

6th Air Defense Artillery FRG

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2011

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Thankfully the weather has taken a little break on us as we transition out of summer into fall. Although we could still use some rainfall, it is nice that we don't have 100+ temperatures. I am extremely proud of our Cadre as they conducted and supervised training throughout the tough summer months without any serious heat related injuries. This is a testament to their proficiency and commitment to soldier well being.

As we have completed our summer turnover of personnel, I hope our newly arrived soldiers and families have begun to settle into the Brigade and FT Sill. This begins a great part of the year to get out and explore the area. There are plenty of activities and sights. In fact, we will conduct a senior spouse staff ride on the 14th, of the FT Sill area to explain and explore the rich history that we are a part of. After we educate our senior spouses, I would encourage them to share what they learned with all of our families.

Also, continue to encourage and promote family participation in unit activities. Despite the fast pace of business, there is still plenty of time to get together and various venues and get to know each other.

Octoberfest is right around the corner - this is a family oriented event and would be a great opportunity to enjoy the weather and hospitality.

Additionally, take time to have luncheons together - it is a well spent 1 hour. Finally, we will conduct a Brigade steering committee meeting on 5 Oct at 1800 for the FRG leaders to put out some information and announce the ST Barbara's Day ball (9 Dec).

Sincerely, COL Bill and Brigitte Stacey

FRSA NOTES

October is:

*Domestic Violence
Abuse Month*

Domestic abuse rarely ends without intervention. Support is always available to victims. If you or someone you know has experienced domestic abuse and if you would like more information Contact:

Family Advocacy
580-442-6801

Sexual Assault
580-442-5018

Victim Advocacy
580-442-4357

New Parent
Support
580-442-0692



A child goes missing every 40 seconds in America. Many never return home.

The FBI's new Child Id App can help.

Simply download the free FBI mobile application from the App Store on iTunes, add the latest photos of your child, enter key information about him or her; and update regularly.

In the unlikely event that your child goes missing, you can quickly email the photos and information to authorities. The app also includes safety advice and checklists for parents. Please be assured, no information about you or your child will be collected or stored by the FBI or iTunes. Put your child's safety in your own hands. Download the FBI's Child ID app today.

http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/august/child_080511/child_080511

The Exceptional Advocate eNewsletter is here!

The Department of Defense Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is pleased to release The Exceptional Advocate, a monthly electronic newsletter for military families with special needs. Each month you will find articles, resources, tips, and news that families can use to remain informed on a variety of topics.

Each month the newsletter will feature activities for children on the "Kids Corner" page which features the animated characters "Iman Advocate," and his dog, "Watson".

Please visit <http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/efmp/news>

Happy Reading!



Military Family Appreciation Month, NOV 2011

Across America, military families inspire us all with their courage, strength, and deep devotion to our country. They endure the challenges of multiple deployments and moves; spend holidays and life milestones apart; juggle everyday tasks while a spouse, parent, son, or daughter is in harm's way; and honor the service of their loved ones and the memory of those lost."

President Barack Obama, Nov 2010

Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA)

Lisa Villarreal-Hughes

Office: 580-442-3547 BLDG 1607 RM 103

Blackberry: 580-919-6009

lisa.m.villarreal-hughes.civ@mail.mil

"Providing tools for our Families to be informed, prepared, networked, resilient and empowered!"

Training Opportunities

6th ADA BDE FRG Steering Committee Meeting, Wednesday, 05 OCT, 6-8 PM, BLDG 2871 Craig Road, RTC Campus.

Family Member Resiliency Training is available every Tuesday, 04, 11, 18 & 25 OCT 1-3 PM. Learn skills to be successful and resilient in military life. 580-442-4916.

Financial Readiness Workshops, Wednesday, 05, 12, 18 & 26 OCT

10 AM –12 PM, limited childcare available if registered with CYS. Topics: Managing your Holiday Spending/ Tips for Preventing ID Theft.

580-442-3080.

CYSS Babysitting Course Wednesday– Thursday, 19-20 OCT, 9 AM-3PM, 1721 Grubner Rd. Students must attend both days to be certified.

6th ADA BDE Care Team Training Thursday, 20 OCT, 1800-2100, RTC, RM 151/152

A Care Team offers emotional support and practical assistance to our brigade in times of crisis, bereavement or traumatic injury. The Commander may activate a Care Team based on the affected Family's request for support. Training will provide you with Care Team roles and responsibilities, How to Help, Casualty Assistance and Grief.

Family & Soldier Support Training (FASST) , Tuesday, 25 OCT, 845 AM-4PM,

Roles & Responsibilities, Working with Community Agencies, Marketing and Communication. Designed for new FRG Leaders, Command Teams and FRG members.

