



# Thunder Times

A Bi-Monthly Chronicle of the  
155th Armored Brigade Combat Team

Volume 1 | Issue 4 | April 1, 2018



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**155th ABCT  
FAMILY READINESS  
24 HOUR HOTLINE  
601-313-0155**

## FROM THE TOP



**Col. Robert D. Ferguson**  
Commander  
155th ABCT

determined path. I know if we as a Brigade take care of Soldiers, our Soldiers will see the Brigade through any challenge we may face. The pace of training and preparing for the deployment will increase daily, with increased momentum comes greater risks. We all must be leaders of character in ensuring we are able to set the conditions. We must be thorough and protect the Force in all we do. This action can be summed up in one word: Maintenance. Not only must we maintain our vehicles and combat plat-

forms, we must also maintain ourselves. Every battalion has been enabled with the resources in order to sustain its Soldiers and equipment in a long-term, austere training environment. As the saying goes – *slow is smooth, smooth is fast.*

As we prepare for a once in a lifetime event, life continues on the home front. We must never forget those who maintain our place as we answer the call of our nation. Just as important as showers, laundry, and good food are to a Soldier, communication back home is equally essential. The month of April is the Month of the Military Child. Timing for this theme could not be any better. As we all make the painful, physical break from Family, let us not forget those little ones (and maybe not-so-little ones), as well as those who care for them, back home.

Thank you to the Soldiers and Families of the 155th ABCT, for your continuing commitment to this brigade, our state, and our nation. It is an honor to serve with you, and I look forward to growing stronger with you every day, as we make our indelible mark on history through this deployment.

Dixie Thunder!

**THUNDER 6**

## CURRENT NEWS



**“Maintenance is critical for the success of our Army and the systems we use to help soldiers on our battle field fight to win our nation’s wars.”**

- Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey

Spc. Kieanna Diaz, a signal support system specialist, with Headquarters Company, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, performs a preventive maintenance checks and services inspection on a high-mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicle at Fort Bliss, Texas. A proper PMCS is a tool that increases the readiness of a unit by ensuring equipment is fully mission capable. (U.S. Army National Guard photo Sgt. Brittany Johnson)

# FRONTLINE FRAMES



Guardsmen assigned to 155 ABCT load a plane headed to Fort Bliss, Texas at Hawkins Field in Flowood, Miss. (Photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)



Sgt. Matthew Griffin with Company C, 1-155 IN walks to his M1A2 Abrams to perform a PMCS at Fort. Bliss, Texas. (Photo by Sgt. Robert Casavant)



Soldiers of Company A, 106 SPT, are honored with a parade and send off ceremony in Magee, Miss. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams)



Company A, 2-137 IN conducts a night Table 5 qualification under distant illumination from Artillery. (Photo Courtesy of 2-137 IN)

## S A F E T Y

### UNFAMILIAR TERRAIN

The challenge of driving on unfamiliar terrain, might sound thrilling, but it can also be dangerous if you don't know how to properly navigate it.

Before you head out for your mission, consider these tips on how to drive on different terrains.

- WATCH YOUR SPEED
- HAVE A STRIP MAP WITH CHECKPOINTS
- BE READY FOR ANY SITUATION
- PREP FOR UNPAVED ROAD SURFACES
- ENSURE VEHICLE HAS HEADLIGHTS, BRAKE LIGHTS AND BLINKERS

## CHAPPY'S CHAT



**Capt. David Morris**  
Chaplain, 2-198 AR

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.” Philippians 4:6-7

Isn’t that what we do sometimes? Worry? Become anxious? Well...we don’t have to worry or be anxious. We find comfort in knowing that the Lord is wanting us to bring all of our troubles to him. We

had a worship service a couple of weeks ago in which I shared with the Soldiers of the 2-198th that we need to lay any anxieties at the cross and allow the Lord to take care of them. We experience unresolved guilt which leads to anxiety. There are so many things that we try to control, but ultimately, we need to relinquish

this control and give it over to the Lord.

Paul goes on to write, “And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:8-9

The 155 ABCT is in good hands with all our unit ministry teams. I want to express that Sgt. Burton and I will be specifically taking care of our Battalion, the 2-198. We have some great opportunities at Fort Bliss and then when we deploy. My prayers go out to all the families of our deployed Soldiers. We remain faithful because we know that the Lord is already walking this journey with us.

