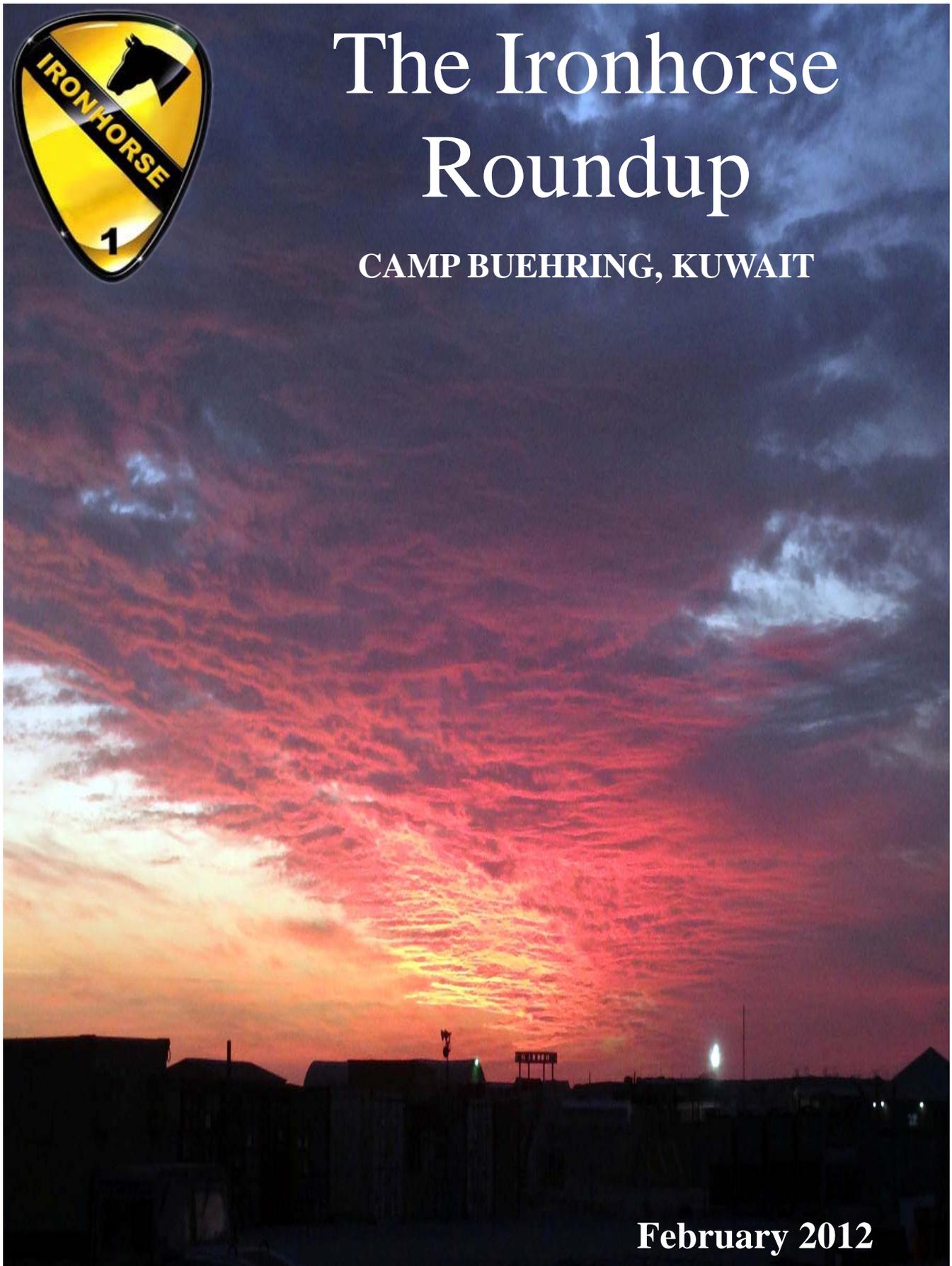




# The Ironhorse Roundup

CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT



**February 2012**

Photo by 2nd Lt. Brittany Myatt

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## 1st Brigade Combat Team 1st Cavalry Division



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Spc. Allison Sanchez 115th BSB

# GarryOwen receives equipment

Photos by Spc. Jonathan Thomas 1-7 CAV UPAR



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division file into a warehouse for a briefing on drawing military vehicles, Feb. 8.

