2ND BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT)

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"STRIKE" Monthly

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"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the size of the fight in the dog."

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

Captain takes 'shot' in Hockey League

Photo courtesy of Cpt. Daniel Sukman

After spending his fair share of time in the Iraqi heat, Cpt. Daniel Sukman appreciates now more than ever being able to spend his evenings staying cool on ice.

Sukman is 2nd Brigade's Provost Marshall by day and a defenseman for the Nashville Blues in the Southern Ice "A" Hockey League by night.

"[Hockey's] the greatest sport on earth," Sukman said, sporting a big grin at the opportunity to talk about his favorite past time. "It's the fastest. It combines skills from just about every other sport."

Sukman grew up in Long Island, NY, where he started playing hockey at the age of five. He played for numerous travel leagues growing up and then for his high school team. He enlisted as a Private in the Army in 1995 as a 19K, or Armor crewman. In 1996, he started college at Vermont's Norwich University where he hit the ice once again playing in different independent hockey leagues. But since being commissioned as an officer in 2000, this is only the second chance Sukman's had to lace up his skates.

"As soon as I found out I was going to Ft. Campbell, I got on the internet and found this league," said Sukman, who arrived at Ft. Campbell in May after spending three and a half years in Korea, Kuwait and Iraq. "I went to an open skate and was picked up to play."

The Southern Ice A League consists of six Nashville-based teams that play in Franklin. The season runs from September to March, not including playoffs. Sukman's Blues are 13 games into their 45 game schedule with a 4-8-1 record going into December.

Though Sukman thinks his 5th place Blues' chances of winning the league are slim, there's a lot of season left to prove otherwise. Especially if Sukman handles the puck like he did in their last game scoring four goals in his team's 8-3 victory.

"I think that was probably the best game I've played since high school," Sukman said. "[Hockey] gives me something to focus on other than work. It gives me a life outside the Army."

2ND SPEAKS OUT

What are you going to do to celebrate the holidays?

Spc. Eric Lawson, Charlie Co., 2-502nd:

"Go home and spend Christmas with my parents since I was in Iraq last year."

Pfc. Louis Copechal, Alpha Co., 526th:

"I am going to spend time with my family."

Spc. Chris Mason, Bravo Co., 2-502nd:

"I'm going back to Detroit to spend time with my family and girlfriend, and go hunting."

Spc. Daniel Merchant, Delta Co., 2-502nd:

"I am going home to see my family."

WINTER AND HOLIDAY TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS.

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON FAST APPROACHING, MANY PEOPLE WILL BE HITTING THE ROADS TO VISIT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO BRING YOU HOME SAFELY.

MAKE SURE YOUR VEHICLE IS IN GOOD RUNNING CONDITION AND ALL FLUIDS HAVE BEEN CHECKED BEFORE HITTING THE ROAD.

PLAN YOUR ROUTE AND KNOW WHERE GAS STATIONS AND REST STATIONS ARE LOCATED ON THE WAY.

IF YOU FIND YOU ARE GETTING TIRED, PULL OVER AND REST FOR A WHILE.

CHECK ROAD CONDITIONS AND WEATHER REPORTS. IF YOU ARE FLYING THIS COULD CAUSE DELAYS.

IF YOU ARE FLYING, ARRIVE EARLY AND PLAN FOR DELAYS.

ALWAYS KEEP YOUR IDENTIFICATION ON YOU AND MAKE SURE TO HAVE YOUR LEAVE FORMS HANDY.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND'S CONTACT INFORMATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES.

Commander's notes

The "STRIKE" accomplishments these past months are simply awesome – too many to count. Thanks to all, we've earned the most EIBs in the Division; 5 of the Division's 12 Ranger graduates this last class were from "STRIKE"; we've fixed trucks, moved equipment, cleaned up motor-pools, commo, and supply shops, we've had several Soldiers graduate "Commandant's List" from PLDC; we've fixed awards, we've conducted several Convoy Live Fire Exercises, we've rebuilt the TOC and we've met or exceeded all our Reenlistment objectives.

Thanks to all for all of your hard work, your commitment to excellence and your teamwork across the Brigade Combat Team and within the Division.

Soon each of us will be able to take some time during the holidays to spend with our families and relax. Take advantage of the holiday leave period. Think about what this time of year means to all of us, especially as American Soldiers. Pray for the deployed Soldiers -- many of us know how it feels to be separated from our loved ones at this time of year. Honor them by our example back in the States.

