

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



April 2018

Cover Page

## From the TC Hatch

By Jim Seagers



Hello, Fellow

Members,

I hope that all of you are well and that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Our family did. As I write this to you, I am reminded about how privileged we all are to have an association such as ours. We are truly a band of brothers and extend that band to include all those serving in the present 1/50<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for allowing me to represent you at functions at Ft. Benning with the 1/50<sup>th</sup> such as graduations, Changes of Command, and Hail and Farewell events. It's an honor and a pleasure.

My wife and I went on our annual trip to Arlington National Cemetery to pay tribute to our honored dead buried there. This next year we will have two more graves to visit which makes ten of our brothers there. My sister and her family and two of my nephews made the trip with us this time. I was glad they could experience The Wall with me as did my children and grandchildren last year. It helps for our families to go so they can understand more of what we went through in the Vietnam War.

Soon the officers of our association will again go to a Change of Command ceremony. Lt. Col Frank Baltazar will relinquish his command at Ft. Benning to go on to a new command at Ft. Leavenworth. We will miss Lt. Col. Baltazar, who has done an outstanding job at the 1/50<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He has been so gracious to our association. We wish him well in his next military endeavor. Play the Game, Lt. Col. Baltazar!

We encourage all of you to keep searching for veterans who went to Vietnam with the 1/50<sup>th</sup> but who do not know about our association. We would like to extend an invitation to them to join us. We don't want them to miss out on all the comradery and fun that we have!

Play the Game,  
Jimmy

Lorene Burch,  
Editor

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Ways to keep in touch with the group during the time apart. **ichiban1.org** is our web site. It is very well put together and will have information you may be searching for. If you are a fan of facebook there is also a group that gets on there to say hi, or just to help us keep up with what is going on. Roberto Melendez put on some thoughts in February about the 50th anniversary of APC. This is found simply by getting on facebook and typing in [1/50th Association](#).



## From the Chaplin



Hello to everyone.

It's hard to believe that it's time for a newsletter to go out but time seems to be passing faster each year. Looking forward to change of command; so I can see some folks I don't get to see often enough.

Spring is upon us and looking forward to getting some crappie fishing in. I hope all of you are experiencing good health and are able to get out and enjoy Gods beautiful creations as there are so many to see.

I would like to extend an invitation for any of you who have any prayer concerns to e-mail me and I will be glad to pray with you. May God Bless each of you and your families'. Bye for now take care, Toby.

### Editors Corner: Lorene Burch

Greetings: I would like to share a poem we believe was written by a friend of mine who passed recently.



#### TAKE ME HOME

What is tugging at my heart? Tis like a homing dove.  
How can I long for a place unseen and feel His endless love?

Homesick and worn I strive each day a broken soul to love, but my broken heart aches to join My savior up above.

How long must I fight the battles, on tearstained fields for Thee? "Until Your task is finished here." He firmly says to me.

"I've covered your scars with My blood. I've washed your hands and feet. I've taken the sins of your Soul to the mercy seat."

What love I feel in His voice His hands outstretched to me. I'll serve until that moment, His loving face I see.

Unsure but believed to be written by Mari Bieber. We put her to rest on March 15th, 2018.

May you all find peace in an unsettling world.

## Association Invitation

*You are cordially invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Bayonet Banquet*

*At the Benning Club on May 11, 2018*

*Cocktail Hour begins at 1700*

*The Benning Club is located at*

*7010 Morrison Road, Fort Benning, GA*

*DJ ~ Dancing Available Until 2300*

*Attire:*

*Business Formal, Formal Gown, Cocktail Dress*



## **Lieutenant Colonel Brendan Gallagher will assume command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment on 5 June 2018.**

LTC Brendan Gallagher is a native of Columbia, MD. He was commissioned as an Infantry officer via ROTC at Johns Hopkins University in 2001.

LTC Gallagher attended the Infantry Office Basic Course and Ranger School in 2001. His first assignment was in 2002 as a rifle platoon leader in B Co, 1-506<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Camp Greaves, Korea.

In 2003, he was assigned to C Co, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion where he served as a platoon leader and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2005, he attended the Infantry Captains Career Course where he was recognized as the distinguished honor graduate.

