

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 XXIX No. 2

The Cottonbaler

Spring 2018



Ernie Jackson with family and friends celebrating his 60th Birthday and his successful 'Ruck Up Cancer March.' (See page 7)

Back Row(L to R) Sam Vaden, John O'Brien, Dave Vaden, Pete DeLieto, Ernie Jackson, Debbie Jackson. Front Row(L to R) Lee DeLieto, (Willow), Ashley Jackson, Carmel Vaden

Check out our Website: www.cottonbalers.com

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• • • • •

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LTC Robert Stanton, USA, CDR*

CSM Christopher Williams, USA, CSM*

* Denotes active duty

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

OBJECTIVES

of the

**7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION**

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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**

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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.



PFC Duke, B/2-7 IN, cleans a Bradley engine to ensure they are able to identify any faults.

Cottonbalers on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/28462933742/

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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

by Greg Cullison, Association President



President Greg Cullison

Greetings to all members of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association. I hope this issue of *The Cottonbaler* finds all of you and your families doing well on this fine April day. As I write this from Germany, we

have snow on the ground and I just saw the news about a snowstorm developing in the Rockies and moving eastward across the country. But we are looking forward to beautiful springtime weather, both this year and next year when we will be gathering for our 2019 Cottonbaler Reunion in Chattanooga, Tennessee!

I always appreciate receiving each edition of *The Cottonbaler*, and I hope you do, too. It is one of the ways that we can connect in three ways. Many of us served as Cottonbalers years ago when we were young, and in some faraway place. Reading this newsletter helps us to connect with the younger version of ourselves, and to recall the memories of Army life, the "good, the bad, and the ugly," so to speak about being an infantry soldier. It also helps us to connect with our active duty battalion, 2/7 Infantry, at Fort Stewart, and to read about the successes our modern day Cottonbalers are enjoying as they continue the proud regimental tradition that you contributed to. The newsletter also helps us to spread the word on the best possible connection...getting together personally for fun and fellowship at our biannual reunions.

Our 2015 reunion in New Orleans celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Cottonbalers getting their name at the battle at Chalmette Plantation. The reunion was attended by 48 Association members and 39 spouses or guests. Our 2017 reunion in Savannah commemorated the 30th anniversary of the founding of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association and was enjoyed by 40 members and 77 total attendees.

Let's try to expand participation at our 2019 Chattanooga Reunion by spreading the word to more Cottonbalers! Each of us can play a role in this. Please reach out to Cottonbalers that you have not heard from in a while. Ask them if they would consider joining the Association. If they express some interest, send their contact information to our association Secretary, Father Phil Salois, at XUANLOC@aol.com, or to me at gregscullison@gmail.com. We would be happy to reach out to them to personally invite them to join us. And please plan to join us in Chattanooga next year and try to invite a Cottonbaler to meet you there. Eight new members and three spouses joined us in Savannah last year for their first Cottonbaler Reunion—let's try to keep up that momentum of growth.

We are working on finalizing the dates, hotel location, and reunion activities in Chattanooga. There is lots of military history, and an abundance of fun activities to choose from, and we are planning a busy itinerary to make the 2019 Chattanooga Reunion the place to be to get together with Cottonbalers, past and present. We will have more details in the Summer 2018 newsletter, so stay tuned.

VOLENS ET POTENS

Greg Cullison
President ♦

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

It's hard to believe that spring is on us, and that we are already well into 2018. The good news is that there are good things going on within our Association. Let me give a brief report on three of these.

In February, Sis and I were invited to attend the 24th Infantry Division Desert Storm Reunion, where on Friday, 16 February I spoke at the Memorial Ceremony. The ceremony is in honor of the 19 soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division that died during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Desert Storm Reunion was conducted simultaneously with the 24th Infantry Division Reunion. There were several Cottonbalers in attendance, from both 2nd and 3rd Battalions. Most of them I had not seen or heard from in 27 years. There was a lot of hand shaking and back patting going on as we collectively remembered and probably exaggerated some stories that we recalled for each other. Rest assured I did not relent from sharing the 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers) work in keeping the legacy of the Premier Infantry Regiment in the United States Army alive. I hope to see some of those faces again at our 2019 reunion in Chattanooga, TN.

