

# COMMANDO UPDATE

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April 30, 2009





**2nd Brigade Combat Team  
Commander**

As April ends and May arrives, we find ourselves in a period of both change and continuity.

We anticipate the end of our Global Response Force Mission and the change in our follow on mission from Afghanistan to Iraq in the fall. While these changes may seem significant, they really are no prob-

lem for our formations. Our focus on fitness, the basics and standards allows us to be ready for anything we are called for. Today's realities require an Army that is versatile and adaptable enough to handle the changes that a complex and ambiguous world demands of us, and I know that we have that agility thanks to you - our Soldiers and Families.

Within the BCT we are also going through a period of major change in company leadership and field grade officers. This is not a problem, but a welcome change.

With this in mind, let's take stock of where we are. We've just completed three major off-post training events as well as some significant training here at home. These events have fine tuned our skills and have us ready for upcoming training events.

We then paused and celebrated our team by recognizing our BCT volunteers, conducting a BCT Run and Combat Streamer ceremony and hosting a BCT formal.

So, where are we going? First we'll deploy the BCT to the field for the majority

of May and conduct a Company Combined Arms Live Fire and non-lethal training.

We are still shaping the exact nature of what we'll do June - August. In general, I expect June to be a month of CALFEX recovery, JRTC prep and turning in our training set to Ft. Drum. July will bring a rotation to JRTC at Ft. Polk, LA as our Mission Readiness Exercise. I anticipate August to be consumed by a combination of JRTC recovery, outload of equipment to OIF and block leave in the last half of August and early September. Final outload will be in SEP /OCT. All of this is dependent on some final decisions from senior leadership that we expect in the coming days.

As we move forward, CSM Montour and I thank you for your patience and understanding for what it takes to be ready to respond in an ever changing environment to meet the needs of the American people. We are both anxious to move forward with you and write the next chapter in the Commando Legacy, a chapter that will live up to our motto "Courage and Honor."



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

This month's talk of the Brigade is Change Of Mission. Although this is not official, it is most likely the Course Of Action that will occur.

What does this mean to you and our Soldiers? It should mean very little.

We have known we were going to deploy, and our time line remains very close to the original time set for the brigade.

Col. Miller and the BCT staff are working hard to insure family time is protected as much as possible.

There will still be many things to be accomplished. Col. Miller and I will address all issues pertaining to training and quality of life with the Commanding General and higher. Please keep in mind that we are Soldiers, and when all is said and done and we are given our marching orders, we are going execute those orders.

As it stands today, prepare for the BCT to continue on the current glide path. We will still conduct the CALFEX in May, and we will conduct a Mission Readiness Exercise at JRTC in July. We will continue to adjust our training plan, the families will be the second to know about those changes. Your Spouse will be the first.

Off post training is complete, and I am always amazed to see just how

much our Soldiers are capable of accomplishing during these events.

4-31 IN spent most of March and the first part of April at Ft. Picket where they completed all levels of training.

210 BSB and 2BSTB conducted convoy live fire exercises and honed their individual Soldier skills. Even though the training took place over the weekend, the Soldiers took to heart the task at hand and took away some great lessons learned.

Just recently 2BSTB and 4-31 provided some much needed fire fighter assistance when a wild fire got out of control. C/4-31 provided the Soldiers on the ground while the UAS platoon from the Gladiators provided the eyes in the sky to help direct movement.

Hope all enjoyed Spring Break and had a great time with your families.

As always Thank You for your continued support of the Soldiers and each other within the Commando Brigade.

Courage and Honor



### *Cav Conducts Air Assault*

Troopers from A Troop, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, conducted air assault operations with a CH-47 Chinook aircraft from the New York National Guard April 1.

In preparation for deployment in the next year, the Soldiers were able to prepare a HMMWV and cargo net sling load to practice air assault techniques that most soldiers had not yet experienced in their army careers.

"It's something different that we have

not done yet and probably will not get an opportunity to do this type of training again until we are in an actual combat situation," said Pfc. James Lopez.

