THE 7th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

WAR OF 1812
MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR
CIVIL WAR
INDIAN WARS
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR
PHILIPPINE
INSURRECTION







WW I WW II KOREA VIETNAM COLD WAR SOUTHWEST ASIA

IRAQ

THE COTTONBALER

Volume XXVIII No. 1

The Cottonbaler

Winter/Spring 2017



Cottonbaler 2017 Reunion

30th Anniversary of The 7th Infantry Regiment Association
Monday 29 May to Thursday 1 June 2017

Hilton Savanna Desoto · Savannah GA 31401

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• • • • • • • • •

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CSM Robert Controne, USA, CSM*

3d Battalion, 7th Infantry

LTC Brian Ducote, USA, CDR* CSM Michael E. Davenport*

* Denotes active duty

The Cottonbaler is an official, quarterly publication of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association

OBJECTIVES of the 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

- 1. To create and perpetuate a viable and cohesive national organization for the purpose of enjoying the camaraderie and unique membership, and in unison, voice concern for the protection of our cherished American ideals and our individual way of life.
- 2. To support the military policy that maintains reasonable but strong nuclear and conventional, combat-ready regular and reserve component forces, able to provide adequate national security for our nation and its people.
- 3. To foster the development of good citizenship, patriotism, and leadership in our American youth, the future of our nation.
- 4. To insure that posterity is constantly reminded of those instances of service, sacrifice, and dedication to the preservation of our nation's liberty and freedom by celebrating those dates that recall the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of the United States, and especially the 7th Infantry Regiment and its component units.
- 5. To encourage and achieve the mutual benefit and support resulting from a close and cooperative alliance between the Association and the active units of the 7th Infantry Regiment in the United States Army.

PLEASE SEND ANY ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS TO

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S. 16 Sharon Parkway North Smithfield, RI 02896 XUANLOC@aol.com

Check out our website: www.cottonbalers.com

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Receive Your Cottonbaler Newsletter Electronically via Email

To help save printing and mailing costs, members may now receive their Cottonbaler Newsletter via email. Email versions will arrive about 2 weeks before members receive it in the mail.

If you are interested in this option, please email our Secretary, Fr. Phil Salois, at xuanloc@aol.com. You can change your mind any time and go back to receiving your newsletter by regular mail.

Members, particularly Life Members who no longer have to pay the annual membership fee, are encouraged to donate toward the operating expenses of the Association each year. Send your contribution directly to our treasurer, Joe Washart, 504 Brooke Avenue, Magnolia, NJ 08049-1106.

Cottonbalers on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/28462933742/



3-7 IN conducting a TOW missile live fire

DISCLAIMER

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While material received for publication is screened for relevance, good taste and general content, the Editor is not responsible for its technical accuracy. If readers wish to challenge the accuracy of an article published in *The Cottonbaler*, whether contributed by an Association member or reprinted from an outside source, they are welcome to do so by writing to the Editor and explaining the basis for the challenge. Such letters will also be published, if appropriate.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE.....



Association President Dave Jensen

reetings, to all the members of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers) and sincere best wishes that all Cottonbalers and their families are doing well!

It is of course, with a heavy heart that we have to acknowledge the loss of our brother in arms, a distinguished soldier, a Cottonbaler By God, and "A Damn Fine Soldier," the Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment, CSM, Curly Faulk, USA Ret. Our deepest sympathies go out to Carol Anne and Curly's family. Anyone who had the privilege to know him will never forget him. He was a true hero of the 7th Infantry Regiment. The 7th Infantry Regiment Association will not be the same without him. May He Rest in Peace!

As you know, our 2015 Reunion in New Orleans celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Cottonbalers getting their name at Chalmette Plantation was one of the best attended reunions in recent years. The 2017 Reunion in Savannah is shaping up to be even better!

Again, we have announced the Reunion in as many publications and military web pages as possible. I have been contacted by several former Cottonbalers expressing interest in the Reunion and the Association. We hope to see all of them and you in Savannah, at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto 29 May -1 June 2017.

Here are some of the highlights of our 2017 Reunion:

We decided years ago that every other reunion we would return to the home of our active duty battalions at Fort Stewart, Georgia. I am very pleased to announce that this year we will have both 7th Infantry Regiment Active Duty Battalions at Fort Stewart during the 2017 Reunion and the 30th Anniversary of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association. The focal point of the reunion will be Tuesday 30 May 2017 when we spend the day on Fort Stewart visiting with our active duty Cottonbalers, the 7th Infantry Regiment Association Memorabilia Room, the Cottonbaler Memorial, and the new 3rd Infantry Division Museum.

I am also very pleased to announce that our keynote speaker for the banquet will be MG James E. Rainey, Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart. We want to thank General Rainey for helping us make the 30th Anniversary of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association a special event.

In an effort to dial up the fun at our 30th Anniversary Celebration we have decided to dress down our banquet. In the spirit of summer in Savannah, the dress for this year's banquet will be summer casual. No coats, ties or high heels, but a lot of music and dancing!

In keeping with past traditions, the ladies will have their own event this year during the General Membership Business Meeting on Wednesday, 31 May 2017. From 10am -11am there will be a very Special Tea held at the Gryphon Tearoom. The tearoom is literally a stone's throw

President's Page continued from pg. 4

from our hotel, so transportation will not be an issue. As with the theme of the whole Reunion, there is no fancy dress requirement, but there will be hats. Hats will be provided prior to the event along with an opportunity and supplies to make it your own style. Decorate a hat and attend a real tea party! You must register for this event when you make your Reunion reservations.

