TIGER TRACKS

The Newsletter of the Steel Tigers 77th Armor Association

Reunion 2017 Columbus, GA

November 2016

The 2017 Steel Tigers reunion will be held June 1-4 2017 and be hosted by Roger and Cynthia Yuraska in Columbus, GA.

The association is preparing to dedicate the 77th Armor Monument on June 2nd 2017 at the future home of the Armor and Cavalry Museum.

Roger and Cynthia have been planning this reunion for 3 years and we would like to make this reunion one of the best yet.

The Armor Regiment Monument dedication will be held on June 2nd. We will take a short bus ride to the dedication after breakfast and return to the hotel at 4 o'clock.

We will also visit The National Civil War Naval Museum.

The Museum tells the story of the Sailors, Soldiers, and Civilians, both Free and Enslaved as affected by the Navies of the American Civil War and provides a repository for relevant archives and artifacts on the subject for all generations of the public. The Museum uses all available media systems/distribution platforms and live interpretation in furtherance of this mission.

Accommodations:

Marriott

800 Front Ave

Columbus, GA

Reservations

706-324-1800

Be sure to mention

"STEEL TIGERS"

when making your reservation to get our discounted rate.

If you are planning to bring your camper Roger and Cindy are recommending

Pine Lake RV Campground

6404 Garrett Rd

Midland, GA 31820

706-561-9675

Please make your reservations at the Marriott or the campground and send in your registration early so we can continue to plan this very exciting event.

77th Armor Association Board Members

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment,
COL Richard Benson (Ret)

Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment
CSM Joe D. Offutt (Ret)

President, Roger Yuraska
77arrgt@gmail.com

Vice President, Kevin Dunne
bandit3310@camcast.net

Secretary, COL "Byrd" Nagel (Ret)
nagelmo@swbell.net

Treasurer, Bob Basner
bobnconnie2@aol.com

Chaplain,, Jerry Brown
jbrown@aditechnologies.com

Quartermaster, Lance Wheeler
lancewheeler177@yahoo.com

Historian, Don Cummings
doncvmi65@aol.com

Membership, Bob Basner
bobnconnie2@aol.com

Sergeant At Arms,
CSM Joe D. Offutt (Ret)
Joe.Offutt@ATT.net

Judge Advocate,
Charles "Hap" Trainer
cwtesq@aol.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Chairman Roger Yuraska
Gerry Dubois Joe D. Offutt
Walter Evans Tom Rosser
Robin Marriott Lance Wheeler
Kevin Dunne Richard Benson
Jerry Brown Jim McPhie

HONORARY MEMBERS
OF THE REIGMENT
Nicole Dubois Jean Offutt
Connie Basner

President Message

Steel Tiger Family;

Cynthia and I hope this letter finds you and your family's healthy and prepared for the holiday season. I would like to thank the Mizwa's for a great reunion in Pittsburgh.

It is during this time of political decision that I'm reminded of the story of General Patton at Fort Erwin, CA prior to the US entrance into WW II. The story goes that while the Division was at Fort Erwin for training, as he did most nights in their bivouac site after evening mess, the general would lecture on a load speaker. He would lecture about the Armies of Greece, Roman, and successful tactics of the newly formed Armored Cavalry among other motivation lectures. One evening after his speech he set out to inspect the perimeter sentry's. While inspecting the sentry's, he came along a young private who was facing towards the division bivouac. He instructs the Soldier "Your facing the wrong way, the enemy is coming from the opposite direction." The trooper while pointing at the Division Bivouac responded "No sir, the enemy will come from that direction."

I'm happy to report that the Monument at the Patton Museum has been cleaned and is still in good condition. There is however some undercutting of the monument. I have contacted the Director of the Patton Museum and they are addressing it. Additionally, we have a very good relationship with the active Battalion thanks to LTC Casiano and CSM Peebles, they have asked us to assist with transitioning service members see LTC Casiano's State of the Regiment letter attached.

We have updated our web site so members can now pay dues, contribute to the monument and register for the reunion all on line.

I'm looking for anyone who served with Carl Butcher A co 69. I would like to find someone who is willing to contact him, I have a phone number, and try to convince him to join the flock.

