



U.S. Army Forces Command

FRONTLINE

February 27, 2015 | Volume V, Issue 8



Senior Leaders New SECDEF begins tenure



"I am proud to lead men and women who devote their lives to the highest calling – the defense of our nation. Because of you, we have the finest fighting force the world has ever known."

– **Ashton B. Carter**
Secretary of Defense
Feb. 17, 2015, Washington

On Point “Set a goal, make a plan, save automatically”

Military Saves is a cooperative effort between the armed services and the Consumer Federation of America, one of the Department of Defense’s official financial readiness non-profit partners.

Military Saves Week, Feb. 23-28, joins the military community with federal, state and local resources, along with military banks and credit unions to focus on financial readiness, debt reduction and future savings. The theme for Military Saves 2015 is “Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically.” The financial readiness of Soldiers and their Families is a priority for the Army because it has a direct effect on mission readiness.



Solarium 2015

Solarium 2015 is intended to inform and shape the future direction of the U.S. Army, as it brings together 100 senior captains from across the Army to identify issues and address challenges to our Army.

Female 4th Infantry Division Soldier qualifies for Ranger Course



Soldiers cool down after a two-mile run before participating in an obstacle course during the Ranger Training Assessment Course at Fort Benning, Ga., Feb. 7, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sara Wakai)

By David Vergun, Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Feb. 24, 2015) – A female first lieutenant from Fort Carson, Colo., who flies Apache helicopters, successfully completed all course requirements of the second gender-integrated Ranger Training Assessment Course, or RTAC, which ended this week.

Of the 100 Soldiers who started this most-recent RTAC, 17 were female. Of the Soldiers who completed the course successfully, 35 were male and one was female, said Maj. Gen. Scott Miller.

Miller serves as commander of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, at Fort Benning, Ga. Fort Benning hosts both the RTAC and the Ranger course.

Successfully completing RTAC qualifies Soldiers to go on to the Army’s Ranger course. Female Soldiers who participate in and successfully complete an RTAC will be able to attend the first gender-integrated Ranger course. That “Ranger Course Assessment” begins April 20.

Standard for males and females will continue to be the same as they have always been at both RTAC and the Ranger course, Miller said.

Helping to ensure that the standards remained the same for all participants were 17 enlisted and eight commissioned “observer-advisors,” or O-As, said Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany Easter, an O-A.

An additional duty of the O-A was to advise Ranger instructors, she said, since in years past there had never been female students. Some of the advice was on sleep arrangements, latrines, and so on.

Becoming an O-A itself was a pretty rigorous process, Easter said. Training included a 12-mile foot march, a combat water survival test, and land navigation. Also, the Army looked for O-As with suitable backgrounds.

“Anytime Soldiers raise their hands and volunteer for a tough course, I admire that,” Miller said. “And this is about the toughest course the Army has. The operating force will receive more well-trained Soldiers because of this experience.”

FORSCOM in the news

The 69th Military Police Detachment was awarded the U.S. Army Forces Command “Eagle Award” recently, as the **best military working dog detachment** in FORSCOM.



A field artillery battery from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y. was recently recognized as the **best active-duty artillery battery in the Army**.



A female Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, **recently made history** when she was promoted to corporal and assigned as a MLRS launcher chief.



Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team **will train at the NTC for the first time** since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began.



Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, **recently conducted a casing ceremony** as they prepare to deploy overseas.



Public Affairs units in action



28th Public Affairs Detachment - Soldiers fire a howitzer as the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery conducted their first division run, Feb. 20, 2015, on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Steve Peterson)

TOP SHOTS

Here are the best photos from FORSCOM Public Affairs professionals world-wide. For more photos and information, click these photos or visit army.mil/forscom



Right Cpl. Erica Gunter, a launcher chief in A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, 214th Fires Brigade, works with her launcher crew to reload its M270A Multiple Launch Rocket System during certification exercises, Feb. 10, 2015, at Fort Sill, Okla. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joe Dees)

Left Soldiers assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment carry the national colors during the Bell County Rodeo in Belton, Texas, Feb. 12, 2015. The rodeo featured 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers as part of military appreciation night. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Angel Turner)



Above Soldiers with the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, push a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter into place on MV Cape Race, a Roll-on, Roll-off vessel at the Port of Buchanan, Liberia, Feb. 16, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Rose Mittlesteadt)



Above Pfc. Izaac Horton (front), and Pfc. Christopher Roberts (left), C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, reset after loading a 155 mm high-explosive round into the breach of a M777 howitzer, Feb. 8, 2015, at Fort Polk, La. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Mark A. Moore II)

Left Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, move to an objective during a combined arms live fire exercise, Feb. 5, 2015 on Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Marcus Floyd)



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This week's
**FORSCOM
PA Summary**
(CAC required)