Mark Your Calenders! 28-31 May 2015
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LTC Scott Shaw, USA, CDR*
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* Denotes active duty

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.

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

PLEASE SEND ANY ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS TO
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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, Roland Merson, at vmer-son@frontier.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, Ron Bertha, 7610 Springfield Hills Drive, Springfield, VA 22153.

Cottonbalers on Facebook:
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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.....

I send greetings to all the members of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers), along with my sincere best wishes that you and your families are all doing well.

I am very pleased to report that as of this writing, there is (9) months, (40) weeks, (280) days, (6720) hours, and (403,200) minutes until the 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers) 2015 Reunion in New Orleans, the Bicentennial Celebration of the Regiment getting its name at Chalmette Plantation during the War of 1812.

Cottonbalers that served together in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War Era, the Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism, the old and the young, the tired and the retired, along with those actively serving today will want to come together as all “Damn Fine Soldiers” do, to honor each other and the premier Regiment of the United States Army, “Cottonbalers By God!”

We all know that this will be the only Bicentennial, 200th Anniversary that the 7th Infantry Regiment ever has. Let us do ourselves proud for those that have served before us, those that are now serving, and those that will serve, and especially those Cottonbalers that have and will pay the ultimate sacrifice for our Country, for the United States Army, and for the Regiment by honoring their service, their accomplishments and their sacrifices.

It is all happening 28-31 May 2015 in New Orleans. Your Association’s Officers and Board of Directors have agreed that the mark of success for this event is attendance and having a good time. As you know New Orleans as a venue can be very expensive. We have focused on affordability (keeping the individual expense down) and hospitality (what the venue offers to increase the potential for camaraderie at our event). With the help of the Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. we have signed a contract with Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Drive, Keener, Louisiana 70062. While not located in the French Quarter, the Hilton New Orleans Airport (20 minutes from center city New Orleans) is a veteran friendly venue that wants to help some “Damn Fine Soldiers” Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the 7th Infantry Regiment getting its name. “Cottonbalers by God!”

The Hilton New Orleans Airport offers affordable room rates, proximity to the airport and free shuttle service for those traveling by air, and on site free parking for those driving. Additionally, for Cottonbalers, the Hilton New Orleans Airport is offering complimentary hospitality suite, meeting rooms, and banquet facilities to insure that we have a great time.

All Cottonbalers are encouraged to make plans now to be at this singularly important event in the history of 7th Infantry Regiment (Cottonbalers). Look for details on reunion events and activities and registration instructions in future mailings, newsletters, and on our web page. Again, we are planning to make this an
event worthy of the Bicentennial Celebration of the premier Regiment in the United States Army. Look up an old Damn Fine Soldier you might have served with and bring them along. The Regiment and the rest of us Cottonbalers need you there!

VOLENS ET POTENS
Dave

**Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Ceremony**

Cottonbalers! This coming January marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. We of the 7th US Infantry Living History Association (7th USILHA) have been hard at work preparing activities to honor the Regiment for the Bicentennial. We invite you to join us! Here is our special web page for the event http://www.neworleans1815.cottonbaler.com.

You can see we have activities planned beginning Jan 6th and running through Sunday evening January 11th. We would be honored to have the Battalion Color Guards with us on January 8th as we troop the line where the 7th originally stood. Plus that afternoon we have a special memorial for Musician Jordan Noble, 7th US Infantry, at his tomb in St. Louis Cemetery #2. We will have recreations of five of the battles of the campaign. These include the action of Dec 23, 1814 where the 7th saved the American guns and of January 8 where at the point of the bayonet the 7th recaptured the forward American Redoubt.

Please contact us. It won't be complete without you!

Sincerely

Steve Abolt
7th USILHA
www.cottonbaler.com

Our Association Quartermaster is Leonard W. Collins. The entire selection of Cottonbaler items can now be seen on his website where he is set up to accept MasterCard or Visa.