Columbus monument has quarried the stone for the monument, and we are on track for the 2 June 17 dedication at the future home of the Armor and Cavalry Museum, the association is still short of its target for the cost of the monument so we are still seeking funding from our members. We look forward to seeing all Steel Tigers at Columbus, GA in June for the dedication of the 77th Regiment monument.

As always Cynthia and I are available to assist the members in any way we can.

Roger Yuraska
77th Armor Association President
Steel Tigers

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1 ST BATTALION, 77TH ARMOR REGIMENT

3RD BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1 ST ARMORED DIVISION

BULLDOG
BRIGADE, BUILDING 20400
CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT
09330

JULY 2016

CSM (R) Roger Yuraska
President, 77th Armor Association
PO Box 38
Birch Run, Ml 48415

Veterans, Distinguished Members of the Regiment, Steel Tiger Alumni, Family and Friends of 1-77 AR, my name is LTC Johnny M. Casiano current Commander of the 1 st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment, and along with CSM Maurice Peebles, we would like to tell you a bit about the legacy you've entrusted to us in the following letter. Also, on behalf of the Battalion, I want to say it is an honor to be a part of your reunion albeit from a great distance, and through this written word. Today, we celebrate 75 years of Standing Firm, while paying reverence to those Steel Tigers past and present. From the training grounds of Louisiana, to the hills of Korea, throughout the jungles of Vietnam, and across the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, the 77t1 Armored Regiment always remains an integral part of our Country's success in armored warfare. Today, we instill our vision within our Soldiers: we are prepared for anything- with an ethos to Fiqht and Win on any battlefield, against any enemy or adversary, able to bring to bear the full effects of joint combined arms operations; and dedicated to the complete understanding of our profession. Please allow me to elaborate on some of our recent accomplishments.

Since moving to its new home at Fort Bliss, Texas, the Regiment found itself adapting and growing to meet the Army's demands to remain an effective fighting force. After more than a decade of our country's Counter Insurgency Strategy, the Army recognized the necessity of shifting back to conventional warfare, and 1 st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment was at the forefront of this shift. Therefore we are no longer a purely Amor Battalion- we are now a Combined Arms Battalion with organic Mechanized Infantry and Sustainment support, along with attached Field Artillery support enabling us to be a more lethal and effective unit. This lethality was demonstrated in 2014 at the National Training Center. The Steel Tigers participated in the first force-on-force combat training exercises at Fort Irwin in over a decade, and surpassed all expectations. As a result, the Battalion was chosen out of the entire Brigade to deploy to Djibouti, Africa in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel as part of the Combined Joint Task Force — Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA).

The Battalion spread its influence across northeastern Africa, participating in joint-multinational combined arms training with United States Marines and the Kenyan Army. We also sent Soldiers to participate in the French Desert Warfare School, and provide force protection to the only armed-UAV installation in the region. Further, the Steel Tigers sent an Infantry Company to Camp Simba in Kenya to provide force protection. At the end of 9 months, the Steel Tigers having successfully accomplished their mission, redeployed to Fort Bliss, Texas.

After a period of well-deserved leave, we once again began to prepare for our next deployment. In order to meet the Amy's pre-deployment requirements, we faced a rigorous schedule: two field problems, live fire Gunnery, and deployment preparations within a span of 6 months. The Steel Tigers were not deterred in the face of this daunting challenge. We completed all training

requirements, validated and qualified all crews on their vehicles, and our hard work culminated in a Certification Training Exercise (CTE). At the completion of the Battalion exercise, we were considered to be one of the better trained, if not THE best trained, Combined Arms Battalion in the Army. After completing all the prerequisites, the Steel Tigers were ready to face their next challenge: a deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS).

We are currently in Kuwait located at Camp Buehring. We will spend the next 8-9 months in here, as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) for Camp Buehring and the Ready Reaction Force (RRF) for all of CENTCOM. Also a few Soldiers from the Steel Tiger family may head to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Our mission there will be to advise and assist the Iraqi Amy against ISIS. Some of our training includes: an unstabilized gunnery in December as well as participating in joint combined arms training with our Kuwaiti allies. We look forward to the coming months as a chance to leam more about ourselves and better ourselves as Soldiers, Leaders, and Professionals. Rest assured we will uphold the Steel Tiger reputation and, at the end of the deployment, leave Camp Buehring in a better state of readiness than when we arrived.

