



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APACHE COMPANY

Fort Carson, Colorado

ISSUE 7



READY, SET, LIVE-FIRE!

THE NEXT TRAINING GEAR

LOYAL



STEADFAST

Apache Company starts to put all the pieces together in the upcoming month with Buddy, Team, and Squad Live Fire Exercises

..AND TO BUILD THE NATION'S MIGHT

Training is ramping up here at Apache Company. We have finally arrived at our Live Fire weeks! These challenging events will make sure that Apache Soldiers are proficient and confident in the use of their weapon systems.

These exercises build on Soldiers' individual skills. First, we will put them in pairs which will bound down a lane engaging targets. Next they will operate as a team of 4-5 in a more complex scenario. Finally, a squad of nine Soldiers will work together to flank an enemy team and then call for 60mm mortar fire on targets over a mile away.

SPC Martin is eager for these live fires to kick off. "It's one of the best training events of the year," the First Platoon Soldier asserts. "I get to get out there and work with the guys that will probably be to my left and right in actual combat when we go."

CPT Duke has made safety and realism a top priority during this training. The exercises will have iterations of dry, blank, and live runs. In the dry runs, Soldiers will go through the lane with no ammunition. When they are proficient, the leadership will distribute blank rounds to increase the intensity. Finally, Soldiers will move through the lane with live ammunition to knock down their simulated enemies.

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Here's a quick look at what this month's Apache Newsletter has to offer. Though you may be tempted, we recommend you not try to read through the whole letter at once. Try to work through it at a slow pace to best savor the experience.

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Apache 6: Commander's Update



Once again, I am happy to report to you from this amazing post of Fort Carson, Colorado! Things are in full-swing here in Apache country. Soldiers are packing gear, signing out weapons, and heading out to the field for training. Fires me up!



We are building from the basic skills we training this last month and putting it all together. The upcoming month of May will be a challenging and rewarding experience for all of us. Like I said at the last FRG meeting, please bear with us as your loved ones spend a large amount of a time at work and in the field. There will be plenty of late nights and long weeks ahead of us during buddy, team, and squad live fires. These training events will be the foundation to ensure our Soldiers are trained to the Apache and 2-12IN standard; they will be ready to deploy, meet, and defeat America's enemies.



I strongly encourage submissions from your families to our newsletter. We here at Apache appreciate that your Soldiers have vastly different and very important components to their lives outside the military. Good communication with



Soldiers families is one of my top priorities. The other Apache leadership and I will train our company safely and effectively. I will then work to get them the compensation time that they earn each and every day.

Please submit stories about significant events in your lives, even the everyday events! These will give us a more well-rounded picture of the full Apache Family.



One of the many upcoming events is the 2-12IN Soldier/Family Fun Night at the Sky Sox game on Thursday May 30th. For only \$25 per adult and \$16 per child you can get a package of all you can eat BBQ pulled pork, hamburgers,

and hotdogs (not to mention \$3 micro-brews!) Reserve your spot by May 13th for this awesome opportunity to relax in a family friendly environment.



We need volunteers! If you would like to volunteer for the Apache FRG, please contact Elizabeth Loflin. She's been doing a great job so far. But she can't do it alone! And don't be shy about clicking "Like" on our Apache Company Facebook page (www.facebook.com/2-12InfantryApacheCompany)

If you have any questions or issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is donovan.duke@us.army.mil. Thank you for the sacrifices that you make every day.

Until we can share a beer together again...

CPT Donovan Duke

The Best on the Quest:

Apache Soldiers Enjoy One of MWR's Prized Programs

On a snowy March day, while everyone else in Apache Company was hard at work, 2nd Platoon was enjoying a free day of skiing and snowboarding at Loveland Ski Mountain. This trip was provided by Fort Carson's MWR as part of the Warrior Adventure Quest (WAQ) program. WAQ provided free transportation and ski or snowboard equipment for 2nd Platoon's Soldiers, as well as the lift tickets at Loveland Mountain.



The trip afforded an excellent opportunity for 2nd Platoon to relax and have fun, but it also allowed much more than that. It allowed the Soldiers to interact and hang out in a much more casual environment, facilitating unit cohesion and bonding. This also helped to better integrate the new Soldiers that have joined the Platoon since our return from Afghanistan.

We had every level of skiers and snowboarders, from seasoned veterans that have grown up on the slopes to beginners that have never stepped into ski boots or snowboard boots before. Some Soldiers pay for professional instruction at the mountain, while many looked to their fellow Platoon members with more experience for help, and the rest simply winged it and learned by trial and error. The day was full of success stories, hilarious falls with good effort stories,



and mostly fun. But the trip was not simply a fun day out of the office.



The WAQ Program actually has a much more important purpose than simply a free trip. The program was designed to aid Soldiers in adjusting and integrating back into normal life following a combat deployment. WAQ teaches Soldiers that there are other ways to relieve stress, such as skiing. WAQ also demonstrates that sometimes the best thing to do when facing struggle or difficulty is to turn to a buddy for help, whether that means asking a buddy to help learn how to ski or asking a buddy for help dealing with stress or other problems. Warrior Adventure Quest is a great program, providing these valuable lessons and also an awesome day out on the mountain for 2nd Platoon.

