Steve Mandle wrote a book on the 504th, that was to be a history of the regiment during WWII. All this started earlier when back in France, Steve Mandle mentioned the subject to the Regimental Commander, COL Tucker. The name of the book was “The Devils in Baggy Pants” and later, General Dwight D. Eisenhower said this was one of the finest histories about WWII.

The dedication and commitment of the veterans, their WWII diaries, their courage and sacrifice, tell a story that will live for generations. If it wasn’t for experiences and later sharing their stories, the 504th PIR may have never been known as the “Devils in Baggy Pants” or coined “Strike Hold” as their Regiment motto. Another part of our history that we honor this month and pay tribute to are the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack on our nation. Task Force White Devil conducted an event on 9/11 at CL Dwyer with Paratroopers, firefighters, and civilian contractors coming together for a prayer breakfast that took place at 0846 hours, the same time as the first tower was hit on 9/11. This was followed by a 5K run/ruck hosted by the CL Dwyer fire department that began at 0911.

We also had the opportunity to host the current Regimental Commander, COL Magsig, to our base as the guest speaker for our first dining in. The dining in was conducted on 9 September, the same day as the 504th Paratroopers initiated their landings at the Salerno beachhead during WWII. The evening was filled with laughter and espirit de corps. White Devil leaders also learned some very important leadership lessons including thoughts on...

Followership and ‘Grit” were some of the themes of the night.
Followership: Good followers respect their peers and subordinates, lead others who want to follow, are well-balanced and are committed to the organization. They are also, courageous, honest, and credible. Merriam Webster defines “Grit” as unyielding courage in the face of hardship or danger. If we define “Grit” in action, it means perseverance, commitment, and the desire to fight evil and win.
The 504th showed grit when the Regiment was “responsible for saving the Salerno beachhead,“ in the words of General Mark Clark, Commander of 5th Army. We showed grit when the 504th PIR took the high grounds of Altavilla, and we showed grit just recently when, two heroes of the 504th PIR gave the ultimate sacrifice. Those that were injured were rescued by their brother in arms, who came back to a burning truck to pull them out.

We also had a visit from the TF-Southwest USMC leaders COL Reid and CSM Carver. They shared their take on leadership with senior leaders and a lessons learned brief on historic operations in Helmand Province and Afghanistan.

Thank you to all the FRG leaders and families supporting us back at home. Your dedication and selfless service truly make our jobs easier.

**TASK FORCE WHITE DEVIL**
**OPERATION FREEDOM SENTINEL**
**CONTINGENCY LOCATION DWYER**
**PROTECT THIS HOUSE**

**2-504th PIR TASK FORCE WHITE DEVILS**
**SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER**
Greetings from Afghanistan! Havoc Paratroopers have been busy this month, supporting BN operations and winning in every endeavor they undertake! The weather is slowly improving, but the operational tempo for the backbone of the Battalion never slows down, and 1SG and I are impressed by your Troopers hard work and dedication every single day.

We celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the 82nd Airborne Division this month with a 5k race and a 3v3 basketball tournament. I’m proud to say Havoc Paratroopers won both events! SPC Turner ran a blazing fast 5k, finishing the 3.2 mile race in under 18 minutes, while SSG Chambers, SPC Spears, SGT Holland, SGT Edwards and SPC West won a hotly contested game against Troopers from B/127 to take the ultimate prize in the 3v3 basketball tournament. Great work by all involved!

1SG Sword and I are proud to announce the following Troopers have been selected for Promotion: SSG Sabath, SSG Chambers and SSG Ramirez for promotion to SFC; SGT Obdegard, SGT Aldridge, SGT Harris, SGT Hesse, SGT Clinton, and SGT Sexton for promotion to SSG; and SPC Macarthur, SPC Antisdel, SPC Hill, and SPC Kama for promotion to SGT. Congratulations to all those selected! SSG(P) Sabath was also selected for induction into the SAMA after winning the theater-wide TAAC-S Audie Murphy Board.

Although we are staying busy, the love and support we receive from home help us stay focused and continue to win. Thank you all for your support, we look forward to seeing you all again when we redeploy. Until then, Havoc Troopers will continue to perform at the forefront of the Battalion, supporting the mission and protecting our base. Strike Hold!

CPT Aaron Price and 1SG Stuart Sword

SSG Sabath and the Audie Murphy Board

CSM Stockard congratulates SPC Turner on winning the Battalion 5k win.