The world is more unstable and unpredictable than it has been in a long time, however the Steel Tigers will not falter. There is no enemy too great, no force too large that we cannot defeat. Like the Soldiers of the 77 tl Armor Regiment that came before us, we are experts in our profession using speed, firepower, and shock effect against the enemy. We draw upon the strength and experience of former Steel Tigers as inspiration to continue moving forward with our careers in the Amy. However, we have some Soldiers who decided that 1-77AR will be their last unit in the Amy, either due to retirement or the desire to retum to the civilian workforce. I believe that it is our duty as Leaders to provide them with all the resources we have available to aid in their transition. At the Battalion level we launched our own Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program (SFLTAP) that works in-conjunction with the Army's SFLTAP that delivers a more thorough, comprehensive, and overall personal experience for our departing Steel Tigers. Many Veterans can identify with ACAP; SFLTAP replaced that program. The CSM and I take this program very seriously and we want to see these Soldiers succeed in every aspect of their life. Therefore, I want to start a formal relationship with the Association to establish a Steel Tiger Mentorship and Networking Program. What we hope to create is a program where Veterans of the Steel Tiger family can openly communicate with Soldiers leaving the Battalion. We would like to see discussions about various topics from leaving the Army, to education, to career opportunities around the country. The vast knowledge from each of you would be an invaluable resource

On behalf of the CSM and the men and women of the Steel Tigers, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for allowing me to address you today. The Association and its members have done a remarkable job establishing the Regiment's legacy; and we are honored to carry on that legacy. We look forward to tightening the relationship between 1-77AR and the Association. God, bless you for your Service, God Bless the Regiment, the US Army, and the United States of America. Thank you, and have a wonderful evening!

Insiste Firmiter
"Blood on the
Axe!"

Johnny M.
Casiano

LTC, IN
Commanding

CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Insiste Firmiter for what is honorable

Isaiah 32:8 **But honorable people act honorably and stand firm (Insiste Firmiter) for what is honorable**. In the vernacular of today, Isaiah said, People of Honest and Good Character act in an honest, committed, and moral way and they stand firm, are immovable in their core beliefs of what is right and noble.

Honor is a powerful way of life for the Brothers and Sisters who served in combat and those who waited for the warriors of the 77th Armor Regiment, Steel Tigers to come home. In the scripture quoted above, the men and women of the 77th Armor Regiment Association still honor those who came before us, those we served with, those who serve today and their families and on June 2, 2017, we will come together for the specific purpose to dedicate the 77th Armor Regiment Monument at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

As young men, we were called by our government that we were needed to fight a war against an evil ideological system of enslavement called communism. Today, the soldiers of the 77th Armor have been called by our government to fight another evil ideological system of enslavement called Radical Islam. In the same spirit of our forefathers before us, we answered the call of our government and our countrymen to protect the homeland, our homes, our families, our neighbors from those who would enslave us.

As young men and women, we could not articulate our thoughts and behavior concerning the noble endeavor that we were a part of, but we knew down in our heart of hearts that what we felt as young men that it was honest, it was real, it was right. Honor means highest respect. "Soldiers, when committed to a task, can't compromise. Its unrelenting devotion to the standards of duty and courage, absolute loyalty to others, not letting the task go until it's been done." (John Keegan)

"But honorable people act honorably and stand firm (Insiste Firmiter) for what is honorable." (Isaiah 32:8) The 77th Armor Regiment has **STOOD FIRM** (Insiste Firmiter) for the noble and honorable cause of freedom against evil ideas called Nazism, Communism, and now Radical Islam. It is noble to fight for a righteous cause against a tyrannical foe, a foe that hates freedom. God gave mankind freedom to exercise his free will for good or evil, to accept His free gift of eternal life or eternal separation from God. This is the noble cause of Jesus Christ to save those who believe on Him as their Savior. As a citizen soldier who heard the call of our nation and did not run from the danger and hardship, you STOOD FIRM (Insiste Firmiter) for what is honorable against evil. As a member of the Steel Tigers, you have earned honor in the eyes of your countrymen and especially in the eyes of your band of 77th Armor brothers.

On June 2, 2017, I encourage you to be standing tall at Ft. Benning for those who did not return home. **John 15:13** "No one has greater love than to lay down his own life for his friends."