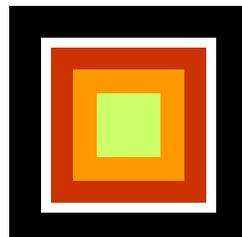
September 2011

Headquarters, Headquarters Battery

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Headhunters for a job well done this month. We bid farewell to CH Gibson, SGM Maxwell and SGT Salgado. I wish to express my appreciation to them and their families for their support, sacrifices and tireless dedication to our soldiers and their family members. Nevertheless, Headhunters gained an equally a great leader, 1SG Morris. We humbly welcome 1SG Morris to the Headhunters family. She is already at work and making things happen.

Upcoming Events

- Payday Activities - 6 October
- Read for the Record - 6 October
- NCODP: Developmental Counseling - 14 October
- Senior Spouse Staff Ride—14 October
- Flu Vaccinations - 18 October
- EST Train-The-Trainer— 24 –28 October





1-56th ADA BN

“Night Hides Not!”



Greetings again to all friends and families of 1-56 ADA!! The Family Readiness Group is the heart of a unit! The month of August continued to deliver scorching hot and near record temperatures to the region. This month also signaled the beginning of fall and thankfully fall-like temperatures to the area! While the September month is known throughout the Army as the end of the fiscal year; for the battalion it also served as the month we finally moved into our new headquarters building 1612. And while there is still work to be done in terms of “foxhole improvement,” the building is a great place to work and direct operations for the Leader Education Battalion.

Congratulations to the students, cadre and families of the Captains Career Course Class 03-11 and the Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC) Phase I Class 04-11 as these courses concluded this past month.

Change remains the lone constant within the battalion this month. The month essentially began with a change of responsibility ceremony for Charlie Battery between incoming 1SG Allen Carter and outgoing 1SG Gerald Carter. It is always bitter-sweet to lose great Soldiers, but it becomes a winning scenario for everyone when the the new Soldiers are “winners.” Such is the case with 1SG Allen Carter. He is a professional and the right Leader at the right time for Charlie Battery.



The passing of the NCO Saber (left) during the C/1-56 Change of Responsibility. 1SG Allen Carter (Right) assumes responsibility for C/1-56 ADA. He is now responsible for the Cadre and Student Officers of BOLC and CCC for the Air Defense Artillery Branch.

Students from each Basic Officer Leaders Course (BOLC) plan and execute a volunteer event each cycle as part of their Army Values practical exercise. BOLC Class 006-11 executed two events this cycle during the month of August visiting veterans during “bingo” as well as volunteering at the Lawton food bank.





Ever present Cadre former 1SG Gerald Carter (Left) and SFC Kemper (Right) accompanied the BOLC students and participated in both volunteer events

The Brigade began the month of September squarely in 2nd place in the installation Commander's cup race behind 31X. After we informed our students, we were swamped with leaders ready to take on the intramural challenge for 6X! In short, the guys and gals of fall are back!! Two teams with one mission, Commander's Cup points for 6X in flag football!



NEVER Short on confidence, Team 1 is promising to deliver Commander's Cup points for 6X!



The SPARTANS of Team 2 (RFA) Ready For Action!

We bid a fond farewell to the Bishop, Blaisdell, Carter, and Carruthers families. Thank you for the memories, your service and the impact you have made on the Officer Education Battalion! Your contributions invariably shape the minds of the future of our Air Defense Branch! Best wishes in all of your future endeavors! We would like to welcome the Costas, Fulcher, Hoffman, Nguyen, Pengilly, Queen, and Scarlett families to the battalion! Hand

selected for this assignment, we know we will all benefit from your collective knowledge and experiences as you instruct the future of the Branch!

Also, a special note of thanks to the Woodberry family: CW2 Woodberry is currently serving in Iraq, returning in January 2012! You continue to remain in our hearts and minds. Stay safe and be blessed!

Upcoming Events

- 6 Oct - 1-56 Officer Education Golf Tournament
- 7 Oct - 8 Oct - Oktoberfest
- 7 Oct - 10 Oct – Columbus Day Weekend
- 20 Oct – Battalion H&F – 1830 Location TBD
- 28 Oct – Haunted Trail 1-56 tailgate – Co-op Park

The battalion finished the month with.

Additional pictures from around the Battalion AUG





From the Air Defense Artillery School's Officer Education Battalion, thank you for all that you do! Get involved! Our Family Readiness Group is in need of your support! Many hands make very light work! We have had some volunteers step forward this past month! We are still in need of a new FRG treasurer and we are also looking for CARE team volunteers! CARE Team members of the FRG offer emotional support and practical assistance to Family members going through difficult situations (i.e. unexpected surgery, injury, illness, unexpected displacement, fires, etc.).