Next he was assigned to 1-5 CAV, 2ABCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX in 2006 where he served as Battalion Assistant S-3, and then assumed command of B Co for the majority of a 15-month deployment to Baghdad during the Iraq surge. Upon departing Fort Hood, he was assigned to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment in early 2009 where he served as LNO and Regimental Assistant S-3, prior to assuming command of Regimental HHC and deploying multiple times to Afghanistan.

From 2011-2012 he attended the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, where he received the Marshall award as the distinguished graduate. He was next assigned to 6-4 CAV, 3IBCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in mid-2012, where he served as Squadron S3, and then served as Brigade XO during a 9-month deployment to Zabul province, Afghanistan. Following redeployment in 2014, he was selected for the Advanced Strategic Planning and Policy Program (ASP3) and conducted doctoral studies at the Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School.

In 2017 he was assigned to the Commander's Action Group at the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, GA.

Lieutenant Colonel Gallagher's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal w/2OLC, Meritorious Service Medal w/2OLC, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, and the Ranger Tab.



He holds a B.A. from Johns Hopkins in International Relations, an M.A. from Johns Hopkins SAIS in Strategic Studies and International Economics, an M.A. from Princeton in Public Affairs, and a Ph.D. from Princeton in Security Studies.

He is married to the former Elizabeth Tatum and they have three children: Ethan (7), Megan (4), and Nolan (7 months).

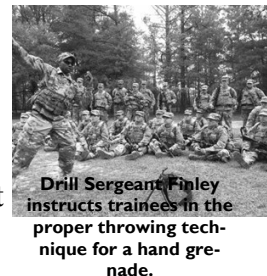


## Wolfpack Remains Strong, Continues to Play the Game.

ILT Jai H. Park

March 12k2018

Since November 2017, the trainees and cadre of Alpha company accomplished much. The month started off with U.S. Weapons, Hand Grenade, Land Navigation week, in which class 7077 utilized their knowledge and skills they were taught by drill sergeants throughout the cycle. The trainees successfully did so, and every trainee qualified and passed U.S. Weapons, Hand Grenade, and Land Navigation training; with most trainees passing in first time go.

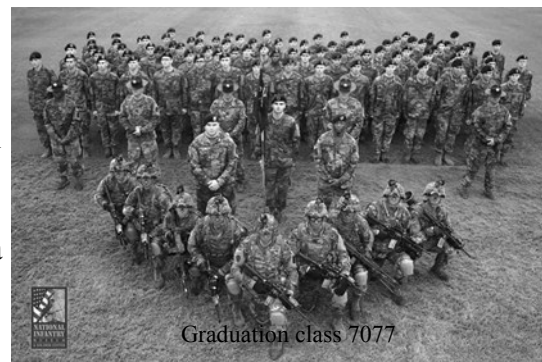


Drill Sergeant Finley instructs trainees in the proper throwing technique for a hand grenade.



Following week, the cadre of A Co 1-50 IN conducted BTT, BTLF (Buddy Team Live Fire) in order to instruct trainees on the proper technique for firing and maneuvering in both a battle buddy team and a fire team. As a result, most trainees in class 7077 can engage targets, maneuver to cover and concealment, communicate with their comrades, and cover each other's movement while in either a battle buddy team or a fire team.

At the end of cycle, class 7077 were put to the ultimate test during UO (Urban Operation), STT and FTX (Field Training Exercise): in which they utilized their skills they were taught throughout the cycle. Once class 7077 were done with 5 day FTX which culminated in a traditional Bayonet march and crossed rifles ceremony, the company shifted into recover operations. Here, they cleaned their equipment and prepared for graduation. Then on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Alpha Company and Bravo Company participated in a joint graduation at the National Infantry Museum. From there, the 118 newly forged infantry men of Alpha company went to serve in infantry units around the world.



Graduation class 7077



Five Cadres from 1-50 IN earning EIB joined by LTC Baltazar and CSM Lewis; SSG Burges is pictured in the right.

During the three weeks of cycle break. Alpha Company's cadre participated in numerous activates together in order to build company cohesion. Three cadres had an opportunity to attend EIB (Expert Infantry Badge) Training and testing, in which SSG Johnathan Burges earned his Expert Infantry Badge. For PT, Cadres of A Co completed a 5 mile run and an obstacle course to revalidate their skills.

Then on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018, Alpha Company received class 8020 with 129 trainees. Upon arriving to Alpha

Company, trainees in-processed to the company and received classed on EO/Sharp, suicide prevention, Drill Ceremony, and weapons immersion. Class 8020 Still have a long way to go before their graduation on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2018. Before the graduation week, hardhsips awaits them in blue, black, and gold phases.