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop and Troop D of the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conduct training before drawing military vehicles at the Army Preposition Stock draw, Feb. 8.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Sgt. 1st Class Higgens and 1st Lt. Reifroe, both assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, check serial numbers on a vehicle after it underwent maintenance at the Army Preposition Stock draw, Feb. 8.

# Lieutenants learn humility

Story and photos by Spc. Bailey Jester, 1BCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Frantically searching through his dumped backpack for a sewing kit, 1st Lt. Chris Mendez finds it, picks it up and removes the sewing needle from it.

After hastily warming up the end of the needle, his partner fills a flat piece of plastic foam with water. Mendez places the needle in the water and they wait patiently for it to start floating.

“That way is north!” Austin, Texas native, Mendez excitedly informs his battalion commander after the needle magnetically embeds itself into the side of the foam.

Mendez and six other lieutenants assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division participated in the Lieutenant Warrior Challenge, Feb. 18.

“The events were meant to bring the lieutenants together to work as a team,” said Cpl. Yuriko Franceschi, a human resource specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Muleskinner Battalion.

The 13-hour event was designed and executed by corporals and young sergeants of the Muleskinner Battalion, and included nine events: a modified Army Physical Fitness Test, Preventive

Maintenance Checks and Services, Drill and Ceremony, a mock board, a team ruck march, evaluating a casualty, radio operations and land navigation.

“I wanted to show that I am not just a lieutenant or a staff officer, I’m still a Soldier,” Mendez said about his decision to participate in his second warrior challenge. “I also like the Army stuff, the challenges and demands.”

Although proving themselves was a big part in some of the lieutenants’ decision to participate, it wasn’t everyone’s.

“I learned that a lot of Soldiering skills are perishable,” said Humble, Texas native, 1st Lt. Rachel Dunn, the executive officer of Company C. “Like using a gas mask, assembling weapons and the radios.”

Although the event was designed for these officers to learn teamwork, it was not the only lesson they learned.

“When you get back to the Soldiers, it’s a humbling experience,” Mendez, the Muleskinner battle captain, explained. “You realize that although you are a leader, you don’t know it all. It was a great experience.”

Mendez wasn’t the only one who found it to be a humbling and great experience.

“The most valuable lesson I



learned was humility,” Dunn said.

The young leaders in charge of the event commented that they received many compliments on the event from the lieutenants.

“I had one tell me, ‘I appreciate the training it provided,’ and another, ‘it was a humbling experience,’” Franceschi said about the compliments they received. “We definitely got positive feedback.”

This was the second warrior challenge the Muleskinners have held, and Franceschi believes it won’t be the last.

“I would do it again,” Dunn concluded. “The lessons I learned were valuable, and I definitely learned a lot.”

# and humbleness

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – 1st Lt. Joanna VanEngel (left) and 1st Lt. Jason Mercado (right), both assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, operate a radio during the Lieutenants Warrior Challenge, Feb. 18.

“The events were meant to bring the lieutenants together to work as a team,” said Cpl. Yuriko Franceschi, a human resource specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Muleskinner Battalion.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – 1st Lt. Angela Buysman, assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, skims through a technical manual for a generator during the Lieutenants Warrior Challenge, Feb. 18. “The events were meant to bring the lieutenants together to work as a team,” said Cpl. Yuriko Franceschi, a human resource specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Muleskinner Battalion.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – During the Lieutenants Warrior Challenge hosted by the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the participating lieutenants carry a five-ton towbar, Feb. 18. “When you get back to the Soldiers it’s a humbling experience,” Austin, Texas native, 1st Lt. Chris Mendez, the Muleskinner battle captain, explained. “You realize that although you are a leader, you don’t know it all. It was a great experience.”

# Centurions train on demolition

Photos by Spc. Krystal Curl, 1 BSTB UPAR

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Kailua Kona, Hawaii native, Pfc. Joshua Tobias (right), combat engineer assigned to Company C, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, assists his team in constructing a silhouette charge during an urban breaching training exercise, Feb. 15.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Baltimore, Md. native, Sgt. Douglas Stewart (left), combat engineer team leader assigned to Company C, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, assists his squad in putting a water impulse charge in place during an urban breaching training exercise, Feb 15.

