

## Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 126<sup>th</sup> Aviation (GSAB)



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# T H E Family Readiness Group

Fort Hood  
Texas

April  
2012

## From the Commander

### GREETINGS FROM FORT HOOD TEXAS!

Major Mark Stevens

Charlie Company Family and Friends-

Our first complete month on active duty is behind us! It's been a busy 30 days to say the least. Everyone seems to be getting along great and settling in nicely. The Oregon folks are awesome and when the 1SG and I look out over our formation, it's hard to tell the difference between the two groups. I really think we have become "one."

After our initial week here at Fort Hood, we split the unit apart and sent people in different directions for various training opportunities. The flight platoons and operations folks spent much of the time in the Fort Bliss/El Paso (Texas and New Mexico) area learning how to land the aircraft out in the desert. The conditions were perfect to simulate what we will see overseas and I'm pretty sure we learned a thing or two. Landing on a dusty stretch of desert is much different than landing at an airport! Many members of the flight platoons were also sent to Fort Rucker to learn how to exit an aircraft that has made an emergency landing in the water. There was a lot of traveling involved but overall everyone did a great job and completed all the requirements.

Meanwhile, back in Fort Hood - maintenance, administration, and unit movement folks were busy fixing aircraft and figuring out how to move the unit and its' equipment overseas. The challenges of maintaining our aircraft without full-time maintenance support and parts have become evident. Our maintainers are doing a GREAT job, working long hours, and "getting it done." Maine

soldiers have always been able to overcome this type of adversity and I am very proud to say that they are doing it here.

Everyone finally came back together just prior to our four day pass. The four day pass offered a much needed rest and went off without a hitch. Some people flew all over the country and others stayed right on Fort Hood, but either way, we all enjoyed a bit of rest.

We haven't had the opportunity to develop any sort of "routine," as our schedules change so rapidly, but we are making the best of it and doing well. Right now we are in the middle of an 8 day collective training exercise. This means we are working 24/7 conducting medevac flights. These are scenario based exercises designed to test every facet of the company. At the end of the exercise, we will have completed a major part of our validation. Our trainers are great and we are doing well. Here is a quote from our Battalion Commander when she and I were talking yesterday. **"Mark, I have yet to see a unit come through here as prepared as the 126th. After the first 24 hours of your collective training, I knew you guys were going to do fine."**

I hope everyone is proud of their soldier(s). I am very proud and extremely pleased.

Best Regards,

MAJ S

*We would like to extend a warm welcome to PV2 H and LT. P to our unit here in Texas. They dropped everything to join us in a very short time. We thank them for their service and welcome their families to ours*

## From the First Sergeant

Hello families and friends,

It seems hard to believe that we have been away from Maine or Oregon for over a month! We all enjoyed having a 4 day pass, some of us going home, some having families come visit, and some just relaxing and "recharging our batteries".

We continue to be busy with many training requirements here at Ft. Hood. In the last couple of weeks we have been concentrating most of our time with flight training, medical training, operations training, and maintenance. We are working hard, getting some valuable experience, and we are continuing to work well with individuals from two states. It is going to be a great experience to work together throughout the next year.

Many of our flight crews spent 10 days at Ft. Bliss doing environmental training. Basically, we were practicing landing in dusty conditions both day and night. It was a great opportunity to increase our skills as working together as crews and continuing to increase our abilities to perform our missions safely and efficiently. We were tired and dusty by the end of our time at Ft. Bliss.

While that was happening, some of our crewmembers also spent a few nights at Ft. Rucker (Alabama) doing "dunker" training. This involves taking a swim test and practicing exiting a helicopter cockpit while under water (in a pool!). Everyone coming back from Ft. Rucker was wet and exhausted, but more confident in their being able to successfully exit a helicopter while in the water if the unlikely need should arise.

We are currently in the midst of our pre Culminating Training Exercise. Our mobilization battalion is using this opportunity to see all facets of our medevac operations. It truly takes everyone in the company to help successfully launch and complete medevac missions. Operations, administration, maintenance, and flight platoon all are working well together to accomplish our missions.

While we are not looking forward to leaving the United States in the near future, we are anxious to head out and get started with our mission overseas. After all, every day that goes by is one day closer to finishing our job and returning home!

1SG Brian Clark

## From the Rear Det.

Family Friends and Supporters of the 126<sup>th</sup>;

Looking over the leadership's columns above, it appears that the unit has been very busy. With all those moving parts and pieces, all the traveling and all the training, I commend the unit and its leadership for doing it with little to no accidents or safety concerns. I know I speak for the Leadership when I say, you can't ask for anything more from your unit. Furthermore, consider the number of aviation units to have gone through the training at Ft. Hood; this highlights the Battalion Commanders comments on our people's readiness. Are any of us surprised?

Its spring time in "The Greater Place", Maine. It has been un-seasonably warm for this time of year. If you use the English language anyway you want to, then spring means a New Beginning. This is fitting as we are ending one phase and beginning the next phase of the deployment. Like the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant said above, each phase, day, week, or month we past, is one closer to the end. During the transition of phases, be prepared for some changes in the frequency that you may be able to reach your soldier. Like anything new, with time, we will all figure out the work cycle, and number of phone and internet cafes. In the mean time, remember that my office is open 24hours (figuratively). For immediate concerns, the Military Family Assistance Center (MFAC 1-888-365-9287) is available for our family members.

