

THE SEAHORSE STANDARD

JANUARY 2012 – MARCH 2012

A MESSAGE FROM SEAHORSE 6



Soldiers, Families and friends of the Seahorse Battalion,

It is truly amazing how quickly the last 4 months have passed. Seems the holiday season passed in a flash and then we waited intently for the snow and ice that just never came. Now we are on the brink of springtime in Kentucky and I would once again like to take a few moments to review the formation's notable accomplishments, upcoming missions, and then express my thanks for all the hard work conducted across the Seahorse Battalion.

The battalion has remained exceptionally busy over the last four months. In December, we once again performed superbly providing honors in support of military funerals across the 5-state region Fort Knox supports. This mission was successful due to the professionalism and efforts of over 50 Officers, NCOs and Soldiers from all the companies. The battalion then maximized the holiday leave period providing as many personnel as possible the opportunity to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Since the first of the year, we have conducted a variety of challenging training events. In January, we conducted our third Seahorse Challenge event under the direction of CSM Walton. This event identified the best 8-man squad in the battalion, comprised of NCOs and Soldiers from the 15th Engineer Company and led by several of our recent Sapper Leader Course graduates, SGT Rodriguez and SGT Mellot. In February, the battalion conducted a Command Post Exercise (CPX). This event confirmed our ability to utilize all the digital command and control systems the Army provides to us, while combining live and virtual training for all the Soldiers across the battalion. This exercise was especially noteworthy as we had an up close and personal experience with the severe weather conditions much of our region has faced throughout this mild winter. The month of March has been consumed with deployment focused training, ensuring our leaders and Soldiers are trained and proficient in a variety of tasks. These actions have ranged from individual deployment processing, to loading pallets, to conducting a full alert and movement of personnel and equipment to airfields in Louisville and Fort Campbell to prepare for aerial movement. Even though we have not been slated to deploy, this training will ensure we are fully prepared in the event we are called upon by our higher HQ to respond to a mission anywhere in the world.

In addition to ensuring we were fully trained on our tactical and deployment tasks, we took time to ensure our leaders and Soldiers had the opportunity to experience a few of our Army's traditions and celebrations. Before the holiday leave period in December, each of the units planned, resourced and executed first class company Christmas parties. In January, the battalion hosted a Commander's New Year's reception at the Fort Knox Leaders Club. In early March, over 600 members of Seahorse Family experienced an All-Ranks Ball. Each event was very well attended and exceptionally well run thanks to the efforts of many individuals. I am confident our leaders and Soldiers are fully trained in "receiving line" operations. The robust support of these activities demonstrated the existence of an exceptional level of esprit de' corps across the battalion which will translate into combat power whenever the formation faces its next real-world mission.

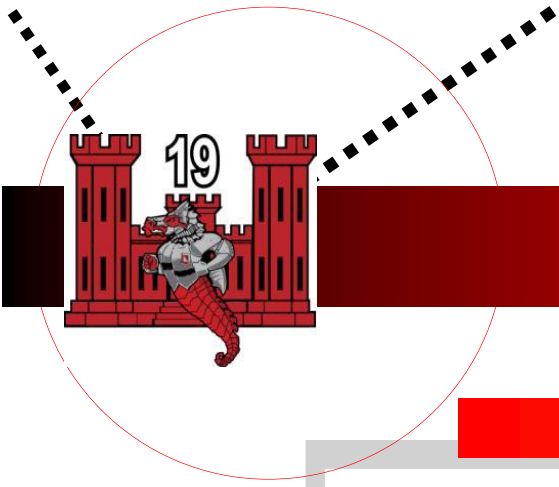
The battalion will be even busier over the next few months. Throughout April the companies will focus on improving our bridging, combat, and construction skills. We will also be hosting our second Seahorse Spouse Challenge event on 28 April 2012 for our family members daring enough to take on some of our toughest training. In May, each company will be actively preparing their personnel and equipment for the battalion-level field exercise. This event will be a large, multi-echelon training event at Fort Knox that will ensure all units and personnel are capable of conducting their wartime missions. The focus of June will be on receiving new equipment, taking summer leave to spend time with family and friends, and transitioning leaders across the Battalion. I would like to invite everyone to enjoy all that life in the Fort Knox Military Community has to offer over the upcoming spring and summer months.