The Troopers from A Troop conducted sling load operations throughout the morning and in the afternoon, A Troop conducted an air assault, culminating in a troop combined mission of over watching a simulated enemy IED factory from hidden positions.

"Such an amazing experience," said Pfc. Matthew Gall. "Being under a Chinook and hooking up a sling loaded HMMWV is really a rush. You have to be quite agile if you are as tall as me. I had to ensure that one of the landing gear did not hit me in the head as the pilot moved the attachment hook close enough to hook up the sling load cables."

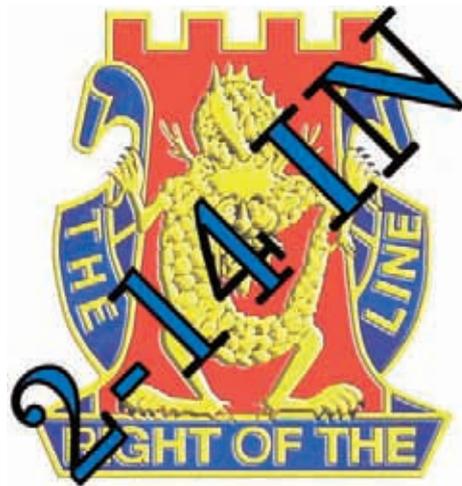
Additionally, the Distribution Platoon of D Troop conducted training with Maintenance Support Teams A and B at Range 37. The training consisted of three iterations of combat patrol. The weather, in full North Country tradition, was rainy and cold but better to train in.

Instantly, the crews found out how fast situations can get muddled when their equipment didn't fit according to their load plan.

"The experience gave our soldiers an enlightenment of what can go wrong with equipment and how to fix the issue if it does occur," 2nd Lt. James Callahan, "and we gave our gunners and truck commanders experience that is vital to success when deployed and conducting combat patrols."

After conducting troop leading procedures, the crews conducted their live fire iterations; consistently improving with each iteration.

"The crews are more proficient at target engagement by using proper gunnery techniques and TC's are more proficient at target adjustments and fire commands. Gunners were properly trained with their weapon systems in correcting stoppages, gunner response terms, and burst techniques. Drivers maintained proper intervals and convoy speeds throughout the training exercise," said Staff Sgt. Jermaine Pereda.



### *A Successful Deployment and Back*

March saw 2-14 deploy to Ft. A.P. Hill, Va. for Off Post Training in preparation for deployment later this year. There, the Golden Dragons conducted intense individual and collective training.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company mortars held a Call For Fire for all Company key leaders.

Soldiers of 2-14 built on their individual warrior tasks and skills with rigorous physical training. Marksmanship was a top priority as 2-14 weapons accuracy was on display at the Long Range Marksman Range as well as countless small arms, crew served and M-203 ranges.

Squad live fires and extensive MOUT exercises prepared A Co, B Co, C Co and D Co for their culminating, collective training—platoon live fire ranges carried out at combat speed. Moreover, A Co, B Co, C Co and D Co executed Company Force on Force lanes focused on tactical base defense with HHC Scouts tasked to infiltrate those perimeter defenses.

E Company continues to support and train alongside the line companies.

At the end of the exercise, the Golden Dragon's training had impressed the Fort A.P. Hill leadership and a fit, battle-ready force safely re-deployed to Ft. Drum.

After a successful OPT training exer-

cise, 2-14 conducted a Battalion recovery while continuing to carry out its battle plan by wasting no time and getting back to the ranges. A battalion run heightened an already high morale as the Battalion Colors proudly ran the streets of Ft. Drum.

The Battalion said goodbye to a long time and iconic Dragon, Sgt. Maj. Terry Sutton at the Battalion Hail and Farewell.

Sutton will leave 2-14 after earning the extremely esteemed rank of Command Sergeant Major. After six years of serving as a Golden Dragon, he is looked up to by all and will be proudly missed.

The Battalion continues to ready itself for the fight to come and is anxious to be put into action!



