From the Saddle Bag

Members Invited to Warhorse Walk

The 1st Squadron invites members to speak about their service in the 14th Cavalry and the Regiment’s history during the Squadron’s “Warhorse Walk” on 8 December at JBLM.

The Walk, a 26-mile course that will see Troopers with full rucks march through JBLM and nearby neighborhoods, is intended to increase the knowledge of the Regiment’s history among 1-14 Troopers and foster esprit de corps among young and “old” Cavalrymen.

Association members will be stationed at rest stops along the course. At the stops, Troopers will shed their full rucks and gather ‘round members to hear their personal stories about the Cavalry of old and learn about the history of the Regiment.

To participate, contact 2LT Aaron Spikol at (484) 788-4616 or aspikol@gmail.com.

This is a great opportunity to engage with today’s Troopers and further solidify the Association’s relationship with Warhorse Troopers.

Strykehorse Squadron Seeks Cav Regalia

The 2nd Squadron seeks Cavalry memorabilia for display in its new headquarters later this year.

“We welcome photos, posters, regalia and the like that convey the history of the Regiment and the Cavalry to honor the Regiment and resurrect a world class HQ worthy of the name of the Squadron,” wrote XO, Maj. Matthew McCarthy, in a recent message.

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Commander’s Hatch

Our Memorial Monument

Dedicating a monument that memorializes the illustrious history of our Regiment as well as the service and sacrifices of 14th Cavalry Troopers past, present and future is the most ennobling action we can undertake.

Admittedly, neither our numbers nor our growth rate are large. But, the monument - an honorific to our Regiment and its members - will bring our Regiment and Association into public prominence. Apart from paying homage, the monument could also engender pride in the Regiment and promote membership in the Association in the years ahead.

I urge every member, “old” and new and future, to contribute to funding the 14th Cavalry Regiment Memorial Monument. That is our obligation to fellow 14th Cavalry men and women, and their families too.

Thank You Jim

I want to salute Col. Jim Dunivan, former commander of 1-14 “Warhorse” Squadron, for graciously answering our call-out for co-chairs of our Fund Raising Committee. Although still on active duty and thus very much occupied with his duties, Jim’s pride and dedication led him to volunteer. All of us will benefit. We thank him.

Still, we are looking for a side-kick co-chair. Let me or Gordy know that you’ll step up. (The sooner we raise the needed funds the sooner this “duty roster” will be history.)

2017 Reunion

Four locations for our 2017 reunion were highlighted at this year’s reunion. Perhaps you’ll recall that the four were posted on the Website in May and that we asked members to select their 1st and 2nd choices - among Branson, Mo.; Colorado Springs/Ft. Carson, Colo.; New Orleans; and San Antonio - by 16 June.

Well, the results were a hair-splitting toss-up. Only three “votes” separated the 1st and 2nd combined choices and the combined 1st and 3rd choices were separated by but two 1st-choice votes. (Branson was the 4th place choice in both 1st-2nd choice and 1st place votes.)

Discussion at the reunion reached consensus as to holding the coming reunion in the Fall at a location in or near the middle of the nation. Therefore, I’ve asked the staff to ascertain what we can see and do in the Fall at the top three locations and report back soon. Watch for more info here and on the Web in a few months.

We welcome hearing from anyone who will help with the search and follow-on reunion arrangements. Contact Gordy: bratzgr@mac.com or (757) 564-1134.

I add that we remain oriented toward having our 2019 reunion near Washington, D.C. when the National U.S. Army Museum opens that year.

Contact Vet & AD Troopers

As we meet the challenge of funding our memorial monument we also need to step up and increase our membership numbers.

A great deal of logic and possibility rests on meeting these two missions hand-in-hand.

For example, contact those who you served with in the 14th who are not members of the Association. Tell them about us. But especially tell them about the memorial monument dedicated to the Regiment and their service, and the opportunity to have their name inscribed in a granite brick that will be a lasting testament to their service.

Bricks can also be purchased by members of families who had a family member serve in or with the Regiment.

Let us not fail to reach out to both former and current active duty members of the Regiment. Imagine the impact of having the names of every veteran and present member of the Regiment displayed in bricks across the length and width of the monument’s pad. What a roll call of service and honor that would be!

A Note About Dottie

Dottie had a brain tumor removed in mid June. She is now home and recovering. That will be long slog, but she’s already put me on notice: “Get the saddle out, I’ll be ready to ride soon.” Thank you for your well wishes and your prayers. They sure help.

SUIVEZ MOI

Tom Cole
MG, USA, Ret.
President, 14th Cavalry Association and
Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

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We welcome news from our Veteran, Active Duty & Family Members.
Fellow association members, family and friends of the Warhorse Squadron, and brothers and sisters in arms, greetings from the Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and the great Pacific Northwest!