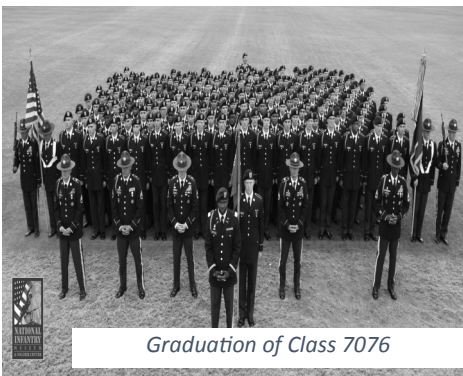
Trainees learn the proper procedures for eating in a DFAC from their Drill Sergeants.





March 12, 2018

Echo Company, 1-50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment continued its persistent focus on training of Infantry Soldiers over the past several months. Class 7076, a class of 180 Soldiers completed their One Station Unit Training (OSUT) in December, their time in OSUT culminated in a week-long FTX with additional support from Lieutenants in the Infantry Basic Officer's Leader's Course and Staff Sergeants from the Advanced Leader's Course. The implementation of these additional personnel added to the quality of training and helped our Soldiers better understand squad and platoon operations as they displayed their knowledge of over 100 tasks learned during the fourteen week cycle.



Class 7076 celebrated the end of their training on Sand Hill by welcoming the families of Trainees for two major events. The Turning Blue ceremony took place on December 14 and during this special occasion parents, families, and friends were reunited with their Trainee and were able to award him the coveted Infantry Blue Cord. During the ceremony many individuals were recognized for their performance during the cycle. PVT Trestin January was named the Soldier of the Cycle and SSG Jahaziel

Ramirez was named the Drill Sergeant of the Cycle. Echo Company hosted the graduation of Class 7076 at the National Infantry Museum on December 15 with three other companies, providing an inspiring ceremony to celebrate these newly-minted Infantrymen before they left Fort Benning to join their units.

Echo Company cadre continued to turn over during the last quarter. Most significantly, the company said goodbye to CPT Fritz Dufresne and welcomed 1LT Caleb Cline as its new commander. 1LT Cline joined Echo Company after serving at Fort Bliss with 4-17 IN. Joining him are his wife Jenna and his daughters Zoey and Ella. CPT Dufresne has begun the Maneuver Captain's Career Course. Additionally, SFC Toussaint was welcomed on board as the new Senior Drill Sergeant for 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. SFC Toussaint spent the last two years with Bravo Company, 1-50 IN. Additionally, over the last several months the company has welcomed in additional support cadre. SPC Richard Brown is a new Supply Technician who previously served with Foxtrot Company, 1-50 IN before joining Echo. Additionally, SGT Mansour Muhammad has joined the team as the Company Training Technician. He and his family come to Fort Benning after a tour at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The full complement of Headquarters personnel will empower the company in administrative matters for the coming year.



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Cobra Training  
1LT Larry Ellis  
March 12, 2018

Charlie Company, 1-50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment continued to train modern civilians into Infantry Soldiers over the past several months. Class 7066 completed their One Station Unit Training on December 15, 2017. Their time in OSUT culminated in an eleven day long field training exercise (FTX) with small unit leadership support from Lieutenants in the Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course (IBOLC). The small unit leadership from the IBOLC lieutenants gave each trainee a first-hand understanding of what to expect from their assigned leadership and the tasks they may be assigned to complete at their first duty station after the fourteen week cycle of OSUT.

Class 7066 celebrated the end of their training cycle and beginning of their recovery period with a final exercise called the Bayonet March. At the final stopping point trainees from class 7066 conducted the Crossed Rifles Ceremony, symbolizing their rite of passage as U.S. Army infantrymen. The trainees finally found a sigh of relief to prepare for the arrival of their family members and loved ones for the Turning Blue Ceremony. The Turning Blue Ceremony welcomes family members and loved ones to award the coveted blue cord on their trainee and spend some well-deserved time with their trainee for the day before the Graduation Ceremony at the National Infantry Museum.



Class 7066 proudly graduated on December 15, 2017 with 220 trainees confidently marching as U.S. Army infantrymen across the National Infantry Museum field. These trainees displayed in the race for victory they are swift, determined, and courageous, armed with a fierce will to win.

