



MARCH 2008

From the Brigade Commander



Col. Mark Burke

Welcome to our newest issue of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade newsletter.

My intent is to utilize this medium to communicate with all the Soldiers, their Families, significant others and employers. Ideally, the best form of communication is one-on-one or face to face, but is not always realistic with the busy schedules we all maintain.

This fiscal year has already been a very busy year as it was our first year after our Brigade transformation. We changed the way we did things by changing drill attendance. I have received a great deal of feedback and it appears the majority of personnel, due to time off issues with their employers or school, would prefer to return to the old drill schedule. I am looking at changing our drill program but do not intend to return to the MUTA 4 drill program. I believe the correct answer to allow us effective training and care of our soldiers, educators and employers is to work a drill schedule consisting of MUTA 5 and MUTA 6 drills and still have the month of December to be a non-drill month as well as a minimum of one month in the summer to allow unit members some quality Family time. I look forward to hearing feedback concerning this issue from all our Brigade Soldiers.

Currently we have one unit deployed, Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th GSAB (or CH47 unit) to Operation Enduring Freedom. They are performing in an outstanding manner and have received nothing but accolades from their higher units, the 82nd Cmbt Avn Bde and most recently the 101st Cmbt Avn Bde. It was brought to my attention that the 126th led the largest air assault conducted by the 82nd during their tour. The air mission

commanders and flight leaders were 1st Lt. (P) Eric Fritz and Chief Warrant Officer Francis Rotella. Chief Rotella is currently flying under the 101st Cmbt Avn Bde which is the same unit he flew with during his first tour in Viet Nam. This unit has done an amazing job and we look forward to their return very soon. I would be remiss and would also like to thank the families of these Soldiers for the greater sacrifice they have endured while supporting their Soldier and allowing them to do their mission so successfully. Your sacrifice has not gone unnoticed for without you none of this would be possible.

The 126th will be returning and will be part of the new Family Readiness reintegration program designed to improve communications between returning Soldiers and their families. I truly hope all Families participate as this will be designed to take place away from the armory and is for the families. Further details will be published and distributed.

The Brigade is currently working diligently to prepare the 3rd Bn, 142nd Air Assault Battalion for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit will be conducting a major training exercise next month to certify they are ready for movement to the mobilization station to complete their final preparations for deployment. The individuals in this unit were the first aviators to prepare for mobilization under the new deployment guidelines of the 12-month tour. This has required the personnel of this unit and those who have supported the training, to make additional time and sacrifice to meet the requirements to complete pre-mobilization training and reduce time at the mobilization station, thus providing ground commanders the maximum time in country. I would like to thank everyone involved in this endeavor and have every confidence that the second PPMT will be as successful as the first. The individuals in this unit, those supporting the training and their families and employers have made a great sacrifice to endure this train up to ensure our troops are prepared to deploy. There will be going away ceremonies for this Battalion on 31 May at Islip and on the 1 June in Latham. Details are forthcoming.

We are going through a time when maintaining and improving the number of Soldiers in

our ranks is our primary challenge. This can only be successful if every single Soldier within our ranks is involved. I ask that every Soldier do their utmost best to recruit good quality individuals and more importantly ensure we, as a command, are doing everything in our power to retain these Soldiers.

We as a command are working to obtain more school quotas, hire more full-time support, make training challenging, exciting and also fun. We can only do this with the input of every Soldier through their chain of command, being involved with the training plan and execution. We must also ensure we keep our Families informed as well as our employers to maintain their support for you, your unit and the New York National Guard.

If there items which you would like me as the commander to address please feel free to contact Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, the Brigade PAO NCOIC and publisher of this newsletter (see page 2 of this newsletter for contact information) so he can ensure I am addressing the concerns of both the Soldiers and family members.

Please stay involved, give your support and again thank you for your sacrifice and patriotism.

Highlights in this issue

- **Brigade Soldier of the Year board**
- **Conducting a Soldier of the Year board**
- **142nd Prepares for Possible Deployment**
- **Chinook Aviators Deployed to Afghanistan**
- **AVCATT Newest Trainer**
- **People, Places and Things**

From the Brigade Command Sergeant Major



CSM Justin Cappon

Greetings from your Brigade Command Sergeant Major. Since coming onboard last April, I am getting to know the Soldiers and staff in the Brigade. This first issue of YOUR newsletter will give us all a chance to open the communication channel; ensuring no one is left out of the loop.