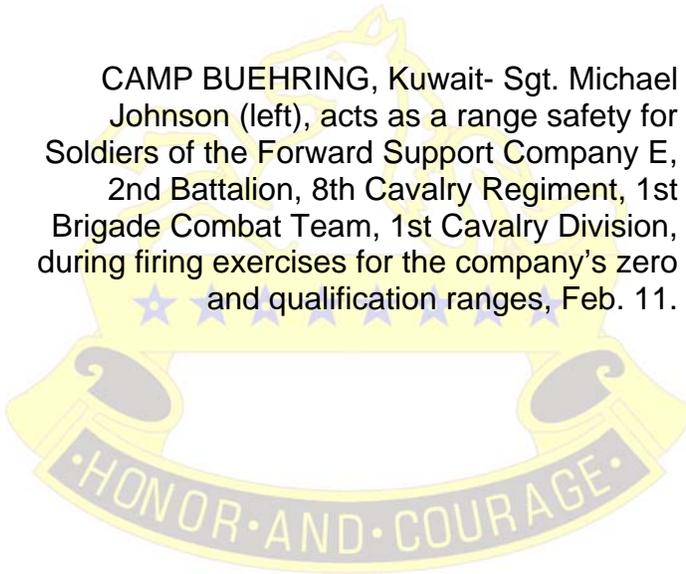
CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Carson City, Nev. native, Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Johnson (left), platoon sergeant for Company C, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, instructs his Soldier to connect two sections of the Bangalore, Feb. 15, during an urban breaching training exercise.



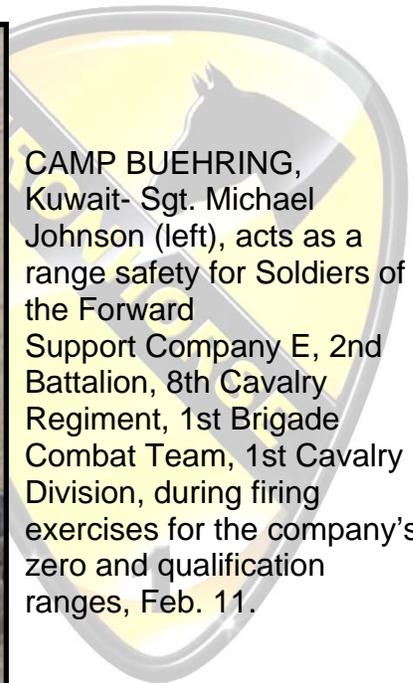
# Stallions train at range

Photos by 2nd Lt. Brittany Myatt, 2-8 CAV UPAR

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait- Sgt. Michael Johnson (left), acts as a range safety for Soldiers of the Forward Support Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, during firing exercises for the company's zero and qualification ranges, Feb. 11.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait- Sgt. Michael Johnson (left), acts as a range safety for Soldiers of the Forward Support Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, during firing exercises for the company's zero and qualification ranges, Feb. 11.



# Lancer Soldiers prepare vehicles

Photos by Sgt. David Webb, 2-5 CAV UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - Sgt. Patrick Thomas, a Soldier assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, tests his radios for upcoming gunnery training, Feb. 6.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - Sgt. David Cole (right), a Soldier assigned to Company A., 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, checks fluids in an M2 Bradley infantry Fighting Vehicle during Command Maintenance at the Lancer's Motorpool, Jan. 31.



# Stallion Change of Responsibility ceremony

Photo by 2nd Lt. Brittany Myatt, 2-8 UPAR

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait- Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team gather in observance of the Change of Responsibility ceremony between Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Ramon and 1st Sgt. Rogers Davis, Feb. 11. 1st Sgt. Davis is taking over responsibility of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry as the company's first sergeant, a position Sgt. 1st Class Ramon held throughout the unit's operations during Operation New Dawn.

