



### THE SEAHORSE STANDARD

**APRIL 2012 - JUNE 2012** 

#### A MESSAGE FROM SEAHORSE 6

Soldiers, Families and friends of the Seahorse Battalion,

It is truly amazing how quickly the last two years have passed and I am sad to see my time as part of the battalion coming to a close. My family and I have been exceptionally proud to have been part of such a great organization. We have had the opportunity to observe every member of the Seahorse Family, both past and present, continuously demonstrate a level of professionalism, support and esprit de' corps that is unique in today's Army. The contributions that members of this battalion have made to Fort Knox and across the Army have been truly inspiring. Each day I am honored to be part of this team and would like to take a few moments to review the battalion's recent accomplishments, upcoming missions, and then express my most sincere thank you for all the hard work conducted over the last two years

Most recently, the battalion has been engaged in actions that have directly improved our overall readiness for deployment. In March, we completed 3-weeks of

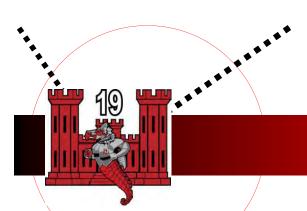
extensive deployment training ensuring our Soldiers and equipment is ready to deploy by ground, rail or air. In April, the companies focused their training at the platoon level on military bridging, combat tasks, and construction skills in preparation for the battalion training exercise in May. We concluded April by conducting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seahorse Spouses Challenge, with over 50 of our toughest family members taking on seven challenging engineer and combat tasks. The initiative and "toughness" demonstrated by all participants was inspiring. Our efforts in May were centered on a 10-day Battalion field exercise that certified all of our platoons were ready to complete any assigned engineer, combat, or support task. The exercise was a complete success, demonstrating our platoons are ready for any possible mission. Over the last 3 months the Soldiers and units of the battalion have far exceeded my expectation in every manner and I am fully confident we can accomplish any mission we may be called upon to complete.

Looking into the future, I expect the pace of operations will slow a little during the month of June, as we have allocated two weeks for families to maximize leave. The battalion will then conduct a transition of leaders across the formation. I invite each of you to come out to Flipper Field on 7 June at 0900hrs and participate in receiving CSM Ethan Dunbar, the new Battalion Command Sergeant Major. I would also like to personally invite you all to observe the battalion change of command on 27 June at 0900 on Brooks Field. At that time I will be passing the colors to LTC John Lloyd. He is an exceptional leader and along with his wife Stacy, will continue to sustain the excellence this battalion is known for.

After the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday events, the pace of operations will pick up once again with a team of senior leaders traveling to the National Training Center to serve as Combat Trainers during NTC rotation 12-09. The remainder of the battalion will continue to focus on individual MOS skills, deployment skills, and receiving new equipment during July and August. Though the military training may slow a little, opportunities for the battalion to support the installation will continue to become available.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks to every member of the Seahorse Family for their personal efforts in making this one of the finest organizations I have ever had the opportunity to serve in. Cheryl and I will always remember our time in the Seahorse Battalion and look forward to serving once again with each and every one of you in the future.

BRIDLE AND REINS .... STAND TALL!!!





# **Command Sergeant Major**

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CSM



Hello Seahorse family,

As all of you well know this has been another busy three months for the Soldiers, Families and friends of the Seahorse Battalion. Since the last edition of the Seahorse Standard, the battalion saw CSM Walton called forward to Afghanistan to serve in a forward deployed position. Since that time, I have been honored to fill the role of Battalion Command Sergeant Major while we await the arrival of CSM Ethan Dunbar early in June. I am proud to say we did not miss a beat over the past few months, focusing most of our time on preparing for, and conducting, combat-focused training as well as fulfilling our commitments to the Fort Knox Community. I would like to use this opportunity to address the accomplishments the Soldiers, NCOs and Officers have made over the last few months.

Our first major action was to officially induct all of our new Non-commissioned Officers into the NCO Corps. The NCO induction ceremony is a time honored ceremony and is keeping with the traditions of the Army by recognizing that critical transition from Soldier to Non-commissioned Officer. The event was highlighted by the participation of CSM Turner, the Cadet Command and Fort Knox CSM. He was impressed by the high level of professionalism displayed by all involved and wanted to thank everyone who participated in the planning and execution of that very important event. I would also like to com-

mend all of our Soldiers, NCOs and officers that participated in military honors details during the month of April. The Soldiers of the 76th Engineer Company took the lead on this effort and conducted over 100 funerals across five states. Each individual who participated contributed to making this important event memorable for the families of the fallen.