Charlie Company cadre have made significant adjustments but easily adapted to cadre change overs during cycle reset prior to class 8014. Most significantly, the company said goodbye to Senior Drill Sergeant Locken and welcomed Senior Drill Sergeant Moorman into 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Senior Drill Sergeant Moorman joined



Drill Sergeant Johnson receiving medal for meritorious service. (2<sup>nd</sup> from the left)

Charlie Company after serving as a Junior Drill Sergeant with Foxtrot Company 1<sup>st</sup>-50<sup>TH</sup> Infantry at Fort Benning. Joining him are his wife Brittany and his children McKenzie, McKayla, McKinlee and McKendrick. Senior Drill Sergeant Locken is currently attending the Maneuver Senior Leaders Course (MSLC). Additionally, our Supply Technician CPL Rubi conducted a reenlistment ceremony with CPT Turpin conducting the oath, and has accepted a career development assignment with

Psychological Operations and ARSOF. Drill Sergeant Bauer and Drill Sergeant Johnson have begun the PCS process to Hawaii. Additionally, over the last several months the company has welcomed in additional support cadre. SPC Brandon Forte is our new Supply

(Con't on Page 7)



## EXPERT INFANTRYMAN BADGE 2018

From January thru early February 2018, 14 Officers and NCOs from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry, along with hundreds more from across Fort Benning, began preparations and training for the 2018 Expert Infantryman Badge Test, hosted by the Airborne Ranger Training Brigade (ARTB) here at Fort Benning. Test week began on Monday 29 January 2018, with the Army Physical Fitness Test where each candidate had to score a minimum of 80% in each event. Day one continued with Day and Night Land Navigation, with only 3 hours to complete each test. For the remainder of the week, each candidate was tested on 45 individual tasks, integrated into three “lanes,” Weapons, Medical and Patrol. By the end of the week, only five candidates from 1-50 Infantry remained. At 0500hrs, they began their final tests, the 12 mile Foot March, with 45lbs of equipment and M-4 Carbine, within 3 hours, and “Clearance of Objective Bull,” which consisted of the final tasks of Evaluate a Casualty, Apply a Tourniquet to Control Bleeding, and Transport a Casualty, all within 20 minutes.

All five successfully completed the foot march and Objective Bull, and we awarded the Expert Infantryman Badge by LTC Baltazar and CSM Lewis at the EIB Awards Ceremony later that morning.



### **BAYONET 6 & 7 with 1-50 INFANTRY's NEW-EST EXPERT INFANTRYMEN**

L to R

CPT Turpin (Commander, C Co 1-50 IN); SSG Guerrero (D Co 1-50 IN); CSM Lewis; 1LT Kelly (XO, E Co 1-50 IN); SSG Ramirez (E Co 1-50 IN); SSG Burgess (A Co 1-50 IN); LTC Baltazar

**FIX BAYONETS! PLAY THE GAME!!**  
CSM Lewis

(‘Con’t from Page 6) Technician, and SGT Darryl Smith is our new Supply Sergeant both previously served with Foxtrot Company, 1-50 Infantry before joining Charlie. The full complement of Headquarters personnel will empower the company in administrative matters, and command supply discipline for the coming cycles. Each of these members of the company leaving and joining have a strong legacy and we are proud of their accomplishments.

While training Privates remains the primary focus of Charlie Company cadre, many have achieved professional accomplishments during the last quarter. In February, the Commanding Officer of Charlie Company CPT Andrew Turpin earned his Expert Infantryman Badge, joining four others from the Battalion in the accomplishment. Additionally, various members of the cadre graduated from the U.S. Army Airborne School, Master Fitness Trainer, among many other courses and accomplishments. Charlie Company continually seeks the personal and professional development amongst its cadre and looks forwards to more great achievements in the coming months.

After a break for the Christmas holiday, Charlie Company is hard at work with over 160 Trainees in class 8014. The cycle is well underway and the Company is preparing for Buddy Team and Fire Team live fire exercises, two of the hallmarks of Infantry Training. Most recently the company completed its M4 qualification with Soldiers demonstrating their proficiency with their assigned rifles. Soldiers are looking forward to an upcoming family weekend in March and graduation at the end of April.

***ASSOCIATION OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY  
HISTORIAN REPORT FOR THE SPRING OF 2018  
JIM SHEPPARD, CHARLIE COMPANY, 1965-1968***

March 10, 2018

Hello All!