HONOR AND COURAGE

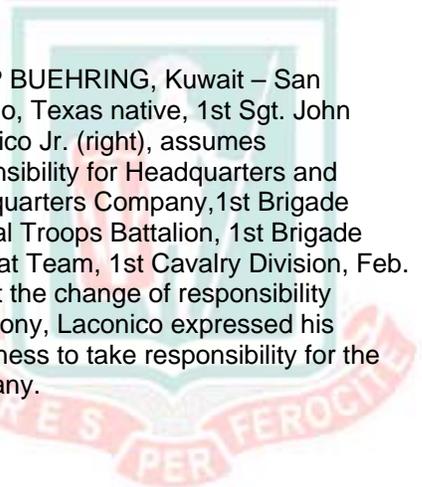


# Centurions pass the torch

Photo by Spc. Krystal Curl, 1 BSTB UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – San Antonio, Texas native, 1st Sgt. John Laconico Jr. (right), assumes responsibility for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Feb. 11. At the change of responsibility ceremony, Laconico expressed his eagerness to take responsibility for the company.



# Lancer Soldier runs

Story by Sgt. John Couffer, 1 BCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – It is early dawn as the sun has yet risen and the morning wind whips the awaiting marathon runners as they attempt to keep warm and stretch. For one runner in particular, this is his 19th marathon.

Yorktown, Va. native Capt. Martin Peters, the commander of Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, readies himself for the 26.2-mile run along the dirt road around Camp Buehring, Feb 12.

“I first started running when I was in high school. I wasn’t on the high school team though, I was running because I liked it,” said Peters.

Peters also said he began running in high school because he knew then that he wanted to apply to West Point Military Academy and being in top physical condition is a big part of attaining that goal.

Throughout his running career, Peters said that he has followed the example of two important people.

Peters said that he draws inspiration from his father who was a career officer in the Air Force and who also ran quite often, and Steven Prefontaine, a famous runner-athlete from Oregon. Peters also quotes Prefontaine’s well-known



mantra, “To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.”

While running, Peters says that he competes with himself and likes to prove he is better than the person next to him.

He said that while running on a treadmill is fine because you can force yourself to run at a certain pace, in the desert or on a trail you are on your own and that at the end of the day, “it’s only you who knows how hard you are pushing yourself.”

Peters added that he has experience running in different places around the world.

“I went on a 10-mile Paris run and saw all [of] the sights in over an hour, [got] lost in Brussels, Belgium, went on a run through [the] sketch neighborhoods of Grenada, Nicaragua and [I] went running in Moshi, Tanzania under the

shadow of Kilimanjaro,” said Peters.

For those who meet Peters, his strength in running is usually their first experience with him.

“The first impression I got of him was for his running ability,” said

Fredericksburg, Va. native 1st. Lt. David Coleman, the scout platoon leader for Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Lancer Battalion.

Coleman most often sees his commander running with his company. He said that Peters often leads the way by carrying machine gun barrels which weigh at least 40 pounds or wearing a chemical mask, which makes breathing much more challenging.

# extra mile



Coleman says that Peters also inspires his Soldiers and helps them improve their running ability.

“It is inspiring, for people aspiring to be better runners, they see him and say, ‘Wow, there’s what dedication looks like,’” said Coleman.

Coleman said that if Peters is running with someone else, he will run at the pace of that person despite the fact that he can run faster. He said the Peters will stay at a reasonable pace, thereby running with the Soldiers rather than running to prove his ability.

Coleman is not the only one who can attest to Peters aiding those who need help with running.

1st. Sgt. Bradley Williams, the first sergeant for B Co. of the Lancer Battalion, has known Peters for two years, and has served under Peters in

the past.

“He would take part in helping others run. He would come in on the weekends for Soldiers who needed help with running on a volunteer basis. He would come in on his personal time and he would run with these kids,” said Williams.

Williams describes one particular time in which Peters helped a Soldier.

Williams said there was a Soldier who could not run very well, and within a one-month time frame, Peters had this Soldier successfully passing his Army Physical Fitness Test.

Williams said that Peters is a humble Soldier who knows his ability and is not the kind to flaunt his skill, but rather use his gift to aid and inspire his Soldiers and fellow officers in his battalion.

“[Peters] is a gifted runner and is able to teach it, he is an

active person in Soldiers’ lives in running,” Williams concluded.

