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

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"STRIKE" WEEKLY

For questions or comments on this publication call 2nd BCT PAO (270) 798-7178

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SAFETY FOCUS:

- ***ARRIVE ALIVE*** – DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!
- **ALCOHOL**-RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES **KILL** SOMEONE EVERY 30 MINUTES!
- **EXTRA COSTS** FOR A 21-YEAR OLD MALE DRIVING A 2002 JEEP CHEROKEE ON A **DUI** CHARGE WITH NO AGGRIVATING FACTORS AND A CLEAN PRIOR RECORD COMES TO **$15,981.00** OVER A 3-YEAR PERIOD!!!

CAREER COUNSELOR SEES 2ND BCT RE-ENLISTEES, BONUSES SKYROCKET

An average month's numbers for an Army Career Counselor with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team is around 30 to 40 re-enlistees, but, this past month, Master Sgt. Patricia Raikes saw over 100 Soldiers re-enlist.

"It's been awesome, we've had high enlistment numbers these past months, even in Iraq," Raikes said as her phone rang off the hook in her office with potential re-enlistees' questions. In fact, 2nd BCT's re-enlistment numbers have been so good, the career counseling office finished top of the Division in their category for the last two quarters.

It comes as no surprise that the Army restructuring is at the root of positive re-enlistment numbers this year. "On Fort Campbell, the 4UA is providing Soldiers the opportunity for 3A and 3B bonuses," said Raikes, "we haven't seen that in a long time."

The 4th Unit of Action, soon to be BCT, has enabled Soldiers to re-enlist out of their re-enlistment windows with bonuses up to ten-thousand dollars. New Units of Action are also forming at Forts Carson, Drum and Hood, opening up options for Soldiers beyond Fort Campbell.

"Most [infantry re-enlistee] Soldiers stay 11B, but they can re-class to a different MOS," said Raikes. "The shortest MOS out there right now is Military Police - critically the shortest."

Raikes said any Soldier interested in re-classing should prepare to acquire security clearances or GT score re-tests, depending on the MOS requirements.

The 2nd BCT has shown Raikes four good years now.

"My heart is with this brigade," said Raikes smiling "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. I wouldn't want to go to war with any other brigade."

Master Sgt. Patricia Raikes, 2nd BCT Senior Career Counselor - 79L

BASD - March of 1986 as a PFC
ORIGINAL MOS - 88M/Truck Driver

Master Sgt.Patricia Raikes has been at Fort Campbell for a total of 13 years, spending eight of those years in the CSG. She says being a 79L is the best job in the Army. What gives her the biggest job satisfaction? "Giving Soldiers what they want! I couldn't ask for anything more."

A LOOK BACK AT 2ND BCT HISTORY

Photo courtesy of Don F. Pratt Museum

MEDICS FROM THE 502ND PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT GIVE FIRST AIDE NORTH OF GALLATINE, TENN., JUNE 1943.

The 2nd Brigade can trace its roots all the way back to 1917, World War I, when the headquarters and headquarters company were known as the 159th Infantry Brigade, an element of the 80th Division. They took part in the Picardy, Somme and Muese-Argonne campaigns against the German army.

After reorganization in 1964, the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was activated, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The brigade's original battalions included 1st and 2nd battalions, 501st Infantry and 1st battalion, 502nd Infantry.

In 1967, the brigade deployed to Vietnam and took part in 12 campaigns. The brigade was decorated twice with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, once with the Republic of Vietnam Civic Honor Action Medal and three Soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor for valor in combat.

The brigade became headquarters for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment in 1984 and adopted the motto "Strike."

The 502nd can trace its 101st Airborne lineage back to 1941 when Army officials created the unit in preparation for World War II. It was during this war that the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, the French Croix de Guerre, the Belgian Fourragere and the Netherlands Orange Lanyard.

Watch for continuing 2nd Brigade history in each edition of "Strike" Weekly.

EIB TRAINING

Oct. 25-29 / Set Up
Nov. 1-11 / Training
Nov. 15-19 / Testing

MWR/BOSS CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

4th - 8th - College Registration, Army Education Center, room #1103

9th - 3 on 3 basketball competition, 3 point shoot out and slam dunk contest at Lifeliner Gym

10th - Post wide Spades tournament at D.W. Rec Center

17th - Pumpkin launch competition at Destiny parks and pavilion.

23rd - Paintball competition, Fort Campbell vs. Fort Knox.

Week of the 31st - Haunted House

"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING GOOD AND BEING THE BEST IS ATTENTION TO DETAIL."

-Unknown Author

FORM YOUR TEAMS NOW FOR OTHER UPCOMING MWR SPORTS!

WRESTLING

Deadline to sign up is Oct. 15th at 1600. Season starts Oct. 19th at 1700.

1st Season BASKETBALL

Deadline to sign up is Oct. 29th at 1600. Season starts Nov. 8 at 1800.

GO STRIKE!!!

2ND SPEAKS OUT

What do you think of the Army restructuring?

Spc. Michael Stroud, 1st Bn., A Co. "It makes the attachments more accessible. They'll be more dependable."

Spc. Michael Rocha, 3rd Bn., B Co. "I didn't like it at first, but it's starting to come around."

Pfc. Erick Miller, 2nd Bn., D Co. "They're taking all our leadership and giving us inexperienced Soldiers."