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E-Mail: MilitaryHonors@bellsouth.net or info@Military-Honors.com

Phone: 803-300-2554 or Toll Free: 1-866-946-6677
Greetings to the Soldiers, Families, and friends of the Cottonbalers! The past few newsletters we have written a lot about our preparation for our rotation to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, CA. Our Soldiers have worked tirelessly during the last six months to ensure our equipment was ready as well as training hard for whatever might come our way during our month in the desert. I am happy to report that all that hard work paid off tremendously! This past August we completed our rotation by handily beating the opposing force on several occasions and, more importantly, taking away many lessons learned for our future training and operations.

After enjoying some well-deserved summer block leave, the Cottonbalers had a busy July loading up trains and containers for our cross country trip. By the first of August, our battalion was on the ground at Fort Irwin staging vehicles and making final coordination before moving out to the training area on August 8th. The battalion then saw six days of great live-fire training exercises and the companies working together on complex situation training exercises (STX). The Soldiers got great opportunities to practice their skills in a realistic environment and leaders had the chance to fine tune their troop leading procedures before NTC’s main training battle periods.

On August 14th, the battalion transitioned into eight days of continuous force on force operations along with the rest of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (1ABCT). For eight days your Cottonbalers worked in a simulated decisive action combat environment that included three main battle periods with the NTC’s Opposing Forces. In each of the three battle periods, the Cottonbalers effectively combined M1 Abrams Tanks, M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, dismounted infantrymen, and indirect fires to achieve decisive victories. This would not have been possible, of course, without the support of our mechanics and sustainers keeping our vehicles running throughout the entire exercise. I am very proud of what we accomplished and how much our Soldiers learned during these training exercises.

Now with September upon us, we are looking ahead to complete Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) training for all our infantrymen and preparation for our next mission set in 2015. I look forward to sharing more about what our Cottonbalers will be doing once the battalion receives its orders.

I would like to welcome MAJ John Womack and MAJ Ethan Olberding to the Cottonbaler team. Both joined us just in time for our NTC mission, did an outstanding job, and I look forward to continuing our work together. I also want to bid farewell to MAJ John Newman who served as the 2-7 Operations Officer and Executive Officer over the last year. I cannot thank him enough for his fine work and wish him the best of luck in his new position as the 1ABCT Executive Officer.

As always, I would like to end by expressing my gratitude to our Families, FRG leaders, and the 7th Infantry Regiment Association for all that they do to keep our battalion the great fighting force it is.

COTTONBALERS BY GOD!

LTC Chad Chalfont USA, CDR
Able-6

continued next page
Headhunter Company (CPT May)

Greetings Cottonbalers, Family and friends! Headhunter Company has returned from the National Training Center. The soldiers of HHC did an outstanding job and I couldn’t be prouder of the hard work that these soldiers put in which directly impacted the amount of success that we had.

We will be heavily focused on maintenance and recovery throughout the next month as our vehicles and equipment come off the trains. The infantrymen of HHC will be heading out to Camp Oliver to conduct Expert Infantryman Badge training and testing throughout the month of September.

Taking care of our own is always a priority in Headhunter Company and time with family still remains a very important topic within our team. We will continue to balance the quality time our Soldiers have with their Families, while ensuring that the company is prepared for any and all future missions.

I continue to be impressed with the Soldiers and Leaders of Headhunter Company and am damn proud and privileged to lead this company. Willing and Able! HEADHUNTERS!

Assassin Company (CPT Lanz)

Greetings Cottonbalers, Family, and friends. On behalf of Assassin Company, I would like to thank you for your dedication and support throughout the intense training cycle we have been conducting. Our soldiers just finished a vigorous force on force rotation at the National Training Center where the company’s lethality was validated. Assassin Company conducted live fires for both mounted and dismounted sections, provided security for RETRANS sites that allow Soldiers to retransmit signals from radios so that the entire brigade can communicate, conducted countless resupply missions, fought and defeated Blackhorse (the name of the opposing force at NTC) during force on force, and brought home 100% of men, weapons, and equipment.

The ability of Assassin Company to integrate these distinct skill sets is what allows us to be constantly prepared to answer our Nation’s call and protect our interests at home and abroad. I am deeply honored to serve with and lead these great men. Willing and Able! Assassins Lead the Way!