The City of Geronimo celebrated its 105th birthday with the theme of "America through the Years" at the Geronimo City Hall, on September 16th-17th. Thanks to Colonel Stacey, 6th Brigade Commander (Grand Marshal), Mr. Dooley 428th Brigade XO (Uncle Sam), and the Fort Sill 77th Army Band for participating in the parade Friday evening. On Saturday, there were food booths, live entertainment, contests, a petting zoo, a Bull Riding Classic Event, and more! Thanks to Major Sarafis for leading the Geronimo Events Committee and preparing for this annual event!



The 77th Army Band

COL Stacey and Mr. Dooley



Major Sarafis in Hale Bale Contest



Demetria Sarafis won "Little Miss Geronimo"



Bull Riding Classic

Remember, all volunteers on Fort Sill must be registered in Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS)! The volunteer hours tracked allows the Army to reward, inform and strengthen our military community! Please contact the TRADOC FRSA Mrs. Lisa Villarreal-Hughes @ lisa.m.villarreal-hughes.civ@mail.mil, call 580-442-3547/3849, or visit bldg. 1607 for details. Registration takes less than 10 minutes!

If you would like to get involved with the FRG please contact Mrs. Lydia Hawkins @ lydia.hawkins@us.army.mil or 310-872-4266. You can also contact CPT Dustin McGriff @ dustin.d.mcgriff.mil@mail.mil or call 580-442-0590.



2-6th ADA BN

“Set the Standard”

Another excellent month has passed us. Hope everyone had a safe and fun Labor Day weekend. We continue to be excited about what we will be able to accomplish for our Soldiers and their families for the remainder of this year. Our unit has accomplished monumental tasks and continues to train and certify our Soldiers for war, but also making sure they stay stress free.

We would like to congratulate SFC Paul Gahl, who was selected the AIT Platoon Sergeant of the Year during competition at Fort Eustis, VA. He is the Platoon Sergeant for C Battery. Many congratulations and well job done!!



We held our Strong Bonds at the end of September. Keeping Soldiers and Families informed on how important a family is and how to make it stronger. Families also enjoyed Oklahoma City and the State Fair. We had a wonderful turnout a great time! We welcomed two new members to our Bruin Family. CPT Bowen, HQ/A BTRY, and his wife Lydia had their baby boy, Jake on 30 August. CPT Pendon, C BTRY and his wife Patricia also had their baby boy, Horatio on 12 September. Congratulation to both families on their new edition!

We would like to invite everyone to our 2nd Annual Haunted House:

Location: Bldg 2765 Miner Rd. Ft Sill, Ok 73503
Date/Time: October 28-30, 2011 1800-2200
Cost: Donations

All ages are welcome to come and experience a frightful evening. It is a Carnival full of fun events and goodies for the children. Please come out and support us! We will also participate on the Haunted Trail so look for our booth.

We are looking for volunteers to help us make this great event successful and spooktacular. If you are or not able to come out and help us we hope to see you out there to support us!
If any of our Soldiers or their Spouses wish to be a part and volunteer or if you just need information contact your Battery FRG Leader:

We sincerely appreciate everyone's support!
LTC Brian W. Adams and CSM Robert D. Gooden

3-6th ADA Battalion

Bear the Standard

Commander's Corner
LTC Elizabeth Smith



Dear Friends and Families,

September has been a busy month for the BN. The highlights for the month; State of the BN brief that was held at Snow Hall, Warrior Adventure Quest held for our IET/Cadre, we joined the community by celebrating Arvest "Day of Caring", we held our BN FRG meeting at the Resiliency Training Center, the Buffalo Burger Cookout held at CO-OP Park, BN Org Day held at Quinnette Park and Monte Carlo Night; great turnout for these events. Thanks to all those who came out and showed their support. Hope to see you at our next FRG Meeting.



Promotions

I would like to Congratulate the following exceptional Soldiers: SFC Antonio Estebane, SFC Sammie Martin on their promotion.

Hails

A warm welcome to 2LT Kenneth Fagon, SSG Marques Johnson, SGT Brendon Holland, SGT James McGowan, SGT Natasha Cosby, and Mr. Dennis Wao and their families, who arrived to Headquarters/Alpha Battery. A warm welcome to SFC Luwi Edmeade, SSG Joshua Cabiener, SSG James Ortiz, and SSG Tisa Clark and their families, who arrived to Bravo Battery on 16 September. A warm welcome to SSG Andrea Garza, SSG David Deal, and SSG Joshua Ferrier and their families, who arrived to Charlie Battery.

Newborn Cubs

None expecting.