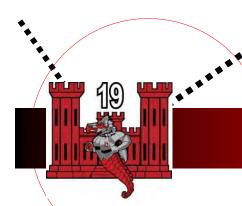
Throughout the last three months we also maintained our proficiency in deployment skills, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, and weapons qualifications by conducting multiple ranges and training events. I observed every Soldier in the Battalion contributing to the success of our training. Late in March we had a chance to re-establish our proficiency in deployment processes by conducting a Battalion Deployment Exercise. Over a 3 week period, all companies improved their abilities to plan, prepare, and load out vehicles and support packages on both rail and air platforms. The highlight of this event was the movement of a vehicle and personnel package to Fort Campbell in order to conduct training with the Air Force loading vehicles on a C-5 aircraft. I want to congratulate all the Soldiers who endured the rain on that gloomy spring day for their professionalism. Late in April, 502nd Multi-Role Bridge Company (MRBC) led the way with a great demonstration of their military bridging capabilities during the first ever Bridge Exercise (BRIDGEX). This event enabled engineer leaders from across Ft. Knox to see and gain an appreciation for the capabilities of a MRBC. HHC and FSC fulfilled their support roles to the Battalion, coordinating all of these events and ensuring that everyone had the required support to be successful. The hard work put in by all the Soldiers during these events was instrumental to the battalion's success and proved again that we are ready to take on any endeavor that the Army requires of us. Great job by all involved.

Of special note, I want to recognize the two teams from our Battalion that represented us at the Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood. SGT Rodriguez and SGT Kerr from the 15th Engineer Company and SSG Hoffman and SGT Richardson from the 502nd MRBC took on some of the toughest training the Engineer Regiment has to offer and put well over 30 miles on their boots. Though not winning, both teams represented the battalion very well. Their eagerness to step up to such a tremendous challenge was not overlooked. They helped the battalion learn a lot about how we need to prepare for next year's competition.

Our two culminating events were the Seahorse Spouses Challenge and the Platoon Certification Exercise (CERTEX). Both of these events were extremely well planned and executed by all involved. Thank you to all the Spouses that were able to participate in the challenge, you all did very well. I hope everyone had fun out there walking a few miles in our Soldiers' shoes. Congratulations to the event winners and the overall winning team. The Platoon CERTEX went better than we could have imagined with all companies maximizing their training time and executing a very thorough training event. I am confident all involved will continue to build upon the lessons learned from the exercise in the coming months.

As I conclude this edition of the Seahorse Standard I want to welcome all the new Families to the Battalion. I hope you enjoy your time with us and please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your transition easier. I would also like to bid farewell to all the Soldiers and Families that are departing our formation and moving on to the next chapter in their military careers. Thank you for all you have done to make our formation better and good luck with whatever you are getting ready to take on. Thanks to everyone for supporting me throughout these past few months. Continue to strive for excellence in everything that you do and give the new CSM the same level of support as he makes his transition into our formation. **Army Strong, Get There, Bridle and Reins!!!** 

-Seahorse 7-







# Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Another quarter is down! /They have been flying by. The Spouse's Challenge conducted on the 28th of April was a huge success. The entire 19th Engineer Battalion Headquarters Company was focused this quarter on the 10 day field training exercise beginning on the  $7^{th}$  of May. Warrior Soldiers trained on numerous events including a dismounted patrol through a village and a convoy live fire exercise. The main mission of the exercise was to certify a 19 person platoon led by 2LT Pase and SFC Gallegos. The platoon executed all of their missions superbly and

received praise from the battalion leadership. Soldiers also participated in training on medical, communications, and chemical training during the exercise. Overall, the exercise was a success as the company is now better prepared to conduct operations anywhere in the world.

The Oaks and Derby fundraiser provided funds for the FRG committee. We are looking forward to multiplying their positive effect on the soldier's families for the next quarter. Thanks to the hard work by the

security detail during the Derby.

As the company prepares to start the June block leave period, the entire command group is eager to welcome the new mini-Warriors to the Seahorse BN: SPC Major's baby girl, Raniyah, the Dumas family and little Skylar, and 1LT Servideo's daughter Katherine Lynn. Congratulations to these individuals and may all the families be blessed with time together this summer. Have a safe and relaxing summer.