It has been a year since my last report. To say the least, my life has been busy...and full of changes...sadly, not all for the better. I am sorry to report that my wonderful marriage to Ruth has failed...and I have moved back East temporarily. I have plans to move to Florida in the fall of this year.



The summer after the 2017 reunion was full of travel and events for me. There was a barbeque at Fort Benning followed by a reunion I attended for Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry...who fought side by side with us at Tam Quan in 1967. I was honored to meet and sit with Allen Lynch, Medal of Honor recipient for action during that December fight.

Sadly, in August, I also flew to Seymour, Indiana to attend the funeral of our past president Randy Smith. A dozen or so from the Association joined together with Randy's family to celebrate his life. It was a sad time indeed. He will be missed.

In October, I had to move myself back to New Jersey as my marriage fell apart. This was quite an undertaking and took a total of two cross-country trips. Toby Milroy accompanied me on the second trip and was a great support to me in those very depressing days. I managed to get most of my belongings moved...Including most of our 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Archives...and have acquired a condo rental at the Jersey Shore community of Brigantine Beach which will expire on November 1<sup>st</sup>. I am looking to move one more time to the Fort Myers area...in Late October. Sometime between now and then I will need to make one more trip to pick up the rest of my belongings...which includes "Victor Charles" our VC/NVA who is standing guard in the basement of my former California home...along with a new dummy dressed in a set of my Vietnam Era Jungle Fatigues. This new display will be at our next reunion in 2019. I am in the midst of outfitting this new display with period equipment, including a replica M16 rifle. I am having some difficulty finding some authentic magazines for the display. If anyone can find some of these... please let me know. All I could find were inaccurate replicas...and magazines that are larger than the ones we used.

Chuck McAleer and the Association Officers graciously offered to begin to contribute to the expenses incurred by the storage space needed for our archives. As you may know, I purchased a small trailer that can house our archives nicely. I hope to have this trailer embellished with our 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Crest, etc, for the next reunion. I purchased the trailer for myself...so it is my property...but will be used primarily for transporting the Association Archives. My new rental in New Jersey has a small storage room which holds our archives. The trailer is being stored at my Nephew's Residence in Maryland. I have come up with a figure of \$22.00 per month for which the Association will be reimbursing as my storage expenses.

I am settling in to my new life, but plan on a trip this summer to the National Archives to continue some document collection. Most other Research efforts will be "on hold" until I land somewhere more permanent later this year. I have been spending more time on our Association Website...getting "caught up" on quite a few projects and updates that had become somewhat backlogged.

I will try to make a better effort to have a report for each newsletter going forward.

Your Historian

Jim Sheppard





(Continued from page 5)

While we've been lucky to add members to the Echo Company family, we've also had Drill Sergeants depart for their next roles. SSG Joshua Agans finished his time "on the trail" and moved with his family to Vincenza, Italy to join the 173d Airborne Brigade. Additionally this spring, SSG Roberto Silva will leave Echo Company but stay on Fort Benning, joining the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation as an instructor. Finally, SFC Jon Bolding was recently promoted to Master Sergeant and he will soon return to 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg to serve as a Team Sergeant. Each of these members of the company leave a strong legacy and we are proud of their accomplishments. Training Never Stops for Echo Company



*1-50 February EIB earners joined by CSM Lewis and LTC Baltazar, 1LT Kelly is pictured in the center and SSG Ramirez is pictured center-right*

While training Privates remains the primary focus of Echo Company cadre, many have achieved professional accomplishments during the last quarter. In February, Staff Sergeant Jahaziel Ramirez and First Lieutenant Sean Kelly earned their Expert Infantry Badge, joining three others from the Battalion in the accomplishment. Additionally, various members of the cadre graduated from the Master Marksmanship Trainer Course, Master Combative's Course, Senior Leader's Course, Military Freefall School, among many other

courses and accomplishments. Echo Company continually seeks the personal and professional development amongst its cadre and looks forwards to more great achievements in the coming months.

After a break for the Christmas holiday, Echo Company is hard at work with over 160 Trainees in class 8017. The cycle is well underway and the Company is preparing for Buddy Team and Fire Team live fire exercises, two of the hallmarks of Infantry Training. Most recently the company completed its M4 qualification with Soldiers demonstrating their proficiency with their assigned rifles. Soldiers are looking forward to an upcoming family weekend in March and graduation at the end of April.



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