Again, we are very excited that the Witness to War Foundation (www.witnesstowar.org) will be attending our reunion to interview Cottonbalers, and record the war time experiences of those interested in participating. If you are interested in signing up ahead of time, you can contact Martin Madert at (770) 628-0024, or martin@witnesstowar.org.

We apologize for the lateness of this newsletter and the details for registering for the Cottonbaler Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association at our 2017 Reunion.

See our reunion section in this issue or go to the Cottonbaler website www.cottonbalers.com for more details on the 7th Infantry Regiment Association 30th Anniversary schedule, activities and registration materials. Please note the cutoff date for registration for reunion events and hotel rooms at reunion rates is 2 May 2017. We need your help to contact every Cottonbaler you know and invite them to what should be our best reunion ever!

We need all 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers) members, former members, and future members if at all possible, to muster in Savannah 29 May – 1 June 2017, and to bring your fellow Cottonbalers with you!

See you in Savannah, travel safe, and keep your powder dry!

Volens et Potens!

Dave •

7th INF REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBER-SHIP PROFILE

As of 1 1 February 2017

DUES STATUS:

None due (LM, HON, CG, PM)	235
Annual renewals for 2015 - 2016	123
Members Not Paid Up	30
Total Members	408

CATEGORY SUMMARY:

Served with the 7th Infantry,	
Or attached or supporting units	336
Associate Members	8
Supporting Members	14
Supporting Members Honorary Members	2
Permanent Member	1
Color Guard Member	1

PERIOD OF SERVICE SUMMARY:



A/3-7 2nd PLT soldiers execute a small arms range to maintain marksmanship proficiency. 2nd Platoon built the range as part of their camp improvement.



ear Fellow Cottonbalers: Since the last issue of our magazine, I got to thinking that I bet many members we are carrying on our rolls are mainly World War II veterans and also some Korean War veterans are in fact deceased and were never reported to the Association so we could honor them and pray for them. When you look at the TAPS list you will see that I found about 20 WWII and 10 Korean War veterans are in fact deceased and I have dropped from the active roster and moved them to our "Fallen Brothers" page. You will notice that some died nearly ten years ago. It is sad that we were never notified. I googled all the names and that is how I found them. What I will do is every year I will go through the Master Roster and check out every name to see if we have lost any of our brothers in the previous year and were not notified. What I also did was to send the list of names of our Belgian veterans to Bob Boucart and Fernand Deschamps in hopes

that they can let me know if any of our Belgian brothers are deceased so we can add them to our "Fallen Brothers" page. I hope they will reply to my request.

In addition to all of that, I have gone through our Master Roster, and noticed that many of our members had not paid their Annual \$20.00 dues for the 2016-2017 year. And so I mailed out letters to all of you who had not renewed as a reminder. Most of you responded with checks. I want to thank you. For those of you that I had your e-mail address, I also sent you a second reminder and that also yielded positive results.

Some of you have moved to other locations particularly those of you who are still on Active Duty. Please try to remember to keep me up-to-date on your current address so that you do not miss an issue of the Cottonbaler Magazine.

For those of you, who still have not renewed yet, please do. You may even consider becoming a Life Member for: \$100 (over 70); \$175 (60-70); \$250 (60 + under); \$200 (Active Duty E-8-O-3); \$150 (Active Duty E-7 and below).

Please send me your \$20.00 check payable to 7th Infantry Regiment Association as soon as possible so your membership will not lapse.

Please remit your dues to:

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S. Association Secretary 7th Infantry Regiment Association 16 Sharon Parkway North Smithfield, Rhode Island 02896-6930 Or better yet, consider buying a Life Membership so you will not have to remember every June to pay your dues.

May God bless you all!

Volens et Potens – Damn Fine Soldiers!

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S. Association Secretary ◆



"Cottonbaler" 2nd Battalion COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...

LTC Peter C. Glass USA, CDR

From Able 6, LTC Peter C. Glass:

reetings to the Soldiers, families and friends of the Cottonbalers! This quarter, Task Force Able continued its support to Raider Fury III and prepared for redeployment to Fort Stewart. Following Anakonda '16, Soldiers from Task





LTC Pete Glass (left) and CSM Robert Controne

Force Able redeployed to Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA). Cottonbalers were given a fiveday holiday during the 4th of July weekend to take day trips around Germany and experience the local history, culture, and cuisine. After the brief reprieve, Soldiers immediately prepared for and conducted Sustainment Gunnery at Grafenwoehr Training Area. This qualified the platoons within the Task Force for Combined Resolve VII, which was a multinational, interagency, combined arms exercise designed to increase the Task Force's readiness for the Direct Action fight. Task Force Able partnered with Belgium, Bosnia, Romania, Poland, and elements from Norway and Luxemburg for this exercise. Upon completion of Combined Resolve VII, members of Task Force Able conducted equipment turn-in at Coleman worksite and container pack-out at GTA to set the conditions for redeployment to Fort Stewart. Following redeployment to Fort Stewart the Task Force will have block leave, conduct a property merger, and assume the Immediate Response Company mission as a part of the Global Response Force. (For more information about the operations please visit http://www.eur. army.mil/jmtc/CombinedResolve.html).

