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ON THE HOME FRONT

Women in Combat Roles

By Ben Rein

December 3, 2016: Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter decides that within thirty days of his announcement, all combat roles will be open to females. This means that from now on, females can take on all of the same roles as males, whether that is in infantry, armor, or any other combat facet of the military. The recent decision is considered to be about the same level of magnitude as to when women were first allowed to enlist in the military in 1917. It has arguably been coming for quite some time. The recent graduation of Captain Kristen Griest, and Lieutenant Shaye Haver, two female officers from Ranger school, led to increased pressure for combat roles to be open to women. Captain Griest and Lieutenant Hayer were recently unable to apply to the 75th Ranger Regiment solely due to the fact that they were women.

However, the new announcement is not without controversy. General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as many other people both within the Armed Forces and from outside, have voiced strong disapproval and oppose the transition. They feel that some roles within the Armed Forces, such as combat roles, should be restricted to males; but, the decision has been made and female integration into combat roles is going forward.

It is important to remember that the military is not forcing females into combat roles. The military will only have females who show that they are highly qualified and meet all of the criteria to take on a combat role. The biggest argument against females being in combat roles is that they are not as physically capable as men.

In order to meet the criteria, females have to be able to pass all of the same physical tests and obstacles at the same standards that males do. This will decrease the number of females eligible for combat roles, but those who are will be highly capable of accomplishing the tasks that are placed before of them.

Military leaders are not attempting to stir up controversy or put their soldiers in danger, both male and female alike. They will undoubtedly do what is best for everyone involved, and they will accomplish this integration process to best satisfy all parties involved.
OVER THERE

Reheating a Cold War: *The U.S. Army widens its scope in Europe*

By Alec Davison

Is it the 1960s or 2016? Judging by the current state of U.S.-Russian relations, it would be quite hard to tell the difference. The U.S. Army is planning to ramp up its presence in Europe by sending an armored brigade combat team on a 24/7 rotating basis, in order to support the Stryker and infantry brigades already stationed there.

The Army’s budget request in fiscal year 2017 displays increased funding towards European operations. $2.8 billion of the $3.4 billion requested by President Obama for the European Reassurance Initiative will go to the Army and be based in the overseas contingency operations (OCO) account. The increased funding and troop presence are meant to deter Russian aggression and assure U.S. support to NATO allies. These actions are in opposition to ones taken in previous years; for example, the Army scaled down its personnel stationed in Europe from around 200,000 at the end of the Cold War, to about 33,000 in 2015.

Prior to 2014, the idea of a conflict with Russia was an item of the past. Relations were warming between the U.S. and Russia. In 2010, President Obama and President Medvedev signed the New START Treaty, a pact to cut nuclear arsenals. Today, Russia’s interventions in Ukraine and Syria have led to the lowest points of U.S.-Russian relations since the Cold War.

Recently, the United States named Russia to be the number one threat to U.S. national security. The Russians have started conducting a new type of military operation known as hybrid warfare. Hybrid warfare is a mix of special operations, information warfare, cyber warfare, and the utilization of the element of surprise. Also, new Russian military doctrine allows Russia to respond to a conventional attack with nuclear weapons, which can be perceived to be an even greater threat to U.S. national security. Therefore, the solution to Russia’s growing aggression is to increase U.S. military presence in Europe with the Army at the forefront.

On top of the armored brigade combat team slated for Europe, the U.S. also plans on
increasing Army aviation in Europe along with greater partner engagement. With this, they plan to increase bilateral and multilateral exercises and train with other NATO countries. Countries that will see continuous unit rotations include Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, and the Baltics. The Army plans on increasing information sharing among allies as well, in the forms of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

This is all just the beginning. Experts continue to call for an increase in military presence in Europe. The National Commission on the Future of the Army is currently recommending a forward-stationed, armored brigade combat team instead of a rotational one. Another report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies recommends increasing cyber, integrated air and missile defense, electronic warfare, short-range air defense, and communication capabilities in Europe.

Russia will likely react to the Army’s increasing presence with an increase in large-scale military exercises. These exercises will demonstrate Russia’s ability to rapidly move military forces along its borders, posing a serious threat to NATO’s Eastern allies. Russia’s Prime Minister recently stated, “NATO’s policies related to Russia remain unfriendly and opaque – one could go so far as to say we have slid back to a new Cold War.” However, the U.S. and its NATO allies are attempting to take careful steps to ensure peace in the region. Only time will tell if it will escalate from here, or if U.S.-Russian relations will remain at peace.
BASE PROFILE

Fort Bragg, North Carolina

By Kyle Herschel

Fort Bragg currently houses around 57,000 military personnel, making it one of the largest Army bases. It is located just outside of Fayetteville, NC. Some units stationed here include 16th MP Brigade, 192nd EOD Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, and the 44th Medical Brigade. Even though Fort Bragg stations soldiers of numerous military occupational specialties, it is known as the “home of the Airborne and Special Operations.”