WARRIORS!!

-Warrior 6-

HHC Chain of Command

Commander: CPT Dodd

First Sergeant: SFC Byrd

**Executive Officer: 1LT Matthews** 

TOC PSG: SFC Gallegos

ALOC PSG: SFC Parks

**OPS PSG: SFC Begley** 

538th NCOIC: SSG Franklin

Below: HHC Soldiers conduct a linkup with the town sheik in the Afghan Village.



Above: Elizabeth Dodd engages 25m target during

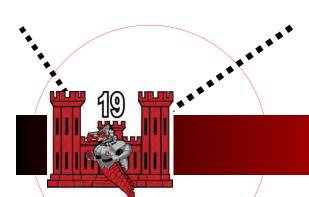
Below: SH6 (LTC Ray) participates in Kentucky Derby

weapons familiarization fire lane of the Spouses'

Challenge.

security.

Above: HHC Soldiers prepare to enter a danger area





# **Forward Support Company**

### FSC MONTHLY UPDATE



Team Warhorse:

Since the last Seahorse Standard publication, Team Warhorse has engaged in numerous training events IOT prepare the company for the Battalion FTX, otherwise known as the Platoon Certification Exercise (PLT CERTEX). Throughout the last quarter, the company has continued to set the standard for all training events such as the BN Command Post Exercise, the Deployment Exercise, crew served weapon training at Hines range, and of course, the convoy life fire exercise. Distribution Platoon conducted sling load operations at Goodman Airfield to support the BN Bridge Exercise (BRIDGEX) and ran a modified hand grenade assault course for the Seahorse Spouses' Challenge. FSC family support was evident as FSC fielded three Spouse teams for the event, including the overall winner, Team Wicked Awesome! Congratulations to all spouses that participated.

During the PLT CERTEX, Maintenance Platoon conducted various operations from executing Convoy Live Fire, to maintaining a 24/7 recovery team for the battalion. They provided NVG and weapons repair at full capacity for the first time in a field environment. These shops allowed for services on optics and weapons which ensured the battalion maintained its high readiness rate. The generator shop was also gainfully employed. They serviced and verified operating procedures throughout the battalion. Maintenance Platoon conducted a combat mission in the Afghan Village which allowed platoon members to train on their Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills in a simulated combat environment.

The Distribution Platoon provided Class I (food), CL III (fuel), and CL V (ammunition) to units across the installation. The platoon delivered over 11,000 gallons of fuel during the PLT CERTEX along with the responsibility of issuing over 437,000 rounds of ammunition. Distro also conducted a Convoy Live Fire mission IOT certify the platoon on their ability to independently move

in any environment. The Headquarters Platoon conducted successful command control operations throughout the duration of the exercise. Platoon members tracked and logged FSC missions to ensure critical information was disseminated correctly. Headquarters Platoon also provided over 13,000 meals during the PLT CERTEX. In addition, FSC executed sling load training that provided the company an opportunity to exercise its aerial delivery capabilities. Team Warhorse had a successful quarter of training. Our upcoming schedule ranges from field sanita-

tion training to providing trainer support at the National Training Center (NTC) in August. Select personnel will observe, control, and train the 307th EN BN, to prepare them for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The Forward Support Company continues to be the standard of excellence in the Seahorse Battalion. I know the long hours of training will pay off and Team Warhorse is prepared for any mission. I hope you all take advantage of Battalion Opportunity Leave from 09JUN-23JUN and enjoy some well deserved time off.

-Warhorse 6-

**Chain of Command** 

Commander: CPT Di Giovanni

First Sergeant: 1SG Wedding

**Executive Officer: 1LT Hines** 

HQ PL: 2LT Tevaga

Operations/HQ PSG: SFC Rahmer

Distribution PL: 2LT Billings

Distribution PSG: SFC Alfsen

Maintenance PL: 1LT Pargett

Maintenance PSG: SSG Layfield



Above: FSC Soldiers MEDEVAC a Soldier during the PLT CERTEX Convoy Life Fire Exercise.

Below: Distro PLT executes aerial delivery sling load training at Atcher DZ during the PLT CERTEX.