### *2-15 Continued Improvement of Combat Readiness*

April wrapped up a series of off-post training events for the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery with the return of B Battery from a three-week exercise in Fort Pickett, Va. in support of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry.

Despite splintering the battalion into several firing elements in support of three separate training events, the tempo has continued to build in Fort Drum.

2-15 FA currently is poised for sev-

eral large changes in its key leadership, with two batteries preparing for a change of command.

Additionally, A Battery recently honored 1st Sgt. John Garcia Del Solar, who will leave the battalion in June to accept an assignment in Fort Polk, La. With his departure, the battery welcomed its new First Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Stephen Amaral, whose dedication in the battalion's S-3 shop has been critical to the quality of training throughout the past few months.

As the battalion concluded its series of training events, Soldiers from each battery were honored for their tremendous efforts at an awards ceremony on April 9.

In addition, 2-15 FA also recognized the outstanding achievements of Spec. Cristina Goulet at the Culinary Arts Competition in Fort Lee, Va., and Pfc. Gregg Swanson, who was chosen as the 10th Mountain Division's Soldier of the Year. He will represent the division in Fort Bragg, NC later this month and is indicative of the quality of Soldiers that

this battalion is composed of.

The battalion has started the second half of its block leave, which will last from April 10 through 19, and will give our Soldiers a chance to relax from the hectic tempo and the multiple training events.

However, as we approach the month of May, 2-15 FA is preparing with the rest of the brigade, for the month-long CALFEX. As the pace steadily increases across the brigade, 2-15 FA continues to take its new challenges in stride.

With past experiences from the multitude of off-post training exercises behind and the upcoming events, the battalion continues to improve its combat readiness in preparation for future deployments.



### *Blackhawks Setting the Standard*

By 1st Lt. Jack Mooney, B/ 4-31, FSO

B Company, 4-31 IN said good-bye to 1st Sgt. Roy Holmes April 20 while conducting Off Post Training at Ft. Pickett, VA.

He gave over 14 months to the Soldiers of Bravo Company, teaching, mentoring and disciplining them. The good thing is that 1st Sgt. Holmes has not gone far. He may no longer report

to work as a Blackhawk but he remains a Polar Bear, taking over as the Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant. The Blackhawks now welcome 1st Sgt. Christopher McMilian as our new first sergeant.

The Blackhawks visited Washington D.C. March 18 as part of the Polar Bears' trip to Fort Pickett. Nine Blackhawks met with Congressman Ron Paul at his office in the Cannon Building on Capitol Hill.

During their visit, Congressman Paul discussed his views on issues facing the nation. Paul also gave each Blackhawk a signed copy of the U.S. Constitution.

The Blackhawks then visited the U.S. Capitol building and watched a debate on the upcoming vote for the National Service System for volunteering in the House of Representatives.

"We not only met a Congressman, but we also visited the place where he and the other Congressman debate the proposed laws," said Spec. Craig Bukowski. "Even though Paul had other things to do, he took the time out

of his day to visit us."

After leaving the Capitol Building, the Blackhawks toured the National Air and Space Museum before leaving Washington D.C.

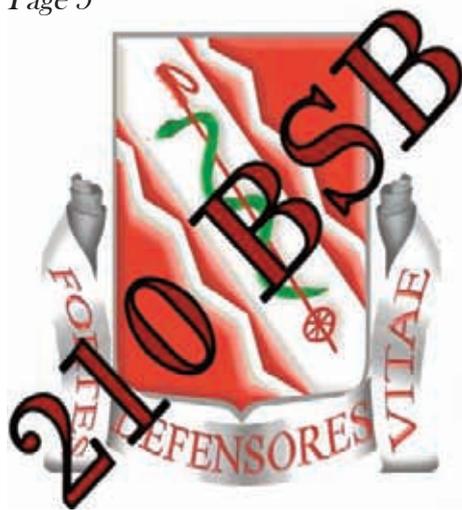
Bravo Company is now home after doing exceptionally well at Ft. Pickett.