As you may have noticed, Fort Knox is a little busier now that the Soldiers of 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division have returned from Afghanistan. Please take a moment to thank them for their service and welcome them back into the community. Additionally, CSM Walton was called on to deploy to Afghanistan this month. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts over the next year.

Finally, whether you are an actively serving Soldier, Family member, or one of the extended "Seahorse" family, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your personal efforts in making the Seahorse Battalion one of the most exciting organizations to be a part of both here at Fort Knox and in the 20th Engineer Brigade. Please have a safe and very enjoyable spring.

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

-Seahorse 6-



Command Sergeant Major

A MESSAGE FROM THE CSM



I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Seahorse family. Thank you for your support, dedication and motivation that has kept me excited to come to work every day. I consider myself a blessed man because I have had the privilege to be in the company of great Soldiers, NCOs, Officers, and Family Members. As I depart, I and my family are just a phone call or email away. I am confident that because of great leaders this Battalion will continue to move out and do great things for the installation, the Army and the Nation. As I close I leave you with this:

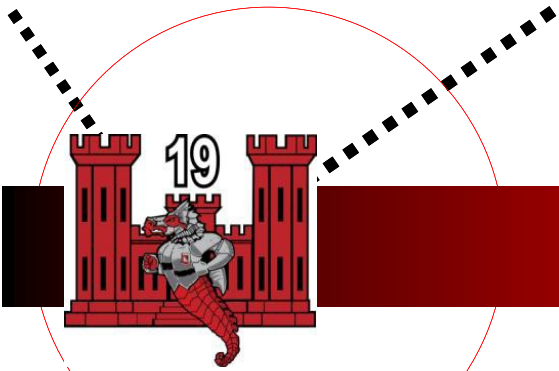
Remember, It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

You should strive everyday to be the man/woman who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly.

So one day your place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Thank you for what you do every day and I hope to see you soon on the high ground.

Seahorse 7 signing out of the net!



Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Team Warrior:

HHC has been extremely busy this past quarter. We have conducted a change of command, had another outstanding Seahorse Challenge event, gone to the field for a few days, and conducted a deployment exercise. Rest assured, Warrior Soldiers are well trained and prepared to deploy anywhere in the world anywhere at any time. We have had three successful FRG meetings this past quarter and are looking forward to the Warrior family continuing to support their FRG. We also welcomed Liz Dodd to the FRG committee as an assistant leader.

Going forward, we will be conducting a Seahorse "Spouses Challenge" on 28 April. It will be a great opportunity for spouses to have fun and also experience some of what their Soldiers do a daily basis. For this year's event Team Warrior will have a live-fire range so that spouses can fire some of the Seahorse weapon systems. Whether you plan to shoot or take pictures, this will be a lot of fun! Many Soldiers and family members will volunteer in Kentucky Oaks/Derby fourth and fifth of May. This event will help to raise funds to support the Warrior FRG and BOSS program for the next year. Team Warrior will be in the field in the middle of May conducting training and supporting the rest of the battalion. Coming out of that field exercise, we are going to provide a two week "Max leave" period from 10-24 June where Soldiers will be allowed to take leave and spend some time with their families. I would like to welcome the new "mini Warriors" into the Warrior Family. 1LT Dalton and his wife Seana welcomed their daughter Beatrix India or "Trixie" as she is lovingly called on February 3rd 2012. At birth Trixie weighed 6 lbs, 13oz. PFC Major welcomed her daughter Raniya Major to the Warrior family on March 5th 2012; she weighed 5 pounds and was 18 inches long. Congratulations to both!

<u>HHC Chain of Command</u>	
Commander:	CPT Dodd
First Sergeant:	1SG Dunn
Executive Officer:	1LT Matthews
TOC PSG:	SFC Gallegos
ALOC PSG:	SFC Parks
OPS PSG:	SFC Begley
538th NCOIC:	SSG Franklin



SPC Lee, SPC Rivers, and SPC Ramos take cover as shots are fired in the marketplace during the 19th Engineer Seahorse Challenge.

