

# The Iron Newsletter

3rd BN, 187th IN, 3BCT, 101st ABN  
DIV (AASLT)



## From the Commander: LTC Edward L. Arntson III

Greetings from Laredo, Texas!

Greetings from Laredo, TX! I hope February's newsletter finds you and your family doing well.

We're still enjoying fairly cool temperatures for South Texas and we'll take it for as long as we can get it. While we have the occasional day that creeps into the mid/high 80s, most days are in the 60s/ low 70s and very pleasant. We will enjoy every day of it because we know the heat is coming.

Our Iron Rakkasans continue to impress me and CSM Sickles during this deployment. Whether it's tracking a group of illegal immigrants over rough terrain in Comstock, TX or developing a new & unique way of doing the mission here on the border, the Soldiers in the Iron Battalion continue to demonstrate their professionalism, precision and passion every day.

We are almost 3 months complete with our deployment and hopefully the families are starting to feel time move a little quicker back home. Time is certainly starting to



move much faster on the border as we are now executing events that we planned months ago - a certain sign that the days and weeks are starting to cruise by.

We are making a difference with our presence down here along the South Texas border and you should be extremely proud if your spouse, son, daughter, brother, sister, etc. is deployed here with us. We will continue to work hard to contribute to this mission here and live up to the incredible legacy of those who came before us in the Iron Rakkasans.

- Iron 6

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## Head Hunter Company

### CPT Stephan V. Townes

Greetings from Texas! Head Hunter Company has been doing extremely well down here at the border and I am pleased to tell you that spirits are high and the days are starting to fly by. Our Soldiers continue to support the Border Patrol with professionalism and passion.

As a Company, we are setting the standard in Battalion for retention. Congratulations and thank you to SSG Noel, SGT Ingram, SGT Lin, SGT Villanueva, SPC Owens, SPC Murray, SSG Karczewski, SGT Bisogna, SGT Joyner, SPC Beltran, SGT Jackson, and SGT Wilson. Their recommitment to the United States Army and the nation is deserving of high praise and recognition, as well as their families.

## Angel Company

### CPT Bret M. Roessler

Angel Company has completed another outstanding month supporting Border Patrol down in Eagle Pass and Carrizo Springs, TX. The Soldiers have been



making a tremendous impact in our mission and Border Patrol cannot stop telling me how proficient, professional, and dedicated the Angel Company Soldiers have been in assisting them with their jobs securing the Nation's Border.

Due to our Soldiers excellent performance thus far in our assistance to the Border Patrol. The Eagle Pass South Border Patrol Station held a Military Appreciation luncheon to recognize our

The entire Head Hunter team wishes good luck to 2LT Fals, SGT Lee, SGT Fernandez, PFC Brueckner, PFC Clark, PFC Rolls, SPC Angles-Ramirez, and PFC Acevedo as they redeploy and compete to earn the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). The EFMB is a coveted badge for medical professionals that signifies to others that they are proficient in warrior and medical tasks such as Tactical Combat Casualty Care. This event begins March 1st and ends April 9th.

In March, Head Hunter will transition our physical training plan to focus on the 2020 Iron Warrior Challenge. This year's Iron Warrior Challenge will consist of 187 Burpees in 30 minutes or



less, 187 Sandbag Get-Ups in 35 minutes or less, and an 18.7 mile run in three hours and a half hours or less. Like in the past, the Iron Warrior Challenge is a physically grueling event that all of our Soldiers look forward too.

Thank you to our families in the rear for your continued love and support.

hard work and dedication to the mission. The agents and their spouses cooked a buffet of home-made street tacos for us in appreciation and we gathered together with the agents to share the meal.

The Military Appreciation Luncheon was especially important for our Soldiers because the agents and their families made us feel like we were a part of their family here in Eagle Pass. It is difficult for the Soldiers to be away from loved ones while deployed, but the Border Patrol and its leaders have really gone out of their way to make Eagle Pass feel like home.

This past month we had multiple achievements across the company. We had SSG Kyle Noel, SGT Robert Ingram, and SPC Austin Daugherty reenlist to stay in the Army and further their service to the nation. We also had SPC Billy Ummel and SGT (P) Colton Rosenbaum pass their SGT and SSG promotion boards. Finally, we had SPC Pete Mora not only graduate

Ranger School, but made it all the way through without recycling a single phase! 1SG and I send our best wishes to you and your families in the coming months.