Above: SGT Coots drives the M88A1 during the PLT

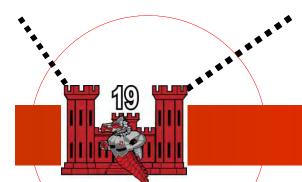
Below: CPT Di Giovanni and his Lieutenants execute

2LT Billings, 1LT Hines, CPT Di Giovanni, 1LT Pargett,

sling load training during the BRIDGEX (LF to RT =

CERTEX Convov Life Fire Exercise.

2LT Tevaga)





### TEAM BLADE

15th Engineer Company (Horizontal)

We're well on our way into summer, Blade Team, and we finally have a chance to hit the brakes. As we go into the month of June block leave begins, and we will have plenty of folks out getting some much needed R&R while reflecting on all the great things we've managed to accomplish over the last few months.

In the final week of March, 15th Engineer Company spearheaded the Deployment Readiness Exercise (DRE) in order to demonstrate our ability to rapidly deploy in support of a DCRF-related incident. After weeks of preparation, first platoon finally kicked off the exercise, meeting and exceeding all expectations from higher. During April, we sent numerous Soldiers to participate in battalion weapons qualification ranges. We also had two highly motivated NCO's, SGT Randel Rodriguez and SGT Brandon Kerr, head off to Fort Leonard Wood, MO to represent the Battalion in the U.S. Army Best Sapper Competition. Also in April was the Blazers FRG event. I'm sure everyone who attended enjoyed the Easter egg hunt, photos with the Easter bunny, and watching the company leadership attempt to roller skate. In May, nearly a third of the company participated in providing security at the Kentucky Oaks and Derby. Volunteering for this event raised funds in support of future company FRG events. The 15th Engineer Company also deployed to FOB Professional during the battalion field exercise in order to conduct both DCRF and combat training. Throughout the quarter, first platoon has

> also continually been making progress on their project at Kennedy Range.

Coming up this next quarter, we have a couple important events. As already mentioned, much of June will consist of block leave. At the end of the month,

we will be taking part in the battalion change-of-command ceremony as well as welcoming in a new Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major. Throughout July and August, we will be taking on a couple new and challenging construction projects. We will also be ramping up with some more rigorous company-level training to finish out the fourth quarter, likely culminating in a company field exercise in September.

Last but not least as we embark into the summer months: remember safety at all times in everything you do on and off duty.

WHATEVER IT TAKES!

~Blade Six~



Above: First platoon Soldiers conducting their DCRF patrol in full MOPP gear during Platoon CERTEX.



Above: SGT Kerr and SGT Rodriguez at the US Army Best Sapper Competition at FLW.

#### **Chain of Command**

Blade 6: CPT Austin

Blade 7: 1SG Johnson

Blade 5: 1LT Skinner

Blade 57: SFC Steese

Blade 16: 2LT Adams

Blade 17: SSG Gilbert

Blade 26: 2LT Walker

Blade 27: SFC Whitford

Blade 36: 2LT Park

Blade 37: SFC Vernooy

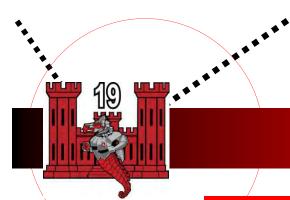
Blade 46: CW2 Washington

Blade 47: SFC Tran





Seahorse Spouses participating in the 15E PT Gauntlet led by 1st Platoon at the Seahorse Spouses Challenge event .





# 76th Engineer Company

### HAMMER 6

### Chain of Command

Commander: CPT Bandeff First Sergeant: 1SG Hunsaker Executive Officer: 1LT Dolan OPS NCO: SFC Archilla

1st PL: 1LT Murray 1st PSG: SFC Acker

2nd PL: 2LT King 2nd PSG: SFC Brooks

3rd PL: 2LT Foley
3rd PSG: SSG Putnam

Maintenance PL: 2LT Cavallo Motor Sergeant: SSG Stepanoff



Above: 1st Platoon conducts finishing work on the new tower at Longstreet Range.

Below: Spouses of Team Hammer emplace wall systems during the Seahorse Spouses Challenge.



Soldiers. Families and friends of the 76th.

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in this edition of the Seahorse Standard. As with all significant change, the past 90 days have certainly been challenging. However, due to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, we are now prepared and ready to conduct training. This Company has much to offer, unlimited potential, and stubbornness for success, which will serve us well as we journey into the coming months.