**Accolades**

As many of you who attended the Regimental Reunion in May or read our SITREP in June know, we executed our second rotation to the National Training Center (NTC) in May 2016. Not that any of you loyal readers of CHARGE! would have had any doubts, I am proud to report the Squadron delivered an outstanding performance at the NTC.

Testimony to that fact is more than self-gloating (though we wouldn’t be Cavalry without some sort of cockiness). Rather it is primarily based on reports of the NTC Observer-Controllers and Opposing Forces (OPFOR) who stated, “1-14 was the most lethal and disruptive Cavalry Squadron we have seen at NTC in years.” While there is always much to learn, we showed quite the competency in the combined arms fight bringing indirect fires, anti-tank systems, machine guns, and close air support to bear against the threat with overwhelming results. I couldn’t be more proud of the Soldiers and NCOs who showed why we have the most professional Army in the annals of human history! And the icing on the cake was, of course, our ability to share a our experience with members of the Association during the reunion. We all hope that was memorable (we all know the weather was hot!).

Following the NTC rotation, the Squadron returned to JBLM where we focused heavily on the recovery of our facilities and equipment. Sifting through and consolidating excess items for turn-in or redistribution, a focused services program, and in-depth PMCS are all ways that we not only ensure we “take care of the horses” but also make sure that we are good stewards of the resources and money that taxpayers provide us.

**Squadron Ball**

It wasn’t all work, however, as we executed a Squadron Ball in July that upheld some of the finest Cavalry traditions including a rowdy grog ceremony and a night filled with camaraderie.

The Squadron left a permanent mark at the NTC, continuing a tradition of the units that have trained there.

Squadron memorabilia and uniforms from the Regimental Museum in our head-quarters greeted those who attended our Squadron Ball.

A few days later, the formation was allowed to sign out for 17 days of well-deserved and needed Block Leave.

**Spur Rides, Cav Stakes for Spouses & Troopers**

Upon return from leave, our very first event was a Spouse Spur Ride where we saw over 70 spouses come out to enjoy a day of challenges and fun!

Spouses are briefed before participating in one of several Spur Ride events.

On 5 August we bid a fond farewell to CSM Muhlenbeck and welcomed CSM Towns as the new Warhorse 7. Though we will miss CSM Muhlenbeck, he moves on to greater things as the new 2nd Cavalry Regiment Command Sergeant Major.

We then turned our focus back towards revalidating Soldiers on their Skill Level I tasks and ensuring section sergeants have ample time to ensure their Soldiers are ready to reassume the readiness cycle all over again. As this newsletter was going to press we are about to conduct a Cavalry stakes to confirm our Soldiers are masters of basic tasks and follow that up with a grueling Spur Ride in late August to test their fortitude and grit. As part of that event we will be highlight the benefits of the Association.

**Warhorse Walk: Members Invited**

We invite, indeed urge, members of the Association to come to our Warhorse Walk on 8 December here at JBLM. The event is going to be a great way for veteran Cavalrymen to rub elbows with and teach our young Troopers bits of the history of our Regiment, and impart their knowledge about “being Cav.”

See details in “From the Saddle Bag” on page 1. I look forward to having you among us. WARHORSE!

SUIVEZ MOI

William “Chris” Cavin
LTC, AR, Commanding
Aloha to all Association Members.

Our previous SITREP reported that we were about to complete our transition to an Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). That meant turning-in our Strykers and acquiring up-armored HMMWVs for Ace High and Bountyhunter Troops, getting the Tube Launched Optically Tracked Wire-guided Missle/Improved Target Acquisition System (TOW/ITAS), and converting Combat Troop to a Dismounted Reconnaissance Troop manned by Infantrymen. At the same time we qualified 35 crews at Crew Gunnery in preparation for Section and Platoon Gunnery and Platoon Evaluations at Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the Big Island.

SGM Cano and I were blessed to attend the Regimental Reunion in May and see our sister Squadron in action at the National Training Center. The reunion was a great opportunity to collaborate across generations of Mounted Warriors who have served or are serving within the Regiment and share stories of old and new. I hope that future reunions yield an even higher turnout, and we keep the fire burning with the rich history of the Regiment.

Spur Competition,
Dining Out Held

During June the Strykehorse Ohana (family) conducted a Spur Ride, a ruck march and change of command ceremonies before breaking for a much needed Summer Block Leave. Over 120 Troopers earned membership in the Squadron’s “Order of the Spur.” The Spur Ride took place here at Schofield Barracks. It consisted of day and night examinations and exercises. The day portion kicked off with a 5-mile run to determine if our Troopers were fit to compete in the follow-on Spur Ride events.

