

CACTI Times



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Veteran's Day
Be Proud
Be Thankful
Always Remember



Rolling on San Antonio's RiverWalk

By Bill Henson, E 2-35 1970,
Associate Editor/Executive Vice President

(SAN ANTONIO) – The 13th annual Association reunion at the Crowne Plaza RiverWalk provided a welcome opportunity for nearly 500 Cacti and guests to visit (or revisit) a storied city and marvel at the weather when a group of good people get together. Hot weather, that is, which could wilt starch but not the obvious spirit of the Texas gathering.

This year, the Association was again honored by the presence of family survivors and active duty Cacti from Schofield Barracks, including several wounded in Afghanistan awarded Purple Hearts during ceremonies at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Following outgoing **President Jim Anderson's (B 2-35)** welcome, **CPT Jon Cheatwood, HHC 2-35**, the personable Rear



(L-R) **Jack Anderson** and **John Morgan** of the Cacti Honor Guard perform the "POW Table" ceremony at the San Antonio Reunion. This ceremony remembers those who did not return to their families and are still unaccounted for.

Detachment Commander at Schofield Barracks, introduced the wounded warriors present and shared remarks on behalf of **LTC Colin Tuley, 2-35** Battalion Commander and **CMS Major Thomas L. Jones, Jr.**

Capt. Cheatwood said the active duty soldiers, all veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan service, were "truly honored" to be present at the reunion, and expressed the Battalion's continued indebtedness to the Cacti Association for its support of the Wounded Warrior Project. The Battalion, said CPT Cheatwood, operates from FOB Joyce amid difficult terrain in Kunar Province, Afghanistan near the Pakistan border.

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Cacti Battalion Sit-Rep *By LTC Colin Tuley, Commanding Officer, 2-35 IN*

(Afghanistan: 10/23/2011)
Cacti Families and Friends

Greetings from Kunar Province, Afghanistan! Winter weather is quickly approaching us in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan while the men and women of Task Force Cacti continue to make steady progress toward eliminating groups of violent and desperate enemy forces working to undermine the Afghan government and its people.

Over the past six months, the Cacti have executed multiple Battalion-level operations, numerous platoon and company level operations ranging from village clearance operations to engagements with

local government and village leaders. In the end, creating conditions for a more stable and secure environment for the Afghan families. We should all feel proud of our young Soldiers and Leaders who are truly dedicated and focused on their mission.

Our efforts and successes come with a high cost. As always, I'd like to take a few moments to remember those we have lost throughout the deployment. We have lost eight Soldiers from our Task Force, and of those...five from the Cacti Battalion-- **SGT Kevin White, SPC Brian Riley, SPC Levi Nuncio, 1LT Dimitri Del Castillo and SPC Kevin Hilaman.** They were amazing Soldiers and even better sons and husbands. They will always be honored and remembered.

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