

NEWS FROM THE FRONT



405TH INFANTRY DIVISION



WWW.405TH.COM

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A Brief Word

BY ROBERT LETTS

Welcome to our inaugural edition of News from the Front, the Official Quarterly Newsletter for the Southern Regiment of the 405th Infantry Division. The Southern Regiment Command Staff intends for this to be a quarterly newsletter for 2018. Who knows, with new membership and new growth this too could grow well beyond this.

2017 was a big year for the 405th Infantry Division. A lot of things were quietly going on in the background. Our main home, the forum, underwent a massive overhaul and restructuring to clean up lots of things and reorganize. The Regiments have all received identities and our Social media pages have all been on fire with lots of busy projects and comradery. Lots of Conventions have given us all chances to reconnect with fellow Halo fans and friends. DragonCon was an extremely heavily attended event with the highest attendance of an amazing 76 people for our annual dinner. I was utterly stunned to see a young man return who won Antonio Pagans' Didact Helmet in the raffle from 2016, in a completed Didact suit....at the young age of 12 built by himself! At Questcon several hundred dollars were raised for Operation Supply Drop by our very own Fireteam Poseidon.

The Southern Regiment staff has been meeting monthly since August to discuss ways to help improve communication, have more fun and represent our slice of the 405th. This newsletter is a result of these meetings. We appreciate all of you and your support as we move forward. We will see you on the Battlefield!

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Photo Courtesy of Jackie Appel

Community Spotlight

BY BARRY KIKER

Listen up soldiers! In an effort to promote our community and help us connect with each other, we bring you the Community Spotlight where we hope to feature a member of the Southern Regiment with each, News from the Front.

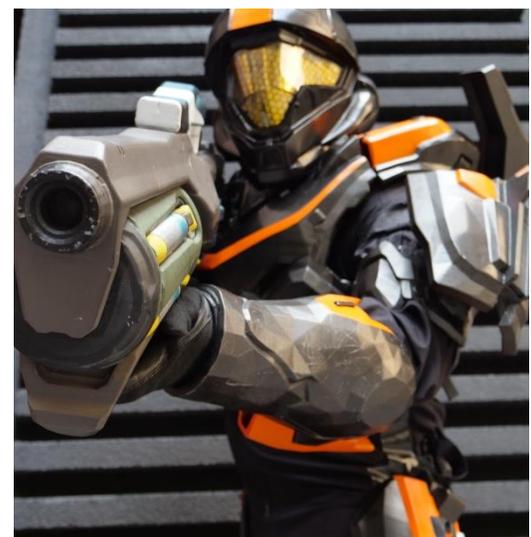
Anthony O. SID# S037

Navarre, Florida

What drew you to Halo and the 405th Community?

First came Halo, been playing since Halo CE and experienced the glory of midnight launches for Halo 2 and many others. Halo is my favorite game franchise. Not because of the gorgeous graphics, game play, or even the amazing music. All of these certainly contribute to the formula, but the story is what really drew me in. I loved the way the games showcased 26th century humanity. A race that expanded unto the stars, only to meet another group who was far more powerful. Then showcasing their ability to work together in the face of insurmountable odds to win the day. The characters are excellent not because they are heroes but because they are real heroes. Yes John can seem superhuman at times but he is still human (just modified ;)). His persistence, leadership, and dedication to the mission are what make him special. And it's not just him Halo is full of these characters. The military aspect is also what draws me in. Halo handles it so well. I'm a military man, and as a result it can sometimes be challenging to find fictional forces that are believable. The UNSC, Covenant, etc. are all believable factions. 343/Bungie has done such an excellent job crafting characters and tactics that make sense, even the jargon within the books. As I got older I began to read the books and these aspects are only highlighted further there.

“Halo is my favorite game franchise.”



Photos Courtesy of Jackie Appel



As for the 405th, it's a Halo costuming community what's there not to like? It's an exceptional organization that allows us to share our love of Halo and prop making.

What prompted you to create a Halo costume?

I have been to many cons over the years. As I would go to these conventions I was always amazed at what people could make in their homes. After a while, I decided to take the plunge. First it was an ODST helmet, then a Sean Bradley ODST, and it hasn't stopped since. Finally, I got around to building my own Spartan and that has been a highlight. Having the ability to 'become' these operators, these heroes that live in our imaginations is something special.

Do you have a cosplay/artist page, Youtube channel, or other social media outlets? If so, what are they?

Definitely, my wife and I started Alpha to Zeta Industries this year. You can follow our cosplay builds/adventures on Facebook. We have a few things we sell and take commissions from time to time. Our page is linked below.
<https://www.facebook.com/AlphatoZetaInd>

What cosplayer(s) inspire you and why?

