



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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"GarryOwen" SIR!

You would have to have been living in a cave during the past few days to not know that the 3rd Squadron of the U.S. 7th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division, is the "tip of the spear" of the 3rd Infantry Division's spearhead assault into Iraq.

Following is what we would like to think of as "an introduction and the esprit of the soldiers of the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment.

8th March 2003 Squadron Adjutant, 3d Squadron U.S. 7th Cavalry

Once again, the 3d Squadron, United States 7th Cavalry is called upon to be the "Eyes and Ears" for the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) and the "Iron Fist" for the XVIII Airborne Corps.

The squadron deployed at the end of January in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM to Kuwait as the President repositions forces around the globe to combat terrorism. The squadron arrived in Kuwait in late January with over 700 soldiers, 16 aircraft from Fort Stewart and numerous support vehicles. The remainder of the equipment was drawn in Kuwait as we repositioned to our Base Camp. Once the task organization is complete, the squadron will have over 1100 soldiers in its task force with the addition of artillery, engineers, air defense, and additional support assets.

Since arriving in country, the squadron quickly began preparation for future operations. A lot of training was conducted to include limited Ground Gunnery, Air Gunnery, Troop STX, Squadron STX and a Division CPX. The squadron is more prepared than ever to conduct any mission the division asks of it. Soldier life in Kuwait is not bad. The camp which we reside has a small AAFES PX, postal operations, chow hall and numerous Life Support Areas which include sleeping tents, showers, and latrines. Soldiers remain highly motivated and spirits are high. The soldiers are honored to be serving their country and are confident they can complete any mission.

The upcoming months may bring numerous challenges; however, I am confident that these soldiers are ready, willing, and completely capable of executing any mission. The 3d Squadron, United States 7th

Cavalry continues to provide the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) with "Eyes and Ears" and if called to do so, will be the "Iron Fist" in any future combat operations.

The 3/7 Squadron is now effectively a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and here are some daily contributions to Living the Legend of the U.S. 7th Cavalry:

22 March 2003 Submitted by MAJ James Hamitlon, (Retired)

The 3rd Squadron of the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment, lead element of the 3rd Infantry Division, was heading toward Baghdad unopposed after brushing aside initial resistance as it rolled across the border from Kuwait the night before, according to a CNN reporter accompanying the troops.

A group of Kiowa scout helicopters, flying no more than 50 feet above the ground, led a convoy of Bradley fighting vehicles and M-1A1 Abrams tanks. In the initial skirmish with hostile Iraqi troops, the Squadron destroyed six or seven trucks and several tanks.

Hundreds of Cavalry veterans and their families will be in DC on Veterans Day. I can say that with full credibility since it is a presently known fact that the Ia Drang Dinner's 510 seats have been sold out. In addition to the opportunity for friends old-and-new to meet, the banquet is a tribute in honor of all of the units that participated in the Battles of LZ X-RAY and LZ ALBANY...for the fallen and the survivors.

In keeping with the 20th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial there is a planned Veterans Parade to take place on Constitution Avenue. It is the second such Parade and while it is generally veterans marching in groups by their Home State, a formation of 1st Cavalry Division Veterans are expected to lead-off the parade. Unfortunately, you won't see mention of it in the Saber until you receive the January/February issue. My crystal balls were damaged while serving in Vietnam so even short-term future projections are "iffy" but I've inquired with our active 7th Cavalry Units as to where they foresee themselves going forward. I don't think they use crystal. My thinking is that theirs are solid brass, and here are their reports.

1st Squadron, 7th US Cavalry - The Squadron continues to aggressively train for war and is focused specifically on Command, Control, and Communications, Marksmanship, and Deployability. The Squadron stands ready after completion of its summer transition of summer personnel which include a new Squadron Commander holding the reigns.

In September, the Squadron completed Troop maneuvers before acting as the opposing force for 1st Brigade (Ironhorse Brigade). As the opposing force for 1st Brigade, Garry Owen was tasked with three missions sequentially. First, to conduct a movement to contact. Second, conduct a deliberate defense, and last, to conduct a deliberate attack. This last mission was one in which the soldiers of 1st Brigade were defending with three times the forces of 1-7 CAV. In spite of this, the ground and air troops, led respectively by CPT (Workhorse) CPT (Apache), CPT Blackhawk), CPT (Comanche), CPT (Outlaw), and CPT (Bounty Hunter), and CPT (Bandit), were able to soundly defeat the larger force and destroy not only their Brigade Command Post, but also their Combined Arms Reserve, consisting of over 14 Tanks and Bradleys!

On display were the finest qualities of our cavalymen: Tactical skill, daring deception, and courageous execution. Leading the charge from their tactical vehicles were the S-3 and the SCO himself! Following our resounding success, the Squadron immediately transitioned to serving as the vanguard for the III Corps directed, division level, River Crossing Exercise. B Troop, with the assistance of Army Scuba

Divers, performed a technical reconnaissance of the near side shore of Belton lake, and set the conditions for the Division's successful bridge crossing.

