



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. Jason Nelson
*Deputy Commander
155th ABCT*

Soldiers and family of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, my name is Lt. Col. Jason Nelson and I am honored to serve as the deputy brigade commander of this great unit.

It was an honor working alongside the Dixie Thunder brigade at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California as the former commander of the 2d Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment. I am excited and humbled to be serving alongside you in this new role.

We have begun operations at Fort Bliss, Texas and units are starting to

flow in. Rail operations have gone splendidly and our Soldiers continue to impress everyone at Fort Bliss they come across. As units arrive, they will go through a records and medical validation that will ensure they are ready for the mobilization, and then move out to the initial staging bases to begin preparing for training.

The leadership at all levels has developed a training plan that is both rigorous and rewarding with the intent to best prepare our Soldiers for the mission ahead. There will be long days and some nearly sleepless nights, but we will be a better trained unit for it and will continue to meet Thunder 6's intent of growing stronger every day. I look forward to seeing everyone at Fort Bliss. See you on the high ground. Dixie Thunder!

Lt. Col. Nelson



CURRENT NEWS

Sgt. Ethan Scott and Spc. Blake Newsome represented the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team in the Mississippi National Guard's 2018 Best Warrior Competition at Camp McCain. The Best Warrior Competition is an annual event where the top Soldiers and Airmen throughout the Mississippi National Guard compete for the title of Best Warrior. During the four-day competition, Soldiers are tested on their military aptitude by conquering urban warfare simulations, weapons qualifications, board interviews, physical fitness tests, written exams, warrior tasks and battle drills. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams)

FRONTLINE FRAMES



Spc. Clayton Boydston ties a uli knot for a C-4 explosive charge during a training exercise at Camp Shelby. (Photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)



A 1-155 IN Soldier prepares to exit a vehicle during an emergency egress drill at Camp Shelby. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams)



The 155th ABCT's vehicles are being staged for training by the 1158th Transportation Company at Fort Bliss, Texas. (Photo by 1st Lt. Braxton Bullion)



Sgt. Joshua Reno points out a flag to his son following a sendoff march through their hometown of Monticello, Mississippi. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes)

S A F E T Y

HANDLING OF AMMUNITION

ALWAYS HANDLE CAREFULLY, remove dirt, grit, and foreign material from containers

Do **NOT** store **EXPLOSIVES** and **AMMUNITION** within **75 FEET** of each other in storage location

RSO will conduct a **SPOT CHECK** of vehicles and personnel to verify no **LIVE AMMO** transitioned to the blank area as well as no **BLANK AMMO** transitioned to the live area.

Signs stating **"NO SMOKING IS ALLOWED WITHIN 50 FEET"** will be posted around the perimeter

Units will adhere to **DA PAM 700-16 CHAPTER 12** for all unit level ammunition accountability

CHAPPY'S CHAT



Capt. Randy D. Wilson
Chaplain, 1-155th IN

The Prophet Isaiah stood in shock and bewilderment. The events recorded in Isaiah 6 left him with a serious decision to be made. The text reveals that God was looking for someone to perform an important and decisive function and He was looking for volunteers. It is interesting to note that Isaiah does not hesitate or falter.

Isaiah immediately responds with "Here I am. Send me" (v6).

Those words echo down the halls of history. Whenever great causes present themselves, men and women of honor and bravery always respond with the same words: "Here I am. Send me". From Lexington

and Concord to Gettysburg, from Versailles to Normandy, from Da Nang to Baghdad, men and women of the armed forces have always embodied the same courage and determination that Isaiah did when presented with a cause of consequence and importance. The brave always step forward and assume the burden of the cause for the sake of a greater good for all.

Now our grand Brigade is once again assembled to render aid and support in an important cause for our Country and heritage. Our colors and banners have been posted on the field, and men and women from all over have rallied to them, all of them with the same words on their lips, "Here I am. Send me." The Soldiers of the 155 ABCT will always respond with the same words of the Prophet whenever we are called upon: "Here I am. Send me." May God bless and protect our ranks, and may he bless our Nation as we rally to this mission.



Mountaineering during the course

Dixie Thunder in the Vermont Mountains

Story by Sgt. Brittany Johnson

Freezing weather and steep mountains are just two of the many elements Soldiers battle at the U.S. Army's Mountain Warfare Course in Jericho, Vermont. Few get accepted into the rigorous 14-day course and even less graduate.

Five infantrymen assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, successfully completed the course in late January.

During the Mountain Warfare course, Soldiers learn how to overcome the physical and

mental challenges of maneuvering and navigating in a mountainous environment, as well as casualty care and evacuation.

"It taught me a lot about mountaineering, something that I had no experience with," said Spc. Aaron Vasquez. "It helped to build my confidence in that kind of environment."

They learn a lot of information that will help to make them an asset to their unit, said Vasquez. They will bring back what they learned and help to train fellow Soldiers throughout the battalion.

The class presented many trials throughout the two weeks, but the biggest factor for the Mississippians was the weather.

"The weather was one of the biggest challenges," said Sgt. Ryan Rouchon. "Being from Mississippi you don't get cold weather like that."

The temperature fluctuated between 20 degrees and negative 20 degrees Fahrenheit, said Rouchon.

"Being out in the extreme cold like that will wear you

down," said Staff Sgt. Dominic Williams. "We just pushed through it and kept moving."

In addition to the weather, the terrain also proved to be an obstacle while conducting land navigation.

"The land navigation class was difficult for me because the [terrain] isn't what I'm used to," said Williams.

Mississippi is flat compared to mountainous Vermont, said Williams.

Rather than just paying attention to the distance and direction, you have to take into account the elevation, said Williams.

"[In Mississippi] you can go in a certain direction and count your distance, but when you're in the mountains you have to use your altitude and count your contour lines," said Vasquez.

Though mountaineering skills may not be a necessity in Mississippi, Soldiers have to prepare themselves for multiple climates and terrains.

"We never know where we will be needed," said Vasquez. "If we end up in mountainous terrain we will have the knowledge to help our fellow Soldiers."



A/1-155 IN Soldiers hiking at the Mountain Warfare School, Vermont

MEET YOUR TEAM



2d Battalion
137th Infantry Regiment

In addition to the six battalions from throughout Mississippi, the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team also includes a Combined Arms Battalion from Kansas, the 2d Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment.

The 2d Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment is headquartered in Kansas City, Kansas and commanded by Lt. Col. Carlin Williams. Command Sgt. Maj. Dwane Clifford serves as the senior noncommissioned officer.

The 137th Infantry Regiment (First Kansas)

was organized on May 17, 1879 from companies in the Kansas Volunteer Militia as the 1st Infantry Regiment. The unit was reorganized as the 137th on Nov. 4, 1921. Since Sept. 1, 1992 the 2nd Battalion is the only active unit of the 137th Infantry Regiment. The 2-137th officially became part of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team in 2018.

The 137th Infantry Regiment has participated in the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, and most recently the Global War on Terrorism.

The 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (Army), the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) and the Army Superior Unit Award.

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PARTING SHOT



2nd Lt. Michael Grennan performs a radio check while conducting a road march at Camp Shelby (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

PACKING GUIDANCE!
(SEE BRIGADE OPORD 18-02, FRAGO 25)

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