As each of us plans to enjoy the holiday season, let's not forget about our safety and the safety of the Americans we serve. We will no doubt find ourselves in situations over the next few weeks where smart decisions will need to be made. Don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver. It's OK to ask for help. Make sure you have the phone numbers of people in your chain of command as well as the Brigade Staff Duty Officer. We want to see every Soldier and family member safely return after the New Year and in good health.

My wife, Kelley, and I wish you and your families a safe and happy Holiday Season!

STRIKE!

Col. Todd Ebel

STRIKE 6

502ND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

September 18, 1944, ***Pfc. Joe E. Mann,*** distinguished himself with noticeable gallantry, in the vicinity of Best, Holland. While his platoon was attempting to seize a bridge across the Wilhelmina Canal, they were surrounded by an enemy force. Mann, acting as lead scout, made his way within firing distance from the enemy, and under heavy fire managed to destroy an 88 mm gun and ammunition dump. He remained in his position shooting and killing the enemy one by one until he was wounded four times and taken to a covered position where he insisted on standing guard over night. The enemy moved closer and attacked with grenades. One landed a few feet away from Mann. With his arms bandaged, he yelled "GRENADE!" and threw his body over the explosive killing himself, and saving his comrades.

On August 19, 1970, at Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam, ***Cpl. Frank R. Fratellenico*** distinguished himself with gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a rifleman with B Company, 502nd Infantry. Fratellenico's squad was overpowered by enemy fire from two fortified enemy bunkers. Fratellenico maneuvered forward, and using grenades, neutralized the first bunker. While attacking the second bunker he was struck by enemy fire, bringing him to the ground. When he fell, he dropped a grenade he was about to throw into the second bunker. Realizing the great danger of a live grenade so close to his comrades, he fell on top of it and took the full blast. His heroic actions prevented death or injury to four of his fellow Soldiers and inspired his unit, which overran the enemy position.

MWR December Calendar

4th-18th– **Holiday Golf Sale** at the Cole Park Golf Course, Pro Shop. Call 798-4906 for more information.

4th– **Holiday parade and tree lighting complete with Santa Claus** in downtown Hopkinsville at 2:30. The parade route begins at Main Street and Glass Ave. and will travel down Main St. to 14th Street.

5th– **Post-wide Table Tennis Tournament**, 3:00, at the D. W. Recreation Center. The tournament is open to all active duty, retirees, reservists, national guard and family members, as well as civilians who work on Fort Campbell. Trophies will be awarded to the top competitors in several categories.

9th- **Holiday Tree Lighting**, 4:45, at T-39 Headquarters. Tree lighting, fire truck decorations, Santa, free coffee and hot chocolate, gifts from Santa, pictures, Division Band, music and caroling by the Girl Scouts and much more.

11th– **Brunch with Santa** at the D. W. Recreation Center, 10:00. Visit with Santa, have your picture made, eat pizza, participate in a coloring contest and win door prizes. Tickets are $3.00 if purchased by noon on December 10 or $5.00 at the door. Call 798-7391 for more information.

12th, 18th and 19th– **Santa Calls** at the D. W. Recreation Center. Call the recreation center and give up some information about your child, choose one of the above dates, and Santa will call your child on that date between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00.

Now through the 10th– **Little Soldier Christmas Tree** at the PX Mall. This program assists families in need during the holiday season. Come by and pick out a "little Soldier" from the tree, buy a gift and then bring the gift to the FRG Gift Wrap Trailer or to the Soldier/Family Readiness Center. If you know of a family in need, please contact your unit chaplain, 1st Sgt., Commander or FRG leader. All information is confidential.

BOSS December Calendar

Every Saturday- **BOSS mall hopping trip**, call 798-7858 to reserve your seat.

4th- **BOSS Nashville mall hopping trip**, call 798-7858.

11th- **BOSS Holiday Bash** and single Soldier appreciation dinner at the D. W. Recreation Center. Call 798-7858 to got your ticket to the festivities. All Soldiers are welcome and the activities are free of charge. Door prizes will be given out.

Holiday gift wrapping at the PX, dates to be announced. Call 798-7858 for more info.

Operation Bears That Care

The BOSS program is proud to announce ***"Operation Bears that Care."***

Accidents, fires, crime and family disputes do, unfortunately, occur. In these times of need, children are left in a state of trauma when the emergency services leave.

