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Annual Unit History

*Due NLT 01 February each year for the previous calendar year.
Refer to 28ID Military History Program SOP, dtd. 15 August 2008, for specific guidance.*

For Calendar Year: 2008

Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion

Unit Address: 554 Airport Road, Johnstown, PA 15904-9439

Unit POC: SFC Wahl, Readiness NCO

Unit POC Phone Number: (814)533-2352

I. Introduction or Forward *(A brief account on the unit's origin and its accomplishments over the years and a statement about the current period covered)*

The unit was originally organized 3 December 1941. During 1942 and 1943 the battalion received intensified combat training and departed for England on January 29, 1944 aboard the HMS Aquitania. The 628th Tank Destroyer Battalion landed on Utah Beach in Normandy, on July 30, 1944 and was assigned to the 5th Armored Division, 15th Corps, 3rd Army, and was given the code name "Victory." From August 1944 until the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 9, 1945, there were very few days when some member of the organization were not on a combat status in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Germany. The battalion participated in four major campaigns during World War II, being awarded numerous Unit Citations and Streamers. Following World War II, the 628th Tank Destroyer Battalion was chosen to be one of the many military units which were deactivated, and it was not until May 2, 1949 that a tank battalion was to become organized as an organic component of the 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard. This newly organized tank battalion was to be organized in Johnstown and designated as the 628th Tank Battalion. On September 5, 1950 the 628th Tank Battalion was once again mustered into action for Federal Service and moved to Camp Atterbury, Indiana. In July and August of 1951 the battalion participated in "Exercise Southern Pines" which was conducted in the vicinity of Fort Bragg, NC. During the month of October 1951, the battalion trained at Camp Irwin, California. On November 27, 1951 the battalion departed for Germany for service during the Korean War. The battalion was moved several times in Germany but completed most of its tour in Leipheim, Germany. After more than fifty years of service, the 1-103rd Armor took part in several State call-ups including riots during the turbulent 1960's and more recently, during the Johnstown Flood of 1977. When the Johnstown area was devastated by floodwater, members of the 1-103rd Armor and other units from around the state helped to provide water, aid, protection and manpower for the huge clean-up effort. Finally, after the events of September 11, 2001, our unit was once again called into Federal Service. During the summer of 2002, members of the 1-103rd Armor were activated as part of OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and deployed to parts of Germany and Italy as part of a force protection mission. Our readiness capabilities allowed the 1-103rd to be part of an important role in protecting our personnel and assets overseas. In June 2004, the 1st Battalion, 103rd Armor Regt. was activated at Fort Bliss, Texas and deployed to Iraq in November in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This

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marked the first deployment of a 28th ID combat battalion to a war zone since World War II. The battalion, was designated as a Task Force (Task Force DRAGOON), was stationed at Forward Operating Base Summerall, near Bayji. Attached initially to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and then the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, the 800 man TF 1-103rd Armor engaged in combat operations for 12 months before redeploying to the United States in November, 2005. In late June and early July 2005 soldiers from the 1-103 along with approximately 4,000 other 2nd Brigade soldiers began deploying to the Al-Anbar Province in Iraq This marks the first time since World War II that the 28th Infantry Division patch will be worn as a right shoulder Combat Unit Patch. 1-103rd AR was reorganized and designated as Headquarters and headquarters Company 2nd Brigade Special troop Battalion. 2BSTB continues its long and proud history by continuing to support the Nations and Commonwealths missions. Currently numerous soldiers deployed to assit the 56th Stryker Brigade that is deployed to Iraq. October 2006 reorganized as HHC 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. April 2008 reorganized from Heavy Brigade to Light Brigade.

II. Organization and Administration

A. Organization *(Select the type of organization from the pull-down menu)*

Special Troops

B. Mission *(A brief mission statement and the Mission Essential Task List)*

Conducts individual, staff, and collective training in order to provide a manned and trained unit of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team ready to achieve IOC in FY2008...

A mission essential task list is often defined by a new commander and circulated throughout the command. This is a valuable document because it illustrates how the commander sees the mission in terms of priorities. For example:

- Conduct Deployment Activities
- Sustain the Force
- Conduct Command & Control of Operations
- Conduct Tactical Movement
- Conduct an Attack
- Conduct a Defense
- Conduct Area Security Operations
- Conduct Urban Operations

C. Personnel

1. Commander and Staff *(Brief biographical sketches)*

Commander: CPT John R Carnes Jr. CPT Carnes was born in Lansdale, Pa. He graduated from Southmoreland High School, Alverton, Pa., from Marion Military Institute with an A.A. and from Penn State University with a BA in History and minors in Political Science and International Studies. CPT Carnes military career began January 31, 1992 when he enlisted in the Army Reserves He joined

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the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in December 1995 as an Armor Platoon Leader with Company D 1-103AR in Connellsville, PA. His military education includes the Armor Officer's Basic Course, Scout Leaders Course and Maneuver Captain's Career Course. CPT Carnes' awards include the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal (2) ; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (2); National Defense Service Medal (2); Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device (2); Overseas Training Ribbon; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Overseas Service ribbon; He lives in Greensburg, PA with his daughter, Keira .

First Sergeant: 1SG Robert J. Munion. First Sergeant Munion is a graduate of Springdale HS. He is a graduate of numerous military education, leadership and qualification courses, to include: Primary Leadership Development Course; Basic Non Commissioned Officer Course; Advance Non Commissioned Officer Course. 1SG Munions's awards and decorations include: Expert Infantry Badge, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal 2OLC, Noncommissioned Officers Prof Development Ribbon 3, Pennsylvania Service Ribbon, General Thomas J. Stewart Medal, Combat Infantry Badge 2AWDS, Driver and Mechanic Badge, Army Commendation Medal 3OLC, Meritorious Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal 2AWDS, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal 3AWDS Army Achievement Medal 4OLC.

2. Medal of Honor Winners *(Brief biographical sketches, if available, and a brief account of the action or a copy of the citation) (If none, enter "NONE")*

None .

3. Others *(Winners of Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and other) (If none, enter "NONE")*

NONE

III. Major Accomplishments during the Year

A. Operations

B. Training and Exercises

Annual Training May 2008 at Fort Pickett, VA

C. Special Events

1. Unit Day Ceremonies

None

2. Civil Actions *(State active duty)*

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none

3. Permanent Changes of Station

None.

4. Recruiting Initiatives

None

5. Other *(Include community activities, morale support activities, Christmas party, etc.)*

IV. Special Equipment Fielding

Went from a Heavy BSTB to a light BSTB
ASV Fielding

V. Appendices

A. Lineage and Honors Certificate

Traditional Designation: None

Historical Outline:

3 December 1941 Constituted in the Army of the United States

14 November 1945 Inactivated at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts

2 May 1949 Organized and Federally recognized as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 628th Heavy Tank Battalion, an element of the 28th Infantry Division at Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

1 January 1976 Reorganized and designanted as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 103d Armor

1 October 2006 Reorganized and designanted as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion at Johnstown, PA

B. Unit Citations

Campaign Participation Credit:

World War II

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

OIF III

Decorations:

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Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered HURTGEN FOREST

C. Selected Orders *(Include alert orders, mobilization orders, etc)*

None

D. Other.

VI. Glossary *(A list of words not commonly used, acronyms and their explanations)*

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