On Friday, 6 April 2018, a WW I Cottonbaler was honored. The U.S. Surgeon General, LTG Nadja West, approved a request to ded-



Immediate Past President
Dave Jensen

icate a dental clinic at Fort Stewart, Georgia to Dr. Creighton Lane. Dr. Lane served as a dental officer assigned to the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd ID during WWI. He received the Silver Star for his courage in providing care to wounded soldiers under artillery fire. The Army Medical Command Office has not had any luck in contacting living relatives for Dr. Lane. The Cottonbalers are the next closest interested party for this event. I

was honored to represent the Association in the ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of Dr. Creighton Lane, "A Cottonbaler By God!" "A Damn Fine Soldier!"

Scott Rutter, former Association President, and former Able Six, during Combat Operations in Iraq during OIF 1 attended a gathering of OIF veterans in Savannah over the Easter week-

end. All 7th Infantry Regiment Association members and all Cottonbalers were welcome. Scott represented the Association, and point all Cottonbalers in attendance to our website, and our reunion in Chattanooga in 2019.

As you can see, the work of the Association continues! I pray all our members are doing well and that you and your families have a safe and enjoyable spring. Thanks for all you do to support all Cottonbalers!

Immediate Past President

Dave Jensen ♦



Soldiers in 3rd Platoon, A/2-7 IN, perform PMCS on their Bradley Fighting Vehicles



Well here we are already heading to the middle of the year. My how time flies. I continue to receive members' dues, but we still have 26 members who have not sent in their dues. Some have not renewed since 2016 so I will drop them from the rolls. I will keep those who did not pay last year for one more year and then I will also drop them from the rolls. I have sent out two letters to those who were delinquent in their dues. Some did respond but the majority did not.

Please remember that if you move especially those of you who are still on active duty and you get reassigned please keep me posted on your current address.

Our reunion is next year in Chattanooga and plans are already on the way for a sensational reunion. Let's make a real effort to get our members to attend. Those of you who have been know what a great time we all have.

Please send me an e-mail at xuanloc@aol.com if your address changes.

Thank you all for your cooperation.

May God bless you all!

Volens et Potens – Damn Fine Soldiers!

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.

Association Secretary ♦

Combined Membership Application and Donation Form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Period of Service and Unit with 7th Infantry: _____

Highest Grade achieved in military service: _____

Membership Category: Regular ☐ Life: ☐

Dues (See Rates in Box at Right): \$ _____

Donation to Boswell Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

Contribution to Operating Expenses: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to: "7th Infantry Regiment Association"

Mail to: Fr. Philip Salois, Secretary, 16 Sharon Parkway, North Smithfield, RI 02896

Dues Rates:

Regular:	\$20/Year
Life Memberships:	
Over Age 70:	\$100
Age 60-70:	\$175
Up to Age 60:	\$250
Active Duty E8-O3:	\$200
Active Duty E7 and Below:	\$150

Vet Rucks Up Cancer

by Ernie Jackson

Photos submitted by residents Faith Foster, John Johnson, and Wes Strevel

After serving his country with distinction for 20 years, retired Infantry Lieutenant Colonel, Cottonbaler, and former Army Ranger Ernie Jackson is now fighting one of the toughest battles of his life. In September 2015, Ernie was diagnosed with a rare form of ocular Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

Shortly after surgery to remove the cancer from behind his left eye, Ernie received immunotherapy infusion treatments to attack the residual tumor and prevent the cancer from spreading.

That's when Ernie and his wife Debbie, who is also a cancer survivor, decided to move to Florida. It was the best decision they could have made. They are both living life to its fullest, enjoying the warm weather and the busy social life that seems to come hand-in-hand with living in Promenade Parke.