This newsletter provides an excellent forum for me to communicate with members of our organization. Because our New York subor-

dinate aviation elements are stationed across the state from Dunkirk/Jamestown east to Ronkonkoma, Long Island, the Commander and I are not always at the same location on every drill. I want every member to have access to me and be able to share information throughout the organization.

It is paramount that every member has access to Army Knowledge Online (AKO) as this will be the primary distribution for the newsletter. Members that are experiencing problems with their common access card (CAC) or login problems with AKO must work with their immediate supervisor or section leader to resolve the problem. Remember, AKO is the Army's future for communication and education. Please ensure that all Soldiers have proper access and connectivity on AKO.

I am hopeful that all members have read my expectation document. If you have not, it is available in my folder on the Brigade AKO site. The document is lengthy (5 pages) but it is an azimuth derived from my military experience that spans five decades. I share this with all members, and I am hopeful that my expecta-

tions become your expectation, and whether you are a leader or subordinate, include it in your plan.

As we move toward annual training in April, be aware, be careful and most of all be prepared. Section leaders should have conducted their pre-combat, pre-mission inspections during the March drill. Leaders that diligently conduct pre-mission planning normally have the right personnel and equipment in the right place at the right time. When this happens, everyone can succeed. Don't forget, safety must be incorporated in everything we do. Remember, "Hope Is Not A Method."

I encourage everyone to introduce themselves to me when I am visiting your unit or in your training area. I am interested in your duties, responsibilities and your thoughts. Tell me what you see and what you would like to improve on. We must all work together to help the organization grow and improve.

You Are Hereby Promoted to the Rank of...

The following Brigade Soldiers were promoted during March

Soldiers Name	Rank Promoted To	Unit Assigned to
Edward Rounds	Command Sgt. Major	HSB, 642nd Spt Bn
William Werber	Master Sgt.	HHC, 42nd CAB
Edward Ensell, Jr.	Staff Sgt.	Det 1, Co A, 642nd Spt Bn
Barbara Finnie	Staff Sgt.	HHC, 42nd CAB
Peter Isler	Staff Sgt.	Det 2, Co D, 3rd Bn, 126 Avn
Bryan Kershaw	Staff Sgt.	HHC(-), 3rd Bn, 142 Avn
David Miens	Staff Sgt.	Det 1, Co B, 3rd Bn, 126 Avn
Oquendo Ortiz	Staff Sgt.	HHC, 42nd CAB
Farah Nassar	Staff Sgt.	Co B(-), 642nd Spt Bn
David Rost, Jr.	Staff Sgt.	HHC, 42nd CAB
Francisco Barbar	Sgt.	Co A(-), 642nd Spt Bn
Robert Chen	Sgt.	Det 3, Co E, 3rd Bn, 142 Avn
Jonathan Hayes	Sgt.	HHC, 42nd CAB
Jennifer Hilliker	Sgt.	Det 1, Co A, 1st Bn, 224 Avn
Peyton McViney	Sgt.	Co A(-), 642nd Spt Bn
Nicholas Polick	Sgt.	Co D, 3rd Bn, 142 Avn
Brandon Runey	Sgt.	Co A, 3rd Bn, 142 Avn
Craig Depuy	Pfc.	Det 3, Co E, 3rd Bn, 142 Avn

From the Brigade Public Affairs NCOIC

Allow me to introduce myself and give you information about utilizing the newly authorized Brigade public affairs position.

I am Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone and have been in the N.Y. National Guard for 21 years. Everyone of those years have been in public affairs. I deployed to Germany/Bosnia twice and in 2005-06 I deployed to Mosul, Iraq with the 138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. After re-deploying, I transferred to the Brigade.

I am excited about my position in the Brigade because it allows me to bring my PA experience to a new position and maximize documenting each units activities with photos and sometimes video. It will also aid the Brigade commander in getting command information to Brigade Soldiers.