In September 1777, in Delaware County, Pennsylvania on the eve of the Battle of Brandywine, Reverend Jacob Troute, in the presence of General George Washington, wrote these words and proclaimed them to the soldiers of the Continental Army. "Soldiers, I look around upon your familiar faces with strange interest! Tomorrow morning we go forth to the battle-for need I tell you that your unworthy minister will march with you, invoking the blessing of God's aid in the fight?-we will march for to the battle….. Need I exhort you to fight the good fight-to fight for your homesteads, for your wives, and your children? You have taken the sword, but not in the spirit of wrong or revenge: you have taken the sword for your homes, for your wives and your little ones. You have taken the sword for truth, justice, and right, and to you the promise is, be of good cheer, for your foes have taken the sword in defiance of all that men hold dear, in blasphemy of God: they shall perish by the sword…..

And now, brethren and soldiers, I bid you all farewell. Many of us will fall in the battle tomorrow and in the memory of all will every rest and linger the quiet scene of this autumnal eve….. When we meet again, may the shadows of twilight be flung over the peaceful land. God in heaven grant it!" Our forefathers lost that battle, but they did not lose heart, they did not give up, they fought on and won the war.

This story shall the good man teach his son; And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by, From this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remembered-We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile. This day shall gentle his condition; (Shakespeare, Henry the 5th)

God Bless my Brothers and Sisters of the 77th Armor Association and I hope to see you all on June 2nd 2017.

Father Jeremiah Brown
Chaplain
77the Armor Association

Columbus Visitors Bureau
900 Front Front Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
800-999-1613
VisitColumbusGa.com

The white waters of the Chattahoochee River rush by the runners who steadily tread along the RiverWalk. Shouts from rafters in blue helmets and yellow rafts sound at the same time as a spraying splash – they resurface drenched and disorderly but grinning all the same. Above, squeals of excitement echo from daring folk zip lining from one side of the river to the other.

Just a few streets over is a different kind of urban adventure. People are strolling Uptown carrying dainty paper bags of summery dresses and flowy tops with the tags still on. They stop to admire a bronze statue of a little girl in a rain coat before sitting down under a red table umbrella and ordering lunch. Later in the evening, they'll come back to Uptown to enjoy a free outdoor concert.

Another group of visitors is all about the adventuring back in time. Their weekend is filled with military museums and historic homes, from an authentically recreated World War II Company Street to the home of the "Mother of the Blues."

This is Columbus – exciting and adventurous, quaint and friendly, spirited and courageous.

The Columbus Visitors Bureau has a wonderful booklet to help you plan your visit to Columbus. You'll find many things to keep you busy whether you plan to be there a few days before the reunion, a few days after or just for the reunion.

77th Armor Association Executive Board Meeting -- 0900 hours on July 30, 2016

Present: Chaplain Jerry Brown, Gerry Dubois, Kevin Dunne, Robin Marriot, Joe Offutt & Roger Yuraska.

Members absent: Bruce Goldsmith, Walt Evans, Donald McCleary, Dick Meyer & Tom Rosser.

Additional members present: HCOR, Rick Benson, Steve Bonner, Dick Cavanaugh, Jim McPhie, Bob Mizwa & Secretary, Bird Nagel, Treasurer, Bob Basner, Quartermaster, Lance Wheeler.

President Roger Yuraska called the meeting to order.

Quartermaster Lance Wheeler reported that we currently have around $3,800 in merchandise.

Treasurer Bob Basner gave the financial report. The bank balance as of June 2016 was $23,099. 92. Outstanding deposits = $1,330, outstanding checks = $5,936 leaving a checkbook balance of $18,491.92.

Old business -
President Roger Yuraska reported that the regimental monument at Ft Knox has been cleaned but will probably need repairs to the under pinning as it appears that it is eroding.

Roger also stated that he walked the ground at Ft. Benning where 77th Armor regimental monument will be placed, that we have reserved this location; the plaque on the monument will be the same as that on our monument at Ft. Knox. He stated that he has a quote of $10,800 to build the monument and its pad and to place it on the pad. To date we have approximately $6,200 with several pledges of in excess of $1,000.

New business -
Vice President Kevin Dunne stated that Executive Board membership requires member be in good standing. He suggested amending the constitution to define good standing as having paid their dues no later than 30 days prior to the reunion/board meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed to leave the constitution as is in regard to executive board membership.