Ernie wanted to do something special on his 60th birthday to thank God and honor others impacted by cancer. He set a goal for himself which many questioned he could accomplish – to complete an Army 12-mile forced road march in three hours, hauling a 35-pound ruck.

On March 31, the morning of his 60th birthday, he reached his goal! The Jackson's were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support he received during his Ruck Up Cancer March. Family, friends and even some Venetian Bay residents who didn't know Ernie personally, but heard about his march or saw him training, came out to cheer him along the route. And when he turned onto Tesoro Circle, exhausted and feeling the pain of carrying the 35-

pound rucksack, his neighbors were out in full force, waving flags and banners. With their enthusiastic support, and the encouragement of a core group of close friends who marched with Ernie the last few miles, he achieved his goal with 10 seconds to spare! On March 31, Ernie completed his 12-mile Ruck March in 2 hours, 59 min and 50 seconds.

What Ernie didn't know at the time was his Ruck Up Cancer March also raised much needed resources to fight cancer. Not wanting anyone to make a big fuss over his birthday, Debbie decided to surprise Ernie by asking family and friends to consider making a donation to the American Cancer Society (ACS) in lieu of gifts. The support was overwhelming. They raised \$1,050 to help the ACS win the battle against cancer!

Q: Why are you marching?

EJ: I wanted to do something physically demanding on my 60th Birthday to prove to myself that age is

just a number. The ruck march met my criteria. It's something most Infantrymen, even those in their 20s and 30s, consider to be one of the toughest aspects of Army training. And it helped me get in shape to fight my personal battle with cancer.

EJ: I also wanted to create a greater awareness of my fellow veterans who developed cancer. While training for the march and during my chemo treatments, I've heard from many vets whose lives were forever changed due their exposure to carcinogens. I am one of those vets. As a result of my exposure to chemicals while serving in Iraq, I developed Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

EJ: I named the march "Vets Ruck Up Cancer" to



Nurses who provided care in the Infusion Ward at the Florida Cancer Specialists Institute in Daytona.

honor my fellow vets and to inspire my wife Debbie, who has ovarian cancer, and other survivors to fight on and to live life to the fullest. If I can inspire even one Veteran during his or her fight with cancer to push on, then my mission was accomplished.

Q: What is the significance of the Ruck?

EJ: Cancer forever changes your life and makes you accept a “new normal.” From the moment you hear the dreaded phrase ‘you have cancer,’ you go through a personal journey that takes you through the different phases of your treatment plan. The Ruck, which is loaded with 35 pounds, represents the heavy burdens cancer patients and their families face along this stressful and often painful journey. It also represents a way to stash the suffering. The streamers attached to the ruck bear the names of people who are battling cancer or lost their courageous fight. The American Flag honors all the veterans who have served and the sacrifices they endured.

Q: How did you prepare for the march?

EJ: I started training nine months ago. Because I’m receiving immunotherapy treatments, I needed to be especially careful to avoid any type of infection that could severely compromise my immune system.

EJ: My training plan had three components: physical, mental and spiritual. I knew I needed to increase my muscle mass and reduce fat content. In addition to eating well, I worked out in a serious manner at the Port Orange LA Fitness under the



Heading to finish with Dave Vaden and Sam and supporters, residents George and Karen Zsocs.

What is a 12-mile Forced March?

By definition, the military “Ruck March” requires a soldier to move equipment a long distance in a prescribed time. Dating back to the Roman Empire, the forced March has been used by armies to move troops into battle positions in a prescribed time to win battles and ultimately wars. The best example is the Civil War. On a hot summer’s day in 1863, Union Army Col. Joshua Chamberlain marched his regiment of soldiers 15 miles across Pennsylvania to reach Gettysburg and position them in a battle position just in time at Little Round Top. This swift maneuver enabled the Union troops to win the decisive battle and, ultimately, determined the outcome of the war.