#### **Congratulations to:**

Congratulations to Ranger Pete Mora and his wife Olivia on the birth of their daughter Giovanna. She was born within 72 hours of SPC Mora's Ranger School Graduation!



\*Pictured from top to bottom are as follows: (Top) 1LT Priester Reenlists SGT Ingram from HHC. (Middle) 1LT Priester Reenlists SSG Noel. (Bottom) Angel Company Soldiers enjoy a home-made meal provided by Eagle Pass Border Patrol agents and their families at the Military Appreciated Luncheon.

## Battlehard Company

CPT Ian J. Beil

It has been another busy month for Battlehard Company here in Texas. We continue to further develop our relationship with the Border Patrol as we assist and support them in securing the border. Battlehard Soldiers have become experts in the tasks associated with this mission, and it should come as no surprise that our Soldiers are excelling at their duties. Our actions and presence here have a profound impact on making the border safer and more secure for everyone.

Soldiers across the company are making tremendous strides in their physical fitness. We are taking the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) at the end of this month, and I have no doubt that we will see massive improvements since the first ACFT that the company took back in November. Following the ACFT, the company will focus on

preparing for the Iron Warrior Challenge that will occur in April.

Congratulations to SGT (P) Maday! On January 24<sup>th</sup>, he earned the coveted Ranger Tab, and he is currently well on his way to earning his Airborne Wings. SSG Smith is



nearing completion of the Advanced Leader's Course, and SGT Oxley passed the Basic Leader's Course. SPCs Armstrong, Dismuke, and Barrientos passed the promotion board and will soon be joining the ranks of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps. We are thrilled to see these great Soldiers take the next step in their careers.

SPC Wiler was recognized as the Iron Rakkasan of the Week during the week of January 13<sup>th</sup> for his

hard work and dedication to duty. SPC Wiler and his partner, PFC Levya, volunteered to work extra hours so that they could better support the CBP, and they were rightfully recognized for their motivation and professionalism.

We said goodbye to SFC Eric Balkiz as he prepares to move on to his next duty station. We appreciate his leadership and service to the company over the last two years, and we welcome his replacement, SFC Shane Herring and his family to the company. We know that he will continue to make 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon the best that it can be.

Congratulations to SPC Wiler and his wife Camille for the birth of their son, Holland Alan Wiler VI on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Welcome to all of the new Battlehard families! We look forward to your Soldiers joining us at the border and becoming part of the team. Thank you all for your continued support—we could not do what we do without you!

Battlehard!

## Chaplain's Corner

CH (CPT) Scibior

**+** During the deployment to Texas, the 3-187 IN Unit Ministry Team provides religious and spiritual support to Soldiers throughout two sectors: Laredo and Del Rio. This includes visiting 11 HUB sites and 30 MSC sites. Usually, CH (CPT) Scibior and SGT Jackson travel an average 1,000 miles per week. It allows them to visit all of the com-

panies weekly. Their job includes responding to all of the emergency-based situations that our Soldiers may encounter. Due to the fact that our Soldiers are dispersed throughout our AO and because they live in bigger towns or cities, no religious services are being conducted exclusively for our Soldiers. Instead, during this deployment our Soldiers have a unique opportunity to take advantage of a variety of local churches and communities. Joining

these communities for the duration of the deployment can be a great chance in the spiritual growth and can easily break the routine of everyday life.

\*Pictures above are as follows: SFC Balkiz takes a farewell photo with the soldiers of 2nd Platoon as he departs the Southwest Border Mission to PCS from Fort Campbell.

# Choppin' Company

CPT Stephen M. Anderson

Since we last wrote, Choppin' has continued to DOMINATE the South West Border Mission (SWBM). As we attack our constant pursuit of excellence, our Soldiers are beginning to hit full stride. Professionalism, Precision, and Passion are our focus during this mission on everything we do!



Choppin' Company has made some vast improvements to our SWBM since taking over and assisting the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The defense of the United States from illegal immigration and the trafficking of illegal narcotics is stronger than ever with the assistance from Choppin' Company and the Iron Rakkasans!

Our Soldiers' high standard of Professionalism has gone unmatched with their hard work and attention to detail. Our Soldiers are making constant refinements to our standard operating procedures (SOP's) and tactics that translate into major improvements to the security of our Nation's border. One highlight is "The Zapata Initiative" where our Soldiers completely revamped the way

CBP and DOD Personnel work together, leading to a record number of assisted apprehensions of illegal migrants.