As the Task Force returns from the successful rotation to Europe, it now traverses its sights onto the next mission. The Immediate Response

Company (IRC) will be a mission that taps into the many skills that were learned, developed and honed while supporting EUCOM. My great sense of pride in commanding the Cottonbalers continues to grow every quarter. All that they do reflects great credit upon the 7th Infantry Regiment, the U.S. Army and the United States of America. I want to thank you again for your support as it pushes this Battalion to outshine sister battalions and I want to thank you for your continued support while we were so far from home. Please follow the Task Force and all of its accomplishments at www.facebook.com/2BN7IN. Again, there are few better words to describe the Cottonbalers than our motto: Willing and Able, Cottonbalers by God, Damn Fine Soldiers! ~Able 6

Headhunter 6, CPT Jonathan M. Punio:

Greetings to the Headhunter Soldiers, families, and friends! It has been a busy time for the Cot-

2nd BN continued from previous page...

tonbalers throughout this past quarter. At the end of June we returned back to Grafenwoher, Germany after our participation in Operation Anakonda, Poland. These Damn Fine Soldiers still continue to receive accolades for their professionalism, performance, and accomplishments during Anakonda 2016.

In the month of July the Headhunters executed Bradley Gunnery at the Grafenwoher Training Area of our Scout Platoon and the S3 track. The Mortars were also executing a mortars live fires training exercise. The Brigade Commander also stated how valuable this training event is and excited to hear how our Soldiers performed.

HHC continues to refine, develop, and consistently improve our ability to effective provide the assets, capabilities, and enablers to best shape the battlefield effects to accomplish any mission anywhere globally. A lot of lessons learned developed and the growth of our Soldiers ability to work together as a team regardless of the section or platoon they are in. Focused on a one team mentality to collectively achieve one goal at a time together.

These Headhunter Soldiers has impressively set the example by becoming tactically and technically proficient as both individuals and as a collective team. These are just some of the examples of why we are the best damn fine Soldiers the Army has to this date and proven themselves to live up to the distinguished heritage and honors of this Battalion. Their training has made them the most lethal fighting force in this Brigade, the Division and in our Army. I am honored, immensely proud of each and every one of these Soldiers and what they have accomplished. I am constantly humbled to serve with the America's Best Soldiers that are diligent, intelligent, and commitment to the team, our Army, and to this Nation. To the families I cannot express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for your constant support to our Headhunter Soldiers. Your contributions, support, and love to our Soldiers are ever so grateful! Thank you.

Please follow the Company and all of its accomplishments at www.facebook.com/2-7-INF-HHC-FRG-770975389632721.

Assassin Company:

The past quarter was yet another busy one for the Assassin Family. The majority of our time was spent in the field conducting multiple live fire exercises, qualifications, and gunnery. This was all in preparation for A/2-7 IN's assumption of the Immediate Response Company Mil-



3-7 IN participating in the Marne Week combatives event

A Bit of Military Humor

'Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.'

- Unknown Marine Recruit-

'If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him.'

-USAF Ammo Troop

2nd BN continued from previous page...

iMili(IRC) in support of the Global Response Force.

In July, Assassin Company hosted three cadets under the Cadet Troop Leader Training program. During their three weeks with the Company, the cadets served as Platoon Leaders and familiarized themselves with the roles and responsibilities of a Platoon Leader. The cadets also oversaw platoon level training and became familiar with OIC/RSO duties at Bradley crew gunnery. All Assassin mounted crews successfully completed crew gunnery, certifying all standard crews and several crews with jump gunners. Congratulations on a job well done!

In August, Assassin Company conducted small arems qualification ranges, effectively preparing Assassin Soldiers to successfully complete Team LFX. Immediately following Team LFX, the majority of Assassin Company's leadership deployed as an OC/T team to JRTC to support Bushmaster Company's rotation supporting 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

In September, Team Assassin continued preparations in becoming the first Company chosen

by 3 ID to assume the responsibility of the IRC by conducting two separate repetitions of both Team and Squad LFX, as well as Bradley Crew and Platoon Gunnery. Assassin Company also welcomed several new Soldiers in September. These new Assassins hit the ground running conducting both the aforementioned collective training as well as individual training including drivers training, combat lifesaver, and weapons qualification. Finally to close out the quarter, the Company was alerted and conducted a weeklong Emergency Deployment Response Exercise for 3 ID.

We look forward to another exciting quarter. Assassin Company thanks all Cottonbaler Families and Friends for their continued support.

Bushmaster 6, CPT Ben Hunter:

Greetings to the Bushmaster Soldiers, Families, and Friends! It has been a busy time for the Bushmasters throughout the last three months. We continue to stand ready for any mission our nation may call us to do by maintaining a high state of readiness. At the end of June we returned back to Fort Stewart from a



THANK YOU!

to the following association members for donations this quarter:

Boswell Scholarship Fund

MSG Donald C. Bettine

LTC William C. Camper

SP4 Robert F. Hembree

Operating Expenses

Mrs. Lynn D. Ball

MSG Donald C. Bettine

LTC William C. Camper

SP4 Robert F. Hembree

Pedro E. Racellis III

LTG Walter F. Ulmer

2nd BN continued from page 9...

very successful training deployment to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where we enabled 3rd BDE, 82nd Airborne Division in their Joint Operational Airborne Exercise (JOAX). During the JOAX our Bradley Platoons became the main effort for the Brigade while securing a foothold on three different enemy objectives. This pivotal training event for 3rd BDE, 82d proved vital for our success during our future joint deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, LA. These Damn Fine Soldiers still continue to receive accolades for their professionalism, performance, and accomplishments during JOAX and JRTC.

In the month of August the Bushmasters deployed to JRTC at Fort Polk, LA. The company deployed as a Company Team with a tank platoon from Charlie Company, 2-7IN in support of 3rd BDE, 82d Airborne Division.