Today, the 12-mile Forced March (while carrying a 35-pound load) is used to test individual and unit endurance, physical conditioning, intestinal fortitude and unit cohesion. The Army’s elite 18th Airborne Corps’ standard for the 12-mile march is 18-minute miles. To qualify for the Army’s prestigious Expert Infantrymen Badge, soldiers must complete the march at 15-minute miles. Elite military units refer to this grueling endurance test as a “Ruck March.”

supervision of Chaz Roberson, lifting weights at least three times a week.

EJ: Additionally, I marched with the full ruck twice a week, alternating between a short fast march (4 to 5 miles) to build speed and a long march (7-10 miles) to build endurance, gain muscle mass and reduce fat.

EJ: The entire time I was under the care of Wakeman Chiropractic, which kept my bones sufficiently aligned and tissues repaired. I could not have conducted such a physically demanding training routine without the Wakeman staff.

EJ: Most importantly, I reached out to God and asked him for his help and guidance to build my mental toughness. My strong faith and the support of my fellow Knights of Columbus (Council 8086 at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in Port Orange),

under the leadership of the Grand Knight Tim Mell, gave me the internal spiritual strength, solicitude and clear head to focus myself to accomplish.

Q: How did you stay motivated during the Ruck March?

EJ: I went as fast as I could without running, although to make the time on the actual event I had to run some. I listened to upbeat music to stay motivated. When I am really hurting from pain in my shoulders, legs, back, and feet and start feeling sorry for myself I listen to "Highway to Hell" by AC/DC.

EJ: I also try to block out pain by thinking about the people whose names are on the streamers on my rucksack and honoring the memory of many courageous veterans. During the marches I often confess to God. I pray for my wife Debbie, friends and our veterans struck with cancer. I think about how lucky I am to be able to carry a load on a Ruck March when others cannot.

EJ: I always make sure I finish strong.

Q: How do you feel now that you completed the Ruck up Cancer March?

EJ: I am extremely grateful to God. And I was overwhelmed by the support from the Venetian Bay residents, some who I didn't know, our daughter Ashley and my wife Debbie and friends who lined up along parts of my route to show their support.

Q: What is the hardest thing about the march?

EJ: The worst part was walking when I had blisters on my feet and ruck rubs on my shoulders and back. They sting and hurt. After my first six-mile Ruck March, my feet looked like they were put in a blender. I had to get our neighbor, retired Navy Corpsmen Wes Strevel, to patch me up.

EJ: During the actual march, my lifelong Army buddy, LTC Dave Vaden, and his son Sam, joined me after the half-way point. Because the heavy early morning winds tired me out and I was in a lot of pain, my pace started to slow down around mile nine. Dave pushed me to keep on pace, knowing my goal was to complete the march in Expert Infantrymen Badge standard of less than three hours.

Q: What is a message to cancer survivors?

EJ: I hope the march will inspire vets and others diagnosed with cancer to "Ruck Up the Cancer." You may not be able to eliminate all of the stress cancer causes, but you can take steps to ruck up stress by taking good care of your physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Live your life to the fullest and don't let cancer control you!

Q: Will you continue Ruck Marching?

EJ: Yes, because this a good way to help me stay fit, physically and spiritually. But I am only going to do five and six-mile marches. The 12-mile forced march is too taxing on my body to do on a regular basis.

Q: What is next to help veterans?

EJ: I was overwhelmed that my wife's efforts resulted in generating funds to fight cancer. So we are now committed to make this an annual fundraiser to generate money for veterans in our area who are battling cancer. We are partnering with AMVETS Post 2, the Knights of Columbus and the Promenade Park HOA to make this a public event so other veterans, families and community members can participate. Next year, there will be two affiliated events: a food/social event and motorcycle ride on Saturday, March 30 and a Ruck March on March 31 with three ability groups to accommodate all fitness levels. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for military cancer victims who need help. If you are interested and want more information about next year's March, contact LTC Ernest Jackson at 50chevypickup@gmail.com. ♦



Final leg of the march, push to the end.