The Blackhawks were chosen to be the first company to conduct Off Post Training and to set the standard for the rest of the Battalion. They were very busy while gone; they toured the nation's capitol, individual marksmanship training, conducted a fire-team live fire, a walk and shoot, a squad competition, and air-assaulted into a platoon raid.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. O'Brick's squad of 2nd Platoon, they were the winners of the squad competition setting the bar high for the rest of the Battalion.

Now that they are back they will take the first week to recover and then back out to the field the following week for a squad live fire at range 25.

But for now, job well done Blackhawks, keep up all of your hard work.



### Family Fun Day

The 210th Brigade Support Battalion held its first Family Day in over two and a half years on April 17, 2009. The Soldiers of 210th BSB brought their Families and/or pets to enjoy watching competitive events such as flag football, tug of war and paintball. Their children also participated in many events hosted by Mrs. Chris Murphy, the wife of battalion commander Lt. Col. Thomas Murphy, and Mrs. Bridget Velasquez, Battalion Family

Readiness Support Assistant. The day kicked off with a buffet style lunch serving grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, catered chicken from Jeans Beans and many delicious side dishes.

Lt. Col. Murphy, led the grilling squad that was comprised of 1st Sgt. Robert Geonetta of Alpha Company, 1st Sgt. Tyrone Francis of Bravo Company, 1st Sgt. Gregorio Villanueva of Charlie Company, and officers and NCOs of all companies. Mrs. Murphy embroidered maroon aprons for the squad with the battalion crest and "Grill to Glory."

HHC, Alpha, Bravo and Charlie companies competed in flag football, tug of war and paintball to find out the best company in the battalion. Alpha company won both flag football and tug of war as HHC was the overall winner of the paintball competition. The prized trophy was a carved 2 foot tall black Adirondack Bear from MWR's Outdoor Recreation. The name given to

the bear was "Lil' Provider." He was handed over to Alpha Company for being the overall winner of the Family Fun Day events. The Alpha Company commander, Capt. Oliver Davis, took great pride in accepting the trophy for his Soldiers' hard efforts.



210th Brigade Support Battalion Soldiers compete in flag football during their Family Day April 17, 2009.

The Family Fun Day was a great event that brought together the Soldiers and Families of the 210th BSB. It brought the entire battalion closer together and caused many more friendships to blossom.

Commando Providers!



### BSTB trains outside MOS

Soldiers from B Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion used Shadow 200 Unmanned Aerial Systems to support joint civilian and military emergency response operations on the borders of Fort Drum and Antwerp April 15.

At the request of the Directorate of Emergency Services, the UAS Platoon received a tasking from the Fort Drum G-3 office to provide near real time im-

agery of range fires near the reservation boundary.

Along with eight local fire departments the UAS platoon responded by rapidly launching one Shadow 200 Air Vehicle and sending a small team equipped with a One System Remote Video Terminal. Through the use of the OSRVT, operated by SPC Rivera and PFC Goad, the DES site commander received near real time UAS imagery to spot fires and direct responders to those areas from his control site.

UAS operators Staff Sgt. Minshall and Spc. Latta, operating the Shadow 200 from the Ground Control Station, were able to locate a large hot spot using the Infrared camera. The DES site commander was unaware of this flair up and would not have seen it in time if the infrared capability was not there. The operators' reconnaissance skills were instrumental to the DES site commander's ability to assist, locate and direct the Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, who also participated in the fire

control effort.

The local fire responders were able to be redispached to the newly acquired flair up enabling them to stop the fire before it got worse. By nightfall, the fire was contained on the reservation. The video and images provided by the UAS platoon aided in the damage assessment of the range area. The DES site commander was grateful for the service the platoon provided and looks forward to the use of Fort Drum's UAS in the future.

Chief Warrant Officer Lefebvre, the UAS platoon leader said "The platoon prides itself in its teamwork. That teamwork in the face of no-notice planning and rapid reaction directly reflected in the success of the first Shadow 200 UAS to support civil/military emergency services for Ft Drum."