LTC Kuhlman congratulates the winners of the 3v3 Basketball Tournament.
With two months left in the traditional fighting season, the Blackhearts have never been busier. We continue to operate at an exceptionally high tempo as we bring the fight to the enemy and proactively deny them the opportunity to gain any sort of initiative. Every Paratrooper in this Company continues to execute his job with a tenacity and dedication I have never before seen in Soldiers deployed for this long. Despite the hardships we have endured and know we have yet to face, not a single one of our Team has faltered: this is truly exceptional and serves as a monument to unique quality of our team and the unwavering support from our families in the States. We also celebrated a new addition to the Blackheart family. CPT Leisinger and his wife had a beautiful baby boy John Warren Leisinger!

SGT Todd and SGT Ramirez, both wounded in the 02 AUG attack on our convoy and currently back at Ft. Bragg, continue to recover from their injuries and will remain with the Blackhearts. Recently, our 2nd PLT successfully tracked down and detained a member of the network responsible for facilitating the attack on 02 AUG; one more step in the ongoing mission to find, capture, or kill all those responsible.

On the Homefront, we are tracking the developing situation caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. I encourage all families to keep their forward-deployed Paratroopers updated if they are in any way affected by these storms. We are standing by to assist those affected in any way we can through our rear-detachment or FRG.

As we approach the end of the first 100 days, next month, the Paratroopers of Blackheart Company have taken a complex mission set, in a dangerous area, with new and sometimes unfamiliar equipment and excelled. The next few months we will look to expand upon the lessons learned and hard earned knowledge and wisdom thus far gained. We will continue to support the NATO mission here in Afghanistan by partnering with and enabling our ANDSF counterparts.

The chow is good, the billeting top notch, there is plenty of ammunition to go around, and there is lots of sunshine.

**CPT John Leisinger and 1SG Aaron Sirmin**

GEN Nicholson awards the Purple Heart, our Nation’s oldest combat award, to members of 3rd PLT wounded on 02 AUG.

Our 4th PLT, the Aerial Reaction Force, stages in front of one of their partnered UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters prior to preparing for a mission.
Team Bravo Paratroopers continue to excel during continuous operations here in Afghanistan. Responsible for multiple mission sets, each Platoon plays a critical role in securing infrastructure, enabling Afghan National Security Forces, and denying enemy freedom of maneuver in our assigned area of operations. When not conducting combat operations, Troopers at all levels continue to hone their skills through marksmanship, communications, urban operations training, to classes on educational opportunities and financial management. SPC Shearhart, SPC Chang, PFC Durkee, and PFC Bueno have been hard at work developing our unmanned aerial systems capabilities. Flying multiple missions over the past few weeks, they are enhancing our ability gather intelligence at the Company level.

This month we will highlight the Paratroopers of 1/B. The Team said farewell 1LT Adams this month as he was selected to lead the Battalion Scout Platoon. A special thanks for his leadership over the past 12 months to 1/B. Ready to go at a moment's notice, SFC Holmes and his team are currently postured to respond to threats throughout the area of operations. SSG Broome and SGT Deen were hard at work last month serving as sergeants of the guard, overseeing multiple towers and over 190 hours of security each. In their free time, Troopers such as SPC Erickson, PFC Lobaugh, and PFC Orwig have been tearing up the volleyball court on base. SSG Wiseman and his wife welcomed their new son into the world last month, congratulations to the Wiseman family!

CPT Brian Sells and 1SG Jose Barreiro
August was an awesome month for Charlie Rock! Your loved one may have told you about the scorching hot Afghan desert; now let’s catch you up on some other significant events from the past month.

We’d like to thank Charlie Rock alumni Kevin Thurman and Delta Airlines for sponsoring care packages to send to our Paratroopers here in Afghanistan. We’ve received additional packages from other members of our alumni association which goes to show the pride that carries on years after leaving the company. Please feel free to recommend sponsoring the company to your local civic organizations or elementary schools to write letters to our troops.

In August we promoted SSG Corbin Peterson and also awarded him with the Army Achievement Medal with “C” device for his actions providing lifesaving medical aid to an Afghan National Army soldier on a MEDEVAC flight.

Your Paratrooper remains busy, on and off the battlefield. We continue to refine our medical skills, small unit tactics and maintenance proficiency. SFC Boetjer and SGT Pedraza lead the way for the battalion while providing classes to prepare our future Ranger students to attend Ranger School during or after the deployment. SGT Mitchell and the platoon medics trained 100% of our Paratroopers on the combat life saver course plus the ability to evaluate traumatic brain injuries and start intravenous fluid replacement. SSGs Crimmins and Steves conducted a class on vehicle maintenance for all drivers in the battalion. SPC Skoglund’s and SFC Milne’s families welcomed their new baby Troopers into the world this month, congratulations to the Skoglund and Milne families!