For the month of September, Bushmaster Company supported the 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment Fire Support Coordinated Exercise (FSCX) and JFE. 3rd Platoon, Bushmaster Company first deployed to Fort Benning, GA to conduct the FSCX. During this training event the 3rd Platoon Bradleys conducted a live fire exercise with dismounted companies from 3rd Ranger Battalion and several other fire support platforms.

These Bushmaster Soldiers continue to prove that they are the tip of the spear and are ready for any mission. Their ability to be adaptive and consistently succeed under dynamic and complex situations is impressive. In closing, I can't thank the incredible Families that support these amazing Soldiers every day. Thank you for your daily sacrifice to the Bushmaster Company, 2-7IN, 1ABCT, and the 3rd Infantry Division.

Please follow the Company and all of its accomplishments at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1466969650188214/

Murphy's Laws of Combat

Tracers work both ways.

Two items which must be together to work can't be shipped that way.

What can be seen can be hit, what can be hit can be killed.

When you are really hungry, only lima beans remain.

When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.

Air defense motto: shoot 'em down; sort 'em out on the ground

A clean (and dry) set of BDU's is a magnet for mud and rain.

A Purple Heart just proves that were you smart enough to think of a plan, stupid enough to try it, and lucky enough to survive.

Cold Steel 6, CPT Nathan Petersen:

Greetings to the Cold Steel Soldiers, family, and friends! It has been a very busy but rewarding quarter! As always, Cold Steel remains vigilant and ready to answer our nations' call and fight for our country.

In late June the Company traveled to Poland and took part in Operation Anakonda, a large multinational exercise. Cold Steel paired with the Polish and participated in Standard Training Exercises. The Company learned valuable lessons about interoperability and gained cultural and tactical insight into our allies. It was a great training opportunity.

continued on page 15.

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSN. - COTTONBALERS REUNION

May 29 - June 1, 2017 • HILTON SAVANNAH DESOTO

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, May 29

1:00pm - 5:00pm Reunion Registration
1:00pm Hospitality Room opens
5:00pm - 6:00pm Ice Breaker Happy Hour
Dinner on your own

TUESDAY, MAY 30

8:00am - 8:30am Reunion Registration Open

9:00am - 5:00pm FORT STEWART

5:30pm - 6:30pm Reunion Registration Open. Additional hours will be posted at the reunion, if necessary.

8:00pm Live Auction

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

9:00am - 10:00am Board Meeting

10:00am - 11:00am General Business Meeting

10:00am - 11:00am LADIES TEA AT GRYPHON TEA ROOM (casual dress; hats provided)

Free time to explore Savannah on your own.

6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception 7:00pm Banquet Begins

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

8:00am - 9:00am Memorial Breakfast 9:00am - 9:45am Memorial Ceremony

FORT STEWART TOUR DESCRIPTION

This is the focal point of the reunion. Spend the day on Fort Stewart, visiting with our active duty Cottonbalers. Hear briefings from the battalions on their current organizations, upcoming training schedules and key events. Stops will include the Cottonbaler Memorial and the new 3rd Infantry Division Museum. Lunch will be in the mess hall with the troops. Don't miss this opportunity to spend time with our Active Duty Cottonbalers! Notes: This trip requires a minimum of 35 people. Please be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the published time. Driver and Staff Gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

9:00am board bus, 5:00pm back at hotel. \$50/Person includes bus and escort. Lunch on your own.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

Register online at www.afr-reg.com/cottonbalers2017

HILTON SAVANNAH DESOTO – SAVANNAH, GA

(912) 232-9000 or (877) 280-0751

www.desotohilton.com

Location

15 East Liberty Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Centrally located in the heart of Savannah's Historic District, near dining, shopping and theater districts and only 20 minutes from the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.

Reservation Information

Call (912) 232-9000 and reference the 7th Infantry Regiment Association Reunion or reserve online at www.desotohilton.com and use the Group Code: IRA or visit www.afr-reg.com/cottonbalers2017 and click on the link at the top of the page.

Group Name: 7th Infantry Regiment Association

Reunion Dates: May 29-June 1, 2017

Rate: \$119 + tax (currently 13% + \$1 local occupancy tax + \$5 state hotel/motel fee) Group rate will be available three days after the reunion dates, based on space and rate availability

Cut-off Date: 04/27/17 - Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be made by 3:00pm prior to arrival, after this time a charge of one nights room plus tax will be charged to credit card.

Parking & Shuttle Information

The Hilton Desoto is offering a discounted rate of \$15 per night for valet parking for overnight guests with reservations at the hotel. Currently the valet parking rate is \$25 per night with full in and out privileges, and parking rates are subject to change. The hotel does not offer complimentary airport shuttle service. Shuttle service is provided by K Shuttle, and currently offer shuttle service to the Hilton Savannah DeSoto for \$15 per person one way and \$30 per person roundtrip. All rates are subject to change and will need to be verified when making reservations. For more information, to verify pricing and make reservations please call (877) 243-2050 or visit www.kshuttle.com.

Wheelchair Rental

ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for more information or to make reservations.