Fort Bragg was crafted in 1918 for Field Artillery. General William J. Snow originally designated the area as “Camp Bragg,” named after confederate General Braxton Bragg. The camp was eventually designated as Fort Bragg in 1922, after the Field Artillery Board moved there from Fort Sill. The move was due to the fact that Fort Bragg was the only installation that had enough room to test artillery, as well as house it. It was also a perfect location to learn operations in sand, mud, swamp, and forests for artillery.

Starting with WWII, Fort Bragg saw massive expansions. In 1940, Fort Bragg housed only 5,400 soldiers, and a year later with WWII it housed 67,000. At this time, the fort began developing new units. In March 1942, Airborne Command began at Fort Bragg. To accompany the expanding personnel, Camp Hoffman was created in 1942, and completed in 1943 with an airfield. This camp was later renamed Camp Mackall, after Private John Thomas Mackall. Returning from Europe, the 82nd Airborne was permanently stationed here, earning the name “home of the Airborne.” The Psychological Warfare Center was created at Fort Bragg in 1952, now known as U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Throughout the decades to follow, many more units became stationed or trained at Fort Bragg. In 2011, the U.S. Army Forces Command and the U.S. Army Reserve Command moved from Fort Macpherson, GA to Fort Bragg.

Fort Bragg is one of the largest military bases with a rich history of excellence. As far as
recent history goes, Fort Bragg has been vital player for the United States in projecting military power into the world. Fort Bragg sent the largest number of troops in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn. It has also sent troops to assist in humanitarian aid after Hurricane Katrina and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Fort Bragg has a decent climate. January is the coolest month with temperatures ranging from 32-53°F, while July is the warmest month with temperatures ranging from 72-91°F according to The Weather Channel. The average rainfall is 45.8 inches per year, with June through September accumulating the most rainfall.

Fort Bragg has been constantly expanding since its founding. It has gone through many periods of rapid expansion and renovation. It will continue to grow in the coming decades, as well as be a key for continued U.S. operations in the world. It is home to many soldiers, ranging from the original Field Artillery to the Airborne and Special Forces. It is also home to 23,000 family members of those soldiers stationed there.

Barracks of the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.
IN THE WORKS

Battalion News
By Ani Vadlamani

1: On the Weekend of February 5, the Buckeye Battalion sent 12 cadets to the 30th Anniversary of the Flyin’ Irish Air Force ROTC Basketball Tournament in South Bend, Indiana. The basketball tournament featured 50 ROTC teams from all branches from all over the country. The Buckeye Battalion dominated their first several rounds with a victory margin of over 20 points, but they fell short to Iowa State AROTC in the first round of the playoffs. This tournament was the start of a new tradition here at Ohio State, and is the first appearance of many more to come.

2: On February 5th, eight cadets from the Battalion participated in the University’s 12-hour dance marathon known as BuckeyeThon in order to raise money for the Children’s Miracle Network and the Children’s Hospital. Our cadets raised over $4500 dollars and danced for 12 hours for the kids!

3: Buckeye Battalion cadets are beginning to phase out of the classroom sessions for lab on Tuesdays and are beginning to train outside as the weather warms up. Upcoming lab topics include Land Navigation, Ambush/Raid tactics, KLE operations in order to prepare the cadets for the upcoming culminating LDX in April.

4: The Battalion is finishing up final touches in order to prepare for the annual Military Ball at the end of the month, which will bring the whole battalion together for a night of camaraderie, esprit-de-corps, and a night to recognize the achievements of the graduating seniors.

5: Families and their cadets are preparing for the annual Spring Awards Ceremony at the beginning of March, which is a day to recognize the achievements of a select group of Ohio State’s AROTCs finest.
Club News:

Converse Guard: Converse Guard, Ohio State’s premier Drill and Ceremony club, has been kept busy all Spring with the University’s Basketball Season. Along with Basketball, Converse Guard is preparing for their Saber Arch duties during the Military Ball and upcoming community details.

Pershing Rifles: Pershing Rifles kept active in the community during Veterans Day when they visited a retirement home to perform a rifle drill routine. Pershing Rifles is also preparing intensely for their National Convention in Washington D.C. this Spring Break.

Future Cadet Mentorship Team: FCMT is preparing to host College Mentors For Kids for the second time this semester at the Union. In the program, kids from the Columbus Area can have a fun filled day where they learn about ROTC, the military, and get to participate in various Army activities.

