



# The Chronicle



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Diamond 6	2
Diamond 7	2
100th BSB	3
3-13th FAR	3
2-18th FAR	3
Brigade Safety	4
Brigade FRG	4
Brigade Sports	5
Volunteer Ceremony	5

## BRIGADE STORY OF THE MONTH

Soldiers assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 75<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade, stood shoulder-to-shoulder under its colors for a last time during the unit's inactivation ceremony Dec. 11 at Rinehart Fitness Center.

The ceremony marked the culmination of the paladin battalion's mission and impact within the ranks of the Army.

"This is a very historic unit," said Col. Michael Eastman, commander, 75<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade. "It's been in practically every major war that this country's fought from World War I to today."

The battalion earned numerous awards and battle streamers as its legacy was built through the sacrifices of those who served under its colors while conducting worldwide military operations at locations such as Germany,



Soldiers of the 1-17 FAR in formation during the inactivation ceremony. The battalion fought in nearly every major war or conflict the nation has been involved in since World War I.

Italy, North Africa, France, the Korean peninsula, and more recently, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The battle streamers that hang from the colors tell the story all by themselves," said Eastman.

"Many Soldiers have fallen and given the ultimate sacrifice while serving under her colors," said Maj. Jamie Allen, commander. "Through all of this, the battalion has always served its nation with pride."

Although the unit was aware of

pending inactivation orders for several months, its Soldiers continually conducted training and qualification requirements ranging from how to fire a howitzer to how to initiate and receive a call for fire mission.

"Artillery says, 'shoot move and communicate,' so we are sending Soldiers out with that skill," said Capt. Garrison Haning. "Every Soldier here is going to be a tremendous asset to their next unit."



75th FIB CDR, COL Eastman

**DIAMOND 6**

Training is our focus for this month’s newsletter. Given the budget pressures that the Army has been under for the last several months, it might seem like an odd topic to devote this issue to. However, we have great opportunities ahead of us, and the Division has done great work getting the funding we need to make them happen.

The next several months will be an exciting time for the Diamond Brigade. We begin by launching an aggressive digital training program for each of our systems, with a goal of training at least three operators for each. Then, the staff will conduct a series of planning exercises and simulations to tie all the systems together. By late Spring, the brigade and battalion staffs will be ready to do all the hard work needed to bring together major live exercises.

While this is going on, both 2-18 FA and 3-13 FA will participate in training center rotations with our sister units from Fort Riley. These month long exercises will ensure that the battalion staffs experience the challenging training environments at Fort Polk and Fort Irwin firing in support of combined arms maneuver operations. The BSB will support these in their usual professional manner, keeping the food, fuel and ammunition flowing.

Finally, in June the entire brigade will participate in a Warfighter Exercise with the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division out of Minnesota. This exercise brings together all elements of the brigade in a field environment, and will spread between Fort Leavenworth Kansas and here at Fort Sill in our local training areas.

As always, thanks for all that you do---Soldiers, Civilians, and Families---to make this such a great brigade. It remains my honor to serve on your team.



75th FIB CSM, CSM Harrison

**DIAMOND 7**

We return from a well deserved holiday season to hit the ground running. January brings new training opportunities and goals. Even though money is tight, the Commanders have an awesome schedule of events planned.

It is vital for our Soldiers to take advantage of all training events to learn and hone their skills. From hands-on tasks, technical skills and leadership, our younger Soldiers start their professional military education process with the Warrior Leaders Course (WLC). For the past few months, the 75<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade has been able to fill over half of the attendance roster for this course. The class that graduated before Christmas had one Leadership Award winner and eight Commandant’s List designees.

Always remember to train as you fight; Soldiers do exactly in war as they do in training. No seatbelts in training equals death in war (and peace). No helmet in tactical vehicles equals head injuries and death. No muzzle awareness and weapon safety checks equal negligent discharges, fatalities and injuries. Don’t wear eye protection in training? You will see Soldiers needlessly blinded. Abusing or roughing up opposing forces or treating role players with disrespect can easily equal crimes in war.