“We came to fight!!!”

**CH WILSON**

## Dedication to Service Runs in the Family

Story by Sgt. Brittany Johnson

A deployment can be a very difficult time for Soldiers. They are separated from loved ones and sent to an unfamiliar place where their life may constantly be in danger. Due to the long period of separation, the Soldier is not the only one whose world is turned upside down.

As the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team prepares for an upcoming deployment to the Middle East, the families back home are faced with a challenging situation. Fortunately, they have programs like the Family Readiness Group (FRG) to assist the Soldier and their families throughout these long periods of separation.

According to the FRG website, “The Family Readiness Group (FRG) is an officially command-sponsored organization of Family members, volunteers, and Soldiers belonging to a unit, that together provide an avenue of mutual support and assistance, and a network of communications among Family members, the chain of command, and community resources.”

Although the FRG has helped many families through deployments, at times it seems oriented towards adults, said Riley Adams, daughter of 1st Squadron, 98th Cavalry Regiment commander, Lt. Col. Glenn Adams.

Fourteen-year-old Riley decided that the children needed more of a support system that would connect other children in the same situation. She has put together a kid’s FRG program to help them through this period.

“The kids are going through just as much as the adults are,” said Riley, “they have a parent that is leaving their lives for a while.”

They plan to meet once a month to talk and offer each other support.

“During the meetings, we will make crafts and write letters that we can send over to our parents,” said Riley.

Riley, whose father has been through four deployments, hopes to help other children through this challenging time by hosting different events and celebrations during the holidays and throughout the upcoming year.

Riley coordinated with Itawamba Community College Early Childhood Academy, FRG leaders, and the 155th ABCT’s Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program to host

a kids dining out before their military parent deployed.

“It gave the Soldiers a chance to spend some one on one time with their children,” said Riley.

This program will help the children by showing them that there are others who are facing the same trials.

“Even though we see our parents going through this, it helps to see other kids going through the same thing,” said Riley.

A deployment is a trying experience for all involved, said Adams, but this program can make it a little easier.

She is working hard to establish kid FRGs throughout the brigade.

“Although this is a sad time in our lives, we should be honored that our parents are going to protect us and serve our country,” said Riley.

The goal of the 155th ABCT is to conduct a successful deployment and come back safely to their families. Thanks to people like Riley Adams, who go above and beyond to help families cope, the Soldiers can have a little more peace of mind to focus on the job in front of them.



Lt. Col. Glenn Adams with daughter Riley

# MEET YOUR TEAM



Maj. William Anderson  
SARC, 155 ABCT

Greetings family and friends of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team. My name is Maj. William Anderson and I will be serving as the full time Brigade Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) during the upcoming deployment. My full time Victim Advocate (VA) is Sgt. First Class Latasha Williams. Our Sexual

Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) team also consists of collateral VAs in each of our Battalions throughout the Brigade.

SARCs and VAs are certified through the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) and credentialed through the DOD Sexual Assault Ad-

vocate Certification Program (D-SAACP). We support the commander with prevention and response efforts, training, and awareness. We are here to emphasize Army values and encourage candor and trust among team members. Successful prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment requires that all Soldiers and leaders understand expected standards of conduct, hold each other accountable, and work together to build a unit climate of dignity, respect, and sensitivity to others.

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment represent an insider threat to the Army with the potential to cause significant irreparable harm to our service.

“Protecting our people protects our mission.”

Help is just a phone call away.

DoD Safe Helpline is [877-995-5247](tel:877-995-5247).

Ft. Bliss SHARP Hotline: [915-245-8991](tel:915-245-8991).

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## PARTING SHOT



Combat Medics with 2-198 AR and 2-114 FA conduct medical evacuation training at Fort Bliss, Texas.  
(Photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DEERS Enrollment - [1-800-538-9552](tel:1-800-538-9552)

Military One Source - [1-800-342-9647](tel:1-800-342-9647)

155th FRG Hotline - [1-601-313-0155](tel:1-601-313-0155)

(Available 24/7)

## COMMO CHECK!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**CLICK TO DOWNLOAD OUR APP!**

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**PUBLISHED BY THE  
155TH ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

PAO - 2nd Lt. Terry Hill II

PAO NCOIC - Staff Sgt. Michael Williams

PA SPECIALIST - Sgt. Brittany Johnson

PA SPECIALIST - Spc. Jovi Prevot