Well the obvious answers are the great ones in our community. We have some amazing makers, Sean Bradley and Jeremie Sloan to name a few. However, what really inspires me is the community as a whole. Not just Halo cosplayers though, all of us crazy people who stay up late at night leading up to conventions making amazing costumes. I'll pull up cosplay videos online and just marvel at what people create. Many a time I have been at a convention and just stopped and said wow. Or saw someone accomplish something I've been trying to figure out and seek their assistance. It's a great community that helps each other. The sheer ingenuity, capability, and creativity inspire me to make better costumes.

What are the things about making Halo based cosplays you enjoy?

Is all of it a good answer? Really, the best part is watching it come to life. When I first put on my ODST armor I felt like I was ready to jump feet first into Hell. When I put on my Spartan and saw how it looked, man you couldn't see it cause of the helmet but I was grinning from ear to ear. Then came my pride and joy, the Hydra. Just making that and holding it for the first time when it was first put together, awesome. The other part though is simply going to cons suited up. Sure we don't dress as the most iconic heroes out there. But when you are walking around a con and a kid sees you decked out in your armor. You see the eyes just light up with an aura of disbelief. They double take, is that real? Then they walk up and see. The way their faces light up ignites the imagination and makes wearing that cumbersome suit in 90-100 degree weather, with 90% humidity, all worth it.

What are some of the challenges you face and hope to one day overcome?

I don't know if I would call it a challenge necessarily but I want to incorporate more electronics into my builds. I wired a flashlight for my MA5D but hey that's simple. I am currently working on a Hydra MK II and plan to incorporate moving parts, LCD screens, lights and sounds. A tall order but with the backup of community help I think I can do it.

405th Forum Updates

By **ART ANDREWS**



YEAR IN REVIEW

By **KEVIN ROBBINS**

2017 was an exciting year for the 405th! We finally got moved and settled in to a new software platform, but more importantly, we got the 405th Armory organized and uploaded! This was a massive effort that included help from quite a few members (and even a few non-members), but now, all our Pepakura resources are easily able to be found and are just a click away!

In 2017, we also underwent a massive server update that greatly increased the speed of the site, allowing pages to load much more quickly to you, especially if you are using a mobile device. Along with the speed bump, we increased the security of your data by adding HTTPS to the site, which includes, encryption, data integrity and authentication to your interactions with the site.

So, what is on the docket for 2018? First, we will be updating (sometime between Q2 and Q3) to an all new version of the software platform that we are currently running. This will make the site even faster and even more mobile-friendly. Second, we are hoping to make a change to an even faster server near the end of the year so that you never have to wait for anything!

As always, we are here to serve you. If you have any question or suggestions, please drop them in the Site Support & News section of the site!

“2017 was an exciting year for the 405th!”

2017 for the Southern Regiment has been such a great year of growth for us, even though you haven't been able to see everything going on behind the scenes. We Officers have been excited in anticipation for all the new things coming this year.

Throughout the Regiment its members have grown in their personal lives From Graduations, to engagement, Marriages, and the birth of future Spartans and Helljumpers. We are a group of such vast differences that have always come together as a family, bound by the love of the Halo Franchise.

DragonCon this year, as always is our largest meetup. Having fun, while finding friends, who attended from around the World. We had an unprecedented display of friendship nearly 80 strong in 2017. It has also seen some of the Southern Regiments first 405th Fan booths, From Magic City Con and Fireteam Poseidon's efforts at QuestCon in Alabama and Emerald Coast Con in Florida. Across the Regiment we have all showed off our work and hopefully made an impact with every smile we have given. To those who have finally seen their favorite Super Soldier In real life.

From the Regiment Officer staff, I would like to say. Thank you all for a wonderful year. Let's make 2018 even more spectacular. We are all family!

Your 405th Forum Profile

Many of you know the 405th forum underwent a huge migration to a new software platform about 8 months ago. A few new features were added to help find members along with a whole host of other things to improve organization. In order for all of us to take advantage of these features it is important for everyone to head on over to www.405th.com and updates your personal profile information.

Gribbles the Grunt Corner



Total: 55 min
Prep: 20 min
Inactive: 10 min
Cook: 25 min
Yield: 12 cupcakes
Level: Easy

INGREDIENTS

CUPCAKES:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- Fine salt
- 1 stick (4 ounces) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1/4 cup coffee, at room temperature
- 1/4 cup whole milk, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Frosting:

- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 4 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- Raspberries, for garnish

To make the cupcakes:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line 1 (12-cup) muffin pan with paper cupcake liners.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and 1/4 teaspoon salt.

In a large bowl, beat the butter and the sugar together until light and fluffy.

Slowly beat in the eggs, 1 at a time. Mix together the milk, coffee, and vanilla in a measuring cup. Add 1/2 the dry ingredients to the butter mixture, beat to combine, then add the milk- coffee mixture and continue to beat, then add the remaining dry mixture. The mixture will look thick and airy.

