



Greetings Cacti nation, another great 2 quarters for the Light Fighters of Cacti. Tons of great training for the battalion over the past 6 months. As I mentioned to in the last update, we completed our exercises in Indonesia and redeployed in mid-September, then quickly rolled into supporting the backside support for 2/25's JPMRC rotation and then culminated with some squad level training and marksmanship to set us up for the new year.

The training in Indonesia was fantastic with our Light Fighters executing subject matter exchanges with our Indonesian partners, 5th Raider battalion, D Coy 5RAR from Australia, a platoon from the UK Gurkhas, and a recon platoon from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's airborne battalion, along with B/1-41 CAV from 2/11 out of JBER who joined us after they executed an airborne operation. We also executed multiple multi-national air assaults, a jungle FTX, and capped of the exercise with a joint multi-national battalion level CALFEX.

Once back on island, we graduated 4 new Rangers this fall, have 2 in school, and have 6 more going in January: a total of 9 for the year. We led the way in the brigade with school graduations with 7 graduating the Heavy Weapons Leader Course, 29 graduating jungle, and 49 graduating Air Assault for the year. We also had our battalion paralegal win the 25ID Best Paralegal competition.

The second week of January will be Tropic Lightning Week. We will also execute a DMOR/HMOR ceremony on Tuesday 14 January. I'm looking forward to honoring those new DMORs and HMORs as well as hoping Cacti brings home the Guadalcanal Cup. After Tropic Lightning Week, we'll start in on individual level training with E3B (EIB, ESB, and EFMB) testing in the middle of march. After that we'll progress to squad level training as well as send off our competitors for Best Ranger, Best Mortar, and Best Squad. Hopefully our teams will represent the 25th well at the Army level and just maybe make it back-to-back wins for 25ID for Best Squad in the Army.

The CSM and I would also like to thank the association for the generous donation of the 12 gift cards. These were instrumental in helping those Cacti Light Fighters have a great Thanksgiving.

Take Arms!

LTC Tyler F. Vest
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