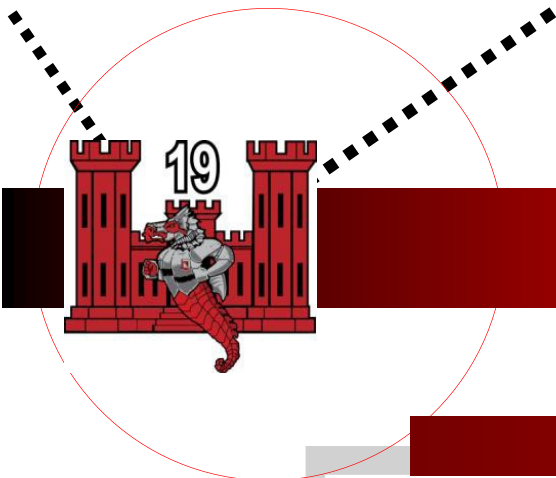


SPC Stolar trowels fresh concrete in Hurley MP.

WARRIORS!
-Warrior 6-



Warrior Change of Command



Forward Support Company

FSC MONTHLY UPDATE



Team Warhorse:

Since the last Seahorse Standard publication, Team Warhorse has stayed busy and executed several high quality training events. Our primary focus was squad and platoon level training of MOS specific skills.

In addition to conducting daily support missions, the platoons put in a lot of hard work and dedication into the preparation and execution of their MOS skill proficiency competitions. The Distro Platoon executed a truck rodeo and was presented a golden steering wheel by LTC Ray and CSM Walton. The Maintenance Platoon conducted the first annual Golden Wrench competition. This identified the best mechanic team after competing in various maintenance related skills

including a HMMWV push, service rodeo, and troubleshooting test. Finally, the Headquarters Platoon executed a Best Cook Challenge, and the winning team (Pop's Diner) was awarded a Golden Spoon. The entire company has been fully engaged with supporting each other throughout the platoon specific competitions. Everyone's hard work and preparation paid big dividends with properly certified trainers and Soldiers with their MOS tasks. FSC executed our capstone training event for the quarter with Squad Leader 101. The focus was to properly prepare and guide junior leaders in their duties and expectations as NCO leaders.

Throughout all of the high quality training, the Warhorse team never forgot to take a minute and step back to enjoy time with our families. We have continued to enhance the company morale by hosting a Christmas door decorating contest, a family fun run, and pot luck breakfast prior to the Seahorse Bowl. Also, the FRG held an outstanding Christmas celebration at the Vine Grove VFW where all participants were able to relax and enjoy time with loved ones. The children had an exceptional time due to Santa making a visit.

We have had a great quarter of training and have risen to every challenge presented. As we enter the next training quarter the OPTEMPO will continue to rise and keep the Soldiers busy. I know we continue to set the standard in everything we do. Thanks, to all of the Warhorse family members for their unwavering dedication.

-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 Alfson
Maintenance PL: 2LT Pargett
Maintenance PSG: SSG Layfield



Above: HQ Platoon executes cook-off competition IOT validate squads in MOS specific tasks
Below: Truck Rodeo tire roll event IOT demonstrate Soldier endurance and resiliency.

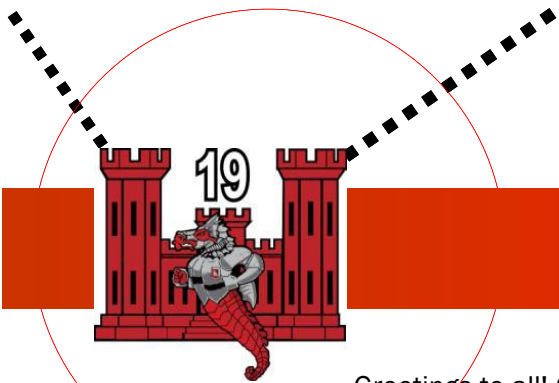


Above: FSC Commander CPT Di Giovanni leads from the front by showing Soldiers correct procedures during a vehicular roll over.
Below: FSC participated in the annual Seahorse Bowl. It was a close game but officers prevailed at the end.



Above: Resupplying 15th EN training to provide humanitarian support and clean-up.





TEAM BLADE

15th Engineer Company (Horizontal)

Greetings to all! Over the last couple of months the Blade Team has been busy with the various training events and ceremonies. Beginning in December, 15th Engineer Company conducted a Change of Command ceremony, bidding farewell to CPT Kari Haravitch, and hailing the new incoming commander, CPT Melvin Austin II. The 19th Engineer Battalion conducted its scheduled Block Leave, thus allowing soldiers to take leave to spend well-needed break with their families during the Christmas holidays. During January, we focused on preparing for and executing the Seahorse Challenge Competition, in which 15th Engineer Company took first place. And in February, the Blade Team prepared and executed its first field training exercise since Vibrant Response in August 2011.

