulldawg Family Outing: Families enjoy a much needed break (left); while a magician amazes the kids (right)



The Soldiers were honored to host LTC(R) Dickson during a Fire Support Mission



Upcoming Events

May 20—BN Org Day

May 30—Memorial Day Salute Ceremony

June 8—B/2-2 FA Change Of Command Ceremony

Keep your eye out for an email or two from the FRG Leader, Amy Heebner, regarding future battery FRG events and numerous Ft. Sill events. Don't forget to check out the Bulldawgs on the [Bravo Bulldawgs FRG](#) Facebook page.



Chaplain's Corner (CH(CPT) Ramon Pena)

Greetings Big Deuce! Before I tell you about myself, I would like to appreciate and thank God for the opportunity to work at Fort Sill, and especially to be assigned to 2-2 FA. It has been, and continues to be, an exciting journey to serve with such fine Soldiers and under great leadership.

So, I am Chaplain Pena, I joined in the Big Deuce in January 2011. Since then, we have established our Unit Ministry Team (UMT) office at the Headquarters building in room #125. I like to think we keep quite a heartwarming approach toward every Soldier and family who has come to us. The Big Deuce UMT members are PV2 Derek Vachon, acting Chaplain Assistant, and myself.

We hit the ground running and executed our first Strong Bonds Family and Couples retreat from 4- 6 March 2011 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman, OK. Our Soldiers and Families were exposed to an enjoyable presentation rooted in major areas of research on: intimacy and romantic love, how trust is developed and maintained, forgiveness in marital relations, resiliency and commitment in marriage, emotional styles and expression in marriage, attachment/closeness in adult relationships, sexual intimacy in marriage, personal boundaries and affairs, and predictors of marital satisfaction.



Here are some testimonies from participants:

"Overall excellent marriage retreat. I think it is important for families to take this time to focus on our families. This gave me the opportunity to notice the importance of marriage and how it's a continuing process to improve your relationship. Also the children loved it. Looking forward to another one real soon. CH Pena was a wonderful speaker, he made us feel so welcome, daycare service did a good job with my children."

- The Williams Family

"This was a very good retreat. I think this is a great opportunity for couples with kids. It helps you to apply tools that you learn and it allowed us to have a date and enjoy the company of other adults. Please don't change a thing. Daycare was a great thing to have in place."

- The Rinck Family

"This retreat was truly awesome, and much needed. We have been married for 9 yrs on the 11th. We have never until this retreat had an outing with our kids and everyone was entertained. We as a couple learned a great deal about things we "thought" we already knew. 2nd our kids were overwhelmed with everything! This was a truly wonderful experience."

- The Daniels Family

"It was nice to get away from post and be able to relax. This retreat was a much needed break! The information from the courses were valuable and well received. We hope to go on other retreats in the future held by CH. Pena."

- The Bruno Family



Our main goal is to run the Big Deuce Commander's Master Religious Program with professionalism, applicability and relevancy for all our Soldiers and families. We are currently planning our next Strong Bonds Family and Couple retreat scheduled for 3-5 June 2011. With all my experience till now and guidance that I have been getting under the supervision of my immediate superiors, I hope that I can meet the expectations you guys have of me. Once more, thanks for giving me this opportunity!

Big Deuce!

Protecting Yourself and Your Family During Severe Weather

As we approach the spring storm season, here is some information that might be helpful:

Tornados can strike without warning.

A **TORNADO WATCH** is issued by the National Weather Service when tornadoes are **possible in your area**. Remain alert for approaching storms. This is the time to remind family members where the safest places within your home is located, and listen to the radio or television for further developments.

A **TORNADO WARNING** is issued when a tornado **has been sighted or indicated by weather radar**. If a tornado warning is issued for your area immediately, move to your pre-designated place of safety. Turn on a battery-operated radio and wait for further instructions.