The Board voted to retain Roger Yuraska, Bob Basner, Gerry Dubois, Kevin Dunne, Robin Marriot & Joe Offutt as board members and replace Bruce Goldsmith, Dick Meyer & Donald McCleary with Rick Benson, Jim McPhie & Lance Wheeler.

All Association officers' terms are good for another year, i.e until the next reunion. Executive Board members are good for two years.

Chaplain Jerry Brown suggested that due to our treasury balance versus the balance in the monument fund, we consider advancing or loaning the monument fund funds from the treasury. After some discussion, it was agreed that, if needed, we could loan the monument fund funds from the main account. Bob Basner reported that several members have pledged amounts from $100 to $500 to the monument fund. HCOR, Rick Benson volunteered to check out several foundations that may provide financial support.

Member Steve Bonner proposed commissioning a regimental coin or medallion that could be placed on or near a 1/77 veteran's grave stone. After some discussion, it was agreed that Steve could proceed with this but that the Association would not get involved.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 0955 hours.

By Secretary Everett Nagel

77th Armor Association General Membership Meeting -- 1000 hours on July 30, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: President Roger Yuraska called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Roger Yuraska led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Jerry Brown said the invocation.

Executive Board Members Present: Rick Benson, Chaplain Jerry Brown, Gerry Dubois, Kevin Dunne, Jim McPhie, Joe Offutt, Lance Wheeler & Roger Yuraska.

Members absent: Walt Evans, Tom Rosser.

Board of Directors Members Present: Bob Basner, Rick Benson, Chaplain Jerry Brown, Kevin Dunne, Bird Nagel, Joe Offutt, Lance Wheeler & Roger Yuraska.

Members absent: Don Cummings and Charles Trainor

MINUTES OF 2015 MEETING: Bird Nagel read the 2015 Business Meeting Minutes to the general membership in attendance. Kevin Dunne motioned that the minutes be approved as read and Jerry Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the members present.

QUARTERMASTER REPORT: Quartermaster Lance Wheeler reported that we currently have around $3,800 in merchandise.

HISTORIAN REPORT: In the absence of Historian, Don Cummings there was no historian report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Bob Basner gave the financial report. The bank balance as of June 2016 was $23,099. 92. Outstanding deposits = $1,330, outstanding checks = $5,936 leaving a checkbook balance of $18,491.

Bob also reported that in the past year the Association paid membership has dropped from 144 to 108.

OLD BUSINESS:
President Roger Yuraska reported that the regimental monument at Ft Knox has been cleaned but will probably need repairs to the under pinning as it appears that it is eroding.

Roger also stated that he walked the ground at Ft. Benning where 77th Armor regimental monument will be placed, that the location has been reserved and the plaque on the monument will be the same as that on our monument at Ft. Knox. He also reviewed drawings of the proposal stating that the quote of $10,800 includes building the monument and its pad and to placing the monument on the pad. To date we have approximately $6,200 with several pledges of in excess of $1,000. Members present voted in favor of accepting the plan as proposed with minor spelling and punctuation corrections.

NEW BUSINESS:
President Yaraska stated that Connie Basner would like to step away from writing the Association newsletter so we are soliciting volunteers to relieve Connie of this task.

President Yaraska reviewed the changes to the Executive Board: Rick Benson replaces Dick Meyer, Jim McPhie replaces Donald McCleary as Communication Director/Media Coordinator and Quartermaster, Lance Wheeler replaces Bruce Goldsmith.

As the new Communication Director/Media Coordinator Jim McPhie has agreed to prepare a strategic communication plan focused on increasing membership and solicited those present for any ideas.

President Yaraska stated that the current 1/77 Bn Cdr, LTC Johnny Casiano, would like to reach out to the Association. In doing so, he has written a letter to the members reviewing the status of the battalion and requested that members of the Association assist those of his soldiers returning to civilian life in their transition. Rick Benson read the letter to the membership. Roger also stated that LTC Casiano had other initiatives such as Distinguished Member of the Regiment and Honorary Member of the Regiment.

Steve Bonner's proposal that a regimental coin or medallion be commission to be placed on or near 1/77 veterans' grave stones was discussed. It was agreed that Steve could proceed with this but that the Association would not get involved.