7th Infantry Regiment Association "Cottonbalers" Reunion Activity Registration Form - 5/29-6/1, 2017

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at http://www.afr-reg.com/cotton-balers2017/ (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before April 27, 2017. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. 322 Madison Mews Norfolk, VA 23510 ATTN: 7th INFANTRY

Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

	OFFICE USE ONLY
Check #	Date Received
Inputted _.	Nametag Completed

CUT-OFF DATE IS 4/27/17	Price Per	# of People	Total
OUTINGS		•	
TUESDAY, MAY 30: FORT STEWART	\$50		\$
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31: LADIES TEA AT GRYPHON TEA ROOM	\$25		\$
HOTEL MEALS			
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31: BANQUET (Please select your entrée)			\$
Sliced Flank Steak w/ wild mushroom gravy	\$50		\$
Pan-Roasted Chicken w/ pan-dripping gravy	\$50		\$
BREAKFAST			
THURSDAY, JUNE 1: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	\$27		\$
MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE			
Covers various reunion expenses	\$35		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ

FIRST	LAST			
SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING))			
GUEST NAMES				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
STREET ADDRESS				
CITY	STATE	ZIP	 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
PH. NUMBER ()	EMAIL		@	
DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICT (Sleeping room requirements must be con				
MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULIC IN BUS TRIPS? (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE			EELCHAIR IN ORDE	R TO PARTICIPATE
EMERGENCY CONTACT		PH. N	UMBER ()_	
ARRIVAL DATE	DEPA	RTURE DATE		
ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL?	YES NO AI	RE YOU FLYING? 🗖	DRIVING? □	RV? □
By submitting this form you will be enrolled	ed in AFR's monthly newsletter sul	bscription. To opt out of th	is service, please check	the box.

REGISTER ONLINE AT http://www.afr-reg.com/cottonbalers2017/

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays). Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code.

Official 2017 Absentee Ballot

For President Gregory S. Gullison First Vice-President Robert J. Burns [] Second Vice-President Shawn Huebner [] For At-Large Board Member (Vote for three) James Norris [] Stephen C. Borkowski [] Lanny Unruh []

Submit your ballots by 19 May, 2017. Any write-in vote should have the concurrence of the person nominated. Send your ballot to:

(Signature)

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.

16 Sharon Parkway

(Printed Name)

North Smithfield, Rhode Island 02896-6930

2nd BN continued from page 10

At the end of the training exercise in Poland, the company said farewell to 1SG Haven. The company hailed 1SG Hardin and the change of responsibility was conducted. 1SG Hardin had previously served the Cottonbaler Battalion as the Battalion Master Gunner. Steel 7 accepted responsibility for the Company and then the Cold Steel Soldiers left for the Coleman Worksite and the Rhine Ordinance Barracks.

While at the Rhine Ordinance Barracks, CPT Jeff Bender and CPT Petersen conducted a change of command ceremony. CPT Bender

was nominated for a position as an instructor at the US Military Academy. CPT Petersen is new to the Division, having just graduated from Maneuver the Captains Career Course. Two days after the change of command, Cold Steel left Europe and returned to Fort Stewart, GA.

B/3-7 IN Live Fire

Upon Return from Fort Stewart, the company jumped right into operations. Headquarters, Red Platoon and White Platoon executed Tank Gunnery Tables 1-12 over three weeks. Charlie Company did extremely well at gunnery, qualifying all crews as first time go.

While Headquarters, Red Platoon and White Platoon were at gunnery, Blue Platoon was attached to Bushmaster Company and went to JRTC at Fort Polk, LA. Blue Platoon attached to Bushmaster Company was instrumental in enabling the success of 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne's rotation.

As soon as gunnery was over, the Marne Express kept Charlie Company busy. After we

completed gunnery table 12, Cold Steel had to complete all the other individual weapons skills and training to support Assassin Company's assumption of the Immediate Response Company (IRC) Mission. A fast and furious training and execution over two weeks culminated in an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE). The company loaded an M1A2 SepV2 onto an Air Force C-17 and flew the tank and its crew around the state before landing again at Hunter Army Airfield. Red and White platoons assume the IRC mission supporting Assassin Company at the end of the quarter.

One week after the EDRE completed, Headquarters, Blue Platoon and White Platoon from Bushmaster Company headed to JRTC for Rotation 17-01 as Team Steel. Team Steel represented 3rd Infantry Division very well and supported the 2nd Brigade 82nd Airborne.

Cold Steel stands ready to lead the charge into battle. The Company proved this quarter that even decentralized, in different states, conducting completely different and unrelated missions that the Soldiers of Cold Steel are some of the best in the United States Army. Cold Steel continues to accomplish complex missions with limited time to prepare. The Soldiers work hard and exceed the standard in everything that they do. Thank you to the families of these young men and women of Team Steel for all of your support throughout the last quarter.

You can find Cold Steel on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ColdSteel27INF/

2nd BN continued from previous page

Deathrider 6, CPT Garlick:

Deathrider Company has had an extremely busy but rewarding quarter since our last newsletter.

July began with redeployment from Drawsko Pomorski, Poland to Grafenwoehr, Germany. The company quickly reset all of our equipment and executed crew gunnery, where Deathrider posted the highest company average in 1ABCT.

August was spent focusing on collective training where the company executed Company and Battalion Situational Training Exercises. The collective training culminated in a Battalion Combined Arms Life Fire Exercise. During that outstanding event Deathrider Company conducted a combined arms breach with assistance from elements from 10th BEB, 1-41 FA, and 12th CAB. The company performed admirably and many Soldiers that took part commented on it being the highlight of our training in Europe.

In September Deathrider Company took part in Combined Resolve VII (CBR VII) in Hohenfels, Germany. During CBR VII the company had the opportunity to work directly under a Romanian Infantry Battalion as we fought together in a force-on-force period against a "near peer" opposing force simulated by 1-4 IN. Again Deathrider Company proved its mettle as it destroyed more enemy vehicles and suffered less casualties than any other maneuver company in 1 ABCT over the ten day exercise.

