



Thunder Times

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



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Col. Robert D. Ferguson
Commander, 155th ABCT

As we enter the pre-mobilization phase of *Our mission*, Command Sgt. Major John Beasley and I are excited to see the Brigade gain momentum and increase its readiness level. The pace will quickly reach maximum speed as more and more soldiers come on orders. There is a great deal to be done at each level and the key to success lies within the platoon and company-level leadership. It is with the essential effort at our armories, Camp McCain, and Camp Shelby where our successes will be defined.

It is imperative that we take the remain-

ing weeks to connect and communicate with loved ones and ensure they remain updated as much as possible. Our families are the backbone of our Dixie Thunder Brigade. The **155th Family Readiness Hotline (601-313-0155)** gives families the ability to reach out to brigade leadership. I am

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

also excited to announce we are working on the finishing touches of a 155th ABCT smartphone app that will not only keep our team informed but will serve as an invaluable tool in honing our craft and gaining a shared understanding of the way ahead.

(Cont'd. on Pg. 3)

CURRENT NEWS

Spc. William Chamberlin, Delta Company, 150th Engineer Battalion, stands guard at an Entry Control Point on Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Feb. 4, 2018. The "Knight" battalion is training for their upcoming mobilization and deployment with the 155th ABCT in support of Operation Spartan Shield. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams)



FRONTLINE



Soldiers with the 2-114th Field Artillery Battalion train in the gas chamber at Camp McCain. (Photo courtesy of 2-114th FA Bn)

FRAMES



A soldier with the 2-114th Field Artillery Battalion throws a grenade during training at Camp McCain. (Photo courtesy of 2-114th FA Bn)



A soldier with the 106th BSB qualifies with the M2 .50 Caliber machine gun at Camp Shelby. (Photo by Sgt. Brittany Johnson)



Lt. Col. Paul Lyon, 150th BEB commander, talks with local media about the importance of readiness. (Photo by Sgt. Brittany Johnson)

SAFETY

- Army vehicle accidents are the **LEADING CAUSE** of on-duty deaths.
- Proper training and convoy/movement briefing are key to **PREVENTING ACCIDENTS**.
- Always **REHEARSE** speed, interval, catch up, and breakdown procedures.
- Leaders ensure soldier have adequate **REST** (8 hours).

CHAPPY'S CHAT



CH (Maj.) Sean McMackin
Chaplain, 155th ABCT

Greetings to all the families and Soldiers of the 155 Armored Brigade Combat Team! I want to take a moment to introduce myself. I am Sean McMackin, the Brigade Chaplain, and I will accompany your Soldier during this upcoming deployment. I will

be assisted in providing exceptional religious support by a capable and experienced Religious Affairs Specialist in Staff Sgt. Geoff Wagner.

It is our mission to maintain a direct, personal contact with all of our Soldiers. It is impossible to do so

without the hard work and efforts of our dedicated Battalion Chaplains and Religious Affairs Specialists. We count it as an honor and a privilege to serve you and these Soldiers. It is a trust we do not take lightly.

Know that our Battalion Unit Ministry Teams, and myself are constantly praying for you and your loved one deploying. It is a humbling thing to think that we have been entrusted with the care and concern for these souls that go out with us. Thank you for continuing to pray for us. As we go, we pray, "O God, who has given us life and has breathed into our bodies the Divine Spirit, forbid that we should waste our lives in folly or in shame. Rather let all our powers be for the blessing of others, and let our strength be poured out in noble service for God and humanity. Amen."

COMMO CHECK! WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

TAX RETURN INFO!
(SEE BRIGADE OPORD 18-02, FRAGO 11)

PACKING LIST!
(SEE BRIGADE OPORD 18-02, FRAGO 9)

ABSENTEE VOTING INFO!
(SEE BRIGADE OPORD 18-02, FRAGO 11)

[CLICK HERE!](#)



**CHECK OUT OUR 155TH ABCT HOMEPAGE
FOR IMPORTANT FAMILY INFO**

FROM THE TOP (CONT.)

While training is a very high priority, we must understand that our mission rests with our people and equipment. Without these two critical elements we fail. The weeks ahead will consist of hard work, long days, and the inevitable last minute changes that always occur. Nonetheless, our objectives during this phase and Ft. Bliss remain unchanged: the 155th ABCT will be fully combat ready and prepared to take on any mission anywhere in the world.

Finally, we can't forget what will seal the way ahead: *taking care of each other*. The CSM and I urge and expect every 155 Soldier to look out for each other. Everyone has a battle buddy and no one goes it alone. We are all transitioning to a new way of life.

No matter how uncomfortable we may become, we will always adapt. We have a long and proud history of resiliency when it matters - and that time is upon us. Starting this journey on the right foot is paramount to our ultimate goal: ensuring everyone returns home and is stronger in every facet of their life than when this began. *This is Our chance!*

Dixie Thunder!

THUNDER 6

STAY IN TOUCH

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DEERS Enrollment 1-800-538-9552

Military One Source 1-800-342-9647

155th FRG Hotline 601-313-0155
(Available 24/7)

Letters and Care Packages

may be sent to:

<u>Camp Shelby</u>	<u>Ft. Bliss</u>
Rank/Name	Rank/Name
Unit	Unit ("MOB")
1001 Lee Ave.	1011 Chaffee Rd.
Camp Shelby, MS 39407	Ft. Bliss, TX 79916

HANG ON TO YOUR OLD TA-50!

We will not turn in our old gear when we receive our new gear. Make sure you have a secure place to store your old gear while you are gone.

(See Annex F, OPORD 18-02)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 17/18: 1-155TH Yellow Ribbon

MARCH 3/4: 2-198TH Yellow Ribbon

MARCH 10/11: 1-98th Yellow Ribbon

PARTING SHOT



Soldiers with the 150th BEB conduct a foot patrol at Camp Shelby during pre-mobilization training.
(Photo by SSG Michael Williams)



(Exhibit 2, Tab A, Appendix 2, Annex F, OPORD 18-02)

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