Bushmaster Company (CPT Gerhart)

Greetings fellow Cottonbalers, Family, and friends! August has been an exciting month for the Bushmasters and it’s great to be able to take a moment here and reflect on the experience with our loved ones and fellow soldiers. The past few newsletters have discussed the intense training operations leading up to the National Training Center, and we are now excited to say that the hard-work paid off during rotation 14-09.

The experience truly became real in late July as Bushmaster Company completed preparation by packing all Soldiers’ individual equipment known continued next page
as TA-50 and loading the 14 M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles onto train beds to be shipped off to California and await our arrival. Shortly after, on August 1st, the Bushmasters loaded buses for Hunter Army Airfield to begin the month-long deployment.

Bushmaster Company was lucky enough to have many veterans of NTC, but perhaps most surprised upon landing in California were the first-timers as the humid, vegetation ridden landscape of Fort Stewart was replaced by the intense dry heat and sparse landscape of Fort Irwin and the Mojave Desert. However, there wasn't much time to reflect as the first week of the rotation was one of our busiest, and was filled with the receiving of vehicles and prepping both them and the Bushmaster Soldiers for deployment to the main training site known simply as ‘The Box.’

The Box was the primary proving ground for the company, which spent 17 days in the training area solidifying the Bushmaster reputation within the battalion and the brigade as, by far, the most lethal Infantry Company. The first three days consisted of a company-team live fire event. This meant the Bushmasters split in half and each teamed up with Soldiers of Deathrider Company who were able to bring M1A2 Abrams tanks to the fight. Together, the two company teams completed separate combined arms breaching operations while firing live assets which included Abrams Tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, mortars, close combat aviation, and dismounted crew-served weapons. It was an incredible way to start off the rotation’s action.

Painted Rocks is a location at NTC where units can leave a small monument (in the form of a painted rock) to their unit after a successful rotation. Photo of all 2-7 Commanders, First Sergeants, Primary Staff Officers, along with the Battalion Commander, Command Sergeant Major, and Battalion XO.
The transition from live fire exercises to force on force events was short lived and the Bushmasters were quickly back to fighting the opposing forces. During force on force the company remained split into company teams utilizing a pairing system of tanks from Deathrider Company and Bradleys from the Bushmasters. These two teams became known across the brigade for their efficacy and functioned in support of both 2-7 IN and 3-69 AR. Operations included an additional battalion size combined arms breach, an emplaced defense, and a brigade movement to contact. Bushmaster contributed largely to wins across the board and can truly see the success of all the work put in over the last year.

It’s now September and the Bushmasters are back on the ground at Fort Stewart after a successful rotation. Glad we were able to meet the battalion commander's top three goals of bringing everyone home safely, maintaining our equipment, and getting better as each day passed. We are proud of the work accomplished, but are looking ahead realizing that our success has not gone unnoticed at levels well above us – we are also ready for any mission that may come in the following year as the result of our certification at NTC.

Bushmaster Company is currently preparing for EIB testing and the expected challenges of shooting gunnery in the upcoming quarter. Leadership will begin to change out next month and a new generation of Bushmasters will assume their roles and continue the legacy and high standards that previous generations of Bushmasters have set. While many are sad to move on, we are ready to welcome the new teammates. As always, without the continued love and support from our families, few of our goals could have been reached. We are reminded each and every day of the sacrifices our families make so that we may do our jobs – for this, we thank you.

Cold Steel Company (CPT Biner)

Cold Steel Warriors, Family, and friends; it is with great pleasure that I can say Charlie Company's performance during this summer's National Training Center rotation was truly exceptional!

Following the Raider Brigade's "Raider Focus" exercise in May, Cold Steel Soldiers immediately began the process of packing all of their equipment and vehicles for NTC. These operations often required long hours spent conducting maintenance on our tanks and then conducting railhead operations to get those vehicles staged and on the trains weeks in advance of the rotation. Our Soldiers were also instrumental not only in packing their own equipment, but helping in a battalion-wide effort to stage and load the brigade's vehicles at the railhead. Cold Steel Company's NCOs spearheaded this effort and I could not be more proud of them for their hard work.