I could not be more pleased with our Soldiers' Precision and Passion displayed from their training both tactically and physically. While Choppin' Company has started off with classroom environment training, we are excited to begin hands on training working alongside the Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC). This training will consist of both M9 and M4 ranges, live fires, land navigation and small unit tactics.

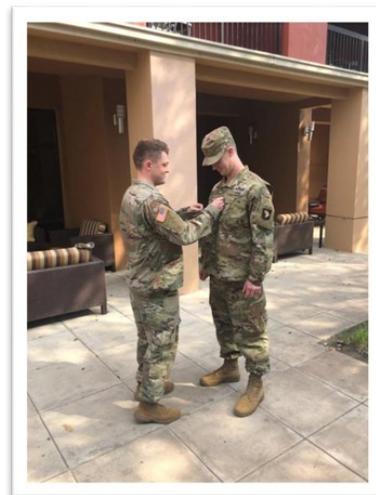
Choppin' Soldiers continue to prepare to dominate the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), the



Army's new test of a Soldier's physical fitness. Additionally, Choppin' Company Soldiers look forward to competing for the most qualifiers in this year's Iron Warrior Challenge coming up in April.

Over the course of this past month, Choppin' is proud to

congratulate Anthony Wilbur on his promotion from Specialist to Sergeant and William Rolls on his promotion from Private First Class to Specialist. We would also like to



extend a warm Choppin' welcome to the Yakop family for the birth of their daughter Jaylani, the Preston family for the birth of their daughter Montgomery-Tate, and the Ackiss family for the birth of their son Desean Jr.

Thank you for all the love and support, Choppin' Ain't Stoppin', Iron Sharpens Iron, Let Valor Not Fail. Rakkasan!



\*Pictures from Left to Right are as follows:  
(Left) SGT Wilbur Promotion pinning.  
(Middle) Choppin' Soldiers attending an Intel Brief before pushing out to MSC Sites.  
(Right) SPC Rolls Promotion Pinning.

# Wolfpack Company

CPT Jonathan B. Traczyk

Happy February to the Wolfpack and Iron family! The Company is doing very well down here in Southwest Texas. Our Soldiers are supporting the Border Patrol in three areas; the city of Del Rio, Texas, the Comstock, Texas area, and the city of Uvalde Texas.

Over the holidays, Wolfpack was visited by LTG Richardson, the Commander of Army North. She visited the local sites in Del Rio, highlighted by a great brief from SPC Young and PFC Martinez, and had a Christmas Eve Meal with the Company at Rudy's BBQ in Del Rio.



Our Soldiers have adapted and embraced the new mission that we have

while we are on the Southwest Border. We are responsible for the 24/7 operation of 5 Mobile Surveillance Camera (MSC) Sites throughout Del Rio, Comstock and Uvalde. The team's results thus far have been remarkable. During the State of the Union, President Trump praised Chief Raul Ortiz, the outgoing Border Patrol Sector Chief for the Del Rio Sector, for all the hard work and results the Del Rio Sector has produced over the last two years.

Moving forwards in the Deployment Wolfpack will continue to support the Border Patrol and train on the basics. Soldiers will continue to qualify on their M9 Pistols. We will become physically dominant while we are down here, as our Soldiers prepare for the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). We will take 3 diagnostic tests while we are deployed to prepare for its implementation this October. We are also preparing for the Iron Warrior 2020 that will be held in April. In the summer, we will shift our focus back to what a Weapons Company fundamentals.



Congratulations are in order to SPC (P) Jake Delatorre for passing last month's Promotion Board and being put on promotable status. SGT Roderickbadoy, a new member of the Wolfpack graduated Air Assault earlier this month. Next, he will attend the Pre Ranger Course in March and Ranger School in April. SGT James Dobson and SPC Kristian Torres are also up for the promotion board this month. We will wish him the best of luck.

Next month, we will have a story about our Ranger School candidates, as they prepare to conquer the Army's premier leadership school.

Thank you for all the love and support, and stay warm, winter is nearly over! Wolfpack!, Iron Sharpens Iron! Rakkasan!, Air Assault!

