



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**



**Command Sgt. Maj.
John Beasley**
CSM, 155th ABCT

Our time is drawing near to make our move to Ft. Bliss and beyond. I cannot stress enough the importance of NCOs making sure their troops are ready at every level. We must be prepared to fight across multiple domains and through contested areas. This job falls squarely on the shoulders of the backbone of the army, the NCOs. As you go throughout your formations I want you to be sure you are meeting the Army's end state: to equip, train, and field Soldiers to engage with and destroy the enemy.

The most effective way to do this is through shared understanding at every echelon. From the Private to the Command Sgt. Maj. We must insure we are communi-

cating expectations to our Soldiers, holding them accountable to those expectations, and providing constructive feedback at every opportunity. Communication is the key to everything we do as Soldiers. Don't just lead your Soldiers, KNOW your Soldiers. It is the best way for us as NCOs to fulfill our two basic responsibilities highlighted in the NCO Creed; accomplishment of the mission and the welfare of your Soldiers. When we do these two things we develop a stronger, more resilient force.

I hope you take the remaining time at home to enjoy your Families and loved ones. Make sure your Soldiers have the abilities and resources in place to take care of their Families as well. It is a force multiplier when Soldiers are confident about the welfare of their Families and not distracted by issues on the home front.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this brigade, your state, and your nation. I look forward to serving alongside you as a part of the greatest fighting force on the face of the earth.

THUNDER 7

CURRENT NEWS



Sgt. Damon L. Henderson, a power generation equipment repairer assigned to Headquarters Company, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, clears his mask as part of a chemical protective mask confidence exercise at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss., Feb. 15, 2018. Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) training ensures that Soldiers are prepared to react effectively in a chemical environment. Training reinforces their basic skills and knowledge on how to maintain readiness, protect themselves properly during a CBRN threat or attack and continue the mission. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)

FRONTLINE FRAMES



1st Lt. Dominic Miceli participates in an NBC Rifle Qualification lane at Camp Shelby. (Photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)



A Soldier with 1-155 IN participates in a platoon raid training exercise at Camp Shelby. (Photo by Sgt. Brittany Johnson)



Spc. Antoin D. Brown, participates in a counter-improvised explosive devices training exercise at Camp Shelby. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams)



Staff Sgt. Omar J. Ballard instructs Soldiers on breach assembly and disassembly procedures at Camp Shelby (Photo by 1st Sgt. Darren L. Hillie)

S A F E T Y

COLD WEATHER INJURY

When possible **REMAIN INSIDE**

DRINK plenty of **WARM**, non-caffeinated **LIQUIDS**

KNOW and be mindful of your **LIMITS**

PLAN AHEAD for all activities, on and off duty

C – keep it **CLEAN**

O – avoid **OVERHEATING**

L – wear clothing **LOOSE** and in **LAYERS**

D – keep clothing **DRY**

CHAPPY'S CHAT



Maj. Sean McMackin
Chaplain, 155th ABCT

Aristotle has well said that, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit." I'd like to start this chat with a simple word of encouragement to all of you. Please work to cultivate habits that are in keeping with physical, mental, and spiritual health. We all know what it is to coast. Put another way,

to place our lives on cruise-control. Well, we don't have that luxury while in the midst of pre-deployment activities. During this phase of our operations we owe it to ourselves, to each other, and our families back home supporting us, to diligently prepare ourselves to make it through the next 15 months.

This requires all of us to be simplified in our strategy, to be uncluttered in our preparation, and to be focused in our execution. To draw out what Aristotle said, make excellence your goal, and focus on that goal with laser-like precision. Now, for me, that makes things very simple. Not easy, but simple. The Unit Ministry Teams across the Brigade are here to help you all maintain a balance in this pursuit. Robert Hastings has said, "It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad. Rather, it is regret over yesterday OR fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who would rob us of today." Men and women, we have today. Don't be brought down by regret, and don't be paralyzed by fear. Cultivate a habit of excellence! By God's grace, we will achieve that goal.

CHAPPY



Spc. Katesa Dear, HC, 155 ABCT

Dixie Thunder Soldiers Hone Land Navigation Skills

Story by Sgt. Brittany Johnson

The strongest, fastest, most capable Soldiers in the world are ineffective if they are operating in the wrong area. The ability to navigate to a specific point, whether they're deployed overseas or serving stateside, is one of the most fundamental skills a Service Member must possess.

Mississippi Guardsmen assigned to Headquarters Company, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, conducted land navigation training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Feb. 21, 2018.

"We received a refresher course on land navigation this morning," said Sgt. Jalen Portis, an information technology specialist assigned to Headquarters Company, 155th ABCT.

"We revisited reading maps and plotting points using the protractor" said Portis. "It's important to know land navigation because when you're in the field you need to be able to pinpoint exactly where certain things are needed and troops need to go."

While overseas, it's possible that they could end up in a situation where they don't have a GPS, said Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Alexander, a telecommunications operations chief with Headquarters Company, 155th ABCT.

"It's important to make sure you have the knowledge and skills that you probably learned as a younger Soldier, so that if you were in that situation you'd be able to make it back without having to rely on technology that we use today," said Alexander.

Modern technology helps them so much that it's easy for

Soldiers to forget some of the basic skills of taking a map, compass, and protractor and navigating from point a to point b, said 1st Sgt. Joseph Lee, the senior enlisted noncommissioned officer assigned to Headquarters Company, 155th ABCT.

The Soldiers received a refresher class on basic land navigation followed by a practical exercise where they were given four points to plot. They then had to go onto the land navigation course and find each point within a certain time limit.

"If we understand the principles of how to do this manually, we can appreciate what the technology is doing for us," said Lee. "It's also important to know the fundamentals and the basics, before you just blindly trust technology."

Soldiers with the 155th ABCT continue training hard to insure they are proficient in their basic soldiering skills and effective in everything they do, both at home and abroad.



Spc. Bobby Home, HC 155 ABCT

MEET YOUR STAFF



Lt. Col. Eric Kimbrough
Judge Advocate, 155th ABCT

Greetings to the Soldiers and Families of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team. I am Lt. Col. Eric Kimbrough, the Brigade Judge Advocate for our upcoming deployment. My staff consists of licensed attorneys and trained paralegals. We are here to provide you legal assistance

and direction.

As the Brigade Judge Advocate, I serve as the legal advisor to the command. My priority is ensuring every Soldier has access to top quality legal services during pre-mobilization and throughout

the deployment. I want our Soldiers to be able to focus on the mission at hand and coming home safely, not the distractions of possible legal or financial issues back home.

I want you to know that you are represented by your brigade and your Judge Advocates. If you have questions or concerns about creditors, apartment or vehicle leases, your mortgage, pending legal issues, or your employer, please contact your JAG during the deployment cycle. We will help deal with legal issues to give you peace of mind to help you concentrate on the mission. Please don't hesitate to contact your respective JAG if you are in need of assistance.

Your JAG team is located at Building 2801.

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Homepage

PARTING SHOT



1st Lt. Megan Sly leads vehicle rollover training at Camp Shelby during pre-mobilization training. (Photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DEERS Enrollment 1-800-538-9552

Military One Source 1-800-342-9647

155th FRG Hotline 601-313-0155

(Available 24/7)

COMMO CHECK!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

EARLY TRICARE UPDATE!

(SEE BRIGADE OPORD 18-02, FRAGO 22)

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