When asked about why he keeps running, the 29-year-old Peters said that it is a good way to stay in shape and to relieve stress. He added that running as a hobby is also a good way to maintain physical conditioning in the Army.

Peters explains that he will continue to run as long as he can.

“I have about four or five more years. I’ll keep running as long as my body lets me,” said Peters.

In addition to running as long as possible, Peters said he would like to participate in several upcoming marathons like the Big Sur, Eugene or Oklahoma City Marathons. He stated that the marathon he chooses depends on his work schedule.

Peters also offers some advice for those considering distance running or those wanting to compete in distance running.

“It’s not that scary, just go out and do it. At the end of the day, it requires training. Nothing comes free,” said Peters. He added that he completed the early morning marathon at two hours and 58 minutes, which was well below his goal of three hours and 15 minutes.

# Centurions' morale boosted

Photo by Spc. Krystal Curl, 1 BSTB UPAR



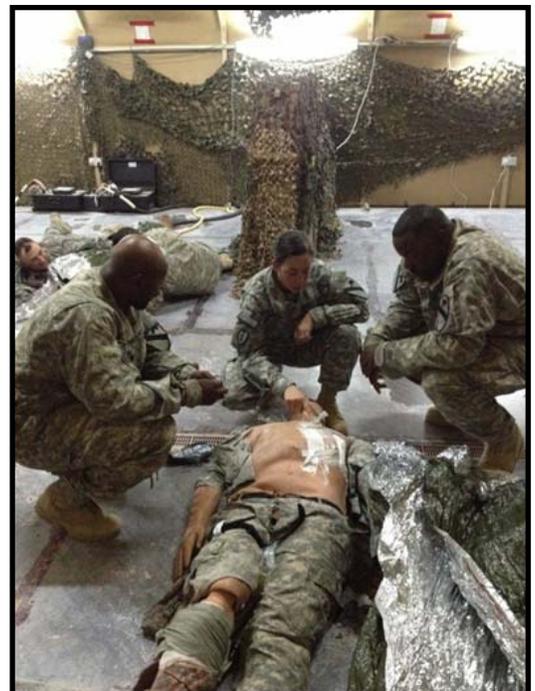
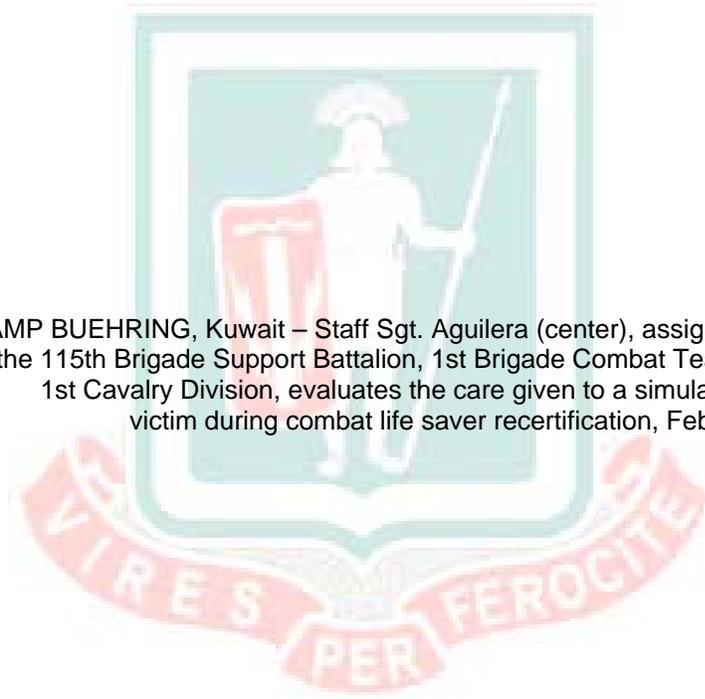
CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Sgt. Horton and Sgt. Marien, both assigned to the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, enjoy a steak meal prepared by Steak Team Mission's visit, Feb. 4.



# Muleskinner CLS recertification

Photo by Capt. Victoria Nieto, 115 BSB UPAR

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Staff Sgt. Aguilera (center), assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, evaluates the care given to a simulated victim during combat life saver recertification, Feb. 7.