Following the run, 9 teams of 15 Soldiers cycled through a Spur Board, in which the Squadron Commander, CSM, Troop Commanders, and Troop First Sergeants grilled each team about a variety of Cavalry, Armor, and Squadron subjects and skills (with a little fun thrown in, of course). After surviving the Spur Board, teams moved to weapons testing: the assembly, disassembly, and immediate action of the M4 carbine, M240 machine gun, Mk 19 automatic grenade launcher, and M2 .50 cal machine gun, all under simulated “stressful” environments.

The night portion consisted of 9 tactical lanes, to include Medical, CBRNE, Area and Route Reconnaissance, and HMMWV PMCS; forcing the teams to ruck march over 9 miles from station to station. A week after the Spur Ride, the Squadron executed the 25 km. ruck march. Led from the front by myself and acting CSM Cano, Strykehorse Troopers marched around Schofield Barracks to earn their “25k” pin for their Stetsons, all while getting a slight taste for what the future holds in a Light Infantry Brigade.

The Squadron began to wind down the last two weeks of June before taking Summer Block Leave. But before that we celebrated a successful first half of the year with a Dining Out. Soldiers and their spouses or dates made their way to the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki and enjoyed a night of Cavalry traditions and festivities.

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The items will “complement the beautiful Regimental print we received from the Association that hangs in our current HQ,” he added.

Send donations at your earliest convenience but before the end of November. Include a brief description of the “history” of each item; e.g., what it is, who used it, and how and where it was used, etc. Mail via USPS to Maj. Matthew D. McCarty, SXO, Box #1 HHT, 2-14 Cavalry, 2nd IBCT, 25th ID, Schofield Barracks, HI 96857. Questions: contact him at matthew.d.mccarty.mil@mail.mil or (808) 655-6429.

Regimental Print & Items Make Wonderful Gifts

The Regimental Print is on sale from the Supply Room. Proceeds go to the Regimental Memorial Monument Fund.

The four-color print illustrates the nearly 120-year history of the Regiment in images crafted by Jody Harmon, a well-known artist who has a long association with the Armor and Cavalry community.

The print, shown below, comes in two sizes and two prices. The print would be a wonderful birthday or Christmas gift. As would a number of other items from the Association’s Supply Room. Place orders at www.14thcavsupplyroom.com or call toll free 1-866-510-4550.

Deployment to PTA

Immediately following Block Leave, the Squadron hit the ground running. Deployment for Pohukuloa Training Area (PTA) was in full swing as Troops prepared vehicles and equipment for sea movement. The Squadron meticulously conducted maintenance and ensured Soldiers and families were fully prepared for the Squadron to leave Oahu for a month. Although Tropical Storm Darby presented some issues with sea vessel movement, we successfully deployed our vehicles, equipment, and personnel to PTA.

We kicked off the training there with Section Gunnery for Ace High and Bountyhunter Troops. This was the first time Section Sergeants were able to maneuver and control their sections in a Live Fire exercise. While that occurred, Combat Troop conducted a Team Live Fire exercise, which facilitated their success in Platoon Evaluations later in the month and served as a solid base of knowledge for the Dismounted Reconnaissance Troop. The Squadron’s Mortar Sections were finally able to shoot live rounds, and conducted a three day certification exercise, something they have been chomping at the bit to do for over a year. After Section Gunnery, the platoons of Ace High and Bountyhunter Troops were evaluated during a six day exercise in the Keamukus. Platoons conducted Area Reconnaissance, Screens, and got to utilize engineers. And a few Soldiers shot live Javelin rounds. The Javelin is an infrared guided anti-tank missile that Troopers have been itching to shoot for some time now. The training at PTA ended with Ace High and Bountyhunter Troops conducting Platoon Gunnery, another integral step in our preparation for future training, including our rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) early next year.

In August we welcomed our new Strykehorse 7, CSM Mark Woodworth and his family. He brings us a wealth of knowledge and will certainly be a valued member of our team as we continue the swift and rigorous training regimen out here in the Pacific.

We safely redeployed from PTA as this newsletter was coming off the press and began equipment and vehicle recovery. We’ll next do an internal Troop Evaluation Exercise and then move our Troops into new buildings (acquired from 1-14 Infantry in the transition process).

We will continue to steadily posture for mission success in preparation for the upcoming 25ID training event, Lightning Forge ’17.

Supporting the Association

The Squadron continues to support the Association. We are encouraging Strykehorse Troopers to become members and are providing information regarding the 14th Cavalry Memorial Monument and its Memorial Brick Program. Such information has been pushed out, to include a Facebook flyer that reaches nearly 1,000 thousand people. STRYKEHORSE!

Jabari MOI
LTC, AR, Commanding

Honoring Our Regiment

Honoring Our Regiment (continued from page 1)
www.14cav.org
www.14thcavsupplyroom.com