After three weeks of cleaning and repairing our equipment, 1-7 CAV now proudly stands guard on the perimeter of Fort Hood. Our mission guarding the gates will be complete in early November, at which time the Squadron will turn in its battle tested M1A1s, and M3A2s, for brand new, digitally equipped M1A2s and M2A3s. The Air troops will fly missions in support of Fort Hood security and simultaneously prepare for their gunnery in early December. As we continually prepare for combat operations worldwide, our efforts include safeguarding the families that support us. Renewed emphasis goes to the Squadron's Family Readiness Group and their activities. One activity, the Squadron's Golf Tournament on the 20th of November, will be available on a first come first serve basis, Alumni welcome (Call 254-287-6590 for more details). After some much deserved leave at Christmas time, the Squadron will return to finish its new vehicle fielding. Our thoughts are always with those troopers who have built the rich history and legacy of the Squadron, and their continued support is well appreciated. GARRY OWEN, SEVENTH FIRST! CPT, AV Squadron Adjutant.

3d Squadron, 7th US Cavalry - The Squadron continues its busy training schedule. In October we conducted operations in the field here at Fort Stewart in the role as the opposing force for TF 1-30's Exercise Evaluation. We were able to get all of our troops out in the field to conduct maneuver training individually and the squadron as a whole. The troops did an outstanding job and TF 1-30 gained a lot of experience against a great OPFOR.

Following that exercise, we honed our skills with our major combat weapons. Both the air troops and the ground troops conducted a very intensive gunnery schedule and proved lethal with their combat systems. I am extremely proud of these Troopers and the hard work and dedication they put in everyday to protect the sovereignty of the United States. The future is a little hazy for the squadron as we continue to strive to meet the objectives of the training calendar but continue to prepare for a possible deployment.

I will say that this unit is prepared for to execute any mission requested of it. We are looking forward to a great holiday season. The New Year will take one of our troops to the Joint Readiness Training Center with a unit from Alaska and one troop will pick up the division's Initial Readiness Troop. The next calendar year promises to be a busy one. The squadron stands ready and vigilant to accept any mission and stands ready to be the "Eyes and Ears" of the 3d Infantry Division and the "Iron Fist" of the XVIII Airborne Corps. "GARRY OWEN" -

4th Squadron, 7th US Cavalry - FY02 was a great year for the Garry Owen troopers of 4-7 CAV. Responsible to train three major weapons systems plus indirect fire assets consisting of over 800 troopers and 55 KATUSAs, the squadron has established a training strategy that integrates Air-Ground mission requirements and accounts for the tyrannies of Korea (Turbulence, Distance, Dispersion and Congestion). On an annual basis, the squadron executes two semi-annual training cycles centered around combined arms gunnery and maneuver training densities.

In FY02, our KWs flew 4089 hours while our M3 Scouts and M1A1 Tanks trained 970 miles throughout the Korean countryside. Our Warfighting readiness remains constant throughout the year in order to maintain continuous readiness and the ability to accomplish our missions. 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry's TRAINING STRATEGY Build functionally sound and reliable units with solid core competencies. Build lethality through quality live-fire and maneuver exercises. Focus on Air-Ground Integrated METL Training and sustain proficiency. Be ready to "Fight Tonight" - Maintain readiness for our Wartime

Mission. Balance the mission with training, leading, maintenance, and quality of life. MISSION. Our squadron's core mission is to be ready to fight North Korean invaders as the reconnaissance and security force of the Warrior Division. Our missions are our top priority and are trained and executed constantly. Following are general descriptions of our ongoing missions. QUICK SABER:

On order, the Squadron is prepared to launch armed aerial reconnaissance teams to provide the Division Commander accurate, real-time situational reports allowing him to make well-informed decisions and react to contact. One Air Cavalry Troop is on "the Pistol" 24 hours a day, seven days a week and able to launch in support of these missions within one hour of notification. VIGILANT WARRIOR: On order, the Squadron provides forward security and reconnaissance elements in conjunction with the National Command Authority in order to support the multinational peacekeeping force in the evacuation of the Joint Security Area.

One Ground Cavalry Troop is locked down on Camp Garry Owen for a seven-day cycle in an increased readiness rate able to deploy within 30 minutes (365 days a year). COUNTERFIRE: On order, the Squadron provides aerial reconnaissance and ground security forces that support the 2nd Infantry Division's go-to-war OPLAN. The responsibility of ensuring theater-level assets are emplaced, secured, and retain their freedom of maneuver lies squarely on the 4th Squadron 7th Cavalry Regiment.

COUNTERATTACK: The Squadron is prepared to reconsolidate, reorganize, and conduct reconnaissance and security operations in order to support the 2nd Infantry Division. The squadron leads the division in during counterattack operations. During FY02, 4-7 Cavalry executed 15 no notice alerts and several real world missions to include: flying security for the President of the United States during his visit to Panmunjeom; reconnaissance of Camp Red Cloud during violent Korean demonstrations to give 2ID commanders real time information; and the Search and Rescue for a downed Aircraft. Serving in Garry Owen is a privilege. The squadron is one of our Army's elite fighting units. It has a long-standing reputation for clear mission orientation, outstanding performance, and great troopers. OUT FRONT, SIR! V/R, LTC, SABER 6 Garry Owen!