THANK YOU!

to the following association members
for donations this quarter:

Boswell Scholarship Fund

Jeffrey W. DILL
\$10.00

Robert F. HEMBREE
\$20.00

Operating Expenses

Jeffery W. DILL
\$10.00

Melvin M. HANSON
\$50.00

Robert F. HEMBREE
\$20.00

Lawrence LYONS
\$50.00

William M. ROSENSTEEL, Jr.
\$100.00

Photos from "Vet Rucks Up Cancer"

(article starts on page 7)



3 Soldiers – Dave Vaden, Ernie Jackson, Wayne Bennett
Three retired soldiers marching near mile nine.



**Ernie works out at LA Fitness under supervision of
Chaz Roberson**

NEW MEMBERS

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

from Individual Year-to-Year
Members

~~~~~

PETER C. LANGENUS  
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New Canaan, CT 06840-2908

THOMAS J. LINEK  
COL, HHC/1-7 IN, P/T  
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Conyers, GA 30094-6003

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~~~~~

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Tampa, FL 33625

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31710 2nd Court South
Federal Way, WA 98003

JOHN V. VIGGIANO
CPT, 2/7 Inf., Desert Storm
17520 Sunwest Circle
Yorba Linda, CA 92886-3337

*"I can't expect loyalty
from the army if I do
not give it."*

--General George C. Marshall

*Lead me, follow me,
or get the hell out of
my way.*

~ General George S. Patton,
Jr.



C/2-7 IN Company leadership speaking before commending Soldiers.

7th Infantry Regiment Association Financial Statement Financial Statement

BALANCE

Opening Balance (12/3/2017)\$13,593.66

INCOME

Bank adjustment (no explanation).....01

Donations for Operating Expenses215.00

Donations for Scholarship Fund.....10.00

Membership Dues535.00

TOTAL INCOME 760.01\$14,353.67

EXPENSES

Riverwood Writer LLC..... 280.00

Printshop602.08

Website65.85

Blooms (flowers for Gene Owen).....94.98

TOTAL EXPENSES1,042.91

Closing Balance (03/21/18).....\$13, 310.76

Savings Account (2/28/18).....\$1,290.89

Scholarship Fund (2/28/18)\$123,814.32

7th IR MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

As of 25 March 2018

DUES STATUS:

None due (LM, HON, CG, PM) 282

Annual renewals for 2015 - 2016 98

Members Not Paid Up 26

Total Members 421

CATEGORY SUMMARY:

Served with the 7th Infantry,	
Or attached or supporting units	374
Associate Members	9
Supporting Members	14
Honorary Members	2
Permanent Member	6
Color Guard Member	5

PERIOD OF SERVICE SUMMARY:

World War II	15
Korea	102
Belgian Cottonbalers (<i>Belgium</i>)	12
Vietnam	59
Peace Time/Cold War	66
Gulf War/Iraq	120



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

LTC Robert C. Stanton USA, CDR

THE RETURN OF THE 7TH IR

On Thursday February 22, 2018 the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) assumed authority of the Rotational ABCT under the 2nd Infantry Division. The Transfer of Authority Ceremony is the first time that the 2-7 IN colors have been unfurled on the Korean Peninsula since 1953 at the conclusion of the Korean War. The Cottonbaler Battalion relieved 1-5 CAV, "The Black Knights" who returned to their home station at Fort Hood, Texas at the end of February. The Cottonbalers are

"Willing and Able" to tackle any of the many challenges associated with this rotation and are pressing forward to accomplish their many assigned tasks.

KATUSA PATCHING CEREMONY

2-7 IN welcomed 45 Soldiers from the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) program. These Soldiers will be assigned to the Battalion for the duration of its rotation on the Korean Peninsula. Historically, the 7th Infantry received a large number of KATUSAs during the Korean War (1950-1953) in order to bolster the Regiment's numbers and provide interpreters.

These 'Damn Fine Soldiers' will make a welcome addition as the Cottonbalers continue to



LTC Robert C. Stanton (L) and CSM Christopher J. Williams

train and ready themselves for any mission.

ASSASSIN COMPANY UPDATE

**CPT Hepinstall/
1SG Evans**

Assassin Company hit the ground running here in South Korea, preparing for our mission and getting settled in to our new surroundings!

Each and every Soldier in Assassin Company has exceeded the standard in mission preparation and is an absolute pleasure to work with each and every day. Soldiers at every level have begun teaching and receiving blocks of instruction on weapons

proficiency and new equipment training that is unavailable at home station. Soldiers of Assassin Company have also begun working hand in hand with the Korean Augmentation to United States Army (KATUSA) Soldiers, learning about their culture and tactics, while integrating them into the training being conducted.

