

Infantry News



2007 DOUGHBOY RECIPIENTS NAMED

BRIDGETT SITER

In 1968, Robert Hall left Gaffney, South Carolina, population 12,000, and went looking for “something more.” Something more than cotton.

“I was a country boy raised on a cotton farm. I worked in a cotton mill. All I knew was cotton,” Hall said. “I thought there might be something better out there.”

Thirty-two years later, after an Army career that took him to 48 states and 47 countries and saw him from Drill Sergeant of the Year to Sergeant Major of the Army, Hall went looking for a place to call home again. A place where he “could just be Bob Hall.”

He found it back in Gaffney, population 12,050 plus two since 2000, when Hall returned with his bride of 30 years.

“Gaffney is a place we can just relax and enjoy our good neighbors,” said Hall, who served as the 11th sergeant major of the Army before retiring. These days, Hall champions Soldier issues as a military affairs representative for USAA.

On the other hand, there’s Colonel (Retired) Ralph Puckett, who lives as a legend in his own hometown. The Columbus, Georgia, resident was a first lieutenant in 1950, when he formed and commanded the first Ranger company since World War II, the 8th Army Ranger Company in Korea.

Months after its formation, Puckett was wounded when his company, outnumbered 600 to 71, captured a Chinese stronghold and repelled five counterattacks. On the sixth attack, Puckett was wounded a second and third time. He ordered his men to withdraw, but he stayed behind to fight. Two Rangers returned, fought back the Chinese, and dragged their commander to safety.

As the honorary colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment and an alumnus of the first class of Ranger Hall of Famers, Puckett uses his platform to preach all things Ranger. But, like Hall, he eschews any personal



Puckett



Hall

accolades. It’s all about the Soldiers today who fight the global war on terrorism.

September 18, it will be “all about” Hall and Puckett. The two will be presented one of the Army’s highest awards, the National Infantry Association’s Doughboy Award at the annual Centennial Dinner

Since 1980, the Doughboy Awards have recognized individuals who contribute greatly to the cause of the Infantry Soldier. Hall and Puckett join the likes of the late Bob Hope, Senator Bob Dole and General (Retired) Colin Powell, previous Doughboy honorees.

The award is “more than amazing,” Hall said.

“I’m flabbergasted. When you look at all the people who are more deserving ... well, I’m floored,” he said. “For me, it was an honor to spend my life working with Soldiers, being a Soldier.”

The Doughboy Awards ceremony is held each year during the Infantry Warfighting Conference.

The term “Doughboy” was popular during World War I, when the American Expeditionary Force was led by Gen. John Pershing, who had commanded an expedition against Pancho Villa in 1916. Then, the Infantry troops were constantly covered in dust while marching through northern Mexico, giving them the appearance of “dough boys.”

(Bridgett Siter is the assistant editor of The Bayonet at Fort Benning, Georgia.)

NEWS BRIEFS

2007 Sniper Competition Set —

The 7th International U.S. Army Sniper Competition will be held at Fort Benning, Georgia, from October 26 to November 3. The competition will be conducted regardless of weather conditions and is designed to physically and mentally challenge sniper teams from all over the world. The winning team will be the one that demonstrates a proficiency in a wide range of sniper-related skills. Unlike most sniper competitions, a high level of physical and mental toughness is needed. This is not only the premier sniper competition in the armed forces, but it is an excellent training opportunity for snipers. Competitors from different units and countries will be able to exchange techniques and tactics during the event.

For more information on the competition go to the Web site <https://www.benning.army.mil/197th/courses/sniper/index.htm> or contact Captain Keith Bell at (706) 545-7507 or Master Sergeant Craig Irwin at (706) 544-6006.

CALL Releases New Leader Handbook on Iraq

The Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, has just released “The First 100 Days” leader’s handbook. The first 100 days are critical to the survival of Soldiers. In this brief initial period, Soldiers and units adjust to the tactical environment, the enemy, and each other. “There’s no doubt that the early part of the deployment is the most dangerous, when people are understanding their environment,” said Colonel Steven Mains, director of CALL. The second in a series of three handbooks is available to Soldiers, Army civilians, and validated contractors on the CALL Web site at <http://call.army.mil>.

LETTERS

Dear *Infantry*,

I wanted to take a few moments and comment on Captain Trenton Conner's article "A Commander's Guide to the Forward Support Company" in the March-April 2007 issue of *Infantry*. First of all, it was a great article and very well researched. It had a good introduction on the doctrinal capabilities and assets of the FSC in the modular force. CPT Conner does a good job of introducing the "how to think" concept of the FSC in respect to counterinsurgency (COIN). FSC operations are no different and should be given no less consideration than any other combat patrol and this is clear in the article. In the combat logistics patrols section, he mentions air/ground and setting the conditions, but another important piece is missing. With intense coordination, the passage of lines piece is sometimes possible. This is where combat logistics patrols can be "passed" from unit to unit as it rolls through different areas of responsibility. This requires coordination and is sometimes possible (or not) due to a variety of reasons. In my experience and opinion, however, it is well worth the effort for high priority logistics patrols. Additionally, CPT Conner does an excellent job of bringing to light the issue of host-nation logistics, which is often overlooked or neglected. I can tell you from personal experience that this is a key issue and failure to address this in combined/joint combat operations is a tactical mistake waiting to happen. The issues of ammunition, food, water, vehicle repair, and fueling are serious concerns that every task force will face during their tour at least once if not more often. Better to train and plan and do as little "discover learning" as possible.

It is a good article that has great points which will remain valid in future conflicts as well as the current conflict. As an introduction to FSC logistics, what they bring to the fight, and how to prep, plan and execute, this is an article that the smart commander will earmark and pass on to his subordinates.