Staff Sgt. Jesse Henne, 526 BSB, B Co. "I think it's a good thing. It'll help us be more mobile."

Two "STRIKE" Soldiers meet EFMB challenge

Two Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team stood in formation with 34 of their fellow Army medics on the Division parade Field for the Expert Field Medic Badge graduation ceremony Wednesday.

Spc. Edmund A. Fotiades and 2nd Lt. Marcia Lohnes endured 11 days of mentally and physically challenging field training to earn the right to wear the Expert Field Medic Badge.

Training began Sept. 20 and 240 Soldiers set out to the field that day to earn their badge. Only 36 graduates completed the testing and were eligible to take part in the graduation ceremony.

The graduates lined up in formation with pride as they waited for the badges to be pinned on their uniforms by the guest speaker and Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Alfred Rascon.

"EFMB training is a tool that many of you will come back to utilize later in life," Rascon said addressing the graduates. "You are not judged by how tall you are, or what color you are or what your religion is, you are judged by what you can do in the field."

He urged Soldiers to take their experiences and lessons they have learned from the training with them into their lives and out in the field where it matters most.

After the closing of the ceremony, friends, family and fellow Soldiers stood and applauded the troop's dedication and motivation.

"I'm a platoon leader," said Lohnes. "I went out there to train with my Soldiers."

Lohnes said she felt honored to be standing in the formation with the other graduates, and every Soldier earned the privilege to be there and wear the badge.

"It was good for the medics to freshen up on there medical and basic Soldier skills training," she said commenting on how the Soldiers who did not make it to graduation benefited from the training.

"The EFMB was very challenging, especially the EMT portion of it," Fotiades said. "I would tell [other Soldiers] to stay motivated and study hard."

Rascon spoke about the importance of what the medics job is, and he read a quote from a letter he had received from a sergeant who had completed the training a few years before.

"After seeing my friends and fellow Soldiers injured and even killed in war," Rascon read. "I found out how important EFMB training really is."

Photo by Pfc. Kelly K. McDowell

Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Alfred Rascon walks among the formation as he hands out the coveted Expert Field Medic Badge.

"STRIKE" SPORTS

1st and 2nd battalions are representing the 5-0-DEUCE in flag football this fall. Check out the action in front of Fryer Stadium on Desert Storm Ave!

1/502 SCHEDULE

Oct. 13 vs. 8/101 @ 1900

Oct. 20 vs. 3/187 @ 1800

Oct. 26 - Tournament Starts - TBA

2/502 SCHEDULE

Oct. 5 vs. 160th @ 2000 - Oct. 12 vs. 561st @ 1800

Oct. 19 vs. 1DFAC @ 2000 - Oct. 21 vs. 1/187 @ 1800

Oct. 26 - Tournament Starts - TBA

Fall Fest and Eagle Toy Run-- October 16 & 17-- Destiny Parks and Pavilions

Motorcycle parade from Toys R Us to DPP, craft and food vendors, inflatables for the kids, leadership Clarksville BBQ competition, concert, kids cooking contest, DARE K9 demonstration, Clarksville Canine Sport dog demonstration, BOSS pumpkin launch competition, Buddy's birthday celebration,

Haunted Trail and Hayride-- October 28 through 31-- Sportsman's Lodge

Haunted trail with scare stations, haunted hay ride for the kids and Halloween festival at Wohali Pavilion run by FRG's. Unit competition for scariest station, winner receives the haunted cauldron award.

"A Holiday Sampler" 29th Annual Crafts and Collectibles Show- November 6 & 7- Hopkinsville-Christian County Conference and Convention Center

For more information, to participate as a vendor or to invite a vendor to participate call: Trisha Smith (931) 906-9142

Division Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony-- December 9-- Division Headquarters

Tree lighting, fire department truck decorations, Santa and gifts from Santa, free coffee and hot chocolate, pictures, Division Band and caroling by the Girl Scouts.

"STRIKE" FRG leaders meet to discuss future

Col. Todd Ebel, 2nd BCT Commander, speaks about his vision for the future of FRG, Soldiers and their families.

Company level "STRIKE" FRG leaders pose for a group photo Wednesday night at the Family Readiness Center.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Family Readiness Group gathered at the Family Readiness Center Wednesday night to talk about the future of FRG.

Col. Todd Ebel shared his vision for FRG with the leaders and stressed the importance of communication between the Soldiers, their families, the command and FRG.

"FRG is a network of all volunteers," Ebel said. "I want to view it as a command sponsored network."

He said the FRG is there to support the Soldiers and assist with support of their families, because through each Soldiers efforts "they serve us and our country."

He said the purpose of FRG is so the Soldiers can rest assured that their family members will be taken care of if something were to happen.

"Explain to [the command], from the FRG side, what you want the Soldiers to do for you to make the program work," Ebel said. "FRG is about people trying to help people."

He also spoke about the importance of making the new Soldier and their family feel welcome when they arrive at 2nd BCT.

He expressed how important the role of FRG is in helping the families and their Soldiers to be informed so they can support themselves.

During the meeting it was emphasized that FRG is not just for married Soldiers, but for single Soldiers as well.

Each Soldier has a family who they want to stay informed, whether it is a mother, sister, cousin, uncle, wife or husband, FRG is there for them too.

It is important for Soldiers to keep their families informed, and FRG is there to help them with this mission.

STRIKE