Scabbard and Blade: Scabbard and Blade continues to meet every week to sharpen their OPORD writing abilities and to become more proficient in squad and platoon tactics. Scabbard and Blade cadets are also getting ready to plan a trip to the Air Force Museum in March.

Ranger Force: Ranger Force has picked up the pace this semester and has added two weekly classroom sessions with MSG Burg on top of their weekly Saturday lab and PT before battalion PT. The extra classroom sessions taught by MSG Burg will help the cadets perfect their battle drills and learn new techniques from a subject matter expert.

Officer Christian Fellowship: OCF cadets are gearing up to have a weekend of serenity, relaxation and insight at Sulfur Springs, Pennsylvania where the cadets will meet other OCF’s in the region and bond and learn from each other while participating in outdoor activities.

Cadets Against Sexual Harassment and Assault: CASH/A taught SHARP and Buckeyes Got Your Back training during lab, and have been providing information at the end of PT.
CADRE INTERVIEW

Major Orlando Carmona

By Clarissa Michaud

Why did you enlist, and what was your MOS?

“I enlisted in the Army mainly due to financial reasons. I was an immigrant raised by a single mother in Brooklyn, New York, and I wanted to support my mother, so I left college after a semester to join the military. I was with logistics supply.”

Why did you decide to become an Officer?

“I decided to become an officer because after eight years in the Army, I felt that I could give more. After being enlisted for so long, I felt that I had reached a peak where I couldn’t influence many people anymore. As an officer, my voice means a lot more to the overall operation of an organization.”

Where have you been stationed and deployed?

“I’ve been stationed in Germany; Fort Carson, CO; Fort Bragg, NC; Fort Gordon, GA; Fort Story, VA; Fort Knox, KY; Fort Hood, TX; and Korea. I’ve deployed to Macedonia for a peacekeeping mission with the United Nations, and to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain for air defense missions in conjunction with coalition forces.”

What do you think is the most interesting thing about working with other services?

“I think it is very interesting to learn about their capabilities and about how we can integrate our branch with theirs. When I was in the United Arab Emirates, I worked closely with the Air Force. We had to see how the movement of aircraft and their airstrikes worked alongside our mission. It provided more situational awareness for us and added another layer of friendly protection. Working with their technology and learning how they implement it is very interesting.”

What is the most memorable experience of your career so far?

“My most memorable moment would be my first promotion in the Army, back when I was still enlisted. Out of all of the things that I’ve done, getting promoted to E2 was the most amazing experience. I felt a sense of pride everywhere I walked. It also opened up the rest of the career to new opportunities and increased my confidence.”

What is your most enjoyable moment at the Buckeye Battalion so far?

“My most enjoyable moment was when I saw cadets with their families at Spring Awards last year. It was there that I saw how important the aspect of family is to our cadets. I truly enjoyed seeing how proud the families were of their sons and daughters as well.”

What do you enjoy about being an MSII instructor in particular?

“I enjoy teaching the MSIIIs because MSII year is centered on leadership. Their curriculum is mostly focused on theories of leadership, and I...
think that is the most important lesson that the Army teaches them.”

**What is your best advice for becoming a good Lieutenant?**

“The most important thing is to care about your job, and care about the people that work for you. If you care, everything else will fall into place. No matter how talented you are and despite your shortcomings, you will rise to the top if you care. Because you care, you will study harder and work harder.”

**What is the most difficult aspect of being a Second Lieutenant?**

“In general, Lieutenants have a hard time telling NCOs that they are wrong, particularly their platoon sergeant. Since they are new, they do not want to approach them when they are doing something wrong, especially if the NCO is abrasive. They are hesitant in a new environment. When you counsel your NCO, do not do it in a formal setting. They have skills that they can share with you, and they will help you develop those skills, so start by learning from them early. Don’t just show up and try to give orders. Start the relationship early. It’s almost like a marriage.”

**What do you see for the future of the Buckeye Battalion?**

“From when I got here up until now, there are huge differences in how we are employing the cadets to execute missions and run the entire battalion. The cadre are not as directly involved in the decision-making process. Instead, the cadre are present as mentors and give recommendations based on our experiences. This helps put cadets in the mindset of what they need to be doing in their unit, and teaches them the thought process. You won’t be told exactly what to do in the future as an officer, so this builds a sense of confidence. That’s a big change in a short time, and I’m looking forward to seeing how else we can provide a more cadet-focused environment.”

**What are your plans for the future?**

“My plan is to stay here. The Army wanted me to move about a year ago, but I wanted to stay here. I enjoy being around cadets and mentoring them, along with telling my story. I want to stay for at least the next two years, and then I plan to retire from the Army. After I get out, I would like to teach or find large-scale work in logistics.”