Chain of Command

- Blade 6:** CPT Austin
- Blade 7:** 1SG Johnson
- Blade 5:** 1LT Brown
- 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



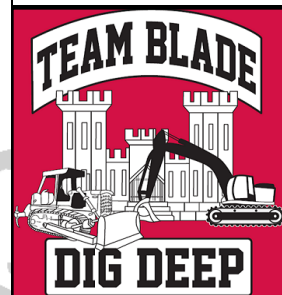
Above: 3rd PLT Soldiers installing concrete articulated matting at the Pilcher's Landing Boat Ramp.

In the next quarter we will continue to remain ready to execute our on-order DCRF mission if called upon by our great nation. The Blade Team will also be preparing to conduct training for future upcoming battalion exercises. Even though we work hard here in the Seahorse Battalion, we also play hard too. I would like to take the time to highlight some of the upcoming family events. In the first week of April the Blade Team will be hosting its first Blazers FRG event. Also, the Battalion will host the Spouse's Challenge, allowing the spouses to come out and participate in several events that their Soldiers train for on an everyday basis.

Finally, since the last Seahorse Standard, we have received several new families to our formation. I

want to personally thank you for having chosen 15th Engineer Company as your new home, and hope each of you enjoy your time while here in the greater Fort Knox area. I would also like to thank Cara Buckley for the support that she has provided to our Family Readiness Group during her tenure as the FRG Leader, and welcome Sarah Johnson and Jessica Gilbert as the new leaders. Once again, thanks to everyone for making the first couple of months a smooth transition for me as I have taken command of the mighty Blade Team. So Dig Deep and Do whatever it takes!

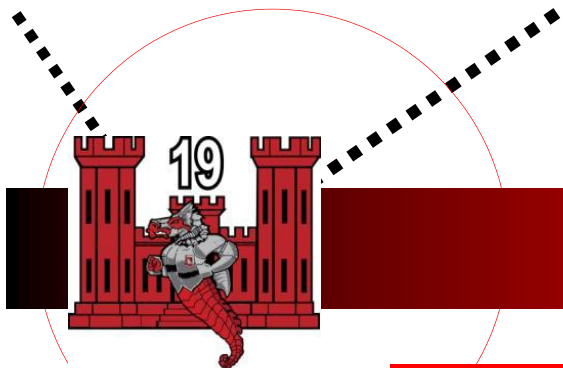
WHATEVER IT TAKES! ~ Blade Six~



Above: Soldiers conduct a medical assessment on a mock casualty.



15EN Soldiers exiting the NBC Chamber



76th Engineer Company

HAMMER 6

Chain of Command

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

1st PL: 2LT 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

Greetings from Team Hammer. I hope the holiday season (Halloween through Valentine's Day) went well for everyone. A lot has happened since the last newsletter. The holidays were certainly a busy time for 76th Engineer Company. Back in October, the company conducted a costume run and participated in Trunk-or-Treat with the other engineer companies, with 76th taking home most of the prizes for trunk decoration. In November, the company hosted a Thanksgiving potluck at the Hansen Center. In December, the company held its annual Christmas Party at the tank bays in Skidgel Hall.

The company has also had to bid farewell to a number of key leaders within the past few months. Headquarters Platoon has made some changes, with SFC Alex Archilla moving over from Third Platoon as the new Operations Sergeant. 1LT David Dolan comes to us from 502nd Engineer Company as the new Executive Officer, taking over for 1LT Romeo Enriquez, who is now with Battalion S3. Second Platoon has also changed out both of their top spots. 2LT Kasie King has taken over as Platoon Leader, replacing 1LT Brendan Kane, who has also gone to Battalion S3. SFC George Brooks has taken over as Platoon Sergeant, replacing SFC(P) Kenneth McKinney, who has relocated to Hawaii. With SFC Archilla making the jump to HQ, SSG Putnam has taken over as Platoon Sergeant for Third Platoon. The company also welcomes 2LT Andrew Cavallo as its new Maintenance Platoon Leader. In between holidays and personnel moves, the company also took the opportunity to get out there and conduct good military training. The focus for First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2012 was individual proficiency in Army Warrior Tasks. As such, the platoons trained their Soldiers on basic tasks in communications, land navigation, movement under fire, IED defeat, and chemical defense. This training culminated with Hammer Stakes in early December to validate Soldier proficiency in these tasks.