President Yuraska stated that he and his wife, Cindy, will host the 2017 Steel Tigers reunion in Columbus during which the Association will dedicate the Regimental monument on Ft. Benning. Due to the many reunions held at or near Ft. Benning, time slots are at a premium but he is looking at the mid to late May - early June time frame.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded with the approval of the members present that the meeting be adjourned.

By Secretary Everett Nagel

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Since 2005 we have lost the address of 84 members. Please, if you change your address, let us know bobnconnie2@aol.com

You should have received a letter from our president, Roger Yuraska asking you to supply us with your email address if you would like to be notified about members' illnesses or death, or to be updated on our active duty. If you haven't done that yet, please do so. bobnconni2@aol.com

We had a list of members that want their newsletter via email. We made a new list by memory. If you want your newsletter by email and received it in the mail please let us know and we will add you to our list. We had this list but it is now somewhere in cyberspace. Send your request to bobnconnie2@aol.com.

STEEL TIGER REGISTRATION FORM
2017 REUNION 29 MAY – 6 JUNE 17
COLUMBUS, GA

Staging Area for operation is the Marriott Hotel.
Make your reservation early, ask for the "Steel Tigers" group.

MARRIOTT Hotel
800 Front Ave
COLUMBUS, GA. 31904
PH; 706-324-1800
Self-Parking, however valet is available.
Or go to;
Book your group rate for Steel Tigers Reunion

Names of Guest: _____

- Registration (Per Individual) $30.00 x_____ = _____

1 June 17
- Bus to the National Civil War Museum $15.00 x_____ = _____
- Entrance fee is $7.50 or $6.50 for seniors pay at door
- Lunch at the Museum (Includes Chips, pasta salad, and drink)

  Smoked Turkey Sandwich $17.00 x _____ = _____
  Roast Beef Sandwich $17.00 x _____ = _____

2 June 17
- Buffet Breakfast $20.00 x _____ = _____
- Bus to National Infantry Museum (NIM) $15.00 x _____ = _____
- Buffet Lunch at the NIM $20.00 x _____ = _____

3 June 17
- Banquet Dinner at the Iron Works Convention Center $45.00 x _____ = _____

Total: _____

Registration Forms can be completed at the Steel Tigers Web site:
http://www.steeltigers.org/home.php
Or sent to
Bob Basner
PO Box 38
Birch Run, MI 48415
Make Checks Payable to 77th Armor Association

Article from the Fort Bliss Bugle
Cardone looks back on tenure with 1-77 Armor

Lt. Col. Tommy L. Cardone has gone through the gamut of emotions as he said goodbye to his command and turned his attention to the future.

Cardone relinquished command of 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment on Wedensday and will become a student at the Navy War Colege in Rhode Island.

The 44 year old from Weir, Miss. led the Steel Tigers for the past 22 months, which included a nine-month deployment to Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. Before that, he commanded the Fort Bliss Warrior Transition Battalion for about seven months.

"I am absolutely honored and privileged to get a chance to go to the War College and continue to serve in any capacity in the Army." Cardone said.

While he is excited about taking another step forward in his career, Cadone also knows he will never be a battalion commander again.

"This is everything I worked for since I was a young officer" he said.

"In my opinion, the battalion level is the last level where you can be in a foxhole right next to your soldiers," he said. "You are commanding through company commanders (whom) you are also mentoring and teaching."

Cardone was succeeded by Lt. Col. John Casiano, who most recently served as the executive officer for the commanding general at Fort Riley, Kan.

As part of 3rd Brigade, 1-77 Armor took part in last year's regionally aligned mission with Africa. The Steel Tigers deployed with about 800 soldiers to Djibouti from January to September 2015. There, they provided security in that strategic region, served as a contingency force in East Africa and trained with African partner nations.

Leading the battalion during its deployment was one of the highlights of his tenure with 1-77 Armor, Cardone said. He also led the battalion during its rotation with the rest of the brigade – then known as 4th Brigade – at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in September 2014.

The Steel Tigers won't be going back to NTC in April with the rest of 3rd Brigade. Instead, the battalion will stay behind and do its own culminating training event at Fort Bliss. The Steel Tigers, however, will deploy with the rest of the brigade to Kuwait later this spring.