BUSHMASTER COMPANY UPDATE CPT Ferrara/ 1SG Singley

Bushmaster Company has been operating at full speed since our arrival in Korea. Almost immediately after getting individual room assignments, we collectively began the process of accounting for over \$60 million dollars in property assigned to the company, a daunting, but necessary task. Additionally, we have focused on maintenance and preparation of all our per-

sonal gear here on the Korean Peninsula. Every individual has practiced rapidly packing their gear and conducting checks to ensure we are ready to go if we ever get the call.

The Bushmaster team has been working long hours and extremely hard to ensure that we build our competencies and readiness each day. Every Bushmaster Soldier plays a critical role to ensure that the team is constantly getting better at our profession.

The team is looking forward to some warmer weather and getting out to the range over the next month. We are all thankful for the support from all our family, friends, and loved ones back home.

CHAOS COMPANY UPDATE **CPT Ramirez/ 1SG McFarland**

Chaos Company sends its warmest regards to our families and friends back home. One of our first task after arriving in Korea was to take ownership of our tanks and prepare them for our mission. Everyone here is motivated and fully engaged in the unique training opportunities offered to us here in Korea, ranging from conditioning ourselves in the freezing weather, to fully understanding all of the equipment we have, which allow us to fight in any environment. The culture shock here has been softened thanks to our Korean military partners, the KATUSA, who are ready to train and fight with us should the need arise.

Although we may be away from our loved ones, we hold the fact that our efforts are essential to maintain the peace and security of our nation and its allies to keep us focused. For the time remaining, we tankers stand "Willing and Able" to accomplish any mission we receive.

IMMORTAL COMPANY UPDATE

CPT Fischer/ 1SG Stewart

The first few weeks in Korea



KATUSA Soldiers CPL Kim and PFC Lee were promoted on Thursday, 01MAR18. 1SG Evans, A/2-7 IN, is seen congratulating the Soldiers.

were bitter cold, sometimes reaching below -9 degrees with the wind chill - a significant change from coastal Georgia. Fleece caps, jackets and cold weather gear was a must! Thankfully it has started warming up and we haven't seen much snow since.

After the battalion patching ceremony, I FSC's KATUSAs (Korean Augmentation to the US Army) formally introduced themselves to the company. The Immortals have five KATUSAs in our formation – one works with the command team, one works in the training room,

two with Prescribed Load List (PLL) in the shop office and one with supply. We are so grateful to have them on the Immortal Team!

HEADHUNTER COMPANY UPDATE

CPT Connell/ 1SG Trivino

The Headhunter Team was busy in the month of February, focusing on understanding the equipment set, operational environment and mission. We have learned that one of our



LTC Stanton and ROK SGM Han shake hands during the KATUSA patch ceremony.

greatest assets is the addition of our Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) counterparts. We welcomed KATUSAs to the Headhunter Family and look forward to strengthening our relationship as we build readiness together. The BN Medical Platoon provided these new Cottonbalers with training on Tactical Casualty Care and Movement during weekly Sergeant's Time Training. Leaning forward the company will be focusing on marksmanship training, Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN), and specific MOS related skill.

We would like to express our upmost gratitude for all the support we continue to receive from the home front and to let you all know that we are accomplishing our mission!

A NOTE FROM ABLE 6

What a whirlwind it has been since we arrived in Korea! In the past few weeks we have taken charge of the mission and begun the intricate process of fully understanding and preparing for the mission at hand. Your Soldiers have been working diligently from sun up to sun down daily to ensure vehicles are in good condition, equipment is packed and prepared, and that we understand the unique challenges Korea brings. I am incredibly proud every day to have the opportunity to serve with these great Soldiers.