A **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH**, like a tornado watch is issued when **conditions exist that may produce a severe thunderstorm**. Severe thunderstorms are characterized by heavy rain, high winds, hail, and lightning.

A **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING** is issued when **either a severe thunderstorm is indicated by radar or a spotter reports a thunderstorm producing hail 3/4 inch or larger in diameter and/or winds equal or exceed 58 miles an hour**; therefore, people in the affected area should seek safe shelter immediately.

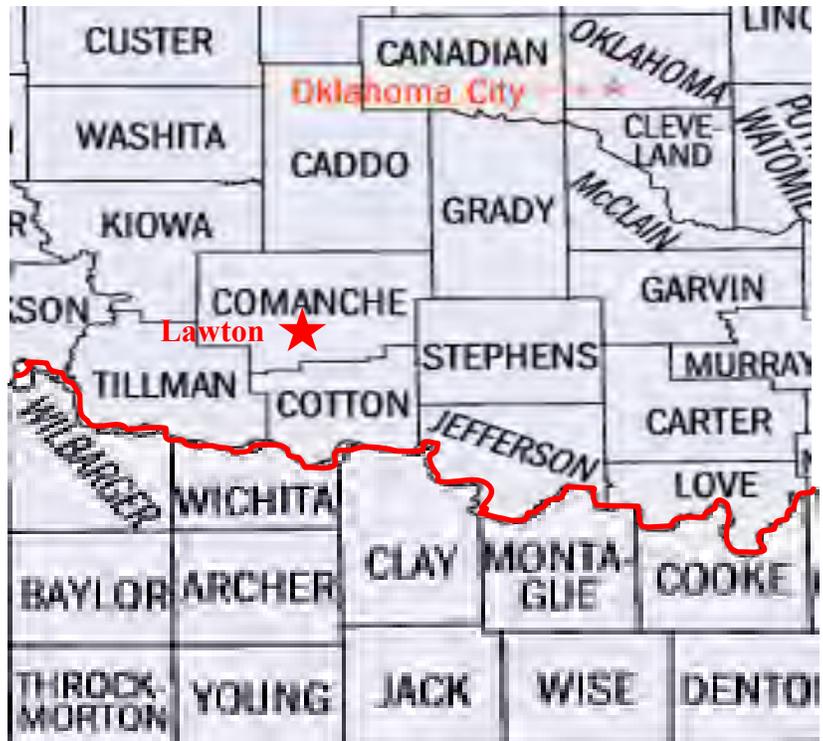
The map on the right shows Lawton and the surrounding counties. You can refer to this as you hear or read severe weather notices.

When a tornado is coming, you have only a short amount of time to make life-or-death decisions. Advance planning and quick response are the keys to surviving a tornado.

Conduct tornado drills each tornado season. Designate an area in the home as a shelter, and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to a tornado threat.

Emergency Supplies Checklist

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener



Counties surrounding Lawton / Ft. Sill.

Remember:

Some tornadoes appear as a visible funnel extending only partially to the ground. Look for signs of debris below the visible funnel.

Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while others are obscured by rain or nearby low-hanging clouds.

Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.

For more information go to:

<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu/safety/tornadoquide.html>

2-2 FA's New Footprint

Volume 1, Issue 2



Batterys' HQs & Bn S-4



Battalion HQs

Major Upcoming Battalion Events

- > Battalion FRG Steering Committee Meeting: 04 May
- > Payday Activities / Awards Ceremony: 06 May
- > Battalion Organizational Day: 20 May
- > Armed Forces Day Parade in Lawton: 21 May
- > Memorial Day Holiday Weekend (4-day): 27-30 May
- > Payday Activities: 03 Jun
- > Family Strong Bonds Retreat: 03-05 Jun
- > B/2-2 FA Change of Command: 08 Jun
- > Hail & Farwell: 11 Jun
- > HSB/2-2 FA Change of Command: 30 Jun
- > A/2-2 FA Change of Command: mid-Jul