# GarryOwen conducts squadron run

Photos by Spc. Jonathan Thomas, 1-7 CAV UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The command team of 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, lead from the front in preparation for a squadron run, Feb. 17.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Leaders and Soldiers assigned to Troop D, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, stay motivated during a squadron run, Feb 17.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Soldiers assigned to Troop B, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, march to the squadron after conducting a morale run, Feb. 17.

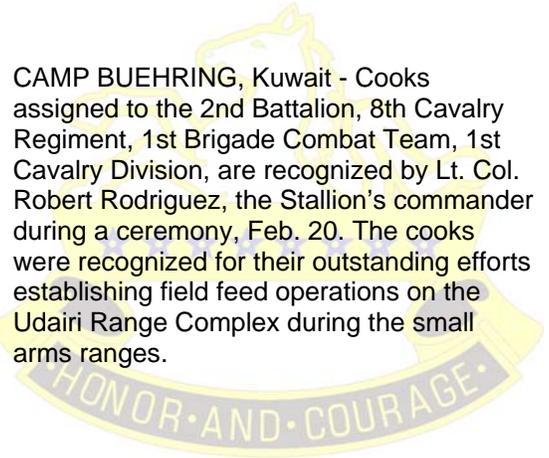


# Stallion cooks recognized for efforts

Photos by 1st Lt. Matthew Hester, 2-8 CAV UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - Cooks assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are recognized by Lt. Col. Robert Rodriguez, the Stallion's commander during a ceremony, Feb. 20. The cooks were recognized for their outstanding efforts establishing field feed operations on the Udairi Range Complex during the small arms ranges.



# Centurion recognized

Photos by Spc. Krystal Curl 1 BSTB UPAR

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Norway, Mich. native, Capt. James Bouchard (right), a combat engineer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, shakes hands with Lt. Col. Steven Dawson, the Centurion commander, at his award ceremony, Feb. 6. Bouchard is being recognized for his service with the Centurions from December 2008 to April 2012, where he served as a platoon leader, company executive officer and the Battalion supply officer. Bouchard's service was vital to the success of the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion.



# GarryOwen presents Scout Stakes awards

Photos by Spc. Jonathan Thomas, 1-7 CAV UPAR



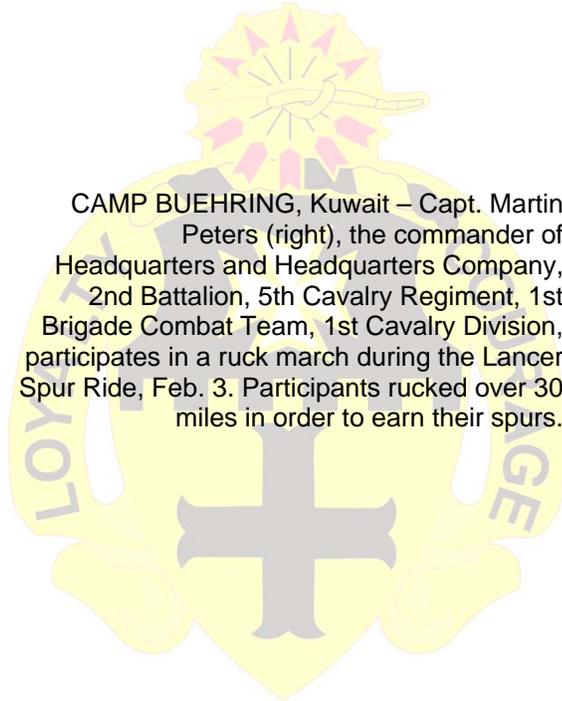
CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to Troop B, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, stand ready during GarryOwen’s formation to present awards for excellence during Scout Stakes, Feb. 4.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Lt. Col. Dolph Southerland (left), and Command Sgt. Maj. Mervyn Ripley (right), the command team of the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, present the “Top Scout Section” banner to Capt. Welch (center-left) and 1st Sgt. Johnson for excellence during the Scout Stakes exercise, Feb. 4.



# Lancers earn their spurs

Photo by Sgt. David Webb, 2-5 CAV UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Capt. Martin Peters (right), the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, participates in a ruck march during the Lancer Spur Ride, Feb. 3. Participants rucked over 30 miles in order to earn their spurs.