As I am writing this, we are almost through with Second Quarter. Seahorse Challenge is in the bag. Our two company teams; the Whipper Snappers led by then-SPC Rivera, and the Romper Stompers led by SGT McCartney took second and third place respectively in a grueling 96 hour event that tested their Soldier and leadership skills. What is especially impressive about our 2nd place team is that it was the only team fielded in the competition that consisted solely of junior enlisted Soldiers. The Command Post Exercise is also behind us. Within this, platoons embarked on OEF-style combat missions in a virtual environment. The CPX was followed almost immediately by the Deployment Exercise, in which the company conducted full dress rehearsals of the tasks required to deploy by land, sea, or air. This includes loading and inspecting containers, rail head operations, long distance convoys, and loading engineer equipment onto airplanes.

Needless to say, your Soldiers have been very busy, and will continue to be on out into Third and Fourth Quarter. In those spring and summer months, we look to begin new construction projects and spend plenty of time in the field. It will also be during this time that the company conducts change of command and change of responsibility, ushering in a completely new command team.

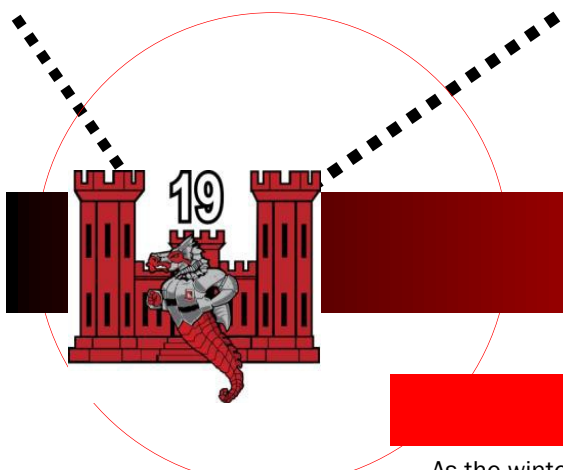
HAMMER STRENGTH - STRIKE HARD
Hammer 6 - CPT Jason Meade

Below: Soldiers from 3rd Platoon placing concrete for the main pad of the 11th Aviation Memorial.



Below: Soldiers from 1st Platoon rebuilding a roof in the former post correctional facility for use by DPW.





502D Multi Role Bridge Company

BRIDGE 6



As the winter comes to a close, it brings a lot of new faces and new changes to the 502nd. I am very excited to be a part of these changes. I took command of the 502nd Multi-role Bridge Company on Thursday, February 16, and I have been working diligently to make a smooth transition for the company. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with such a fine group of Soldiers and leaders who have been striving everyday to continue to improve the 502nd. As I told all the Soldiers in my in-brief there is one word that I would like to be synonymous with the 502nd . . . and that word is **Commitment** a commitment to *integrity*, a commitment to *readiness*, a commitment to *safety*,

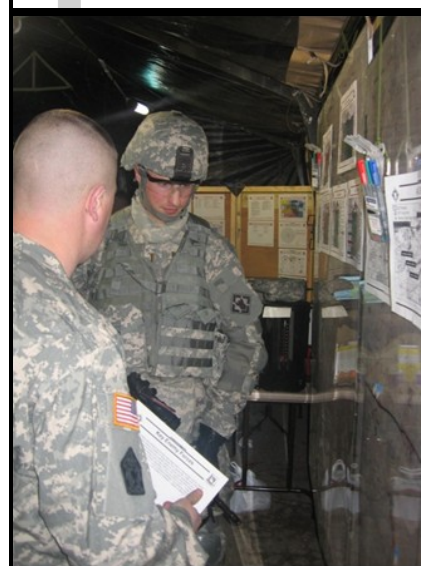
commitment to *leadership by example* and a commitment to *relationships*. Through our hard work and **commitment** we will make the 502nd an even stronger part of the Seahorse team.

By my side during this transition has been my wife, Emily, and our large Bull-mastiff dog, Madison. Family is very important to me. Because I have a family myself, I understand the importance of strong, resilient families that support a company and battalion. The message from the Chief of Staff of the Army is that "The Army is the strength of the Nation, The Soldier is the strength of the Army, and the **Family** is the strength of the Soldier. We must make strong relationships and Families "Stronger"!