Using an ice cream scoop, fill each cupcake liner 3/4 way full. Bake until a toothpick, inserted in the middle of the cupcake, comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Remove the cupcakes from the oven to a wire rack and let cool before frosting.

To make the frosting: Bring the heavy whipping cream to a gentle simmer. Add the chopped chocolate to a bowl with the butter and pour the hot cream over. Whisk the mixture until melted and smooth. Let it sit for 5 to 8 minutes until it thickens up.

Frost the cupcakes with the chocolate frosting using an offset spatula. Top each with a raspberry.

Recipe courtesy: <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/patrick-and-gina-neely/devils-food-cupcakes-recipe-1923755>

Upcoming Events

January

5-7

Wizard World- New Orleans, LA

12-14

Paradise City Comic Con- Miami, FL

SwampCon: Voyage- (13, 14) Gainesville, FL

26-28

Kami-Con- Birmingham, AL

February

2-4

Florida Pop Con - Casselberry, FL

9-11

Seishun Con! - Atlanta, GA

16-18

MGA Con- Macon, GA

ETSU Con- (17, 18) Johnson City, TN

23-25

Con Nooga- Chattanooga, TN

Huntsville Comic & Pop Culture Expo- (24, 25) Huntsville, AL

AnniCon- (24) Anniston, AL

PensaCon- Pensacola, FL

Comic Con Revolution- (24)

West Palm Beach, FL

March

9-11

Lexington Comic and Toy Con- Lexington, KY

Hero Hype Convention- (10, 11) Miami, FL

Omni Expo- Orlando, FL

16-18

Dyersburg Comic & Pop Culture Con- (17, 18) Dyersburg, TN

NC Comic Con Oak City- (17, 18) Raleigh, NC

Clearwater Comic Con- (17) Clearwater, FL

River Region Comic Con- (18) Montgomery, AL

23-25

Collective Con- Jacksonville FL

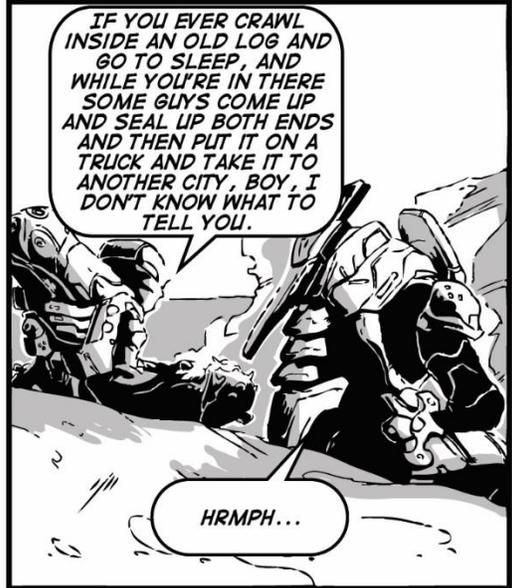
SC Comic Con- (24, 25) Greenville, SC



Photo Fun



Dimkee Hotay's Ledge



A New Position- Forward Observer (F.O.)

BY ROBERT LETTS



Since becoming elected to be your Regiment Commander, the other two staff members (RXO) Barry Kiker and (RMO) Kevin Robbins have been holding regular monthly staff meetings. During these meetings we discuss a whole range of things from Regiment Merchandise, events, and most importantly Communication. We have been keeping these meeting minutes and action items in the Regiment staff section of the forum as requested by Division Staff in an effort to help other regiments.

One of these meetings yielded a discussion about how to better communicate, organize build parties and in general keep abreast of the large territory that encompasses the 12 states that make up the Southern Regiment. As such we have created a Regiment specific position that will be known as the “Forward Observer” or “F.O.” Our intent is that each state initially has one member with possibly more members per state in the future.

The goal of the F.O. will be to assist in helping with Membership organization and tracking on a state by state level. This will help us coordinate Convention information, build parties, outside Launch requests, and eventually help us with Battalions, Fireteams, and Garrisons once these applications begin being accepted by Division, formed and a whole host of other things.

We have gone through our membership and put together a list by state of the most active. A letter will soon be going out to select members as we look to fill this role for each state in our wonderful regiment. The criteria we have been looking at are based upon activity on the forum, social media and your post counts on the forum. Our hope is a better more cohesive unit with lots of activity and fun things to share.

**Through better communication
and greater organization we will
continue to grow.**



Photos Courtesy of Jackie Appel



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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.405th.com

@405thsouthern

We exist because you continue to **HONOR** each other by helping and inspiring others to create **ARMOR**, and coalescing in **UNITY** of our fandom in the amazing Halo Universe.