On August 1st, the company's main body flew out of Hunter Army Airfield, GA and hit the sand running in Fort Irwin, California's dry, dusty, 100 degree heat. The Cottonbaler battalion gave our Soldiers five days with which to unpack all of their equipment, conduct maintenance on that equipment, and be ready for live fire exercises. This company was so successful at this task that it was able to move out to the field a day earlier than expected to begin training.

In the field at NTC, Cold Steel maintained its 1st and 2nd platoons and was augmented by elements of Assassin Company's 3rd platoon during the Live Fire Exercise, STX lanes, and the first two battle periods. During the Live Fire Exercise, Cold Steel leaders had an opportunity to test their tactical prowess while conducting a combined arms breach involving artillery, air, and engineer assets. The Soldiers successfully seized their objective and then got to test their breaching skills against the OPFOR during STX lanes in the ensuing days.
During Battle Period 1, Cold Steel demonstrated its ability to maneuver with violence of action as well as its flexibility under a variety of mission sets. The first attack saw Charlie Company successfully destroy a large portion of the enemy's main body dug in behind heavily defended positions on a ridgeline. They immediately consolidated and reorganized for follow-on missions and headquarters platoon (led by Charlie's new first sergeant SFC Thomas Allen) received excellent logistical and medical training in the process. Charlie Company's 3rd Platoon was attached to Apache Company, 5-7 CAV for Battle Period 1 and was given a unique mission as a hunter-killer team with the scouts. They moved under cover of darkness through extremely difficult terrain and were able to successfully eliminate several enemy reconnaissance positions before the brigade's main body began its fight at daybreak.

In Battle Period 2, Cold Steel found itself on the defensive against a battalion-sized element in NTC's Central Corridor. Utilizing a mixture of barbed wire obstacles, hull-defilade fighting positions, and accurate direct fires; Cold Steel was able to successfully defend against the OPFOR onslaught with no casualties and a handful of confirmed kills. This battle period also saw several small missions conducted by the company in conjunction with others in the battalion to rescue a downed pilot captured by local militants and provide security for a nearby urban operation.

Battle Period 3 consisted of an attack on tough OPFOR armored resistance. Steel, now organic as 3rd Platoon returned from the fight with Assassin Company, maneuvered over 25km to engage and destroy the enemy on its objective. The company was met with a hail of anti-tank weaponry as well as indirect fires, but was still able to complete its mission and achieve its objectives in the end.

Steel's work did not end there as the company again found itself spearheading railhead efforts back at Fort Stewart, to finally put a close on the NTC rotation and begin to conduct after operations maintenance as well as allow for leadership changeovers. While almost all of Charlie's leadership including myself will be switching out to move onto other assignments, there is no doubt in my mind that the camaraderie, teamwork, positive attitudes, and NCO leadership of the company will make it successful in all its future endeavors. NTC proved this, and I know that the company will remain in capable hands. Before signing off, I'd like to just say thank you not only to our Soldiers but also to the Families who so eagerly awaited the return of their loved ones from NTC and "held down the fort" while they were away. I thank you for all that you do as it is your support that makes this company truly great and, as always, "Willing and Able" to answer the Nation's call.

Delta Company (CPT Bunch)

Greetings Cottonbalers, Family, and friends! Deathrider Company has been on the fast track since completing Gunnery and Raider Focus. The Deathriders recently returned from completing an
outstanding 30-day rotation at the National Training Center. Prior to leaving, the Deathriders were busy assisting the brigade rail load operations and preparing their tanks and equipment for a month in the “Box.”

Once all Cottonbalers were on the ground at Fort Irwin, Delta Company was hard at work installing MILES (a laser system used to help simulate combat) for force on force training and screening their Abrams tanks for the much anticipated Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX). Once complete, Deathrider Company absorbed a Bradley Platoon from Bushmaster Company and rolled out into the “Box” ready to defend Atropia from the fictitious Donovian enemy as “Team Deathrider.” During the first four training days in the field, Team Deathrider executed an incredible CALFEX with our artillery and aviation brothers and sisters. The Deathriders honed their gunnery skills and put on a lethal show with tanks, bradleys, and artillery raining down on the enemy. The Deathriders were just getting started.