As the summer comes to an end we are making several leadership changes in the company. Both 2nd and 3rd Platoons have changed Platoon Leaders. We said goodbye to 1LT Luke Scudder after 16 months of PL time; he moves across the hall to become the B Co Executive Officer. The new PL in 2nd Platoon is now 1LT Brad Brownfield. 1LT David Choe leaves 3rd Platoon to become the battalion Mortar Platoon Leader after 13 months with the company. 2LT Martin Mann replaces him to lead 3rd Platoon.

On 22 September, I will relinquish command of Charlie Company to CPT Alex Sayre. Commanding Charlie Company has been the greatest airborne operation of my life. The men and women I’ve worked with in Charlie Company represent our American values on a daily basis and keep me inspired with their dedication to service and positive attitudes. CPT Sayre brings fresh energy and the tactical skill required to lead Charlie Rock for the remainder of the deployment. I know that Charlie Rock is in good hands.

CPT Michael Makrucki and 1SG Adam Breeding
Greetings from Kosovo!

On the 25th of August we put your Paratroopers to the test. In order to better our ability to react to a Civil Disturbance situation we conducted oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray training. OC Spray, or as it is better known, Pepper Spray, is a non-lethal aerosol spray that is used in riot control to subdue an agitator. OC Spray is made up of a chemical found in different types of peppers, capsaicin, making the entire substance completely organic and safe. Although it is safe, the OC Spray severely irritates the eyes to cause tears, temporary blindness, and a deep burning sensation that can bring even the strongest of men to their knees.

The training began with a classroom portion where your Paratroopers learned the above information and even more in depth knowledge of the implementation, effects, and safety involved in OC Spray contamination. After learning how debilitating the effects of OC Spray are, their tasks were laid out before them: your Paratrooper would be sprayed with OC Spray before completing a set of obstacles. The obstacles included having to employ their riot shield, accurately employ their baton, subdue an attacker with an inert can of OC Spray, conduct target recognition with their sidearm, and finally treat a casualty before finally being allowed to run water on their faces and begin to let the effects wear off. The entire training was conducted under the observation of medical personnel and the company’s very own non-lethal weapon expert graduates.

Your Paratrooper was able to accomplish all of the aforementioned tasks while under extreme duress. It is critical for us all to know and understand how we can continue to perform under pressures, building confidence not only in ourselves and others, but also our training and equipment to be prepared for any situation. This training is just another example of the level of excellence your Paratroopers are able to maintain. Your Paratroopers are going above and beyond the KFOR rotations that have come before them and, as always, are proving that they are the best in the world.

We also celebrated a new addition to the Danger family. CPT Orsini and his wife had a beautiful baby boy Jack Robert Orsini!

**CPT Ryan Orsini & 1SG Michel**

A Trooper continues to man a shield wall despite the effects of OC spray.

SPC Hilliard (1D) Undergoes OC Spray treatment after the exercise completed. Don’t worry, no Paratrooper’s great hair was harmed!

A trooper applies a tourniquet to another Trooper.
Greetings from Afghanistan!

The platoons are operating at a high operational tempo. 1st Platoon is conducting patrols and serving as a Quick Reaction Force almost every day. Both 2nd Platoon and 3rd Platoon are conducting base defense tasks, with 2nd also preparing to conduct route clearance operations. 3rd Platoon additionally has conducted more construction projects in the last two months, than in the last 18 months. Their work is high demand. The Rear Detachment continues to support on-going activities at Fort Bragg, while preparing the next group of deployers. We are also expecting a group deployers within the month, and we certainly welcome the additional manpower! The level of preparation, focus, and execution of all the platoons have been superb.

Our Barbarians at Kandahar Air Field (KAF) continue to be the main effort for the 127th Engineer Battalion. Each week they conduct numerous patrols around the base in order to prevent enemy attacks. 1st Platoon has put in countless man hours and mileage on their vehicles in order to keep the KAF Coalition Forces and civilians safe. Through their efforts, they are a better trained Sapper Platoon, and are the go-to team for any mission.

One of the most critical missions on Dwyer is maintaining the defense of the perimeter. 2nd Platoon has one of the most time-consuming and physically challenging tasks to emplace wire around the entire base. This effort takes hours each day, and several days each week to accomplish. It will take the entire 9-month deployment to complete.

Projects, projects, projects! 3rd Platoon has done over 15 large scale carpentry and earthmoving projects over the last two months. The work never stops with this platoon as they continue to be proactive with the improvement of Dwyer’s force protection and security.

No company can run without a good Headquarters and Operations. The Headquarters Platoon continues to run the administration and command and control of the company team dealing with property, equipment maintenance, financial management, medical readiness, and communications.

CPT Jo-Ann Edmonds and 1SG Ruben Borja

3rd platoon built a deck for the Chapel.