Deathrider is currently conducting turn in of vehicles and equipment to the European Activity Set in Mannheim, Germany and looks forward to rejoining our families in Fort Stewart, Georgia soon.

Highlander 6, CPT Faitha M. Schrader:

Greetings to the Highlander Soldiers, families,

and friends! It has been a very busy and challenging quarter, but we all overcame and conquered due to the hard work and dedication from our Soldiers, as well as the tremendous support from you and the community. This past quarter has witnessed the Highlander Soldiers with amazing training accomplishments in support of Task Force ABLE; highest in the Brigade for Unit Maintained Equipment statuses; and focused on getting the team prepared to take on support for the Immediate Readiness Company (IRC) for the 18th Airborne Corp, Global Readiness Force (GRF). As the Highlander commander it has been an honor to watch our Soldiers as they continue to exceed the standard in logistical support. The Highlanders' collaborative team work, proves our willingness to do whatever it takes to sustain the fight and our ability to accomplish any mission.

For the month of July, Highlanders returned from Operation Anakonda 16 in Drawsko Pomorski, Poland to Grafenwöhr Training Area, Germany where they hit the ground running or at times it was more of a sprint with the magnitude of training events. Maintenance platoon worked countless hours to ensure Task Force Able's equipment was operational ready after the Poland mission. Distribution platoon starting conducting sustainment operations as Deathrider and Cyclone began Gunnery in preparation for Combined Resolve VII. The Company participated in a Truck Rodeo with other Forward Support Companies across the BDE. The completion highlight the skills of the truck drivers in Raider Brigade and challenged Soldiers to work as a team to accomplish the tasks. SPC Watson made the course look easy by completing it flawlessly, setting a standard no other driver could match. We finish out the month by saying farewell to Captain Antoinette C. King and welcoming Captain Faitha M. Schrader.

In August Hotel Company conducted individual weapons qualification and executed a small

The Cottonbaler

2nd BN continued from previous page

arms M4 qualification range for the BN. Our Recovery Section sent out two crews to participate in a Gunnery with Dragon Company. Those crews performed flawlessly becoming proficient in providing security from mobile weapons platforms. Simply remarkable performance by these damn fine Soldiers. During the company and BN field exercise, Soldiers conducted a tactical convoy; occupied an assembly area; setup a command post; established an unit maintenance collection point; conducted base security; conducted recovery operations; conducted LOGPAC's; conducted refueling operations; and ended the exercise by jumping the command post to a new location. This was another chance for our Soldiers to excel and sharpen their skills in a tactical environment with real world scenarios, posturing the Company for Combined resolve VII.

In September, Highlanders moved to Hohenfels, Germany (HTA) to participate in Combined Resolve VII (CBR VII). Our Soldiers were consistently developing their fundamentals, enriching their warfighting skills, and become tactically proficient upon our arrival into HTA. Once again the Highlander Soldiers set the standard with their impeccable performance accomplishing multifunctional logistics to include LOGPACS, maintenance and recovery, supporting the combined arms battalion. The Soldiers worked alongside our allied forces providing logistic support for the Belgian Reconnaissance Company. Once complete at CBR VII rotation, Hotel Company supported Task Force Able with a seamless and smooth turn in of the property and equipment at the European Activity Set (EAS) Manheim, Germany. The Highlanders are excited to have complete one more step in achieving excellence and providing first class sustainment to Task Force Able and look forward to rejoining our families in Fort Stewart, Georgia.

I personally would like to thank all of you for your continued support! ◆

More Murphy's Laws of Combat

A retreating enemy is probably just falling back and regrouping.

Air strikes always overshoot the target, artillery always falls short.

All-weather close air support doesn't work in bad weather.

Any ship can be a minesweeper once.

B-52s are the ultimate close support weapon.

Combat will occur on the ground between two adjoining maps.

Density of fire increases proportionally to the curiousness of the target.

Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything.

Every command which can be misunderstood, will be.

Everything always works in your HQ, everything always fails in the Colonel's HQ.

Exceptions prove the rule, and destroy the battle plan.

Flies high, it dies; low and slow, it'll go.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism. (in boot camp)

Fortify your front; you'll get your rear shot up.

TAPS

"Be Thou At Peace"

Please see Secretary's Corner for an explanation of why there are so many names here of members long departed.

~ Departed Members ~

BASSETT, WALLACE R. CPL, Co. I, WWII Died: July 16, 2005

BRATSAKIS, ANDREW J. PVT, Co. B, WWII Died: February 24, 2014

CHIET, HERBERT SFC, Co. H, Korea Died: February 2, 2007

CHORCHES, SEYMOUR
PFC, Co. M, Korea
Died: November 1, 2015
DAILEY, RICHARD T.
PFC, CN Co., WWII
Died: July 3, 2001
DEMAREE, JR., HERALD A.
PFC, Co. B, WWII
Died: February 19, 2010

FAGAN, VINCENT T. PFC, Co. K, WWII October 15, 2007

FAULK, CURLEY L. CSM, HHC, 1st BN, Korea Died: 02 December 2016

FEULNER, LOUIS H. MAJ, Co. M, WWII Died: November 7, 2007 FRASER, RONALD F. COL, HQ, 2nd Bn., Korea Died: May 30, 2016