Team Deathrider transitioned into Task Force STX where they travelled into the area known as the “Valley of Death” and brought steel to target, destroying a large number of Donovian vehicles in preparation for force on force training. The next day, the Cottonbalers from Delta rolled right into force on force prep with maintenance and a little sleep. Over the next eight days, Team Deathrider led Task Force 2-7 IN in three decisive and tough missions against the Donovian forces. Time and time again, the Deathriders delivered. Three gunners from our company received recognition as “Heroes of the Battle.” Our Deathriders embraced and appreciated this extremely valuable training, and as you can imagine the Soldiers performance during this exercise was nothing short of exemplary.

All Deathriders are safely back at Fort Stewart enjoying some much needed rest while they focus on vehicle download from trains and tank services to prepare for the next challenge ahead. The Soldiers of Delta Company, 2-7 IN are ready to build on their success and improve their record of excellence as they train on towards the next fight. These hardened, Deathrider Soldiers share the same honored tradition as those Cottonbalers who have come before and are ready to carry that tradition forward! Willing and Able! Deathriders!

Fighter Company (CPT Spears)

Greetings, Fighter Family and friends! It has been a very 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. The Cottonbalers have returned from the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, and are trained and ready for the next fight.

Fighters accomplished numerous impactful missions, supporting the combined arms battalion with ammunition, fuel, vehicle maintenance, recovery, shop office support, power generator maintenance, food, water, and all supply functions. The Fighters’ collaborative teamwork proves our willingness to do whatever it takes to sustain the fight and our ability to accomplish any mission. Willing and Able! Fighters! ♦

Fighter Company, 2-7 IN, working on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle with the help of an M88 Hercules
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**7th INF REGT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP PROFILE**

**As of 10 August 2014**

**DUES STATUS:**

None due (LM, HON, CG, PM) 316  
Annual renewals for 2013 – 2014 26  
Annual renewals for 2014 - 2015 123

Total Members 465

**CATEGORY SUMMARY:**

Served with the 7th Infantry,  
Or attached or supporting units 440  
Associate Members 6  
Supporting Members 17  
Honorary Members 2

**PERIOD OF SERVICE SUMMARY:**

World War II 47  
Korea 163  
Vietnam 55  
Peace Time/Cold War 73  
Gulf War/Iraq 102

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**TAPS**

“BE THOU AT PEACE”

~ Departed Members ~

BRILL, Hugh G.  
PFC, HHC, WWII  
Died 11 May 2014

ROSSI, Guy L.  
CWO-3, HHC, 1st Bn, Korea  
Died 27 June 2014

TUTTLE, Roger L.  
LTC, Co K, Korea  
Died 21 September 2013

SAGE, Herbert W. Jr.  
PFC, Co L, WWII  
Died 3 November 2013

SSG Kenneth Thompson, C/3-7, leads his squad during their Platoon STX at Camp Blanding
THANK YOU!

to the following association members for donations this quarter:

**Boswell Scholarship Fund**

- Roland G. Arndt Jr.
- James E. Balogh
- William C. Campers
- Michael L. Cooks
  
  **Silver Star Donor**

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  **Bronze Star Donor**

- CSM (R) Curley L. Faulk
  
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- LTG (R) Walter F. Ulmer Jr.

- Mark W. Wall
- Joseph J. Washart
I don’t know about all of you but where has this summer gone. I can’t believe how fast it has come and gone. Soon the leaves on the trees will show off their awe-some colors and the autumn winds will blow them all off the trees. The life cycle seems to turn faster the older I get.

Well it has been a busy summer. The highlight of my summer was the reunion of Always Alpha – the men I served with in Vietnam along with their wives. It was a fantasic week in San Diego and my former platoon Sergeant, Jim Keffer and his wife Sharon could not have organized a better experience for us. We were about 85 in number staying at the Town and Country Resort and Conference Center. One excursion took us to Mount Soledad upon which is a huge cross dedicated to fallen soldiers of World War II. It sits on public land and has been the target of the FFRF (Freedom from Religion Foundation) an atheistic group that has as its mis-sion through litigation the removal of all religious symbols found on public land. The Supreme Court has denied their claim thus far. At this monument are hundreds and hundreds of memorial plaques at the base of the cross. Always Alpha dedicated its very own plaque on the day we visited. We also during this reunion recruited a few new mem-

bers to the 7th Infantry Regiment Association. Welcome aboard and welcome home.