Being called to do back-to-back deployments shows just how much confidence the Army and nation has in the battalion, its solders, leaders and equipment to take on this additional mission, Cardone said.

"The Steel Tigers are one of the few battalions that are deploying back to back and they are doing so with distinction," Cardone said. "I am so proud of their efforts, their sacrifice."

Capt. Terence Satchell, the battalion engineer, said Cardone created a team atmosphere and "uses you to your full potential to make the battalion stronger."

Satchell from Milford, Neb., said the thing he will remember most about Cardone is how he seemed to be everywhere when they were deployed.

"You would see him at the battalion headquarters, the gym, the DFAC (dining facility), Satchell said. "You know his voice; you know his greeting. That's what I will remember."

Article from the Fort Bliss Bugle
April 29,2016
Lt. Col. Casiano took command last week

The new commander of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment knows he has inherited a winning team. Now, he wants to take it to the next level.

Lt. Col. Johnny M. Casiano, a 41 year old who considers Manhattan, Kan., to be home, took command of 1-77 Armor with 3rd Brigade on March 23,

"I moved into a well-trained and well-prepared organization," Casiano said. "it is an exceptional organization with a reputation that precedes itself. I can only hope and will do everything I can possibly do to bring this organization from the preeminent status it has to being that much better. I want to take it to the next level."

Most recently, Casiano served as the executive officer for the commanding general of Fort Riley, Kan., and the 1st Infantry Division.

He succeeds Lt. Col. Tommy Cardone, who will attend the Navy War College in Rhode Island.

The Steel Tigers, as the unit is nick-named, deployed to Djibouti for January to September 2015 as part of 3rd Brigade's regionally aligned mission with Africa.

This month, they did not go with the rest of the 3rd Brigade to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., for the brigade's rotation there. The battalion, however, will deploy with the brigade to Kuwait later this spring or early summer.

The 1-77 Armor is doing its own culmination training event here at Fort Bliss instead and was scheduled to wrap that up this week. The exercise featured eternal evaluators to monitor how the battalion performed an opposition force supplied by Charlie Company with 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment with 2nd Brigade.

Casiano's goal is to get the 550-soldier combined-arms battalion ready, prepared and able to fight and win against the nation's enemies if called upon to do so.

He also wants to emphasize developing young leaders and helping his soldiers progress in their careers.

"I want to teach, train, prepare, mentor and educate individual leaders of the next generation." Casiano said.

Casiano said he is "humbled" but excited to have been picked to be a battalion commander.

"What an honor," he said. "It is great to be able to look at a team and know that team will have an exceptional impact on me for the rest of my life, and I, in turn, hope to have an exceptional impact on them."

Casiano and his family have never been stationed at Fort Bliss before, but so far they have been impressed with the installation and the surrounding El Paso community. In particular, Casiano said Cardone and brigade commander Col. Chip Daniels went out of their way to make the transition easy and make his family feel welcome here.

"They have very much set me up for success." Casiano said.

Maj. Frank Tommey, the battalion's executive officer from Waldwick, NJ, said the one constant in the Army is change.

Lt. Col. Cardone did a great job." Toomey said. "He had a great battalion and great ideas. Now, Lt Col. Casiano is here. He has new ideas and a fresh vision. It's essentially picking up where Lt. Col. Cardone left off and just improving the organization even more."

Article from Fort Bliss Bulge
August 11, 2016
1-77 Armor conducts MOUT training

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Contact left, contact left, take cover" echoed through the streets of a small village. Luckily, this was only a training exercise. Soldiers assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division, entered the mission training center, a large outdoor training village, to conduct real-world training scenarios during a weeklong training exercise at Camp Buehring, July 28.

"Today we are working on our Military Operations in Urban Terrain skills," said Sgt. Timothy Jenkins, an infantryman assigned to "Charger" company. "This is a new squad that has been put together, so we are going to work all aspects of the scenarios, just in case we ever find ourselves in a situation where we are required to conduct MOUT."

The village was modeled after the urban terrain of the Middle East, complete with buildings and a bustling civilian populace. The authentic training environment, coupled with a realistic scenario enabled Co. C. Soldiers to focus on how to enter and clear multiple rooms, move through hallways and clear staircases in a tactical manner.