I am proud to be serving as your Command Sergeant Major.

**100TH BSB “DIAMOND SUPPORT!”**

The 100th BSB has continued to make great strides in building unity and volunteerism by celebrating the holiday season with a party held at the VFW. Santa Claus was also available to greet the children of Soldiers and distribute presents. The holiday event pro-

vided a welcoming environment for 100<sup>th</sup> BSB Soldiers and their families. We are continuing our efforts to provide positive role models for the children of Lawton by providing mentors to Pat Henry Elementary School and assisting in Elgin Middle School’s

transition to a new facility. We look forward to working towards engaging more elementary schools and businesses in the area to provide assistance to our community.



**3-13TH FAR “RED DRAGONS!”**

Red Dragon volunteers celebrated the holiday season with the staff and students of Wilson Elementary school Dec. 20. From decorating sugar cookies to making picture frames and ornaments, the day was filled with fun activities. At the hot cocoa bar, students piled

their mugs full with marshmallows and candy cane sprinkles before settling down for holiday themed movies and books. PFC Galvez and PV2 Courtney were a huge hit during Ms. Westbrook's Christmas themed dance party where they nobly em-

braced their new roles as human jungle gyms. "I want you to know there is a grown man under those kids, yet, they still want to come back and read with my kids! These guys made our day." Westbrook said. Red Dragons will continue to show their commitment



to the students of Wilson Elementary by supporting school events and providing weekly tutors to aid the teachers.

**2-18TH FAR “MISSION READY!”**

We are gearing up for a few upcoming training exercises, which involve training at both the battery and battalion levels. The training focuses on a few key mission essential tasks that enable the Soldiers of 2-18<sup>th</sup> FAR to carry out the overall battalion mission. Delivering lethal fires is the battal-

ion’s primary mission, and the next couple of weeks are designed to enhance the battalion’s ability to execute its mission.

Starting next week, the firing batteries of 2-18<sup>th</sup> FAR will go out to the field in hopes to successfully fire several rockets. The batteries

will also train on other tasks such as occupying an operational area, ammunition uploading and downloading, and various infantry tactics that will help in keeping 2-18<sup>th</sup> FAR flexible enough in their skill sets to accomplish any possible mission. Soon, the battalion will pack their rucksacks



and head to the field with the assistance from 100<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion and train on a broader scope.



**BRIGADE SAFETY**

Good day to all, and welcome to BDE Safety for the family newsletter.

Well, it's that time of year again! The holidays are now a rapidly distancing memory, and the bills are beginning to roll in. Also, the BDE is beginning to gear up for some training deployments, both on and off Post. As with any de-

ployment, there are inherent risks to training, even if it is only for a week or two out here on the Fort Sill ranges. In fact, it has been shown statistically, that more injuries occur in training deployments closer to home than on extended deployments of 30 days or more. Much of this can be attributed to being in a hurry, not preparing properly, bringing the wrong gear and clothing for the wrong weather, and just not paying attention to

what has become often, mundane and familiar surroundings.

Just keep one thing in mind, we, as an Army, train as we fight. ALWAYS keep your eyes open, follow any directions given, and NEVER disregard any safety brief for its value! Pack for any possible weather changes (as have been evident this year), and always make sure things are good back home. For those of you who are single,

ensure that your residence, property and pets (if you have them) are looked after and secured. If you are married or unmarried with families, make sure bills are paid, there is plenty of food for the kids and spouses, and they always know how to get in touch with you or your unit when you are out.

Remember, safety is not just our job, it's yours as well! Mission First, Safety Always!

