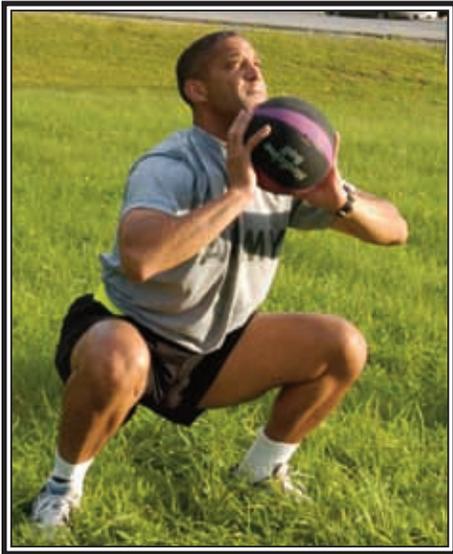


COMMANDO UPDATE

Vol. 1, Issue 1

March 31, 2009





**2nd Brigade Combat Team
Commander**

Welcome to the first edition of the revised Commando Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep all informed of happenings across the entire Brigade Combat Team with respect to training, family readiness and general information related to our units deployment timeline.

Upon deployment, it will be one of the vehicles to keep all informed of the Brigade's activities and accomplishments.

Let me start by stating how proud the Brigade Command Team is of all the BCT has accomplished over the past 16 months. We reset our equipment; reconstituted our ranks; trained for and assumed the Global Response Force Mission; Task Force Polar Bear executed the Military Academy Training Mission; executed Expert Infantry and other specialty skill training; and deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center and executed a first class Brigade exercise. Currently our Battalions are rotating through Off Post Training exercises to fine tune individual through platoon level skills.

As Spring comes to the North Country, we look forward to Company and staff-level training in May followed by a Mission Rehearsal Exercise in July.

We'll follow that with some well-deserved Block Leave in August. In the Fall we'll taper back - revisit individual and small unit skills followed by out-load of our equipment for Afghanistan. Expect an additional leave period in the early part

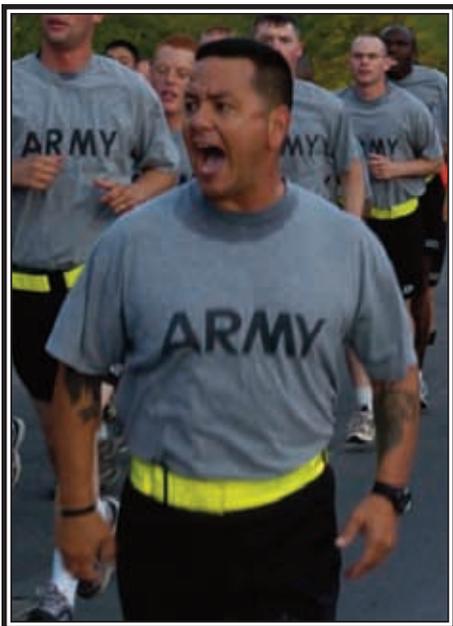
of November before final deployment preparation.

As we move forward, let me take this occasion to express my appreciation for all that each Soldier, Family member and friend of the Commandos does to make this Brigade great and retain our reputation among the finest in our Army. Our team is only as strong as the individuals that comprise us and that means we need EVERY ONE of YOU to give your best every day in order to be ready for our mission; a mission that our country counts on us to succeed in.

As the weather breaks and we enter Spring, we encourage you to take advantage of the North Country. We have a busy schedule, but we've also allotted ample time for family / personal time to do so. Use this time wisely and safely - our team needs each and every one of you.

Again, thank you for what each and every one of you does for the Commando's, 10th MTN Division, our Army and our Nation.

Commando's / Climb to Glory!
Col. David Miller



**2nd Brigade Combat Team
Command Sergeant Major**

Allow me to start off with saying thank you for all the hard work, late days and short weekends you've endured. Over the past 16 months this Brigade has accomplished a reset based on the Army Force Generation model TF Polar Bear spent the summer at West Point Military Acad-

emy training the next class of young lieutenants to graduate and become the next generation of Army leaders.

This brigade planned, resourced, and executed the Expert Infantry Badge training and testing, the Excellence in Armor training and testing, a very successful JRTC rotation, and assumed the Army's Global Response Force mission.