# Nomad Company

CPT Andy Philips

Hello Family,

During the month of February 2020, we focused on the basics in the company. Our tactical and professional training plan is based on critical areas of the logistics field that require repetition to master. These training areas consist of cross training for specific Military Occupation Specialty, utilization of communication platforms, weapons handling, physical and mental fitness; and our SFRG program.



**SFRG:** Nomads last SFRG event focused on education benefits for Soldiers and families. Families and Soldiers can receive one on one counseling on Tuition Assistance, GI Bill, Credentialing Assistance (receive up to \$4,000), Green to Gold, and schools. We also discussed the Campbell Strong Program that helps spouses find jobs. Company events and updates are posted on the Company's Facebook page weekly; titled "Hotel Company "Nomads" 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry "Iron Rakkasan." Our next SFRG meeting is

31March 2020 at 3pm to 5pm.

**Doing the Job:** Nomad's Field Feeding Section continues to lead the way in the Brigade DFAC. Since the Brigade's deployment, Nomad's NCOs have taken all key leading roles in the DFAC. Our Soldiers are competing in the Army Wide Culinary Competition at Fort Lee, VA. They cook 900 meals a day and also provide meals for training exercises for organic and supported units. The maintenance platoon continues to exceed the maintenance standards in the Briagde and have placed emphasis on developing the new Soldiers.



**Professional Development:** Nomads started February with individual training and practical exercises on setting up Unit Defense Perimeter, establishing fighting positions, and creating Range Cards. We followed up with an NCO professional development on writing evaluations. Our additional tactical training focused on how to properly fill out maintenance docu-

ments, execute vehicle rollover drills and how to replace a truck tire. Squad Leaders continue to engage junior Soldiers on a daily basis on professional development and conduct



one on one sessions to ensure every member of the team is capable of performing one level up.

Currently, we have three Soldiers in Air Assault School. Nomad's Pre-Air Assault program has shown great promise.

Lastly, on behalf of the Nomads in uniform, thank you for allowing us to push hard every day as you take care of us.

\* (T-L&R) Wolfpack soldiers take advantage of pistol training opportunities with the Uvalde Firearms Instructor. (B-L) Nomad conducts LPD's in Company Area. (B-M) Nomad conducting Maintenance on a vehicle at Ft Campbell, KY. (B-R) Nomad Soldiers competing in the Nomad PT Challenge.

# From Iron 7: CSM Braden K. Sickles



Greetings Iron Rakkasans and Families,

I would like to thank all of our Iron Rakkasans for all the amazing accomplishments that they have made over the last several months. We have been very busy and will continue to stay just as busy for the foreseeable future. I am extremely proud of all the hard work and teamwork that is consistently displayed here in the Iron Battalion. It is an honor to work with some of the greatest Soldiers the Army has to offer on a daily basis. I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers, spouses, and other family members that support the Soldier & Family Readiness Group with their time, effort, and participation. I cannot say enough how critical our Iron families are to our overall mission readiness. Finally I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new Iron Rakkasans and their families to the best Infantry Battalion in the Army.

- Iron 7



*\*\*\*Rear Detachment Command Team.\*\*\**

*CPT Nathan Brumbaugh*

*SGM Karl Fratzke*

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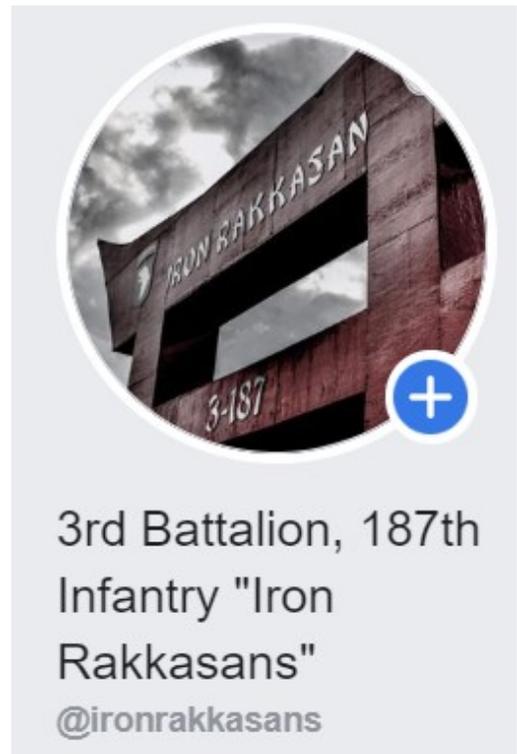
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