Things have been steady back here with the 126<sup>th</sup> Rear. We had our first Drill minus the soldiers in Texas. It was a learning experience for all, and in the end we flew a couple of helicopters (both days) and promoted someone.

The 126<sup>th</sup> FRG had it first official event during the April Drill. The Flat Daddy event was well attended by both family members and State Support Staff. The Flat Daddy's looked great and I think it was good for some of the guests just to talk with others who are going through the same thing. Our family members gave us some great feedback and some good ideas on how to improve future events. Special thanks to the FRG members who came in early or helped prepare for the event, and an even bigger thanks to the Easter Bunny who paid us a special visit just before the Easter Holiday.

The next FRG meeting will be held during May Drill (Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM). We will be talking about future events and where and when they will be held. Come in for some

refreshments, drop the kids off with our sitters and enjoy the company of friends. I encourage any and all to come in for the meeting in order to get a good consensus on events.

Finally I want to apologize to both soldiers and families. This apology is for my complete lack of knowledge when it comes to creating sites on the interweb. I have been working on a unit page for weeks now, and the other day I found out they have the internet on computers now... Of course I am joking...sort of. Seriously now, I have been working with 2 possibilities for unit pages. One is on an Army sponsored Site and the other is on Facebook. Here are the issues I have been facing. The Army site is secure, but cumbersome and not user friendly. The other is unsecure but everyone knows how to use it. I hope to publish something in the very near future and get it out to all of you before the next phase begins. Stand by to stand by.

Continue the great work in Texas. See you next month in Maine.

CW2 Libby  
Rear Detachment

## From the FRG

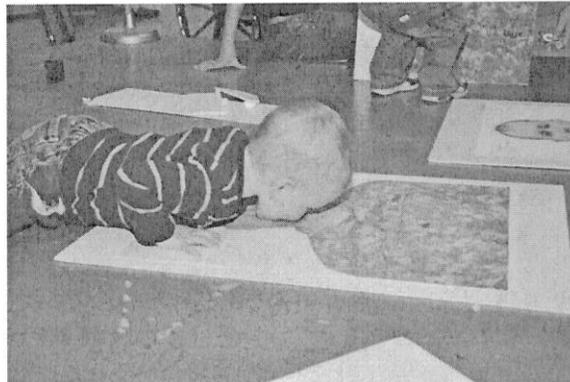
### Family Readiness Group News

We had a wonderful turnout at our Flat Soldier Event. Thank you to all the representatives, from various military organizations, who came to support our families and share resources that are available. Our families worked hard on creating their flat soldiers and were able to meet and socialize with one another. We were even treated to a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny!

Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 5th at 1300. We will be providing childcare and there will be refreshments. During the meeting we will be planning our summer event and thinking about what we would like to do in future months. We hope you will be able to join us!

We are continuing to sell the 126th shirts and have also begun selling Support Our Troops shirts for Red T-shirt Friday. If you are interested in either shirt please email Sammi at: [sammij430@msn.com](mailto:sammij430@msn.com). The 126th shirts sell for \$14 (adult) and \$12 (kids), the Support our Troops shirts sell for \$12 (adult) and \$10 (kids).

Please remember if any of your contact information changes to notify us of the changes so that you can continue to receive all our emails and newsletters. You can email all changes to [126frg@gmail.com](mailto:126frg@gmail.com).



## Important Contact Info.

Remember, if you are a Maine family and need any information or assistance, these are the folks you should contact in this order!

1. Mrs. Heather Trainor – Family Readiness Group Leader  
[126frg@gmail.com](mailto:126frg@gmail.com)
2. CW2 Todd Libby – Rear Detachment, Title 10  
207-620-2280
3. 1LT Cliff Trainor – Rear Detachment OIC (Officer-In-Charge)  
207-430-5336

### Other Helpful Numbers:

- 24 Hr. Hotline 1-888-365-9287
- AAFEES....Augusta 207-626-4123
- AAFEES....Bangor 207-990-7233
- American Red Cross 1-800-427-0009
- Chaplain 207-430-5898/5899
- Chaplain 24 Hour Careline 207-620-6009
- Commissary Bangor 207-990-7752
- Commissary Brunswick 207-921-2990
- Child and Youth Services Coordinator 207-430-5773
- Deployment Cycle Support Services, Director 207-430-5770
- Family Assistance Center Manager 207-430-5780
- **Family Assistance Center 24 Hour Hotline 1-888-365-9287**
- Family Program, Director 207-430-5777
- Family Readiness Assistant 207-430-5779
- ID Cards/DEERS (Camp Keyes) 207-626-4387
- Judge Advocate General (JAG) 207-626-4271
- Military One Source Consultant 207-232-8710
- Military One Source 24 Hour Hotline 1-800-342-9647
- Transition Assistance Advisor 207-430-5778
- USPFO 207-430-5619
- Yellow Ribbon NCOIC 207-430-5771
- Youth Programs Coordinator 207-430-5773