This does not include the numerous local training exercises, off-post training and other events that you, your spouses and Families have so selflessly supported. Both Col. Miller and I are extremely proud to be the Command Team of such a great organization.

Spring is here and the Brigade will help bring in the new season by hosting a Brigade formal at Alexandria Bay's Bonnie Castle.

As the weather breaks you are all encouraged to get out and take advantage of the beautiful northern N.Y. area.

There is time built in to our training schedule that should allow you and your Families to spend some quality time together. As we enjoy this short but well earned Family time it is important to remember the contributions each and every

one of you have made to the team and the importance of maintaining our current level of readiness.

The train will start moving again in May. We will start out with company level Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise followed by the out load for the Brigade's Mission Rehearsal Exercise at beautiful Ft. Polk, La. and another hard earned block leave period.

Upon return from block leave it will be time to look again at some individual training, conduct one more Expert Infantry Badge training and testing, conduct our Theater Specific Readiness Training and begin loading our equipment for the next deployment.

There will be time for at least one more block leave period prior to the deployment. Early November will be that time for most, however there will be a few that may have to take leave late October based on advance party requirements.

Again thank you for your Selfless service and support of not only for the brigade as it prepares for the next deployment but the Army and the Nation as well.

Courage and Honor
Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Montour



Deployment to Yuma

On January 05, 2009, the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment and a section of M119s from B/2-15 Field Artillery Battalion deployed to Yuma Proving Ground for training.

Located in southern Arizona near the California border, Yuma Proving Ground is primarily used as a testing ground for weapon systems and vehicles.

For 1-89, Yuma's 350 days of sunshine and mountainous desert terrain

provided an opportunity to gauge the unit's ability to perform its mission on terrain similar to the Afghanistan battlefield.

"The number one benefit of the training we did in Yuma Proving Ground was the opportunity to operate in some of the roughest mountainous terrain our Soldiers have ever experienced," said Command Sgt. Major Clinton J. Reiss, the command sergeant major of 1-89. "The Soldiers realized quickly how difficult it was as they navigated through this terrain on long patrols with heavy loads."

While deployed to Yuma, 420 Soldiers of 1-89 and B/2-15 conducted individual training on weapons and land navigation, long range marksmanship training, squad collective training, squad live fires, and indirect fire training.

The Squadron refined basic marksmanship skills expending several hundred thousand rounds of small arms ammunition. Upon completion of individual and weapons training, The squad leaders were given chance to hone their

battle drills at the squad and section level during combined arms squad live fires and squad training.

The culminating event for the exercise was an externally evaluated platoon live fire and situational training exercise followed by a 20-mile foot march across the desert floor.

During the Yuma deployment, 1-89 didn't take many vehicles which led to a dismounted focus for all troops resulting in high quality endurance training under very physically demanding conditions. Another advantage of the Yuma training area was a large impact area that gave troops the ability to bring in realistic indirect fires.

It was the first opportunity for many of the squadron's forward observers to call for fire in mountainous terrain.

The squadron fired over 1,800 mortar and artillery rounds during three weeks of training. B/2-15 fired over 1,000 artillery rounds in support of 1-89 led by Capt. Alessi-Friedlander.

"This was the best training my Soldiers have participated in since returning from Iraq," said Alessi-Fiedlander.



Deployment to Fort A.P. Hill

From Feb. 25, through March 17, the "Golden Dragons" engaged in a continuous, grueling field exercise, conducting some of the best training the US Army has to offer at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

A vast majority of the allotted time was invested in range training, where Soldiers learn everything from basic rifle marksmanship, to bracketing in mortar fire. With the guidance from NCOs, the Soldiers quickly

learned how to fire their weapons swiftly, and, more importantly, accurately.

The numerous ranges run by 2-14 also afforded the regiment's junior officers ample opportunities to employ and improve their planning and management skills.

Platoon leaders were required to plan the details of each range, while executive officers were tasked with the logistics thereof. Company commanders reviewed these plans and provided their subordinate leaders with constructive criticism and sound advice to be considered in future planning.

Every morning, long before sunrise, the Soldiers of 2-14 rose and staged outdoors in formation in order to conduct physical fitness training. The results are astoundingly noticeable, as the Soldiers stand taller, and look tougher and stronger.