My wife and I are very excited to be here at Fort Knox and a part of such a great company. We look forward to an exciting command and to meeting and getting to know everyone in the rest of the Seahorse family.

NEVER QUIT! - Bridge 6

2LT Bonczek receives his pre-brief from the company intelligence team during one of 1st platoons Command Post Exercise missions.



Team Bridge

Commander:

CPT Arthur Athens

First Sergeant:

1SG Robert Lake

Executive Officer:

1LT Corley

1st PLT: 2LT Bonczek

1st PSG: SFC Keib

2nd PLT: 2LT Maci

2nd PSG: SFC Staton

SPT PLT: 2LT Smith

SPT PSG: SFC Rosa

SPC Whorton operates the Dry Support Bridge crane, during 1st PLT training at the Advanced Drivers Course.



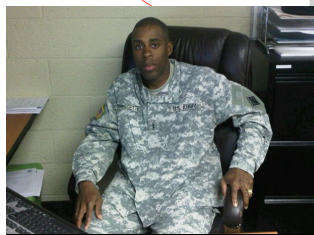
2nd PLT Soldier jumps the gap between the bays to help secure the ramp section of the bridge during the platoons training exercise on the Ohio River.





72nd Survey and Design Detachment

LASER 6



Command Team
CDR: CW2 Springette
NCOIC: SFC Leigh
XO: 1LT Foster

Army Strong! The 72nd Engineer Detachment has continued to stay busy with support missions on the installation. Since our last article, we focused on Project Management and Theater Construction Management Systems (TCMS) training. The second quarter of 2012, we continued support to Pilcher's Landing and carved time out to receive PVS-14 mine detector training. As this quarter comes to a close, SPC Davila completed design work for the 11th Aviation Command Soldier's Memorial and partnered with Department of Public Works, Range Control, and Garrison Command to conduct a site survey on a proposed fitness track. Also, the detachment is continuing work with the 15th Engineer Company on Cedar Creek. SGT Gerke has been promoted to Staff Sergeant and is currently working on winning the NCO of the Year Board to represent the Battalion. Our FRG team continues to do an excellent job seeking out events to pull the detachment together, our Christmas party was a success and their contributions to the Battalion Ball made it that much more enjoyable. Our next big event will be at Blazers Fun Zone towards the end of



Above: SPC Aleman stayed in character as Santa Claus for our Christmas Party
Below: The Detachment received training on the PVS-14 Mine detectors during Prime Time Training.



Left: SGT Tran and SPC Collins site in the memorial for the 11th AVN CMD.

March.

-Laser 6-

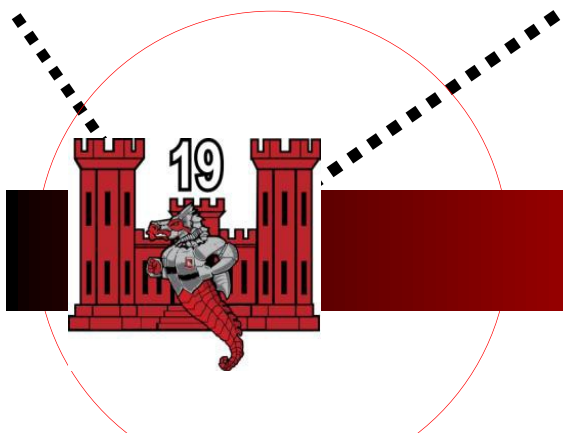


BN Master Resiliency Trainer

Welcome 2012, and I hope this year brings each of you great things! I always hear people creating a New Year resolution which usually involves getting in shape and improving finances, but the one I don't hear is creating a better overall fitness starting with the most important thing, which is yourself. I challenge you all to work on your "Heat of the Moment Thoughts" and to handle those stresses in a positive manner. The areas to continue to keep an eye on to accomplish all those great goals you have in life are the five strengths of character: Social, Physical, Emotional, Family, and Spiritual. These five strengths of character is what makes you motivated and have overall better health. All the Soldiers in the Army are required to take the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) once a year, and at the end of the survey it will provide you an assessment of where you are at on these five character strengths. The GAT is also available for family members, and can be accessed in your AKO. The life we live in can seem to be negative; however if you don't begin to train your mind to "Hunt for the Good", we might continue to miss out on the positives that life brings at us.

