

Braxton Bragg



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

MAY 2020

N E W S L E T T E R

SERVANT LEADERS

Over a thousand Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division returned after an overseas combat tour last month. The tour was nine months long and uppermost on their upon returning to Fort Bragg were reunions with friends and family and just having time to relax without the ever-present stress of deployment. Unfortunately, because of the unprecedented quagmire we find ourselves in due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the returning troops were quarantined for two weeks immediately upon return.

The Braxton Bragg Chapter Board of Directors approved “Operation Comfort Food” for the returning Soldiers with a mission to raise their morale during quarantine. The plan was to deliver comfort food shortly after their arrival. We contacted five local restaurant—four of the five are Braxton Bragg Chapter Community Partners and the fifth is in the process. A huge “THANK YOU” goes out to Walk/on’s, Papa Johns, Subway and Nothing Bunt Cakes, our Community Partners for offering our organization significant discounts as well as your services to provide amazing meals for our Soldiers. We understand that the restaurant industries are operating at a loss during this time and we are grateful for the love and dedication you continue to provide to our great community.

The Chapter picked up the food and transported it to the isolated sites. The food was packaged in individual containers to meet government and CDC guidelines and the leadership at the sites dispersed the comfort food among the Soldiers. Our total cost was around five thousand dollars and was mostly funded by generous donations from our members and organizations wanting to help. As a result, very little was needed from the Chapter operating funds.

Operation Comfort Food had three objectives:

First and foremost, we wanted to welcome home our returning Paratroopers and let them know that we cared. And the smiles on the faces of the Soldiers made it all worthwhile. Secondly, we wanted to support our community partners who are affected by this unprecedented economic development. We ask for their help when we need support and now it was our turn to support them. Lastly, we—all of us—are team AUSA and this is how we live up to our well deserved reputation as the Army’s professional Association. We are the voice for the Army and provide support for the Soldiers and their family members. And it is time for us to do our part. We did not do this for publicity, we did it because it was the right thing to do. We did, much to our surprise, make the Sunday Fayetteville Observer. The Chapter received recognition in the Military section of the 12 April edition, front page below the fold. To view the full story online, click on the top right picture.

Andy McFowler
President
Braxton Bragg Chapter
Association of the United States Army



CSM (R) Andy McFowler, CSM (R) Jimmie Spencer, and SGM (R) Shirley Draughn deliver comfort food for the Soldiers.



Upcoming Events

14 May - General Membership Meeting via Zoom

TBD: Scholarship Awards Announcement