Additionally, the Golden Dragons conducted a series of live fire exercises, which sought to test the Soldiers' tactical abilities as well as the NCOs' and junior offi-

cers' leadership skills.

These live fires began with basic team-level movement, shooting and maneuvering, and gradually increased in duration and complexity, eventually culminating in the platoon live fire.

By mid-March, most of the training at A.P. Hill had been completed.

The long hours, hard work, and immeasurable effort poured into the Off Post Training have left their mark on the Golden Dragons. The Soldiers stand taller; they move faster; they shoot better; they work harder.



A Soldier in 2nd Battalion 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team practices firing with a 50 caliber machine gun at Fort A.P. Hill



Multiple Deployments for 2-15

The month of March proved to be a busy month as the battalion prepares for two separate off-post training exercises at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., and at Fort Pickett, Va.

About one-half of the battalion, composed of A Battery Soldiers and a portion of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and G Battery Soldiers, departed in late February in support of 2nd Battalion 14th Infantry Regiment's ex-

ercise at Fort A.P. Hill.

The 2-15 FA mission focused on the delivery of direct fire support, as well as conducting a series of road marches, qualification ranges on the M4 rifle and the M249 squad automatic weapon, and Military Operations on Urban Terrain training.

While these Soldiers trained south of the snow line, the rest of the battalion at Fort Drum continued to train with Bravo Battery conducting several ranges and a artillery live fire.

In the middle of March, two gun sections from Bravo Battery prepared for their deployment to Fort Pickett in support of 4th Battalion 31st Infantry Regiment.

Despite the numerous off-post training exercises and the piecemeal deployment of the battalion throughout the past two months, 2-15 FA continued to exceed mission standards at home and abroad.

In addition, the battalion took advantage of the historic landmarks in the vicinity of Fort A.P. Hill with several

trips to the surrounding area, including tours of Fredericksburg, Va., the site of four major civil war battles and the National Mall in our nation's capital.

These trips afforded Soldiers an enjoyable break from the strenuous training schedule and an opportunity to experience some of our nation's most valued cultural treasures.

Additionally, leaders of the battalion will conducted a formal visit to the Embassy of Afghanistan on March 16.

Soldiers in 2-15 continued to exhibit their professionalism and dedication to the highest of standards.

During the Fort A.P. Hill deployment, three Soldiers from Alpha Battery were awarded impact Army Achievement Medals for their technical knowledge and their attention to detail in the performance of their duties.

In addition, our battalion was honored to have a Soldier from 2-15 FA selected as the 10th Mountain Division Soldier of the Year, Pfc. Aaron Shugard. Shugard is just one representative of the great Soldiers filling the 2-14 ranks.



POLAR BEAR BIATHLON

The 4th Battalion 31st Infantry Regiment conducted their annual Biathlon which includes an M4 to M9 transition range, a snow shoe land navigation course, ending with a cross country ski competition and stress shoot.

During the M4 to M9 portion the Battalion Family Readiness Group Steering Committee had a chance to participate.

Company commanders and key leadership fired this year with a twist, partnered with members of the battalion FRG.

The FRG got the chance to "...put on the gear and experience what the Soldiers go through at a live fire range..." said Land and Ammo NCO Staff Sgt. Jamie McCarrick.

"It gave them the chance to see how difficult it is to shoot in a stressful environment." he said. It also "acted as a team building event for the Company Commanders, First Sergeants and FRG members."

The FRG members all received a chance to fire at a 25 meter target with both the M4 and M9. The event began with the commanders and first sergeants coaching the FRG members as they fired their weapon systems.

Surprisingly, even as highly experienced as the key leadership are, they



Soldiers in 4th Battalion 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team cross country ski during their annual Biathlon.

seemed to be no match for these sharp shooting wives, with the battalion XO's wife Mrs. Sharon Henry shooting the best out of the FRG, which was too much for the rest of the FRG elite.

The Polar Bears completed the biathlon on Feb. 26 with the cross country ski and stress shoot pitting teams against each other in a race for the fastest ski time and the highest accuracy rate at the ranges.