This is my very first newsletter for a unit. I envision it growing and developing over the next few months. I hope you like it and please feel free to make suggestions. Also, if you have photos or like to take photos, consider being your units UPAR (Unit Public Affairs Representative). Contact info as follows:

steven.b.petibone@us.army.mil
 steven.b.petibone@ng.army.mil
 (518) 786-4493



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Brigade News and Photos

Congratulations to Some Junior NCO's

Brigade Soldier of the Year



Specialist Amanda Matteson
Company D, 3rd Bn, 142nd AHB

LATHAM - On Sunday, February 10th, the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade conducted its first Soldier and NCO of the Year board since completing transformation.

The board judges in attendance were Command Sgt. Maj. Justin Cappon, 42nd Cmbt. Avn. Bde., Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Imbaratto, 3rd Bn, 142nd AHB, Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Rounds, 642nd ASB, and 1st Sgt. Matthew Quackenbush, HHC, 42nd Cmbt. Avn. Bde.

Four Soldiers were selected to participate and traveled from as far away as New York City and Rochester, three of them are pictured above. The fourth Soldier was Sgt. Ally Andolina, HHC, 42nd Cmbt. Avn. Bde.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Cappon, every participating Soldier maximized their capabilities during the board process. At the conclusion of the board, he stated that the judging was extremely tight and that all participants had nothing to be ashamed of, however; there can only be one winner and one runner up.

During the lunch break, the board members and competing Soldiers were treated to two six-foot submarine sandwiches. competition must have produced a large appetite because there

Brigade NCO of the Year



Staff Sergeant Karlton Jarrett
Company B, 642nd ASB

was not much left of the enormous sandwiches afterward.

Specialist Matteson and Staff Sgt. Jarrett will go on to participate at the state level for Soldier/NCO of the Year. Sgt. Ganser was instructed to prepare as the alternate to go forward next month, if required.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cappon additionally thanked Staff Sgt. Alicia Howard and Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Gutswiller for their administrative support and Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone for the public affairs coverage.

Brigade NCO Runner-Up



Sergeant Gregory Ganser
Company B, 3rd Bn, 142nd AHB



A meeting of the minds. Command Sgt. Maj's Edward Rounds and Chris Imbaratto discuss strategy prior to the Soldier/NCO of the Year board. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone



Membership has its rewards. Sgt. Ally Andolina (left) and Staff Sgt. Karlton Jarrett dig in during the Soldier/NCO of the Year board lunch break. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone.



A job well done. Board judges and Soldier participants pose for a group photo prior to the end of their duty day. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone



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Conducting a Soldier/NCO of the Year board



Step one: Command Sgt. Maj. Justin Cappon gets the board process started by getting the participating Soldiers in a relaxed frame of mind and explaining how the process will progress throughout the day, as well as the order in which each Soldier will appear before the board.



Step three: After completing the written test, each Soldier undergoes a scaled-down clothing and equipment inspection. Their individual items are inspected for condition of maintenance, if the item is still authorized and cleanliness.



Step two: Each Soldier is given a timed written test on an array of military subjects. These subjects can range from drill and ceremony techniques to basic rifle marksmanship. Soldiers are prepared to take the test by either going on-line to read the study-guide or the printed version provided by their units.



Step four: Each Soldier reports to the board, addresses the board and is given a series of facing movements to execute. After that he/she is instructed to be seated where they are asked various questions from each board member. These questions include basic military skills as well as topics about current social events. An individual session can last from 30-50 minutes.

Step five: Time to re-group. At the conclusion of the board, judges and participants hold a brief after-action review where the Soldier, NCO of the Year and runner-up are notified. Each participant is briefed on their performances and how they can improve the next time.



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Brigade News and Photos

142nd Prepares for Possible Mobilization



Above: Specialist Miquel Nunez waits patiently in the dental chair for the panoramic x-ray machine to begin scanning. Photo by Sgt. Ally Andolina, 42nd Comb. Avn. Bde.

Below: Sergeant Charles Patterson, Joint Force HQ, checks Pvt. John Landons weight during the 142nd Avn Soldiers Readiness Checks at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham, 8-10 Feb. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Comb. Avn Bde.



Above: Rick Burdick, phlebotomist, preps Capt. Louis Malizia, Company B, 3rd Bn, 142nd Avn before drawing blood samples during the Soldiers Readiness Checks at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham, 8-10 Feb. Photo by Sgt. Ally Andolina, 42nd Comb. Avn. Bde.