While some ski all Apache Soldiers enjoy fire and maneuver. Headquarters Platoon took a day at the Paintball course for their WAQ. In a mix of multicam, BDUs, deer hunting camo, and even a marine uniform, the CO's platoon returned from a day uniformly covered in painted battle scars.



Second to None:

Apache Sends Next Generation of Drill Sergeants

Second Platoon has had to say their initial goodbye to all of its beloved Squad Leaders and one former acting Platoon Sergeant. They are all continuing their Army careers, moving on to serve the Army in the most enjoyable way possible. SSGs Nathaniel Griner, Logan Yarbrough, Shawn Dickson, and Charles Kohut recently reported to the Army's Drill Sergeant School, and have been having the time of their lives' ever since at beautiful Fort Jackson, South Carolina.



Throughout this ten week school the drill sergeants-to-be will participate in all of the activities that new Army Recruits experience at Basic Training: drill and ceremony, basic



rifle marksmanship, obstacle/confidence courses, and field training exercises, training management, and leadership. The drill sergeants also spend countless hours memorizing, rehearsing, and executing all of the blocks of instruction that they will eventually teach the new Army recruits. After graduation the drill sergeants will don the world-renowned "Brown Round," (funny looking giant brown bucket hat), and will then have



Above, SSG Griner has also come down on the promotion list for E7

the pleasure to spend the next two years indoctrinating new Army Recruits at Basic Training, molding them into the future Soldiers and leaders of the Army. SSG Griner is currently slotted to instruct Basic Trainees at Fort Jackson, SC, SSGs Yarbrough and Dickson will drill Recruits at Fort Benning, GA, and SSG Kohut is slotted to yell at Basic Trainees at Fort Sill, OK.

We wish them all the best of luck, and wish we could see them going through their training and enjoying every minute of it.

The Third Rail: SGT Johnson Brings PT Up

After Apache Company's diagnostic PT Test in February many Soldiers in Third Platoon realized that there was much room for personal improvement. Nine months of living on Combat Outposts followed immediately by a month of block leave had taken its toll on everyone's run time.

SGT Mark Johnson saw a solution to this problem and immediately began organizing weekend trips to the Incline in Manitou Springs. SGT Johnson and the rest of the group would meet on post every Saturday and carpool to the trail head. All in all, he invested over 25 hours of his personal time in improving the Soldiers' test scores. The fruits of their labor were revealed on March 19th when three Soldiers who failed the diagnostic test in February passed the record test with a combined fourteen minutes shaved off of their times. SGT Johnson continues to take any Soldier who wants to improve their run time to the Incline every Saturday.



SGT Johnson hunts for bigger calves and better APFT scores



Hailing from the great state of Georgia, SPC Stone has made his first reenlistment with Apache Company. SPC Stone will eventually serve at Fort Hood, TX where he will see what the great state of Texas is all about. He loves to work on his vehicle and ride horses on his day off.

Apache
Reenlistments

First Platoon is proud of SPC Parker on his decision to reenlist for the MOS of 15W (UAV Pilot). SPC Parker feels lucky for the chance to continue to serve his country. On his free time, SPC Parker enjoys working out. He is also one of his Platoon's converts to Yoga, frequently braving the heated rooms at CorePower.



Gods Among Mortals: Third Takes Their Ruck March Out of Bounds

On a brisk March Friday, Third Platoon enjoyed a break from the day to day routine with an off-post Physical Training (PT) session at Manitou Springs' Garden of the Gods.

Soldiers met at the Garden of the Gods main Parking Lot rather than the normal company formation and wore civilian clothes rather than their usual PT Uniform. Each brought their ruck sack loaded with 35 lbs of equipment and were divided into three groups based on their abilities.

The five mile wound through the park providing scenic early morning views and wildlife sightings uncommon to the Fort Carson training area where the platoon normally conducts PT. Some Soldiers were concerned with the lack of uniformity in their clothing, until LT Loflin reminded



them that they were uniformly awesome.

Overall the event was designed to allow the platoon a break from the normal routine and

to bond as a unit through strenuous exercise. The Soldiers and NCOs all enjoyed this opportunity and look forward to our next off-post PT outing.

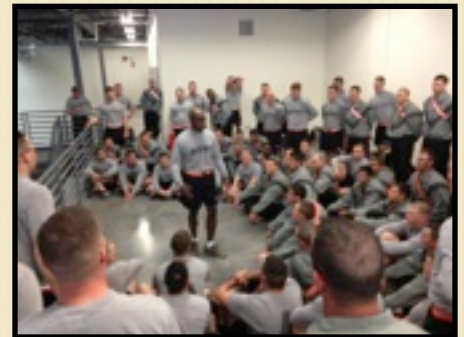


Greeting and salutations from 1SG Asberry. I've been with Apache Company for a month and I like what I see. Training planning is in full swing. These upcoming live fire weeks will go off very well.

REGARDS FROM APACHE 7

I'd like to thank all who showed up to the FRG Meeting. I think we have made tremendous progress on selecting a more child friendly location (especially with my three running around!) Now I just need to work a little on my bowling game. SPC McVickers is in my sights!

The Soldiers are extremely motivated and that means we will be very successful. If you ever need to reach me, I'm not hard to get a hold of. Give me a ring or email on my cell.



Apache 7 out.

1SG Jermaine Asberry