In August, I participated in the National Leadership and Education Conference for Vietnam Veterans of America in Wichita, Kansas. I was part of a team that conducted a workshop on Stress Reduction and Spiritual Healing for Trauma victims. It was surpris-ingly well received and about 50 people signed up for it. So well received that we have been asked to bring it back and ex-pand on it at the next Leadership and Edu-
cation Conference in New Orleans in 2016.

On another note, there has been tremendous upheaval on our planet since I last wrote to you all. We have so many troubled regions in the world beginning with Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip to the insidious growth of ISIS in Syria and Iraq and the brutal violence and senseless killing of Christians and the be-heading of the American journalist, James Foley of New Hampshire to the encroaching of Ukraine’s sovereignty by Vladimir Putin’s lustful desire to return the Russian empire to the old Soviet days. We have much to be con-cerned about and it certainly calls us to pray and work hard for peace. America needs to show greater leadership in foreign policy so our friends can rely on our support. Don’t for-get we still have concerns about North Korea and their nuclear ambitions and China showing it muscles over disputed islands in the South China Sea.

In our own country, we see great unrest along racial lines – Ferguson, Missouri is a prime example that the issue of racial tension is far from over and so on the home front and abroad, we cannot rest. We must pray and ask the God of our understanding to give us the strength and courage to do the right thing for the promotion of the welfare of all of God’s creation.

May Almighty God bless you today, tomorrow and forever!

Volens et Potens,

Father Phil Salois, M.S.
Association Chaplain

♦
Greetings fellow Cottonbalers. Since our last update, 42 leaders from the battalion deployed to and redeployed from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point and the entire battalion deployed to and redeployed from Camp Blanding, Florida in support of our partner Army National Guard brigade, the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). In May and June, our Leaders trained the USMA cadets for their first and second summer training preparing future Leaders of our Army to lead our Soldiers. In July, the battalion conducted attack and defense blank fire exercises as the opposing force (OPFOR) while simultaneously conducting our own live fire training at the squad and platoon level. The 53rd’s eXportable Combat Training Center (XCTC) allowed the 53rd IBCT to train to the platoon and company level in preparation for their third year of training prior to their final cycle year where they are available for worldwide deployment. This relatively new method of home station training with external resources allows our Army National Guard partners to receive the benefits of a rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center or National Training Center while at their home station. Our Cottonbalers performed the 3rd active duty support mission to an Army National Guard brigade and did it incredibly! Since returning from Camp Blanding, the battalion has focused on preparation for the next missions – a second round of Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) training and testing, conducting the test for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) which will eventually replace the HMMWV, and a training progression that culminates in June 2015 at the Joint Readiness Training Center. It’s getting a little busy. As always, your Damn Fine Soldiers stand ready for the next challenges as they are Willing and Able!

A/3-7 IN

Over the past few months America Company has been continuing to train hard and ensure our soldiers are fit and ready to fight. We have conducted numerous ranges: rifle, machine gun, shotgun, pistol, and rocket training enabling our Soldier’s to effectively employ weapons that will be used during future collective training events. Our soldiers continued training with their teams and squads during our situational training exercises (STX). During July and August, we deployed to Camp Blanding Florida in support of the National Guard’s XCTC rotation. Our soldiers performed exceptionally, providing Opposing Force Support (OPFOR) to National Guard Soldiers over a three week period, while continuing our own concurrent organic training for future 3-7 IN mission success. Over the next few months, our Soldiers will execute EIB train-up and testing, squad live fires, platoon STX, and platoon live fire exercises. We are looking forward to the challenging training ahead. Congratulations to SPC Richard Ellison, SPC Thomas Clarke, and SPC Garrett Mahone for being recommended for promotion to SGT and to PFC Brandon Brown being selected as the Soldier of the Month for August!