— Major Mark S. Leslie

Chief of Training, Stryker Transition Team,
Fort Benning, Georgia

SHORT BARREL PASSES TEST

MICHELLE L. GORDON

In an ongoing effort to reduce the weight of the M-240B, the Soldier Battle Lab at Fort Benning, Georgia, recently evaluated the new short barrel. The short barrel M-240B is four inches shorter and 1.66 pounds lighter than the standard barrel. It has already passed technical tests conducted by the Army Research, Development and Engineering Center. Now the Soldier Battle Lab is testing it from a user's perspective.

"The testing we do is directly with the Soldiers," said Sam Bass, Soldier Battle Lab project officer. "We get their feedback on whether it is something they will use, and if it enhances their ability to perform."

Soldiers from the 63rd Engineer Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, spent July 23-27 comparing and contrasting the two weapons. They found that the shortened M-240B did improve their performance.

"The short barrel was easier to get up the ladder," said Private First Class Dustin Pruett, 11th Eng. Bn. "The long barrel stopped me as I was going up because it got caught on the concrete."

The Soldiers tested both weapons at the McKenna urban operations site for mobility and compatibility. Each Soldier ran two courses, one with each weapon. After each course, they completed a user survey.

The long barrel and the short barrel were also tested at the firing range. The target data from both weapons will be compared in terms of how the weapons performed and how the Soldiers performed with each weapon.

In addition to the target data, subjective data was collected, including Soldiers' comments and opinions, Bass said. They rate both weapons and list strengths and weaknesses of each so researchers can decide if the new technology is better, worse or if there is no appreciable difference.

Army researchers don't know when the new short barrel M-240B will be available, but they do know that any reduction in weapon size and weight can increase Soldier performance without sacrificing accuracy.

"It doesn't sound like a lot," Bass said. "But when you take a pound and a half and you have to pick it up, carry it and move it — that pound and a half makes a difference."

(Michelle L. Gordon writes for the Fort Benning Public Affairs Office.)



Michelle L. Gordon

The reduction in weapon size and weight can increase Soldier performance without sacrificing accuracy.

SOLDIERS TO RECEIVE FIRST STRIKE RATION

SOLDIER SYSTEMS CENTER - NATICK

A new compact, eat-on-the-move assault ration is well on its way to warfighters' hands.

"The First Strike Ration (FSR) is intended for the first-on-the-ground, first-to-fight warfighter," said Barbara Daley, food technologist and FSR project officer, Combat Feeding Directorate (CFD), U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC).

Usually when warfighters are issued two or more Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MREs) they "field strip" them to lessen the bulk and weight they are carrying.

Personnel at NSRDEC found that not only were warfighters tossing what they considered extra weight, such as the flameless ration heater and Tabasco sauce, but they were also tossing food items. According to the Product Optimization and Evaluation Team at NSRDEC, if a warfighter is given 3,600 calories, he or she will often strip it down to 2,500 calories.

The FSR attempts to reduce this stripping by providing a lighter, smaller package with eat-on-the-go items that also enhance performance. These items are calorically dense and provide appropriate nutritional content and energy to warfighters for short durations of highly mobile, highly intense combat operations.

Items included in the FSR include pocket sandwiches, First Strike energy bars, Zapplesauce™ (a carbohydrate-enhanced applesauce), high-energy drinks, pouches of tuna and chunk chicken, and caffeinated gum.

The FSR is designed to be about half the size of the three MREs it replaces and

it provides, on average, 2,900 calories per day. "It is not intended to sustain the warfighter for long periods of time," Daley emphasized.

Because of its lower caloric content, the FSR is classified by the Office of the Surgeon General as a restricted ration. As such, it can only be used as a sole source of food for 10 days or less in accordance with Army Regulation 40-25.

CFD conducted user evaluations on the FSR in Nevada and Germany in FY 2004, and in Afghanistan and Iraq in FY 2005. When compared with a field-stripped MRE in Iraq in 2005, more than 70 percent of Soldiers said the FSR was more convenient to carry and consume than the MRE.

"The best feedback we have received to date has been from warfighters participating in OIF/OEF in the mountains of Afghanistan and Iraq. They loved it," Daley said.

More than 6,500 FSRs have been used in theater in response to urgent requests by 25th Infantry Division and the Marine Corps, and modifications have been incorporated based on warfighters' feedback.

Lieutenant Colonel David Exton of the 25th Infantry Division told CFD: "You have created something great here. Do not fail in this ration. Need to make these happen for the Soldiers who go outside the wire. Could not get enough of them into theater."



Sarah Underhill

Two Soldiers assess the components of the First Strike Ration during a recent evaluation at Fort Bliss, Texas.

In July 2006, CFD conducted an operational test at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. With more than 100 Soldiers participating from an airborne infantry battalion, one group consumed the FSR for three days while the other group consumed MREs for three days. Then the groups switched. From monitoring what the Soldiers ate and what they threw out, CFD saw less waste and greater consumption with the groups eating the FSR.

Based upon these successful tests, and the introduction of this ration in-theater, the demand for the FSR is immense.

In November 2006, a Joint Services Decision Board consisting of the Army, Marine Corps and Defense Logistics Agency approved the FSR for procurement and fielding.

NSRDEC was able to compress the acquisition process by nearly 30 percent while maintaining support for all other ration platforms in order to maintain the schedule of 3rd quarter FY 2007 procurement by Defense Logistics Agency/ Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, with delivery in 4th quarter FY 2007.



INFANTRY MAGAZINE NEEDS ARTICLES

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