The program's mission is to get teddy bears and other stuffed animals into the hands of these children through the police and fire officials on Fort Campbell, so the officials can offer a form of comfort to the affected child.

BOSS is accepting donations of new or slightly used stuffed animals for this purpose. The gifts will be wrapped and placed in all emergency vehicles.

Donations can be brought to the BOSS office at the D. W. Recreation Center, or call 798-7858.

COMING SOON

After the great success of their last BOSS Cruise, another one will be offered for April 21-24 to the Bahamas on Carnival Cruise Lines. For more information or to sign up, call the BOSS office at 798-7858.

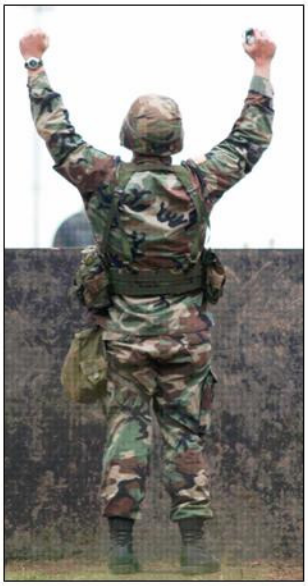
BOSS is looking for a few good single Soldiers!

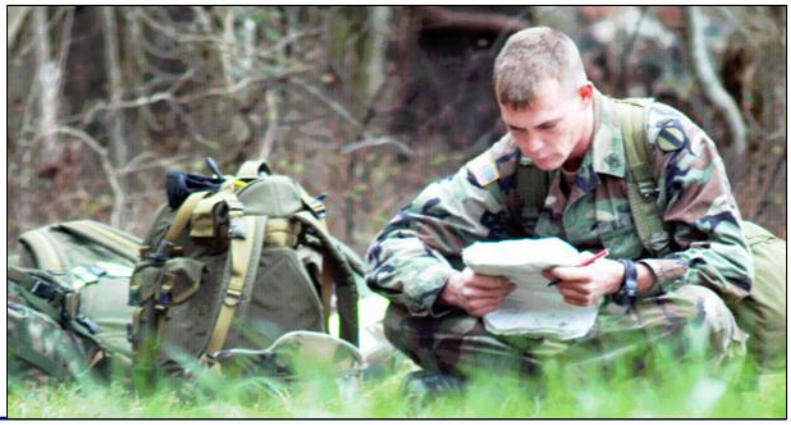
If you are interested in being a BOSS representative for your unit, just check with your chain of command to begin the application process.

Volunteers needed– volunteers are needed to help with the animals at the Fort Campbell Veterinarian Clinic every Saturday and Sunday.

"STRIKE" Soldiers in the field

EIB Testing and Graduation





Photos by Pfc. Kelly K. McDowell

TRAINING CALENDAR

January

Dec. 18– Jan. 3: Max Leave.

Dec. 31– Jan. 3: New Years DONSA.

Jan. 4– Feb. 15: Collective Field Training Cycle.

Jan. 7: BCT 4 Mile Run

Jan 10-13: 2-502nd Marksmanship Week.

Jan. 14-17: MLK DONSA.

Jan. 24-27: 1-502nd Marksmanship Week.

Jan. 31-Feb. 3: 526th Marksmanship Week.

February

Feb. 4: Pay Day Activities.

Feb. 16– Mar. 3: Refit Cycle.

Feb. 7-11: BCT FTX Entire BCT infield

Feb. 10-21: Presidents Day DONSA.

Feb. 14-17: 311th Marksmanship Week.

Feb. 22-25: 3-502nd and 1-320th Marksmanship Week.

March

Mar. 4– Mar. 27: Collective training, JRTC Prep

Mar. 4: Pay Day Activities.

Mar. 18: DONSA.

Mar. 24: JRTC ADVON Deploy.

Mar. 27-30: Main Body Deploy.

April

April 4-10: JRTC "In the Box."

April 13-27: Re-Deploy from JRTC.

April 15: Last day to file federal taxes.

April 18-29: BCT Recovery.

April 22-24: DONSA.

May

May 1-10: Division Warfighter Exercise.

May 6: Pay Day Activities.

May 23-27: Week of the Eagles.

May 27-30: Memorial Day Weekend.

June

June 3: Pay Day Activities.

June 18-20: DONSA.