After viewing these reports I believe it is obvious to all of us that "The Legend Lives On". The Seventh continues to be the best of the best fielded by the bravest of the bravest and commanded by the finest of the finest. "Garry Owen, SIRs!" On the subject of health, when I arrived in Vietnam, the 'old-timers' who'd walked the trails taught me how to walk them. Those that cut a trail through the jungle passed on their expertise. Those that had been ambushed shared the recollection and the caution. Those that experienced a tragedy passed it on to the FNG's as a learning process. Well, though we are now veterans, I am still receiving "lessons" from people who have "been there".

In the C 1/7 network, there is a former Captain who submits that the uncomfortable aspect of a prostate exam is not having one. The gland is about the size of a walnut and surface-smooth. Cancer begins as little growths on the surface of the gland and can only be detected by a doctor's touch. If you put off the exam for another year, you are literally taking your life into your own hands. One of the men from my squad who received a blood transfusion over 30 years ago gave me a factual description of Hepatitis C [HCV] that I mentioned in the past SABER.

And a C 1/7 Medic informs me that Diabetes Type II was detected just in time. He has a 95% chance of recovering from a detached retina. His vision is still distorted and shaky. Had it been detected sooner, he could've been treated before it affected his eyes though he finds consolation in the fact that he didn't totally lose his eyesight. Yes, Diabetes Type II CAN do that and it CAN also affect every major organ in

your body! Here's my point. The men I call "family" are passing on the warnings because "they've been there". Just as was practiced in Vietnam, they are trying to save our lives by speaking of the physical ambushes and suffering that they have experienced. A doctor's examination will take about a half-hour from your life, that's YOUR LIFE in comparison to a half-hour from it. Want to give those you love an important gift for the Holidays? Don't play dumb and make me hit you on the head with a stick, okay? ONE life, YOUR life.

Well, I'd say "Let's go on to the mailbag" except there isn't one as this writing. I did receive a book from Boris R. SPIROFF entitled "KOREA: FROZEN HELL ON EARTH - A Platoon Sergeant's Diary Korean War 1950-1951." It's the personal account of "Bob" SPIROFF's tour as reconstructed from memory and the chronicled letters that he sent to his wife Cassie during his tour. While just 84 pages, I found it to be an intense and informative read. "Thanks" Bob!

I mentioned mini-reunions in the last column. I cited two 1/7 get-togethers and Bob KON informed me of another. Bob reports "Just met up with Bob BRANDIN and a few other men at a mini reunion in DE last weekend - Sept. 14. That reunion was hosted by Richard ROWE. The smaller reunions have a different flavor from the mega ones. The conversation tends to go much deeper and can even be therapeutic. You get to know your friends at new levels. Others attending were Jesse (Bones) LINCYCOMB (TX), Thomas (Blues) VADEN (AR), and Richard SNYDER (PA) and Courtney BROWN (CT). All were B 1/7 '70-'71. Out for now."

Not to be out done, C 2/7 (68-69) converged on Winston GA during August 9-11th, hosted by former PSgt. Jerry "Snuffy" ANDERSON. In attendance were Terry AMMONS, Howard ANDERSON, Fred ANDREW, Jerry ARMSTRONG, Ian BARCLAY, Frank BARRIENTES, Bart BEATTY, Mike BODNAR, Ed BURTON, Bill COX, Terry DASHNO, John EWING, James FINK, DeLawrence GODFREY, Don HENDERSON, John MARSCHALL, Bob MEAGER. Bob MOOREHEAD, Jim MORLEY, Michael MONTEGNA, Leon NORTHOUSE, Joe PASSANO, Tony PONCELET, Michael REEVES, Floyd ROGERS, Ray SIMONETTI, Mark SMITH, Roy STERN, John WOODWORTH, Doyle ZIMMERMAN and the 7th Cav Assn President, Jim BRIGHAM .

Now that's NOT a reunion. It's a reconnaissance in force! Jim advises that the group has agreed to form itself into the Georgia Chapter of the 7th Cav. Assn. and to "regroup" between now and 2005. Those of you who have not ventured to attend or host a reunion of past "family" are missing one of the greater things left in the lifetime before us. Give it thought as we enter this Holiday Season. Give it a reality as we enter into the New Year. Make it happen! Open your eyes and embrace those who share your life. Tell them how important they are to you and give them hugs, kisses, many smiles of joy, and fascinate them with the gift of laughter that you are capable of sharing. And about that Holiday physical, did you make an appointment yet? Until the next patrol "Merry Crispness". Be well, stay well, and more important than anything else, walk tall - you are CAV!

*Ron Migut
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The 7th United States Cavalry Association*