Over the course of the next month we will continue to get our feet under us as we execute small arms ranges, conduct Air Assault training with the Aviation unit stationed here at Camp Humphries, train mounted maneuver in the combat simulator, and execute daily physical training. We are also conducting regular developmental training at all level for all Soldiers and leaders. We have dedicated time weekly for Non-commissioned Officer Development sessions, Officer development sessions, and Sergeants Time Training to ensure that we all continue to grow and develop as Soldiers, leaders, and individuals.



Bushmasters pose for a picture after receiving donated blankets and gloves.

As we continue work through this rapid operational tempo, I want to thank everyone back home for your support to the Soldiers in this great Battalion. You make it all possible. Cottonbalers by God!

Able 6

LTC Robert C. Stanton

A NOTE FROM ABLE 7

"Cottonbalers by God!" Such an amazing group of "Damn Fine Soldiers" we have in this Battalion. Able Six and I could not be prouder of what your loved ones have accomplished in such a short amount of time. They have increased their physical fitness, technique/tactical skills, and remain 100% focused on the assigned mission. I would like to take a moment and thank all of the families. We all know that you are the reason our Soldiers continue to accomplish every challenge put in front of them. We understand that the "family member job" is the hardest position on any deployment. Able Six and I would like to thank you again for entrusting us with your loved ones and consider ourselves very honored to serve on this amazing team. Please take a moment if you have not already done so and join the "2-7 Infantry Families" Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/472804266431704/). This is a closed group for families only, so just send your request and we will approve it. We routinely

hang pictures of the Cottonbalers in action on this page for you to see.

Thank you again for all you “DO” to ensure that we are able to stay laser focused on our current mission, it definitely “DOES NOT” go unnoticed or unappreciated! “Willing and Able”, “Cottonbalers By God”, “Damn Fine Soldiers”

ABLE 7

CSM Christopher J. Williams. ♦



Team Leaders in 2nd Platoon, A/2-7 IN, conduct Pre-Combat Checks (PCC) and Pre-Combat Inspections (PCI) of their Soldiers during a training exercise in the early morning hours.



1st PLT, B/2-7 IN, pose for a picture after a promotion ceremony.



CW3 Rodriguez, I/2-7 IN, inspects Maintenance platoon Soldiers in the motorpool as part of a battalion level alert.



The BN Medical Platoon providing the new Cottonbalers (KATUSA) with training on Tactical Casualty Care and Movement during weekly Sergeant's Time Training.



SGT Cameron Drugich, C/2-7 IN, provides instruction on Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN).



Chaos Soldiers, C/2-7 IN, executing morning PRT.



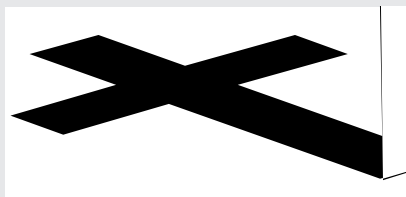
After the battalion patching ceremony, I FSC's KA-TUSAs (Korean Augmentation To the US Army) formally introduced themselves to the company.



SGT Hutchins from the medical platoon leads a block of instruction on Tactical Casualty Care.



LT Brandon Evans, C/2-7 IN, addresses the company during a weekend safety brief.



Chaplain's Corner

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.

7th Infantry Regiment Association Chaplain

My fellow Cottonbalers—As I write this on the eve of Palm Sunday that begins the holiest of weeks for all Christians around the world, I am aware of all the Christians living in the Middle East in Syria and Iraq who continue to be persecuted and brutally tortured and killed simply because of their faith. So many of their churches, shrines and other holy places have been turned to dust in the mass destruction of the Holy of Holies. Please remember all those who desperately seek peace in their own homeland. Continue to pray for our military, men and women, who find themselves in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq and Syria and other places of great danger.

I hope and pray for you all as well as your families for your well-being. As summer fast approaches many of you will vacation somewhere and enjoy the good weather and places you may visit. I pray you will all be safe in your travels. Which reminds me that it is not too early to make plans for our next reunion next year in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

It will be a great place to visit many historical places and a very beautiful and active city for tourism. For those of you who