Judge Advocate General

Under the laws of most states, if you die without a will, your estate will go to your spouse. If you aren't married or your spouse dies before you, your estate will go to your children, then your natural parents, your siblings and then any living relative. If this is what you want, you likely do not need a will. However, if you specifically want to leave your car to your brother, or if you want to "disinherit" someone, you need a will.

Anyone with children should consider having a will because if both you and the other parent die without a will, the court will determine who gets custody of your children. Who the court appoints is out of your hands whereas a will allows you to choose the guardians. If you need additional information, see the Brigade Legal Staff or the Division Legal Assistance Office.

1-320th leads Veterans Day parade

Photos by Pfc. Kelly K. McDowell

Photo credits: (Top) 1-320th leads Nashville's Veterans Day parade November 11. (Bottom) A photo of people who braved the weather to show their support

NASHVILLE -- Despite the rain and bitter wind of November 11, Soldiers of 1-320th Field Artillery loaded up into vans and busses to take part in the Nashville Veterans day parade.

The sounds of the Army song could be heard on Broadway as the 101st Airborne Division Band began to play, and the booming sound of cadences could be heard echoing off the buildings as the 1-320th Field Artillery Soldiers lead the way.

Following behind the "Top Guns" were three hummers, two with gunners and one towing a howitzer. The Soldiers could not help but smile as they passed the families on the streets. Some had small children holding American flags, others bundled up in raincoats and hats with bright blue signs reading "Support our troops," "God Bless" and "Thank you," and some people could be seen leaning out office windows to catch a glimpse of the parade.

As the parade passed by, police officers and veterans saluted the troops and applause broke out amongst the crowd, and with small smiles and an air of pride, the Soldiers continued to march.

"I feel really honored to take part in the parade," said Pfc. Randy Soliday, 1-320th Field Artillery. "Mostly I have enjoyed talking to all the veterans."

Soliday and two other Soldiers spent some time before the parade visiting with Harry Clark, a retired naval aviator. They laughed at some of Clark's old tales of when he was a young sailor, and learned about what he did when he was enlisted in the Navy.

"I really am happy to be here to take place in this parade to remember what [the veterans] have done for all of us," said Pvt. Darrell Paulk .

"It is so nice to know that these Soldiers are out there fighting for us," Clark said. "They seem to really have an appreciation for the veterans and [the veterans] really do have an appreciation for them."

"STRIKE" Soldiers gather for Thanksgiving feast

There was hardly a seat left in the 2nd BCT's dining facility after they opened their doors for the Thanksgiving feast November 24.

The DFAC's ice sculptures glistened and the distinct smell of cornbread and turkey filled the air as the line of Soldiers became longer and longer.

Senior NCOs and officers gathered to serve the food to their Soldiers with a smile and a sincere "Happy Thanksgiving!"

Many Soldiers brought their families and others brought their friends, but there was no mistaking the satisfied look on the Soldiers faces when they left the DFAC rubbing their bellies and stretching their arms out wide.

The spread of food and displays were beautifully done with care and precision, and with every plate handed out the Soldiers made sure to thank the people who prepared the feast.

Photos by Pfc. Kelly K. McDowell

Photo credits:

(Top left) A 101st Airborne ice sculpture. (Top Right) An NCO stocks the shrimp cocktail table. (Bottom Left) The senior NCOs of different companies serve their Soldiers the Thanksgiving treats. (Below) The Soldiers lining up for the 2nd BCT Thanksgiving Dinner.

Family Readiness Group December Calendar

Army Family Team Building-

2005 Schedule Level 1– January 20-21, April 18– 19. Level 2– February 16– 18, June 7-9. Level 3- March 9– 11, June 15– 17. Instructor Training: January 25– 28, May 10– 13. Call 798-4800 to sign up.

Exceptional Family Member Program Holiday Celebration–

December 11, Saturday at the D. W. Recreation Center from 1:00 to 5:00. All family members are invited, please bring a bottled drink or a dessert. Seating is limited, so please, RSVP. Call 270-956-3738.

Fort Campbell Schools–

Special School Board Election, January 10 at Jackson, Lucas, Mahaffey and FCHS.

Change in School Calendar– March 18 will not be parent/conference day, it will change to a professional development day and there will be no school for students.

Inclement Weather Procedures– A letter will be sent home with the students.

Eagles Club–

Boys and girls club, 4-H club calendar of activities. For information call 798-3643 or 956-1603.