Farewells

We had to say goodbye to several more Soldiers this past month as they moved on to other chapters of their lives. From HQ/A: SFC Samuel Gonzales(PCS) and SPC Joshua Pitcock(ETS). From Bravo: SFC Edward Fadale(PCS), SFC Edward St. Clair(PCS), SFC Corey Bowen, SSG Samuel Duffey(PCS), and SGT Jamil Ellinger(ETS). From Charlie: SSG John Vermilyen(PCS).

Sports

Please come out and watch our flag football team as they gear up. Bravo Battery's next game is on 04 October at Butner Field, 1930; so get out there and show your support!!

Upcoming Events

- Columbus Day weekend, 07-10 Oct
- BN Motorcycle Ride, 12 Oct
- HQ/A FRG Potluck, 28 Oct

Battalion Social

As always.... the **3-6 ADA Facebook** page is a great resource for events in the Battalion. We will post pictures of our events, videos from graduations and other information there on a regular basis. This is the address:

http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Lawton-OK/3rd-Battalion-6th-Air-Defense-Artillery-Brigade/119259838122073?ref=sgm&_a=46&ajaxpipe=1, or just do a search for 3rd

Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

Until next month, "BEAR THE STANDARD!"

Sincerely,
LTC Liz Smith



Battalion Key Points of Contact

FRG LEADER (HQ/A)
Liz McChesney
580-919-0459 Cell
lmchesney76@hotmail.com

FRG LEADER (B)
Anna Marie Van soolen
503-560-3247 Cell
avansoolen@hotmail.com

FRG LEADER (C)
Mark Garcia
915-873-9197 Cell
mark.a.garcia@us.army.mil

**SOLDIER FAMILY
ASSISTANCE CENTER
(SFAC)**

Mon-Fri (0730-1630)
580-442-4096 Office

BLDG 4700
www.sillmwr.com/sfac

September 2011

Chaplain's Words of Praise

DEAD MAN CRYING Mark 5:1-20

Now imagine for a moment having drifted into a deep and peaceful sleep when all of a sudden the loud cries of this mad man writhing in pain shatter the tranquility with which you had entered into dream land. The demoniac's screeching cries from the wilderness resemble a cacophony of wounded animals and yet the sound comes from a human. The following morning you awaken after a poor night's sleep seeking out your neighbors to determine what you can do to quiet this mad man. "What do we do with this crazy man," says one of the inhabitants of Gadara? One says tie him down, another says bind him up in shackles while another says place him in a cage. He's an animal. Cast him away. They proceed accordingly, but each attempt fails miserably as he easily unshackles himself with a supernatural strength.

Now they're at their wit's end and so they eventually grow immune to the cries of a mad man. They grow deaf ears. They no longer hear his cries. No one looked out for his best interests. No one seemed to care about his well-being. Just discard him like the trash he is. Did anyone pray for him? Did anyone try to help him?

Many cries are misunderstood as the ravings of a lunatic or seen as something we can get through, so just suck it up and drive on. But it's not always that easy is it? Sometimes it is difficult to get up in the morning. Sometimes dealing with bills, the spouse, the children, and that cantankerous co-worker get tough and then you seek refuge in the confidence of a friend only to have him or her spew the daggers of gossip and envy at you. Where is the resurrection power of Christ when we need it? No one hears my cries. I'm a dead man crying. And when no one hears my cries & the cries of multitudes throughout the world, I can't help but wonder where is God when I need Him.

But wait, Christ is on the way; for, He is faster than a bolt of lightning, able to leap the heavens in a single bound and can calm a raging sea with 3 simple words "PEACE BE STILL." Yes, Jesus Christ is on the way because He has heard my cries. He hears the cries of a little son or daughter whose father or mother has deployed to Iraq. He has heard the cries of a wife battered by the cowardly blows of a mad man. He hears the cries of a homeless person isolated from family and friends. Jesus Christ hears the cries of a drug addict longing for his next fix. I tell you Jesus Christ is on the way! He hears the cries of a man who can't get a job to support his family. He hears the cries of a family torn asunder by the prospect of divorce. He hears the cries of a Soldier who has lost leg and limb from a roadside bomb. He hears the cries of nations bombarded by the political agendas of oligarchies. Yes, Jesus Christ is on the way!

He's on His way to calm my raging soul tossed by the winds and rains of life. Tossed to and fro by the temptation of an affair, tossed aloft by the musings of backbiters and gossipers, tossed away as if I'm subhuman. Jesus Christ is on the way to stem the raging tide of bitterness and disconnectedness that are drowning my soul into perdition. No, Jesus Christ is on the way to save and deliver, to strengthen and sustain, embrace and bless. He comes to affirm our humanity and to let us know that we are somebody not to be cast aside like a waif. Yes, Jesus Christ is on the way cuz He heard my cries.

Blessings!
Chaplain Robert Thomas