GINTER, WILLIAM L. SSG, Co. G, Korea Died: December 17, 2016

HANSEN, JOHN L. CPL, HHC, 1st Bn., WWII Died: September 11, 2000

> HEED, EDWARD F. SSG, Co. L, Korea Died: April 16, 2009

HOWELL, BURTON MSG, Co., F, WWII Died: February 28, 2007

JOHANNESSEN, ROY J. SSG, HHC, Korea Died: March 1, 2016

KAHEN, HARRY PFC, Co. A, WWII Died: November 6, 2007

KILLION, HAROLD L. SFC, Co. K, Korea Died: June 26, 2015

LIEBERT, JOHN E. COL, Co E & F, Korea Died: 24 July 2016 LONG, WILLIAM F. COL, HQ, 1st Bn., & HQ, Korea

Died: September 30, 2016 NEELY, JAMES O. MSG, HHC, 2nd Bn., & HHC, Korea

Died: January 16, 2010

NEWMAN, PAUL J. SSG, CO. L, WWII Died: August 12, 2005

PRETZER, THEODORE H. SSG, Co. B, WWII/Korea Died: October 10, 2010

RAMPINO, PAT R. SGT, Co. L, Korea Died: October 24, 2014

RAMSEY. LLOYD B. MG, 1ST Bn., WWII Died: February 23, 2016

RODDY, ROBERT C. 1LT, Co. C, WWII Died: April 13, 2008

SANDIDGE, TAYLOR W. CPL, Co. G, WWII Died: December 29, 2013

SATTERTHWAITE, PAUL T-5, Co. G, WWII Died: February 11, 2016

continued next page..

TAPS continued...

SIDWELL, CARL C. PFC, Co. C, WWII Died: March 26, 2016

SMITH, JOSEPH A. MSG, Co. G, Korea Died: 19 September 2016

TUNILA, ROBERT SP4, A/3/7 INF, Vietnam Died: September 15, 2015

VIGIL, GILBERT S. PFC, HHC, 2nd Bn., WWII Died: May 27, 2016



WALMSLEY, THOMAS D. SSG, Co. L, WWII Died November 14, 2016

ZURAWSKI, JOSEPH PFC, Co. G, WWII Died: January 7, 2007 The patriot's blood is the seed of freedom's tree.

~Thomas Campbell

"We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

~Abraham Lincoln



3/7 IN conducting mortar exams



"Cottonbaler" 3rd Battalion COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...

LTC Brian Ducote USA, CDR

Friends of the Seventh Infantry Regiment,

We hope this update finds you and yours doing well during this holiday season. The 3-7 IN Cottonbalers have signed out on leave and are spending some well-deserved time with their





LTC Brian Ducote (left) and CSM Mike Davenport

loved ones. We hope you have a similar opportunity during this special time of the year when we reflect on who we are, where we have been, and where we are going. In that vein, we are so appreciative of your support and very proud of our Cottonbaler legacy. Thank you for all you do for our Soldiers and their Families.

During Marne Week, 3-7 IN warriors won the combatives tournament for 2BCT and we placed in about ten other events including the best squad competition. We are also proud to announce that 2BCT took the Commanding General's Cup and Warrior Challenge trophy. In the finals for Tug of War, the two strongest battalions in the 3rd Infantry Division battled for first place. 2-7 IN bested 3-7 IN in the fight but we are already training up for next year!

Following Marne Week, your Cottonbalers hit the woodline and executed squad live fires integrating several enablers including weapons squads, 60mm mortars, and aviation lift assets. Compared to our last iteration of squad live fires, we added complexity to training scenario but our squad leaders handled itall stride. We definitely grew professionally as a battalion and look forward to applying lessons learned during our platoon collective

training in the future.

Following squad live fires, our mounted infantry company had the unique opportunity to fire two missiles at targets deep into the Fort Stewart impact area. The tube-launched, optically-tracked, wireless-guided (TOW) weapon enables our infantry Soldiers to defeat especially armored vehicles in a fight. Training this critical capability in the unit is essential to our success and your Cottonbalers had direct hits on each target.

Several months ago, 3-7 IN was asked to validate a new combined arms maneuver range for the 3rd Infantry Division. The training event required an entire company to maneuver simultaneously to destroy multiple objectives while synchronizing fires. This was truly an unbelievable experience for the 3-7 IN. We had a CH-47 infiltration, Close Air Support from multiple fixed winged assets, Close Combat Attack from Apache helicopters, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in overwatch. The training allowed us to also integrate and em-

3BN Commander's Comments continued

ploy 60mm/81mm/120mm mortars, 105mm/155mm artillery, multiple anti-tank systems, a Bangalore breach, and several claymores. We can't express how excited our Soldiers were about the training. What a way to wrap up 2016 and transition to block leave!

On a final note, some of you may have heard of an impending transition. Although details have not yet been determined, the Department of the Army announced late last month that our Brigade (2IBCT, 3ID) will convert from a Light Infantry Brigade to an Armored Brigade starting this coming summer (2017). As we receive more fidelity on the plan, we will ensure you remain apprised. While there may be lots on unknowns, we are focusing on some critical near-term efforts including our infantry platoon training and live fire exercises (Baler Focus) throughout January and February. As

with all missions we receive, we are confident the Cottonbaler Family will excel during this critical conversion for our Army and Nation.

Thank you all again for your continued support. We are so humbled to be a part of this extraordinary organization. Happy Holidays to you all and your Families!