In April, the Company began to conduct Change of Command Inventories between CPT Meade and CPT Bandeff. This task is like no other - requiring massive amounts of coordination, time, patience, and a forest worth of papers. Being a multi-faceted company, the 76th managed to conduct the Seahorse Spouses Challenge in the midst of the inventories. During the challenge, 1LT Murray and his team from 1st Platoon ran a Vertical Construction challenge in which spouses constructed wall systems and a small building with the guidance from Noncommissioned Officers on site. The event allowed the spouses to gain exposure and experience to the type of work their Soldiers and Leaders encounter on a daily basis. Shortly after the Challenge, Team Hammer finished the Change of Command inventories and immediately began to prepare for the Platoon Certification Exercise (CERTEX). Team Hammer performed extremely well during the CERTEX. The 76<sup>th</sup> was able to deploy to the field in a rapid manner, establish a Forward Operating Base quickly, and even created what affectionately became known by other Companies passing through our area of operations as the "76th Jiffy Lube." This emphasis on maintenance will serve us well as we con-<mark>tinue to</mark> train and maintain our equipm<mark>ent. While in</mark> the field. Team Hammer focused on a variety of construction projects, maintenance operations, and marksmanship skills.

1st and 2nd Platoons contributed to the training facilities on post by destructing and reconstructing two range towers for Fort Knox Range Control. The 76th works closely with Range Control on a regular basis. This partnership allows the 76th Engineer Company to perform meaningful training and helps Range Control maintain high class facilities that allow soldiers to train on Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. The new towers will help Fort Knox Range Control to reestablish operations on Choate and Longstreet Ranges.

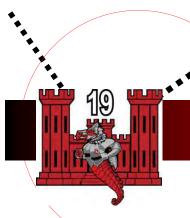
3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon contributed to the recreational facilities on post by refurbishing barbeque and picnic areas and a pavilion at the Carpenter Test Area (CTA). This will allow families to enjoy the outdoor cooking and recreational facilities at the CTA during the upcoming summer months.

My wife and I are excited to be with the 76th Engineer Company. My wife, Janet, will be serving as the new FRG leader. Our family consists of our two children, Oliver and Leah, and our Alaskan Husky, Finny. We arrived at Fort Knox from Fort Leonard Wood approximately one year ago. We currently live outside of Vine Grove. Enjoy some time off during June and prepare to welcome a new battalion commander and command sergeant major.

HAMMER STRENGTH - STRIKE HARD Hammer 6 - CPT Wallace Bandeff

Below: 2nd Platoon, 76 EN CO emplaces wall systems for the new tower at Choate Range..







# **502D Multi Role Bridge Company**

# NEVER QUIT! STAY COMMITTED!



First Sergeant Lake and CPT Athens get ready to observe the platoons conduct their Afghan Village combat patrols during the Platoon CERTEX.

It has already been over three months since I have taken command of 502D MRBC. My wife Emily and I have enjoyed getting to meet most of you, and spend time getting to know you and your families.

All the Soldiers have done a tremendous job over these last few months conducting a Company Bridge Field Exercise, Deployment Exercise, Crew Serve Weapon Ranges, Improved Ribbon Bridge Fielding, Seahorse Spouses Challenge Support, BN Bridge Exercise and the Platoon Certification Exercise over the last few months. Each Soldier has shown the leadership and myself that they are truly COMMITTED to the mission of providing Multi-Role Bridge engineer support to XVIII Airborne Corps and the U.S. Army anywhere in the

world and under any environmental conditions at any given time.

I am extremely proud to serve with the Soldiers of 502D and I would be honored to lead them on any mission, anywhere, anytime. —BRIDGE 6

### Team Bridge

Commander: CPT Arthur Athens

First Sergeant: 1SG Robert Lake

Executive Officer: 1LT Dauz

1st PLT: 2LT Bonczek
1st PSG: SFC Keib

2nd PLT: 2LT Caddigan 2nd PSG: SFC Staton

SPT PLT: 2LT Smith SPT PSG: SFC Rosa



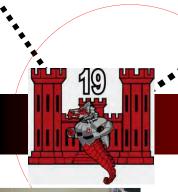
Above:  $2^{nd}$  Platoon Soldiers guide in the CH-47 to air assault their boat into the Ohio River in order to enable them to start building their 5-float rafts.