have attended previous reunions, you will know how much fun we have seeing each other and reuniting with old friends.

Since the last time I wrote this column, we lost a tremendous Cottonbaler member, Gene Owens who died last November. He had been ill but we all kept praying he would beat his illness and return to us, but God had other plans for him. We needed to release our grip on Gene and hand him over to Almighty God where he is enjoying eternal peace and rest with no more pain, no more suffering. We remember his widow and his other family members and continue to offer them our deepest and sincere condolences on their loss.

Well my brother Cottonbalers – enjoy the Summer and will write to all of you again in the Fall issue of the magazine.

Volens et Potens

Cottonbalers by God,
Damn Fine Soldiers

Father Phil Salois, M.S.,
Association Chaplain ♦



2-7 Inf in Korea

World War I Soldier Honored

by Nolan A. (Andy) Watson

On 6 April 2018, the Fort Stewart Dental Clinic will be memorialized in honor of Creighton L. Lane. Lane served as dentist in both World War I and World War II and earned the Silver Star while serving with the 7th Infantry Regiment.

Creighton Lynford Lane was born in Albion, Michigan in 1893 and graduated from Michigan's School of Dentistry in 1916. Commissioned into the Army in 1917, 1LT Creighton Lane then served as a dentist in the 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3d Division during World War I. During the Second Battle of the Marne and its preceding massive artillery bombardment by the Germans on July 14-15, 1918, Lane assisted in treating wounded caught in the barrage and also organized litter teams in evacuating the wounded to Aid Stations.

Later, on July 25, 1918 Creighton Lane commanded a group of litter bearers moving needed supplies to an Aid Station closer to wounded Soldiers at the frontlines. Making their way along the front using wheeled litters; Lane and his troops were in clear view of enemy forces and were continually under artillery fire. Although in constant danger, Lane treated wounded Soldiers that were located during his journey and tried to assist moving them to the Aid Station.

For his heroic efforts Creighton Lane was recognized with a Citation Star. After the war, Citation Stars, which were a decoration on campaign medals and ribbons, were replaced as the current Silver Star Medal. Lane would also receive a promotion to Captain at the close of the war. Lane's award was reviewed for a pos-



Lynford Lane WWI

sible upgrade to Distinguished Service Cross, but after the review the award remained at the same level. After the war ended and Lane returned to America, he left the Army and entered into private dental practice in Detroit, Michigan. In 1937, Creighton Lane joined the Navy Reserves.

During World War II Lane again served as a dentist, this time for the Navy providing dental care for trainees entering Naval service at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station from 1943-1944. Beginning in November of 1944, Creighton Lane served on board the USS Admiral R.E. Coontz (AP-122), a transport ship. The ship would make numerous trips across the Pacific, and also made its way to France to transfer American troops to the Pacific Theater. During these long voyages through uncertain waters, Lane provided dental

care to the ship's crew as well as its numerous military passengers.

At the close of the ship's mission in March of 1946, Creighton Lane was transferred back to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station for six months. He was then sent to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to provide dental care for Marine Corps personnel. His last duty station was with the Navy Department of the Pacific in San Francisco. Creighton L. Lane retired from military service in 1955 when he was 62. He is listed on the retired list with the rank of Navy Captain (O-6) and his highest active duty rank is listed as Commander (O-5).

Lane stayed in the San Francisco Bay area until his passing in 1978. He was preceded in death by his wife, a couple of months earlier. They were both buried at Albion, Michigan. ♦

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Chapultepec
Texas 1846

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 Percés
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

Vietnam

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

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