As the patrol entered the village center, several shots were fired at the squad from an unknown enemy position. The Soldiers jumped into action, ready to locate, engage with and destroy the enemy in close combat. During the scenarios some of the role-players were equipped with blood packs that, when activated, gushed fake blood from the injured area which added realism to the training. "Having to react to contact while taking casualties with actual blood pouring from their wounds was very stressful and made the training more realistic," Jenkins said. After each iteration of training, the patrol conducted an after action review to see what improvements could be made to make the team more efficient and better prepared.

Maj. Gen. Pat White, commanding general, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, was on hand to witness the MOUT maneuvers.

"This is foundational training we must master before we can do anything else," White said, concluding "leaders need to be present and lead and observe training to ensure Soldiers are learning and getting multiple repetitions. It is our responsibility to produce lethal Soldiers, squads and platoons, and it all starts right here."

The unit will continue to conduct tough realistic training throughout the deployment to keep their Soldiers prepared to fight and win in any environment they may have to face.

"We come out to the 'MOUT' site twice a week to train and build confidence operating in an urban environment," 2nd Lt Vladmir Guirand, Company B, said. "The deployment is a blessing in disguise; it allows us to focus on being that dismounted rifle platoon."

LET US NEVER FORGET

Allen, John
Bachman, Charles W "Chip"Jr
Bailey, Kenneth Norman
Baird, Michael Harry
Beck, Daivd K
Bessent, Samuel Alonzo
Brannan James Curtis
Bunner, Lester Earl
Carr, Duane (Redd)
Carter, Wallace Spergon
Chavez, Carlos Jr
Christianson, William
Clouse, Alvin
Cordova, Chris B
Cox, Michael Lou
Cryder, Robert D
Czarnota, Christopher Zeno
Dallape, Terry Lee
Delcour, James
Degen, Robert
Desmarais, Donald Roger
Dolvin, James Richard
Felstow, Verne
Gardner, Gordon Dwight
Garr, Ed
Geary, Michael
Goodman, Lawrence Ray Jr
Greene, Ray
Heskett, Bruce William
Hodge, Michael L
Huggins, Eugene
Kelly, Glenn Errol
Lacey, David Michael
Lebrun, Robert Norman
LeCates, Robert Burton
Leis, John Eugene
Leone, Michael
Levelle, Guy
Logan, Charlie Matthew
Makela, Richard
Marcantel. Elbert
Marinelli, Anthony John
Martinez, William Joseph
McClelland, Chester Ray
Isorio, Bradley
McCollough Gary
McKinley Bill
Meines, Larry
Meyer, Richard
Miller, Thomas Jr
Offutt, Joe D
Ogren, Jerry Lewis
O'Ham, Rocky Peasron
Pickarts, John (Max)
Polasek, Joseph James Jr
Raddigan, Richard.
Roberts, William
Shaller, William Howard
Snider, Hughie Franklin
Soto, Joshua
Stafford, James
Starr, James
Stump, Harold Oliver
Sybert, Roscoe
Tanner, Ray Eugene
Tenorio, Rafael Gabriel
Tripp, Dennis Robert
Trombley, Thomas
Trujillo, Felix Marcial
Walker, Winston Charles
Wilburn, William Levy

<u>Association Members</u>
Benson, Sheila

Pittsburgh, Pa 2016 Reunion
Hosted by Bob and Linda Mizwa

Thank you Bob and Linda for a great reunion

2016 Membership

New/Renewal Membership Donation

Select Membership Type

All Association members receive newsletter
Membership period: Jan-Dec.

	Price
Veteran	$20.00
Active Duty	$20.00
Charter Member	$20.00
Associate Member	$20.00
Donation for 1/77 Memorial	$_____
Total:	$_____

- Please send my newsletter to the email address below
  _____

- I served with company_____

Method of Payment

Check — Please make checks payable to "Steel Tigers"

Credit Card — On line at www.steeltigers.org

Mail this form to:

Steel Tigers
Bob Basner
PO Box 38
Birch Run, MI 48415

I WAS A
STEEL TIGER

I AM A
STEEL TIGER

I WILL ALWAYS BE
A
STEEL TIGER

Col (ret) Tom Miller

TIGER TRACKS
Steel Tigers 77th Armor Association
PO Box 38
Birch Run, 48415

Standard Mail
US Postage
PAID
Birch Run, MI 48415
Permit No. 9

service address requested

service address requested