- WO1 Phaneuf, Dave



## How Well Does Your Organization Behave?

CH (CPT) Lew Messinger

Organizational Behavior is a fast-growing discipline in the American business world. OB concerns itself with monitoring and shaping human interaction, emplacing healthy leadership models, and developing a group-specific system of acceptable risks, rewards and punishments that enhance the organization's performance. Group dynamics and team-building are subsets of OB as they influence virtually everything else in any organization.

A healthy organization will always out-

perform a sickly one. An organization with positive behavioral dynamics will always remain more adaptive and resilient in the face of troublesome change or conflict. The positive organization will embrace change and welcome constructive conflict in order to clarify and revisit organizational mission goals. Change and constructive conflict can inspire or enhance organizational growth and mission success.

An intentional focus on an organization's behavior can have many lasting and positive consequences: increased job satisfaction, increased production, satisfying or invigorating work environments. A military organization's behavior shapes and is shaped by the command climate. Command climates and the individual's work environments directly influence job satisfaction, performance, mission readiness and fulfillment. Furthermore, these dynamics in the everyday life of Soldiers directly impact their election to reenlist. Poor dynamics immediately inform a Soldier's decision to leave the military when they otherwise might have stayed.

A healthy organization continually monitors itself from Top to Bottom. Such monitoring occurs regularly as part of day to day life. It becomes an ingrained part of orga-

nizational culture which, when done correctly, appears a normal seamless way of life for all involved.

Certainly, the Army is not a democracy bent on consensus-building. However, the military rank structure does provide opportunities for organizations to behave poorly if left unchecked in a poor command climate. When rank is exercised to open doors instead of close them, organizational leaders will gain valuable feedback from subordinates rather than worthless cronyism.

There are many Internet-based resources at the easy fingertips of the highest Commander to the junior Section Sergeant. few...

1. "Organizational Behavior: An Introduction", found at <http://www.skagitwatershed.org/~donclark/leader/leadob.html>
2. Dennis & Michelle Reina "Trust and Betrayal in the Workplace: Building Effective Relationships in Your Organization"; <http://www.reinatrustbuilding.com/>
3. Journal of Organizational Behavior found at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/4691/home?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0> on 11 February 2009



## May is Military Appreciation Month

Here is a small list of "Happenings" around Fort Drum to honor those who serve so proudly.

**May 8-** Army Community Services is hosting a Military Spouse Appreciation day. Events include "Laughter is an instant vacation" by comedian Jim Dialakis. Following this event there will be an Italian cooking demonstration. For more information, please call 772-6556.

**May 9-** The USO will host a Military Appreciation Day at McGrath baseball fields. Activities include ATV rides, laser tag and carnival rides. For more information, please call 777-8006.

**May 15-** The USO presents NYC singing trio "The Liberty Bells". The event will be held at the Dulles State Office Building in Watertown. The event is free for military ID card holders and their families. For more info call 777-8006.

Spring has sprung! This is a beautiful time in Northern New York.

Here are some activities you might enjoy for this time of the year. How about white water rafting? The Black River is one of the best areas to white water raft and it is right here!

Not that adventurous? How about you head 20 to 30 minutes from Fort Drum and take in some of the sights. Sackets Harbor is a wonderful place with a lot of history. The Augustus Sackets Harbor mansion and Samuel F. Hooker House of Arts and Crafts Center are just a few of the wonderful activities

available. More information is available at [sacketsharborny.com](http://sacketsharborny.com)

Another option is the Clayton Opera house that features dance lessons, plays and a host of other activities. View more at [claytonoperahouse.com](http://claytonoperahouse.com).

Alexandria Bay is another small village that has a lot to offer. The Thousand Islands winery is located just minutes from the Thousand Islands Bridge. The winery hosts cheese and wine tasting events and farmers markets that feature local vendors. More information is available at [thousandislandwinery.com](http://thousandislandwinery.com)

Uncle Sam Boat tours start in early May. You can take the two-nation tour or visit one or both castles in the area. Boldt Castle is packed with a lot of history and a tragic love story. Singer Castle is smaller but still spectacular. The castle maintains "old world" style with original furnishings. For more information visit [unclesamboattour.com](http://unclesamboattour.com)

For more information on travel in the area or to find out about discounts visit MWR Parks and Recreation Center.