LTC Brian M. Ducote

Cottonbaler 6

Please visit and "like" the 3-7 Infantry Battalion Facebook page by searching "3-7 IN BN Cottonbalers" on Facebook. ◆



3/7 IN: Marne Week Combatives Competition



Chaplain's Corner

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.

7th Infantry Regiment Association Chaplain

y Fellow Cottonbalers: As I write this we are one week away from Christmas and it is snowing here in Rhode Island to beat the band. We may even have a White Christmas here as so many years with no snow. Tempus fugit and I can't believe the end of the year is nigh and soon we will be greeting 2017 with a new President of the United States. Whether you feel that is good or bad, it will definitely be a new adventure for the American people. Hang on to your seats..

I have been a busy beaver since Thanksgiving which was spent with my cousins after I visited a local restaurant that was offering a complete turkey dinner to the poor, lonely and homeless people in my city. I went there to offer a blessing of the food and the proprietors who opened the doors to their restaurant for this purpose. It was awesome.

Since I last wrote, we lost a tremendous hero in the Association. On 2 December our blessed Lord called CSM-Retired Curley Faulk to himself in Paradise. May he rest in God's eternal peace! We will miss him terribly at our biennial reunions. In the name of the Association, we offer to Carol Ann our deepest and sincerest condolences during her time of bereavement. We also wish her good health since she has struggled with her own health issues.

The following Sunday, for the second year in a row, I play Santa Claus at our local Elks' Lodge for the annual "Coats for Kids" event. Every year the Elks give out brand new donated coats from Macy's department store to all the children in my town who are disadvantaged and poor to brave the very cold winters we experience here in Rhode Island. It was so much fun to see these little children come to sit on my lap. We gave out coats to 250 children this year.

And then all the Christmas Parties started for each of the Veterans organizations I belong to and am Chaplain of: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #11519; Disabled American Veterans Chapter #12; Military Order of Foreign Wars – Rhode Island Commandery, and; Vietnam Veterans of America – James Michael Ray Memorial Chapter #818. And for Christmas Eve I will go to my cousins for another fabulous meal. Come January and the diet starts again.

As we approach the New Year and we are deciding on what we will choose to be our New Year resolutions, I would ask each of you to consider as one of those resolutions to pray for our new Presidential administration. The world in the Middle East seems to be crumbling before our very eyes. What is happening in Aleppo, Syria is beyond belief. Some are comparing it to the Srebrenica massacre. In any event our hearts cry out when we see innocent children and women getting slaughtered. How will we respond to such brutality with our new administration? We need to pray for peace and enlist the assistance of other world leaders who are both friendly and those not so friendly. Everyone needs to come to the table to negotiate a peaceful resolution to all this hatred and ethnic discord.

And what about ISIS which needs serious attention? They have infiltrated world-wide and are present in every continent. Let us join our minds and hearts together to pray for peace and harmony in the Middle East.

I wish you all a Blessed, Healthy and Prosperous New Year 2017!

Volens et Potens, Cottonbalers, by God,

Damn Fine Soldiers!

Father Phil Salois, M.S. Association Chaplain ♦

7th Infantry Regiment Associati as of 09 Decemb		atement
Opening Balance (as of 9/30/2016)		10,865.68
Income Donations for Operating Expenses Donations for Scholarship Fund Membership Dues Google	60.00 20.00 800.00 104.42	
Total Income		984.42
Expenses RiverwoodWriter LLC (newsletter production) Printshop (newsletter printing & mailing) Website	280.00 607.23 41.90	
Total Expenses		929.13
Closing Balance (as of 12/9/2016)		10,920.97
Savings Account (12/9/2016)		1,290.59
Scholarship Fund (11/30/2016)		112,463.88

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Highest Grade achieved in military serv	vice:			
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Contribution to Operating Expenses:	\$		Over Age 70:	\$100
Total Enclosed:	Φ		Age 60-70: Up to Age 60:	\$175 \$250
Make check payable to: "7th Infantry Regiment Association" Mail to: Fr. Philip Salois, Secretary, 16 Sharon Parkway, North Smithfield, RI 02896			Active Duty E8-O3: Active Duty E7 and Below	\$200 : \$150

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Civil War

Fredericksburg
Murfreesborough
Chancellorsville
Gettysburg
Chickamauga
Chattanooga
Atlanta
New Mexico 1861
New Mexico 1862
Kentucky 1862
Mississippi 1862
Tennessee 1862
Tennessee 1863
Georgia 1864

Indian Wars

Creeks
Seminoles
Little Big Horn
Nez Perces
Utes
Pine Ridge
New Mexico 1860
Wyoming 1866
Montana 1872

War with Spain

Santiago

Philippine Insurrection

Samar 1901 Samar 1902

World War I

Aisne Champagne-Marne Aisne-Marne St. Mihiel Meuse-Argonne Champagne 1918 Ile de France 1918

World War II

Algeria-French Morocco
(with arrowhead)
Tunisia
Sicily (with arrowhead)
Naples-Foggia
Anzio (with arrowhead)
Rome-Arno
Southern France
(with arrowhead)
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Korean War

CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

<u>Vietnam</u>

Counteroffensive, Phase II Counteroffensive, Phase III Tet Counteroffensive Counteroffensive, Phase IV Counteroffensive, Phase V Counteroffensive, Phase VI Tet 69/Counteroffensive Summer-Fall 1969 Winter-Spring 1970 Sanctuary Counteroffensive Counteroffensive, Phase VII

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia Liberation and Defense of Kuwait Cease-Fire

War on Terrorism

Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn Operation Enduring Freedom

The Cottonbaler

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