



# Thunder Times

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

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

## FROM THE TOP



**Lt. Col. Paul Lyon**  
*150th Engineer Battalion  
Commander*

agency operations, training for near-peer competitors, and homeland defense missions just to name a few. A cohesive, fully operational team that can accomplish any assigned mission safely and effectively can't be built in a day.

As a commander, I want training that takes our Soldiers to the limit of their ability, molds them into a cohesive team, and prepares them for whatever they may face down range. I know that the families back home want their Soldiers to be prepared also. Operation Lightning Focus has accomplished just that! Over the last 2 months our Sol-

diers have provided outstanding engineer, intelligence, UAS and communication support to the Dixie Thunder Brigade. It has been one of the most physically demanding and challenging operations this battalion has ever faced. Our Soldiers responded with a determined toughness and resolve that has become the trademark of the Knight Battalion. Our Soldiers are ready! Our Warriors must be proficient not only in their job, but also in counter-insur-

Now that all of the battalion after action reviews have been completed and our Soldiers have moved from the field back to cantonment areas, our focus shifts to retrograde operations and movement into country. I am honored to deploy alongside the Soldiers of the 155th ABCT and look forward to the challenge that lies ahead. None of this could be done without the unwavering support that we receive from the homefront. I ask for prayers for our deploying Soldiers and for the families back home. It is for them that we serve.

Essays!  
**Knight 6**



## CURRENT NEWS

Soldiers with 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team send their vehicles through the wash rack as they conduct recovery operations. The Brigade has been training in an austere environment for more than 60 days at Fort Bliss, Texas. (U.S. National Guard photo by Sgt. Brittany Johnson)

# FRONTLINE FRAMES



Spc. Derek Sparks, a track vehicle mechanic with 106 SPT helps repair a broken track on a M1A2 SEP V2 Abrams Tank. (Photo by Sgt. Brittany Johnson)



1-155 IN conducts their field training exercise near Camp McGregor, N.M. (Photo by Sgt. Brittany Johnson)



A Company C, 1-155 IN, M1A2 SEP v2 Abrams tank enters the assembly area near Orogrande, N.M. (Photo courtesy of 1-155 IN)



A BFIST Bradley Fighting Vehicle with the 2-114 FA prepares to weather a storm near Orogrande, N.M. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jared Lewis)

## S A F E T Y

### GROUND GUIDING PROCEDURES

- ONLY ONE GROUND GUIDE GIVES SIGNALS TO THE DRIVER
- BE SURE THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED UNDERSTANDS WHO WILL GIVE THE SIGNAL AND WHO RECEIVE IT BEFORE ANY MOVEMENT IS DONE
- IF SIGHT BETWEEN THE DRIVER AND GROUND GUIDE MAKING THE SIGNALS IS LOST, THE DRIVER MUST STOP THE VEHICLE UNTIL SIGHT AND SIGNAL ARE AGAIN VISIBLE OR CONFUSION IS CLEARED UP

## CHAPPY'S CHAT



**1st Lt. Frank Porter**  
Chaplain, 1-98 CAV

Recently, I was enjoying my quiet time devotional when a particular verse of scripture jumped off the page at me. I am currently using the devotional book *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers where a reference was made to the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. In chapter 33, the first part of verse 27 reads, "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the

everlasting arms..." Reading that phrase "everlasting arms" took me back to the church of my childhood where the hymn *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, written by Elisha A. Hoffman in 1887, was sung quite often. At the church where I serve as Pastor we still continue to sing this timeless and beloved hymn.

For many of the soldiers and families in our Brigade this is our first deployment. This is uncharted terri-

tory for us, and at times it may seem overwhelming. The time away from home, the time spent in training/preparation, and the mission yet to be completed can cause our spiritual tank to run empty. However, when we place our faith and trust in God he becomes our never-ending source of strength and will hold each of us safe in his arms during this deployment and beyond. Some of us may feel like the fuel light has just come on and we are running on fumes now.

In those moments when we feel like we are running on empty let us remember that verse of scripture from Deuteronomy echoed so beautifully in the hymn *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*. I am particularly fond of the last verse:

"What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?"

"I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms."

**CH Frank Porter**

**1-98 CAV**

## LONE STAR SUPPORT FOR MAGNOLIA SOLDIERS



El Paso students with the student ambassador program at Pebble Hills High School came together to provide care packages for Mississippi National Guard Soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team.

The packages consisted of personal hygiene items and assorted snack foods. The students also had a box full of letters for the Soldiers to let them know that they are not alone.

"This was such a humbling experience," said Pfc. Abby Patton, a multichannel transmission systems operator, with Company C, 150th Engineer Battalion. "The fact that we're from Mississippi, and Pebble Hills High School took the time to make us care packages is truly heartwarming. Everyone was so friendly and showed so much support for our military."

The 155th ABCT is conducting mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas, for a deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

Pebble Hills High School, located just 12 miles east of Fort Bliss, is attended by nearly 700 military kids.

"The students at Pebble Hills High School know how important it is to support our Soldiers that are deployed and in harm's way," said Neal Sanders, Socorro School District Military Liaison. "So, the student ambassadors from Pebble Hills High School decided to send care package boxes to the Soldiers in the 155th, in hopes that we can make a Soldier's day, and put a smile on the Soldier's face."

"I can't give enough thanks to the students and staff of PHHS," said Patton.



# FRONTLINE FRAMES



A Soldier with the 150 EN shows the effects of the New Mexico wind and sand.  
(Photo courtesy of 150 EN)



A Soldier with the 2-114 FA watches the New Mexico sunset near Orogrande, N.M.  
(Photo by 1st Lt. Jared Lewis)

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@155ABCT



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Homepage

## PARTING SHOT



Sgt. Davin Hill, with the 2-114 FA observes for artillery near Dona Ana, N.M.  
(Photo by 1st Lt. Jared Lewis)

## 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

### MAIL CALL!

Any mail sent to Ft. Bliss, Texas after May 31, 2018, will be returned to sender. Starting July 1, 2018, this new address can be used for Kuwait:  
Rank, Last Name, First Name  
Company, Battalion (155th ABCT)  
APO AE 09330

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