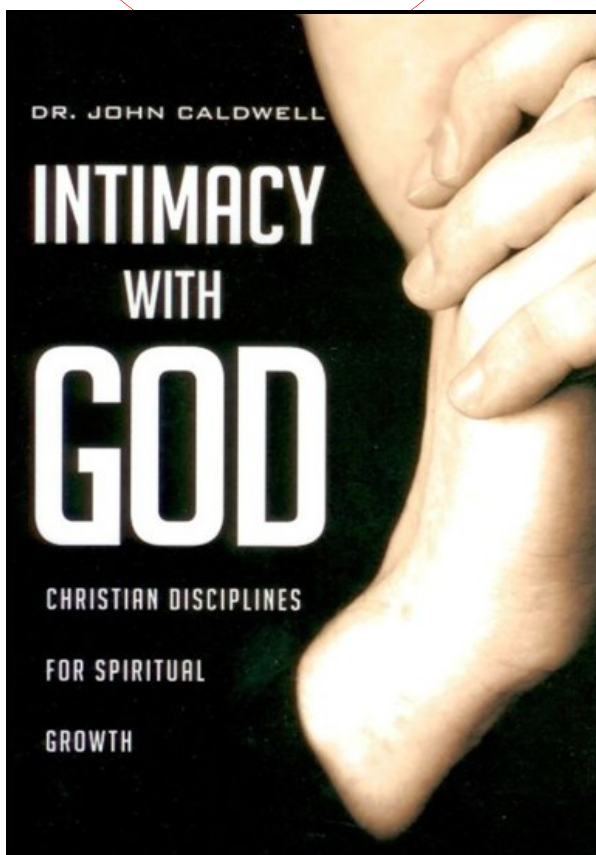
-SSG Martin- BN Master Resiliency Trainer-





Battalion Chaplain

Greetings From the Battalion Chaplain!



Being a person of faith is not easy. One the one hand faith seems to have been pushed to the sidelines. It has become one of those things that we are simply not to discuss in public, lest we wish to end the conversation by making others uncomfortable. On the other hand, as Christians, it is hard to practice our faith. Perhaps the problem is that it is not fashionable to do so today. Perhaps the problem is that we lack the expertise to do what is required of us. I think it is the latter.

If we as Christians had a better understanding of what it means to be a Christian, then whatever it is that secular society dictates would no longer be a problem. Truth is, many of us today have a strong urge to defend our faith but we lack an understanding to do so. So don't. Let us first acknowledge that the Almighty God, He that is the Creator of everything that was, is and will ever be does not *need* us to defend Him. I think He is big enough on His own to do that. So what then is it that He demands of us? Does He require us to surrender our lives to him? Yes. Does He require us to live according to His principles? Yes. Does He require us to give an account of our faith? Yes. The thing is that we don't *need* to fight or argue about matters of faith. We just don't. Instead, we should focus our efforts in establishing a developed balance in our Christian life. We need greater emphasis on the spiritual development of the inner person, that we might in turn be involved in Spirit-motivated, Spirit-empowered ministry. In other words, we just *need* to let Him *do* as He will through us.

This is where Christian Spiritual Disciplines come in. Yea, remember those? Do you know how to be disciplined enough to study your Bible, to pray regularly, to fast often, to journal for the Lord, to devote space for personal worship? Jesus once answered, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4, NIV). You see, we have a duty, a moral obligation as Christians to be devoted to His words. His words bring life to us. The Christian faith has so much for us to enjoy in this life, not just once we get to heaven. We are promised a peace that surpasses all understanding (see Isaiah 26:3 or Philippians 4:7) so that we can face the hardest of times. We are promised provisions so that we do not have to worry about what we will eat or drink, or the cloths we will wear (see Matthew 6:25-34). We are promised so many blessing right here, right now. We just have to empower ourselves with knowledge in His word.

Dr. John Caldwell, the former Senior Pastor of Kingsway Christian Church in Avon Indiana has written the book *Intimacy with God: Christian Disciplines for Spiritual Growth*. If you are interested in learning how to walk closer with God, how to live through the challenges of this corrupt world and yet let your faith shine through for all to see, come get a free copy of this book from me. I have this and many other resources available for you that will help you to be Spiritually fit, ready to take on the challenges of life, to deal with the curve balls of Army life.

-Chaplain Abdiel Fuentes-