# 1-89 Cavalry conducts Spur Ride for Esprit de Corps

Sgt. Jennie Burrett  
2nd Brigade Combat Team NCOIC

On the cold day of April 8, new and upcoming Soldiers in 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment continued with tradition by conducting a spur ride so Soldiers could earn their coveted “spurs.”

“The spur ride is something our squadron does quarterly so that all Soldiers have a chance to do what is necessary to earn their spurs,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton Reiss, command sergeant major of 1-89 Cavalry. “The main focus of the spur ride is not only to have Soldiers earn their spurs but also to develop squad leaders and build the teams.

Throughout history, Cavalry units have been identified by their Stetsons and Spurs. The Spurs, however, are awarded to only a deserving few. These few represent the best of the best in the Cavalry. The challenge event that tests and determines the best is known as the spur ride. Soldiers who earn their spur by completing the spur ride are presented with silver spurs, whereas, Soldiers who receive gold spurs were awarded during combat.

The spur ride tradition dates back to the 1800s. When new Soldiers first arrived at their cavalry unit, they were assigned a horse with a shaved tail, which gave the new, spurless scouts the nickname “shave tails.” This made amateur riders easy to identify by their horses so they could be given extra space to operate in their train-

ing.

During their beginning phase of training, cavalry troops were not allowed to wear spurs, which would add to their challenges at that stage. After they were able to prove their ability to perform, they were awarded their spurs.

The modern spur ride is a combination of all tasks new troops need to be able to complete to prove they are worthy of wearing spurs. In today’s Army, horses have been replaced with motorized vehicles, but the concept of the tradition remains the same. The new cavalry scouts have warrior tasks they are required to be able to perform before they are awarded their spurs.

“The spur ride is a good experience for all Soldiers,” said Staff Sgt. Brian Love. “They learned the task at hand and camaraderie. Now they can take that with them to combat.”

The 1-89 Cavalry spur ride consisted of a six-mile road march, followed by a stress basic marksmanship firing range. Other tasks included a weapons assembly station, a land navigation station, a communication



Soldiers in 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat team conduct first aid training during a spur ride April 8 on Fort Drum.

station, and an evacuate a casualty station.

“The spur ride is tough; you defiantly have to practice. I have trained the whole year for this event,” said Staff Sgt. Dwana Flores, a unit supply sergeant in 1-89. “(The spur ride) motivates and helps Soldiers build section and squad cohesion; never leaving a man behind. (The spur ride) is cool, a challenge but a reward in the end.”

The spur ride is a symbol of pride along with the test of physical fitness and warrior task knowledge.

“Some of us are infantry men in a cavalry unit, said 1st Lt. Mark Kroger. “The spur ride gives us the experience as cavalry, camaraderie and a little bit more pride as Cavalry.”

## 2BCT conducts Spiritual fitness run to build minds, bodies

By Sgt. Jennie Burrett  
2nd Brigade Combat Team PAO NCOIC

On the chilly spring morning of March 24, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team chaplain led a group of brigade Soldiers on a four-mile run on Fort Drum to enhance esprit-de-corps and build the relationship between physical fitness and spiritual fitness.

Pleased with the turnout for the run, Chaplain (Maj.) Alan Savage led the way with the Chaplain Corps colors beside him accompanied by the brigade commander and command sergeant major.

“The purpose for the spiritual fitness run is for the Soldiers to learn the important correlation between physical training and spiritual training,” said Savage. “That relationship is extremely important to internalize the seven Army core values and to

find the transcendent purpose for one’s career altogether.”

After Soldiers ran the four miles, they returned to North Riva Ridge Chapel for a bite to eat and a word of prayer.

“I think we all know that when you are physically exerting yourself during PT or any other activity, your mind is most alert,” said Col. David Miller, 2nd BCT commander. “So it makes sense that we get out there and do some good hard PT, pumping up our hearts and our minds, and then we are prepared to receive the chaplain’s spiritual information and knowledge.”