In the World of the BSB Battalion Formal

The 210th Brigade Support Battalion held its first formal since its return from deployment a year and a half ago. Lt. Col. Thomas Murphy, the 210th BSB battalion commander, hosted the night's event at The Commons and Col. Bruce Haselden, former 210th Forward Sup-

port Battalion commander, was the guest speaker. Haselden presented the Soldiers of the battalion with a motivational print signed by former 2nd Brigade Combat Team and 210th BSB commanders. The Adjutant, Capt. Kody Hunter was the mistress of ceremonies.

210th BSB Soldiers had the opportunity to have photographs taken, mingle with fellow battalion members and enjoy a great buffet style meal. Comradery filled the air!

Convoy Live Fire Exercise

The 210th Brigade Support Battalion conducted a convoy live fire training exercise from Feb. 3 through 6 on FUSA Bulvard on Fort Drum.

The main purpose of the convoy live fire training exercise was to ensure 210th BSB is prepared for deployment in response to a Global Response Force or Homeland Defense mission.

The live fire exercise consisted of four phases: phase I Certification, phase II Leaders Range Recon, phase III exe-

cution, and phase IV recovery.

The live fire exercise went over all principals of convoy training.

This included medevac procedures, Improvised Explosive Device reporting procedures, vehicle protection formations, 5/25 meter drills, and vehicle recovery drills.

Soldiers had the opportunity to complete numerous tasks to build their warrior skills to include six engagements to suppress the enemy and familiarization with firing individual weapons from their vehicles.

The lanes were tailored to incorporate rapid decision making in stressful environments in order to successfully complete the mission.

Master Sgt. Darren Nixon, the range safety officer in charge of the range during this exercise, stated all Soldiers put in long hours and hard work to ensure successful training of key leaders.

210th BSB Soldiers are fully mission capable for Global Response Force and Homeland Defense mission if called upon.



BSTB trains outside MOS

Officers of the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion take OPDs to the extreme.

Instead of classroom instruction on Call for Fire procedures, on Jan. 21 more than 25 officers convoyed out in a blizzard to meet Soldiers from 4th Battalion 31st Infantry Regiment Mortars Platoon to participate in a live CFF at Observation Post 4.

Under the instruction of Sgt. First

Class Eric Irish and Staff Sgt. Justin Cutbirth, both of whom are Fire Support Specialists assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2 BSTB, officers from the Engineer, Military Intelligence, and Signal Companies began CFF training in December at the 2BCT Call for Fire Trainer.

Similar to the Engagement Skills Trainer used by units to train Soldiers in marksmanship, the CFFT allows Soldiers and officers to practice basic and advanced call for fire procedures.

Irish then took the instruction to the next level by linking up with Sgt. First Class Nicholas Bowles, the 4-31 INF BN Fires NCO.

A month later, the two units came together at Observation Post 4 in the early morning hours of Jan. 21 to participate in a joint Call For Fire Training Exercise.

"Both 4-31 Soldiers and 2BSTB Officers realized the difficulties involved with requesting fire support," said Irish, and that merely reading about how to call for fire will never suffice for



Soldiers in 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion conducts call for fire training Jan 21 on Fort Drum.

today's leaders.

"Fire support is no longer just a 13F responsibility," Irish said. "It is the responsibility of everybody, no matter the rank, the MOS, or the experience. I definitely believe that there needs to be more focus in 2 BCT on learning how to request fire support. Team leaders up to company commanders have to grasp the big picture on CFF procedures, especially considering our next deployment is right around the corner."



Cleveland Billboard Theology

Some ten years ago, I was the senior pastor of a Baptist church in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio and spent quite a bit of time traveling downtown on hospital visitations and the like. During these ministerial trips, I nearly always pondered some theological issue for one very important reason—Cleveland billboards. If you’ve ever driven through the downtown area of Cleveland, you’ve probably seen some simple billboards with a black background and a

white text. Here’s a sample of some of them:

“Let’s meet at my house Sunday before the game.”-God

“C’mon over and bring the kids.”-God

“What part of ‘Thou Shalt Not...’ didn’t you understand?”-God

“We need to talk.”-God

“Loved the wedding; invite me to the marriage.”-God

“That ‘Love thy Neighbor’ thing...I meant it”-God

“I love you, and you, and you, and...”-God

“Will the road you’re on get you to my place?”-God

“Follow me.”-God

“Big Bang theory? You’ve got to be kidding.”-God

“My way is the highway.”-God

“Need directions?”-God

“Have you read my # 1 best seller? There will be a test.”-God

These precepts of wisdom (or “divine proverbs,”) are helpful for us to remember that God’s priorities are often, un-

fortunately, very different from ours. In fact, to be completely honest, we often take God for granted—don’t we? Let’s learn from the solemn wisdom offered by these billboard quotes from Cleveland, that God wants us to “WANT HIM.” In what may be called The Prime Directive, God decrees that we “Love Him with all our hearts, all our soul, and with all our minds” (Matthew 22:35-40; Galatians 5:14; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Deuteronomy 6:5; and Leviticus 19:18b).

In Matthew 22:35-40 the Bible describes Jesus Christ being approached by a Pharisaical scholar (called a nomikos) who asks him the “loaded” question, “Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?” Jesus said unto him, “Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”



Events for Commandos to get ready for spring

The northern New York area can be a challenging place in the winter. Good News! It is almost over. While you are waiting for the days to get warmer, look at some of the activities that can help you “Spring into Spring.”

Residents of Fort Drum Mountain Community Homes can participate in an Easter Egg Hunt at Adirondack Creek or Richard Hills Community

Centers on April 4 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.. Please call your Community Center for more information.

April is the month of the Military Child. To honor the Military Child, Family Moral Welfare and Recreation has a variety of activities. Listed below are just a few happenings.

April 1- Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Show 6:30 pm at McGrath gym

April 2- Coastie the Coast Guard water Safety Boat 10 am at McEwen Library

April 17- Earth Day at Remington Park

April 18- Month of the Military child carnival 1:00 pm at Youth Services

April 18- Child ID and Safety Day 1:00 pm at Youth Services

For more programs or more information, please check the Preview maga-

zine online at <http://www.drummwr.com/ClassesandEvents.htm>.

The following activities are also available:

-Dog park kennel play area at Remington Park

-Indoor golf simulator located at Park and Recreation for \$5.00 an hour

-Army Family Team Building (AFTB) will be hosting a Spring Fling from 20 – 24 April.

If you would like more information for any items listed in this article, please contact your Family Readiness Support Assistant.

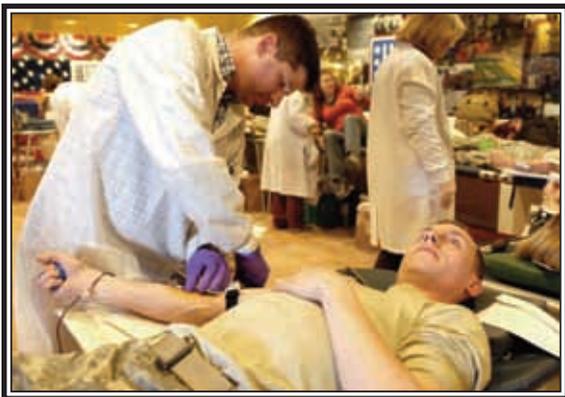
2 BCT	772-3732
2 BSTB	772-9166
1/89 CAV	772-8168
2/14 IN	772-9035
210 BSB	772-4120
2/15 FA	774-0519
4/31 IN	772-8416

Fort Drum Soldiers support American Red Cross blood drive

Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, sponsored an American Red Cross blood drive Feb. 5 and 6 at the United Services Organization.

"We were privileged to be invited to sponsor the blood drive," said Lt. Col. Richard Greene, 4-31 Infantry commander. "Anything this battalion can do to help this institution and the Soldiers on it, we are happy to do."

Staff Sgt. Harlan Terry, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, serves as blood services chairman for the American Red Cross. Terry's job is to find a sponsor – a unit that will send volunteers to donate blood.



A Soldier in 4-31, donates blood during the American Red Cross blood drive Feb. 5 at the Heritage Center

"The more blood that we can gather, the more we can give out," Terry said. "The American Red Cross is all by donation. Nobody ever pays for American Red Cross blood."

Blood drives are now held for two days, and the goal this month was to bring in about 130 people, either by appointment or walk-in.

"It's going really good – we are well over half (that number) as of now," Terry said, speaking on the first day of the blood drive. "We've had a really good turnout with 4-31 being our sponsor."