2004 Holiday Ornament Sale-

Mahaffey Middle School is now taking orders, cost is $12.00. For more information call 931-431-4495.

Enlisted Spouses Club-

For information call Rene' Alfred at 439-6469 or Kristin Jackson at 640-1710.

Backdoor Boutique-

Has moved to the old gas station by the big Burger King. Hours of operation are 10:00am to 12:00pm, Monday through Friday.

The Flu Hotline- 798-8881

Fort Campbell Ornament Sale-

The Fort Campbell Historical Foundation has ornaments for sale. The profits will go towards the new "Wings of Liberty" Museum. They are available at the Fort Campbell Museum.

Fort Campbell Tour of Homes-

December 5, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Meet at the Family Readiness Center at 4:30pm. I.D. cardholders only. More information will be available soon.

Inclement Weather-

There will be an article in the Fort Campbell Courier about the procedures. Inclement weather days will be listed on Channel 9 (on post), Fort Campbell's internet site, local television channels and there will be a number to call with a recorded message.

Recommend mailing dates for packages for servicemembers overseas-

Information can be downloaded from www.fortcampbellbellmwr.com/info.

For more information on 2nd BCT Family Readiness Group contact your unit FRG leader or call 2nd BCT FRG Assistant Heidi Melvin at 270-798-6064.

Foreign journalists go to field with 311th BTB Soldiers

Not even with time to get over the jet lag that comes with an overseas flight, three French photojournalists from various press agencies in France wrapped up a quick three-day trip to the United States by going to the range with "STRIKE" Soldiers.

Photo by Sfc. Kelly Rowe

Maj. Ron Misak, 311th BTB XO, briefs the visitors on the route the convoy will be taking and what can be expected during the live fire exercises November 17.

After a two day visit in the Washington DC area, the men flew to Ft. Campbell for one day of watching soldiers in action.

They weren't disappointed. The 311th BTB was participating in a convoy live fire exercise and the photographers were able to get up close and personal as the soldiers dismounted their vehicles to engage targets on Range 42.

They took several hundred photos that they will take back to France to be used by press services throughout the country.

"We came to see soldiers in action," remarked on the photojournalists. "And we got to see just that".

Photos by Sfc. Kelly Rowe

(Top) A journalist kneels by a hummer as Soldiers dismount. (Bottom) The journalists stand on the back of a hummer while taking photos of the Soldiers during the training exercises November 17.

Chicago 502nd donates Thanksgiving treats to 2nd BCT Soldiers

Support can come from a variety of sources, and as soldiers and family members, we have no shortage of support systems in place to help us through the day to day challenges of serving in today's Army.

We in the 502 are lucky. In addition to all of those support services that everyone can take advantage of, we have a support system that is something of our very own. That support system is the Chicago 502nd.

The Chicago 502 is a group of civilians made up mostly of Union League members in the Chicago area. After 15 years of actively supporting the attack submarine USS Chicago, William McDermott, founder of Chicago 502, thought, "if we could support the Navy, why not do something for the Army?"

He discussed his idea with a former member of the regiment, Harland Oates, who wrote a letter to then 502 commander, Col. Anthony Tata. From there, the idea went to former Division Commander Major Gen. Richard Cody and in November, 2001 the organization became active.

The Chicago 502 has supported our troops in a variety of ways. Two years ago, the organization helped to give fifty 502 families a nicer Thanksgiving by providing funds to buy turkeys and commissary vouchers. This year, that number grew to 93 families.

When the 502 was deployed to Iraq, the Chicago 502 picked up the tab for one soldier a week to go to Dahuk for some well deserved R&R. They have also helped pay for stereo equipment, and other recreational items for our soldiers deployed in support of OIF.

"The Chicago 502 was set up as a way for us to say 'Thanks for serving,'" says McDermott, who served in the Army near the end of WWII. The group has participated in various changes of command within the 502 and has also visited Ft. Campbell for Week of the Eagles.

There are 80 members serving in the Chicago 502 and they are always looking for more people to join their ranks. "Our organization is open to anyone," said McDermott.

This news letter is an authorized publication for members of the U. S. Army. Contents of "STRIKE" Monthly are not necessarily the official views, or endorsed by, the U. S. Government, or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 2nd BCT PA officer.

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Public Affairs Specialist, Pfc. Kelly McDowell