Left: Sergeant Pedro Miranda, 133rd Quartermaster Company, gets the ball rolling during the 142nd Avn Soldiers Readiness Checks at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham, 8-10 Feb. Photo by Sgt. Ally Andolina, 42nd Comb. Avn. Bde.



Left: Specialist Nicodema Esmel, crew chief, Company A, 3rd Bn, 142nd Aviation takes it like a Soldier as he gets his first Anthrax shot during the 142nd's Soldiers Readiness Checks at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham, 8-10 Feb. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Comb. Avn. Bde





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142nd Prepares for Possible Mobilization-continued



Above: Sergeant Charles Patterson, Joint Forces HQ, (shown behind) adjusts the vertical measuring device to get the accurate height from Staff Sgt. Thomas Balogh, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation during the battalion's Soldiers Readiness Checks at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham, 8-10 Feb. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Comb. Avn. Bde.

Right: Doctor Gerard Danaher, dentist, does a preliminary dental exam while his assistant, Veri Varone looks over Chief Warrant Officer Steven Derry's medical folder during the 3rd Bn, 142nd Avn.'s Soldiers Readiness Checks at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham, 8-10 Feb. Derry is a tactical operations officer with the 142nd Avn. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Comb. Avn. Bde.



Above: Roberta Basile, vision contractor, adjusts an eye-glass prescription device for Pfc. Bryan Novak, 133rd Quartermaster Company during the Soldiers Readiness Checks at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham, 8-10 Feb. Photo by Sgt. Ally Andolina, 42nd Comb. Avn. Bde.

Right: Sergeant Pedro Miranda, 133rd Quartermaster Company, covers one eye and reads an eye chart during 3rd Bn, 142nd Avn during the Soldiers Readiness Checks at the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Latham, 8-10 Feb. Photo by Sgt. Ally Andolina, 42nd Comb. Avn. Bde.





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Brigade News and Photos

Brigade's Empire Blizzard Deployed-Pictorial

3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation (Heavy Lift) in Afghanistan-Pictorial

Photos Courtesy of 1st Sgt. Greg Kecken, Task Force Talon, Afghanistan





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Brigade News and Photos



AVCATT is Where it's At



LATHAM - During February drills, and in the mist of the 3rd Bn, 142nd Soldiers Readiness Checks, 142nd Aviators conducted an initial familiarization training on the newly-acquired Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer located at the Latham Army Aviation Support Facility #3. The familiarization training was conducted by Mr. Barry Lill, a retired N.Y. Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer instructor pilot. He is currently a contractor for the AVCATT system.

AVCATT supports UH-60 Blackhawk, OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, AH-64A Apache, AH-64D Longbow and CH-47 Chinook platforms
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, HHC, 42nd Cmbt. Avn Bde.





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People, Places and Things



Got Retention! As the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade fills duty positions, additional duties are assigned. During March drills Sgt. David Dargan, HHC, 42nd Cmbt. Avn Bde, was appointed the brigade's Retention NCO. For questions relating to retention contact him at David.Dargan@us.army.mil or call him at (845) 742-6172.



Private 1st Class Steven Fitzgerald, HHC, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation follows written instructions carefully as he familiarizes himself with the PSC-5D Tactical Satellite Communication Radio during March drills in Latham. The radio training was provided by the Raytheon Corporation. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone, 42nd Cmbt Avn Bde.

Changing NCO Leadership



Sergeant 1st Class Robert Ravert, HHC, 42nd Cmbt Avn Bde, is the newly-designated acting 1st Sgt. for HHC. He replaces 1st Sgt. Matthew Quackenbush, who is transferring to Joint Forces Headquarters in Latham. If you need to contact him, his e-mail is Robert.Ravert@us.army.mil or call (718) 457-3025.

Public Affairs notice to members of 3rd Bn, 142nd Avn

The two Public Affairs Soldiers from the 34th Cmbt Avn Bde, Minnesota National Guard have contacted me to inform me that they will be the Public Affairs team on the ground with you when you deploy.

Their names are :

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ewer and Sgt. Lynette Hoke.



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