An average adult has 10-12 pints of blood in his or her body, and a donor provides one pint. The procedure itself takes about seven to 10 minutes.

"One pint of blood saves four lives," Hooper said. "But blood has a shelf life, so that's why we ask people to come back. It can't sit in storage forever."

Nearly five million people receive blood transfusions every year – from children with cancer, to people involved in car accidents, to those in need of organ transplants.

The American Red Cross web site indicates there is a 97 percent chance that someone you know

will need a blood transfusion.

"When Soldiers and civilians come out and donate, they are actually saving lives," Hooper said. "Fort Drum has really stepped up and supported us as much as possible."

Pfc. Jeremy Joseph Bowser, a forward observer with 4-31 Infantry, spent the day escorting donors to food and drinks after they gave blood.

"It's not a long process," he said. "You come in, and it only takes about an hour. They are continuously having people on the tables."

The blood drive, he said, gives Soldiers another way to be of service to their community and beyond it.

"You don't know where it will go," he said. "It could help someone in your unit or someone around the world."

He suggested offering evening hours for the next blood drive, instead of holding it only during the day when most people are at work.

"Doing this after hours might lead to an even bigger turnout," he said.

It is safe to donate blood up to six times per year. Donors must be 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health.

The next American Red Cross blood drive on Fort Drum is scheduled to take place in April.

Food Service Specilists from 10th Mountain Compete in Culinary Arts Competition

Military cooks from around the world took part in the 34th annual Culinary Arts Competition held March 2-13 at Fort Lee, Va. Twelve Fort Drum Soldiers participated in the competition, bringing back silver and bronze medals and lots of hands-on experience.

Cpl. Todd Sheppard, Spc. Kenyaro Boyd, Spc. Jesse Ramirez, and Spc. Cristina Goulet each won a silver medal for their field work. Goulet won a second silver medal in the Junior Chef of the Year competition. Pfc. Moroni Flores III and Fincher each won bronze medals for live events. Fincher won a second bronze for his penguin centerpiece. Sheppard also won a bronze for his static display of petit fours. Fincher, Ramirez, and Goulet won commendations for display pieces, and Sheppard also earned a commendation for the Senior Chef of the Year competition. Additional competitors from Fort Drum included Pvt. Christopher Vaughn, Pfc. Lacey Guz-

man, Pvt. Anthony Rubert, Pfc. Douglas Avila, Spc. Joshua Gerl, and Sgt. Jason Curtis.

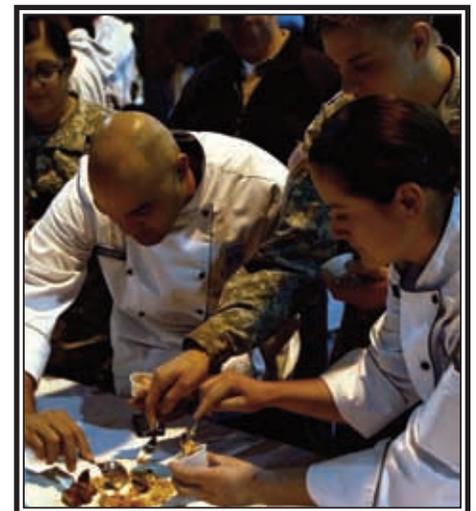
The competition, incorporating all five branches of service and adhering to American Culinary Federation rules and regulations, began March 2 with the Senior Chef of the Year competition. Other events included the Junior Chef of the Year competition, a field cooking competition, and a nutritional hot food challenge, with an awards ceremony March 13.

"We've been teaching, leading and mentoring the Soldiers in advanced culinary skills, which helps make them better cooks overall," said Sgt. 1st Class Roy Richard, 10th Mountain Division culinary arts team captain and a senior food service operations noncommissioned officer from Fort Drum.

Contestants were judged on food presentation, composition, correct preparation and serving – right down to making sure the plates were piping hot. Dishes had to be ap-

petizing, attractive and nutritionally balanced.

Jump to Page 8 Culinary Arts Competition



Three 2nd Brigade Combat team Soldiers sample the nutritional hot food challenge dish during the 34th annual Culinary Arts Competition held at Fort Lee, Va., March 2 to March 13.