**BRIGADE FRSA**

Hello to all the fabulous "Diamond" Soldiers and Families! These past couple months have been a whirlwind of excitement. Each battalion/battery held a holiday party for their Soldier and families. All the parties were phenomenal because of all the hard work the FRG put into them and all the support that was given by the families. Also, we are proud that one of our family mem-

bers from Charlie 1-17<sup>th</sup> FAR was recognized as the Fort Sill Volunteer of the Month at the SILLFACTs in January. Leah Lauterburg-Huss, has made a lasting impression on the Lawton-Fort Sill community. She has volunteered with many organizations to include the FRG, Geronimo Elementary School, the Patriot Spouses Club, the Cub Scout and Girl Scouts, and the Paws with

Love program, just to name a few. Thank you for your selfless service Leah! If you are wondering how you can get involved please contact the BDE FRSA's, Heidi Bond or Jessica Price. We are always looking for great volunteers to help with BDE events! Our information is located on the last page.



Leah Lauterburg-Huss received the Fort Sill Volunteer of the Month award for January 2014 from MG Mark McDonald, FCoE Commanding General.

**BRIGADE SPORTS**

The Commander's Cup standings have started over. Let us get maximum participation to make sure we will win it for 2014!

There are many intramural sports that are coming up. They are open to anyone who would like to partici-

pate. Each intramural helps 75th Fires Brigade get closer to earning the Commander's Cup Trophy.

If you are interested in creating a team, contact Fort Sill MWR. Here are the upcoming intramural events.

We have a basketball tournament starting at the end of the month

On The volleyball season begins Feb. 19th, 2014.

The post racquetball tournament hits off on Feb. 23rd, 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact SSG David Kincade at david.kincade1@us.army.mil

**75th FIRES BRIGADE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY**

75<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade held a volunteer recognition ceremony and chili cook-off to honor the volunteers in the brigade Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at Frontier Chapel.

Seven volunteers were recognized by the brigade commander, and more than 80 volunteers were recognized by their battalion command teams.

"It's great to honor these volunteers that put so much time in helping other people," said Heidi Bond, brigade family readiness support assistant. "They do so much for not only the brigade, but also the community. It's important they know how much we appreciate all they do."

The seven recognized by the brigade commander received the Commander's Award for Public Service. The Commander's Award for Public Service is an award that a colonel or higher is authorized to award. These seven volunteers put in countless hours volunteering at their battalions and throughout the community of Lawton-Fort Sill.

The following volunteers received the Commander's Award for Public Service: From 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 13<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Dee Mullins. From 2<sup>nd</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> FAR, Heather Declercq, Gina Daily, Rachel Lessing and Tiffany Terry. From 1-17<sup>th</sup> FAR, Leah Lauterberg and Gloria Gutierrez.

During the ceremony, each battalion had several chili teams that competed in a chili cook-off. Each chili recipe was graded based on spiciness, uniqueness and overall flavor. The chili cook-off allowed families to interact and socialize across the brigade while they sampled all the chili.

"It was fun being part of the chili cook-off," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joe Roberts, Headquarters and Headquarters executive officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> FA. "Being able to showcase my wife's chili recipe for the brigade is great."

**Need to Contact Us?**

**75th Fires Brigade**  
3427 Wilson Road  
Fort Sill, OK 73503

Phone: (580) 442-6016  
E-mail: jeffrey.d.caslen.mil@mail.mil

**FRG Contact Information:**

Heidi Bond  
Office: 580-442-0265  
Heidi.j.bond@us.army.mil

Jessica Price  
Cell: 580-442-4528  
Jessica.a.price16.civ@mail.mil

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**AROUND THE BRIGADE**



Volunteers from 100<sup>th</sup> BSB recognized by Lt. Col. Nathan Goubeaux, battalion commander, for their hard work Dec. 12 at Frontier Chapel. More than 25 volunteers were recognized by Goubeaux.



Soldiers from 2-18FAR performing PMCS on their vehicles during Block Leave. They were ensuring the vehicles would remain operational even in the blistering cold weather that passed through



Sgt. Molina, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, received the award for overall top chili at the Chili cook-off Dec. 12 at Frontier Chapel. Molina received a custom 75<sup>th</sup> FIB bowl.