SGT Sears and SGT Huston team up with ANDSF partners.
The 1st Brigade Combat Team (1BCT), commonly referred as the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division participated during the Five Hundred and Fourth Time March along “The Crossing” bridge. The bridge was given the name “The Crossing” to commemorate the battle at Nijmegen.

The work of art in the bridge is the Lights Crossing, which is a discreet daily tribute to the soldiers and liberators of the Netherlands who lost their lives during the crossing of the Waal River during Operation Market Garden. Each evening when the sun goes down an active duty service member or veteran walks the bridge. As they walk, the lightbulbs turn on one by one. Those service members or veterans who participate are given a ‘Sunset March Certificate’ with a specific number. This ties the respective veteran or active duty service member to the specific day of the march. The march is about a mile long and once completed, the flags are lowered along with a small ceremony to remember the fallen heroes. The March of the Waal River Crossing is every night, regardless of foul weather. If the veteran or active duty service member can’t make it, there are always a line of volunteers to take over and do the Lights Crossing March.

Tim Ruijling is a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Royal Netherlands Air force (Ret.) and a veteran. He is the initiator and coordinator of the Sunset March. He stated:

“Sunset March is a daily tribute to the Soldiers of the 504th PIR, 82nd Airborne Division who lost their lives while crossing the Waal River in Nijmegen on September 20, 1944. Each and every night a veteran (national and international) walks the Sunset March to honor these brave soldiers and all allied soldiers who liberated the Netherlands. Because of them, who are not from our Country, and still gave their lives defending us and our land, we are free today. Proud to be a Sunset Marcher!”

During the 1BCT group’s visit, they had the opportunity to visit the Radboud UMC University Hospital and were received by the Board of Directors with an amazing video and Power Point presentation about the history of The Crossing Bridge in the city of Nijmegen. It is amazing how the community of Nijmegen contributes to the history of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment and 82nd Airborne Division. It is an outstanding experience to participate in such events of the 82nd Airborne Division’s storied history. The Regiment appreciates and is honored by the Netherlands’ dedication and commitment to preserve the 504th PIR history, commemorate their fallen heroes and extraordinary veterans that fought during Operation Market Garden.

1LT(P) WILMARIE FLORES
BENEFITS OF THE 1st BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM/ 504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
AND WHAT THE ASSOCIATION DOES

We can only continue to do all the below with your help by becoming an association member and by purchasing the association’s annual raffle tickets, so please consider becoming part of your association.

If you have questions, please call 919-803-4554/ 910-584-2081 or rrath@nc.rr.com. The Association web site is http://www.504thpirassociation.org

- The Association makes yearly donations to the 82d Airborne Association Education fund to help fund former troopers college scholarships. They also make yearly donations to the 82d Airborne Division’s Museum, Memorial association, and Chaplain’s funds.
- Every year if the Association has the funds help the Regimental Chaplain with $50.00 Walmart gift cards to give to troopers and or their families that are in need of help. In 2015 the Association gave $3,750.00 in $25.00 gift checks for troopers and families that could use them. Our funds come from new members joining. They help pay for historical improvements throughout the Regiment.
- During All American week the Association [if they have the monies pay for the Regimental picnic children displays and tents. In 2016 $3,500.00, was spent so that troopers and their families could enjoy a totally free of charge event.
- During All American week and the annual 82d Airborne Association convention the 1 BCT/504 PIR Association always has a joint first class hospitality suite, which is totally free for its members. They also provide the Jumpmaster, NCO of the year, and the Trooper of the year a lifetime membership in the 82d and 504 Associations at the Regimental picnic.
- Every year for the last two years they have provided 82d & 1BCT/504 PIR Association memberships to some troopers from each unit. 2016-18 each, 2017-19 each.
- Every year the Association has a Devil dinner that the veterans pay for the active duty to attend free.
- When the Regiment is deployed the Association helps the rear detachment with any funds they may need.
- The Association also helps the Family Readiness groups with funds they may need for parties.
- The Association also pays yearly the teams to enter the Army 10 miler in Washington DC.
- The association also will help Troopers and families that may be in need due to a family death upon receiving a request from the Regimental Sergeant Major or the read detachment.
- Every year at the 82d Airborne Division Association Convention, which in 2016 was in Louisville, KY and in 2017 it is again at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, FL At this convention the 1 BCT/504 PIR Association has a Devil Dinner again which is totally free to Active Duty Troopers.
- Why should you belong? Because it is your Brigade/Regiment and its Association and you should be proud of that and want to be part of it. Active duty lifetime dues $50.40 and annual is $5.04. You must first be a life member of the 82d Association to be a life member of the 1 BCT/504 Association.

CSM(R) Ronald Rath, Treasurer and Membership Chairman