Culinary Arts Competition

The competition events were quite a change from what cooks usually do in the dining facility.

"In the dining facility, you have to cook hundreds of meals at a time," Sheppard said. "In this competition, you are doing individual plates, high presentation, and you're trying to appeal on a higher end category."

Sheppard said cooking up tasty dinners from simple, available ingredients has been his passion ever since he was a

child. He put that skill to the test when he took part in the Senior Chef of the Year competition.

All 16 contestants were given a mystery basket – a combination of various foods – and tasked with creating a four-course meal entirely from scratch.

"You have to make an appetizer, soup, main entree and dessert off the top of your head," he said. "You have four hours to come up with a menu and recipes."

Pfc. Moroni Flores, also a cook for 2nd BCT, said he spent much of his time learning by observation.

"You don't know exactly what to expect or how the judges are going to react, but it's been interesting to see everybody, the way they compete, how it's put out," he said.

"We came here as a team and came out even better, more confident in each other, more knowledgeable, and in the end, we had a lot of fun."

Iron Sappers perform explosions at a Demolition Range

Alpha Company "Iron Sappers" of the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team occupied the Garcia Demolition Range from Feb. 23 to 26 to train in various mission scenarios requiring the use of explosive techniques.

The Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of this range was 1st Lt. Lee and Staff Sgt. Murphy, Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant in Alpha Company.

The Garcia Demolition Range provides several specific training sites for Sappers (Combat Engineers) to train on focused mission scenarios. During the range, the Iron Sappers utilized the sites and trained on a variety of explosives.

The Light Equipment Section from the Company was also attached to each Sapper platoon to cross train and learn these critical skills to be exercised in future combat operations.

The explosives are initiated with either command detonation or time fuse. The mission situation dictates the selection of these initiators.

The heaviest explosive used by the Iron Sappers was a 40 pound cratering charge. Shape and cratering charges are usually expended hand-in-hand to create craters to impede vehicular movement.

Exploiting the flexible and moldable characteristics of C-4,

the Iron Sappers also assembled field expedient Bangalore Torpedoes. When mission dictates the breaching of a wire or mine obstacle and standard Bangalore Torpedoes are not available, Sappers can construct a long cylindrical breaching explosive with pickets, C-4, detonation cord, and tape.

The Iron Sappers used both the standard and field-expedient Bangalore Torpedoes on con-

Sappers learned the characteristics of the Claymore Anti-Personnel Mine. After raising plywood structures, the effects of the mine's 700 steel ball bearings blasted were observed.

The Sappers of Alpha Company enjoyed going back to the field and executing hands on training. Pvt. Hufhand, a member of the Iron Sappers, said, "The range is a great opportunity for Sappers to have hands-on



A Soldier in A Company 2BSTB inserts the initiator in the shipping well of the M15 Anti-Tank mine at the Garcia Demolition Range held Feb. 23 through 26.

structed wire obstacles to see the effects of this breaching explosive.

Following the creative and innovative tactics of the Combat Engineer Branch, Iron Sappers trained in arming, disarming, and the various means of disposing the M15 anti-tank mine. While at the mine pit site, Iron

training and also for leaders to have valuable time to teach and train their Sappers."

Overall, the Iron Sappers expended approximately 1900 lbs. of assorted explosives in the four days of training. Alpha Company will continue to execute training and be poised for future combat operations.

Commando Briefs

April -

Month of the Military Child
April 10-13 - DONSA (4 day)

April 10-19- Local School Spring Break

April 11- last day Tax Center is open

April 28- 2 BCT Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

April 30- 2BCT Spring Formal

May 1- 2 BCT DONSA

May 4-20 - 2 BCT CALFEX

May 22-25 - Memorial Day Weekend (4-Day)

June 18-28 - Mountainfest

June 22 - Div. DONSA

July 2-6 - Independence Day Weekend (4-Day)

July 10-31 - JRTC

Commando Update

The official publication of the Second Brigade Combat Team

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If you'd like to see something in this publication, or if you'd like to make contributions, please contact the 2nd BCT Public Affairs Office.

We're always striving to improve this publication. Remember, this is your publication.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, clarity and space.

The Commando Update is an official publication of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI) and is produced by the 2nd BCT Public Affairs Office.

Commando Update is in compliance with AR 360-1.