Above: 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT Soldiers pull back to the Casualty Collection Point after loading their injured battle buddies onto the UH-60 during the Platoon Certification Exercise.









# 72nd Survey and Design Detachment

### LASER



**Command Team** CDR: CW2 Springette

NCOIC: SFC Leigh

XO: 1LT Foster



The Laser Spouses Challenge Team takes a breakfrom the competition for a photo opportunity.

Once again, 72D Engineer Detachment closes another quarterly chapter exceptionally. We have seen the height of battalion training involvement and peaked in our participation of survey and design projects throughout Fort Knox and the surrounding area. The quarter has truly been filled with a variety of challenging training events, which have positively influenced esprit de corps, Soldier, and Family readiness.

Operating as the opposing force during the Battalion Certification Training Exercise, 72D Engineer Soldiers gave the enemy a vote, providing tough realistic training situations, while capitalizing on warrior task and battle drill training. The 72D Engineer Detachment Situational Training Exercise gave Soldiers the rare opportunity to develop self-sustaining tasks and practice operational adaptability. They were able to validate land navigation, first aid, and soils analysis skills over the five-day event. Our reconciliation of the 4, 450 foot Sabre Army heliport at Fort Campbell, TN allowed the technicians a chance to brush up on perishable skills

not often utilized in their day-to-day operations.

Family members got in on the engineering action during the 19TH Engineer Battalion's annual Seahorse Spouses Challenge. Our team of five did an outstanding job while having fun. Soldiers and Family members also had an opportunity to take part in "The Greatest Two Minutes in Sports!" Their volunteerism at the 2012 Kentucky Oaks and Derby was a selfless contribution that showed great character and display of Army values.

Much like I'll Have Another, Bodemeister, and Dullahan, many of the Laser children are off and running to win it all. The Soldiers and Families of 72D Engineer Detachment celebrated four graduations ranging from Pre-Kindergarten to High School. We applaud all their accomplishments thus far and wish them the best in future endeavors.

Spring is synonymous with change as we say goodbye to LT Foster, SPC Denman, and SPC Abbott and welcome SSG Langevin and spouse Shawna, SGT Godwin, spouse Candace and children Ethan and Abigail. LASER GUIDED!



tificate from Mr. Emmet E. Holley Fort Knox Deputy Garrison Commander. Below: CPT Sullivan relays training intent to 72D Soldiers operating as OPFOR during **Battalion CERTEX.** 



-Laser 6-

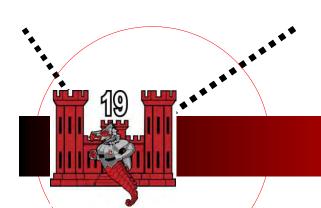
# **BN Master Resiliency Trainer**

For the third quarter resiliency training, we focused on module three which was building character strengths. We focused on leaders being able to identify their Character Strengths and the Character Strengths of their soldiers, to recognize the best in themselves and their soldiers. In order to be a good leader we must first know who we are as people. This will help us understand how we will use our knowledge, experience, education, and skills and what we can, and will do, with our leadership. We are the most effective leaders when we are aware of our Character Strengths and apply them in the right context. We can use the knowledge of our Character Strengths and the Character Strengths of those around us to maximize our ability to handle any adversity and make up for any weaknesses in a given individual. Therefore knowing and using your Character Strengths and the Character Strengths of others will increase energy, motivation and the success of your squad, platoon and unit. So I would encourage all our leaders to use who you are at your best in your day to day leadership style because your character is what your soldiers will remember about you.



"When you are commanding, leading [Soldiers] under conditions where physical exhaustion and privations must be ignored: where the lives of [Soldiers] may be sacrificed, then, the efficiency of your leadership will depend only to a minor degree on your tactical or technical ability. It will primarily be determined by your character, your reputation, not so much for couragewhich will be accepted as a matter of course-but by the previous reputation you have established for fairness, for that highminded patriotic purpose, that quality of unswerving determination to carry through any military task assigned you." -General of the Army George C. Marshall (1941) from FM 6-22

-SSG Mercer - BN Master Resiliency Trainer-





• 07 June: Battalion Change of Responsibility

• 09-24 June: Max Leave

27 June: Battalion Change of Command

29 June-02 July; 04-05 July: Training Holidays

22 July – 26 August: NTC C/T Support

02 August: Fort Knox first day of school