Savage’s goal is to educate and motivate Soldiers to the invaluable

commodity of spiritual fitness.

“This run was something a little different to build brigade cohesion by coming together as a BCT to enhance the esprit-de-



Soldiers from 2d BCT conduct a Spiritual Fitness Run with the brigade chaplain and leadership on Fort Drum March 24.



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*Spiritual fitness run*  
corps in something outside just the mission readiness with spiritual readiness,” said Sgt. Martin Benitez, a member of 2nd Brigade who participated in the spiritual fitness run.

With Savage, a former in-

fantry sergeant, as the face of the 2nd BCT spiritual front, he will continue to lead spiritual fitness runs about every three months.

“We know that physical fitness is the most important thing we do, and by conducting the

Chaplain’s Commando PT and breakfast once a quarter or so, we enhance connections between spiritual fitness, physical fitness and mental fitness,” Miller said.

## 2BCT Soldiers win division Soldier of the Quarter

Spc. Rebecca Schwab  
2nd Brigade broadcast journalist

Four Soldiers and four civilians were honored for their outstanding service to Soldiers and their families during an awards ceremony held at the Commons March 31.

“The people that we honor here today are the rock steady anchor of our force,” said Col. Kevin Brown, deputy to the division rear commander. “These folks show us, in everything they do, what it takes to be the best at leading, training, and caring about our institution and the incredibly dedicated Soldiers and Families in it.”

The Dr. Mary E. Walker Award, given in memory of the only woman in U.S. history to receive the Medal of Honor, was awarded to four military spouses for their volunteer work on behalf of Soldiers and their families: Stacy Veneziano, Lauren O’Donnell, Kimberlee Petersen, and Julie Miller. Veneziano has served for 13 years as a family readiness

group volunteer and leader. O’Donnell volunteered over 110 hours in 2007 to family readiness group events and training. Petersen created an animal welfare program, as well as CLUB Z.E.R.O. (Zoological Environment Research Opportunity) in Okinawa, Japan, which orchestrated several beach clean-ups. And Miller volunteered over 250 hours to support family members who lost loved ones while deployed. Each one received a medallion, a certificate, and a lapel pin.

Sgt. 1st Class Adam York and Staff Sgt. Willard Brooke, both assigned to the 10th Mountain Division Light Fighter School, received the Major General Aubrey “Red” Newman award for their outstanding work mentoring, counseling, and providing exceptional oversight and motivation for their Soldiers. They each received a certificate and a medallion.

Finally, Sgt. John Kalo, of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat

Team Sergeants Major and other senior NCOs.

After winning both their battalion and brigade level boards, Kalo and Shugard went on to compete and win at the division level. Both Soldiers received several gift certificates, savings bonds, and a plaque, as well as an Army Achievement Medal.

Brown said he had one more request to make of the awardees.

“Pay it forward – coach, teach, mentor, and inspire someone to be the next awardees that stand in your place,” he said. “Leave a legacy and you will have earned these awards in immeasurable ways in the future.”

It was a message that seemed to stick with Shugard, who said he hoped he would have a positive impact on the Soldiers in his unit.

“The thing that feels the best is to be a role model for my peers and hopefully a good example for them to follow,” he said.

O’Donnell, who continues to work on post as a family readiness group advisor, said she was honored to receive the award but that many Army families deserved recognition for their hard work and dedication.

“I think a lot of the credit goes to the great families and especially Army spouses that I’ve had the good fortune to know during my husband’s time in the Army,” she said. “If you love Soldiers and you love their families, it’s really exciting to be associated with them and to be a part of everything that’s going on. It’s really a wonderful thing.”

Team, received the noncommissioned officer of the quarter award, and Spec. Aaron Shugard, a gunner with the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, won Soldier of the quarter. Winning these awards required countless hours of study, meticulous preparation, and intense questioning in front of boards comprised of Com-

## Commando Briefs

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.



A 2d BCT Soldier receives his award at the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter award presentation March 31