**Final thoughts?**

“If I could tell the cadets anything, it would be that they are doing something great for their nation, families, and future children. When they put on those bars and go out into the force, no matter the branch or component, they’re putting themselves in a position where they’re willing to risk their lives. No matter the motivation for joining, the fact that they have moved into this environment speaks volumes. They’re doing something greater than themselves and they should be proud of that.”
ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Major Danielle Head

By Erica Coffee

**Major Danielle Head**- Air Defense Operations Officer with the 174th ADA BDE currently serving Active Duty orders as a Contracting Specialist with the National Guard Bureau.

As future Army Officers, it is imperative for cadets to learn from their predecessors. The Buckeye Battalion is associated with an overwhelming alumni community that is willing to mentor cadets. As the cadets of the Buckeye Battalion strive to understand and master their personal leadership styles, a word from the wise can be quite helpful. This interview features MAJ Head, along with her thoughts on what leadership has meant to her in both her professional and personal life, and how being a mentor has impacted her growth as an Army Officer.

**What originally inspired you to join the Army?**

“I originally joined the military for the college money. I joined the Army National Guard in Winter 1995 when I did not have the funds to attend a four-year college. After going away to basic training in the Spring/Summer of 1996, I knew that I wanted to do the military on a full-time basis. In Fall 1997, I contracted as a SMP cadet with OSU ROTC.”

**Why did you decide to take the Officer route?**

“When I joined the military in 1995, I was delayed entry for six months as a PFC in the National Guard. In those six months, I knew I wanted to be in the military long term, but I wanted to be able to influence people. I wanted to be the one to make the changes that I saw were wrong with things at the lower level.”

**How important is mentorship to being an Officer and how does it fit into the Army mission?**

“I have learned from my experiences that everyone has their own leadership style that works best for them and their personality. As for me, I struggled as a cadet because I was not the most athletic or the most knowledgeable in military techniques. One day, one of my peers told me and taught me that everyone brings a piece to the pie, and that you do not have a whole pie without everyone's piece. He pointed out that my strength was with people. He said, ‘Look at how the younger cadets come to you for advice or talk. Look at how you can recruit on campus with women
and minorities. That is you; that is who you are, and how you lead.’ From that point, I looked at my leadership style as personable and approachable.”

**What do you think mentorship means professionally and how does it benefit you as the mentor?**

“I believe mentorship is very important at every level in the military, as well as outside of the military. I have learned that mentorship does not have to always come from someone who is in higher rank than you, but that mentorship can also be from someone who has the job skills that you want. As a young LT, I believed that I had two kinds of mentors: an officer that guided and directed me as a young officer (such as career, peer issues, OERs and etc.) and a NCO that grew me in the military.”

“Professionally, mentorship means to assist in the guiding and growth of an individual both on a professional and personal level. It benefits me as a mentor by allowing myself to take the time to give back what was given to me. It allows me to reflect on life and ensure that I am doing my best to direct my mentee towards their best.”

Over the past summer, I was able to personally benefit from MAJ Head’s mentorship. I learned about what it takes to become an Army Officer, and MAJ Head showed me that the best officers allow their personality to shine through their mentorship. Upon accessing your own personal strengths, you will be able to determine where you best fit into the mission. As MAJ Head said, “everyone brings a piece to the pie,” and the Army needs all kinds.
CASH/A COLUMN

CASH/A Introduction

By Erica Coffee

CASH/A, or Cadets Against Sexual Harassment and Assault, is an organization created last year by cadets within the Buckeye Battalion. It is dedicated to educating the battalion about bystander intervention. The CASH/A mission is dedicated to educating the Corps of Cadets about taking a proactive role in eliminating sexual harassment and assault both on campus and the military profession. This is accomplished through service, education, and dedication to a culture of intervention in both the campus and battalion community. CASH/A company representatives and other members educate and foster conversations weekly about safety and ways to serve the campus community. Please look forward to more of these columns in the future, which will focus on a specific bystander intervention-related topic in each newsletter.

Below are the 2015-2016 CASH/A leadership positions:

President: CDT Erica Coffee

Alpha Company Representative: CDT Michaela Gennuso

Alpha Company Assistant Rep: CDT Rachel Preston

Bravo Company Representative: CDT Grace Cotter

Bravo Company Assistant Rep: CDT Nathan Carroll

Charlie Company Representative: CDT Kayla Konczos

Charlie Company Assistant Rep: CDT Heath Flowers, CDT Madison Lambkin

Training Coordinator and Treasurer: CDT Victor Littleton

Campus Outreach Coordinator: CDT Madison Lambkin

Victim Advocates: CDT Trenton Vore, CDT Rachel Preston