B/3-7 IN

The last few months continued to be busy for the
Berserkers filled with quality training for our Soldiers. Earlier this year, the Company helped test new body armor and helmets for the Army in conjunction with Team, Squad, and Platoon STXs. The training experience was an excellent opportunity to give feedback on new equipment while developing young leaders at all levels. Most recently, the entire Company deployed with the rest of the Battalion to Camp Blanding in order to support training for the National Guard. Between filling the OPFOR role (a great chance to see how US forces operate from the enemy’s perspective), we also ran platoon training, several ranges, and a squad live fire exercise. The extended time in the field was a challenge that grew our capabilities as dismounted infantrymen while bringing the Company together as a team. We are looking forward to continuing this momentum in the coming months as we move into more advanced training events.

**C/3-7 IN**

Over the past few months, Cold Steel Company welcomed a new First Sergeant, 1SG Mark Frantz! 1SG Frantz is a long serving member of the battalion and is moving the company forward. We have conducted numerous ranges and training events focused on individual through squad collective tasks. We have qualified on pistols, rifles, machine guns, shotguns, hand grenades, mortars, and Anti-Tank rockets. In addition to our squad situational training exercises (STX) at Fort Stewart, we deployed to Camp Blanding, FL in support of the National Guard’s training rotation in July. Cold Steel Company Soldiers worked as the opposing force to support the 53rd IBCT’s collective training while conducting our own platoon STX and squad live fire exercises (LFX), truly maximizing this great training opportunity. To end our experience, we partnered with the 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry, the Seminole Battalion, and fought against the rest of the Cottonbaler Battalion. These next few months will prove even more rewarding than the last. The company will conduct Expert Infantryman Badge training and testing, as well as squad LFX and prepare for platoon level STX and LFX. Last, but certainly not least, special congratulations to SPC Cody Wachsmuth and SPC Jarom Anderson for winning the two Soldier of the Month boards over the last quarter.

**D/3-7 IN**

The last several months have been extremely busy and successful for Dragon Company. During XCTC at Camp Blanding, FL, Dragons completed Platoon
Live Fires and TOW Live Fires. All Platoons were first time GO’s. Dragons are currently gearing up toward the testing of the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV). This testing begins in early September and will run into early November. The Dragons have also integrated an Assault Platoon from a Weapons Company in the Army Reserve from Hawaii, 100/442nd Infantry to facilitate the testing. The Dragons look forward to this challenging and tremendous training opportunity and assisting the Army with selecting our new gun truck of the future. Dragon Company Soldiers have continued to set the standard, Congratulations to SPC Christopher Busch winning Soldier of the Month Board and CPL Wayne Jackson for winning the NCO of the Month Board.

HHC/3-7 IN

The past several months have been a busy time for Headquarters and Headquarters Company. HHC spent the month of July supporting the Battalion mission at Camp Blanding, FL. The Scouts conducted a break-contact live fire exercise while Mortars conducted several live fires and facilitated a class for the battalion’s junior leaders on indirect fires. In August, Havoc Company reenlisted five Soldiers in a single week. We also welcomed 1LT Bier, 1LT Fischer, 1LT Chewning, and SFC Smith to the HHC family. Havoc Company now concludes a successful summer of training with several rifle ranges and shifting our focus to training for the upcoming EIB testing.

Volens et Potens

LTC Scott Shaw, Baler 6 ♦
B/3-7 Soldier Ready for Platoon STX

B/3-7 Soldiers Clearing the enemy while rehearsing for the squad live fire exercise

B/3-7 Soldiers Waiting for helicopters in Florida

Berserkers conducting combat water survival test training

Charlie Company following Camp Blanding
### 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: [ ]

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### 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

Make check payable to: “7th Infantry Regiment Association”
Mail to: Roland Merson, Secretary, 60 Tipper Drive, Dryfork, WV 26263
## Campaign Participation Credt

### War of 1812
- Canada
- New Orleans
- Florida 1814
- Louisiana 1815

### Mexican War
- Monterey
- Vera Cruz
- Cerro Gordo
- Contreras
- Churubusco
- Molino del Rey
- 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 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

### 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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