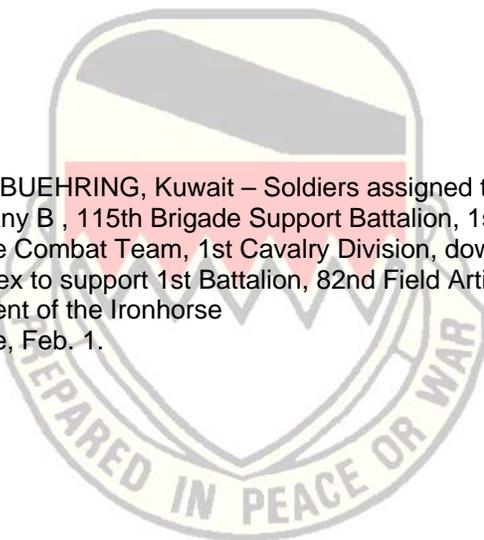


# Muleskinner range

Photo by Capt. Victoria Nieto, 115 BSB UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, download a connex to support 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment of the Ironhorse Brigade, Feb. 1.



# Steak Team cooks for Ironhorse Soldiers

Story and photos by Spc. Bailey Jester, 1 BCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Early morning Feb. 2 a special delivery arrived for the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at the Kuwait City Airport, Steak Team Mission.

Steak Team Mission, a non-profit, Dallas-based organization, travels to remote and hazardous areas to prepare and serve steak dinners to deployed Soldiers.

After 16 trips, they made a 17th one to Camp Buehring, bringing 3,000 steaks and jalapeno-stuffed side for the Ironhorse Soldiers.

During Steak Team’s visit they got to tour the city along with meeting multiple Soldiers, trying on different Army equipment – helmets, headsets – and explore many different types of vehicles and even getting to drive a few of them.

“The Soldiers are why we come out here, so it’s always great to visit with them,” said Steak Team Mission member, Candace Rubin, from Dallas.

Steak Team Mission has grilled sirloins for troops all over the world since 2002,

when the organization was founded by Harvey Gough, who once ran eight restaurants in Dallas.

Gough created Steak Team Mission after the 9/11 terrorist, to show his support for military members.

“I think it is great how they come out here and grill for us,” said Sgt. Daniel Torres, an excited Soldier from San Antonio, assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, of the Ironhorse Brigade. “The steaks were delicious, and cooked to order.”

The morning of Feb. 5, known to many as Superbowl Sunday, the team began cooking at 10:30 and didn’t complete until all Ironhorse Soldiers were full with juicy, grilled sirloin.

“It was a great way to start my Superbowl,” said Sgt. David Webb, the electronic warfare officer for the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment of the Ironhorse Brigade. “At least the best way you can deployed.”

The Ironhorse Brigade is



deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait conducting security-cooperation missions.

# Apache Troop promotes Soldiers

Photo by Spc Jonathan Thomas, 1-7 CAV UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers of assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, promote three Soldiers during a ceremony, Feb. 4. The Soldiers promoted from Pfc. to Spc. are: Spc. Williams, Spc. Talbot, and Spc. Claire.

# Centurion conducts maintenance

Photo by Spc. Krystal Curl, 1 BSTB UPAR

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Bessemer, Ala. native, Sgt. 1st Class. Deann Jackson, a food service specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, conducts Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services on a vehicle in order to draw it from the Army Prepositioned Stock Yard, Feb. 4.



# Centurions work on career progression

Story and photo by Spc. Krystal Curl, 1 BSTB UPAR

Camp Buehring, Kuwait – During a Soldier's career there are many opportunities for different assignments, but sometimes it takes a little more testing to get them there.

In order to assist Soldiers in becoming eligible for these options, the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division made the Functional Academic Skills Training Class available.

The main purpose of the FAST Class is to raise Soldiers general technical scores. If successful they are provided options for career advancement.

While the Ironhorse Brigade was deployed to Contingency Operating Station Kalsu, Iraq, the Army began tightening re-enlistment or assignment options; so 1st Sgt. Carlos Lopez suggested the FAST Class.

"We need to keep good quality Soldiers in the Military" said 1st Sgt. Carlos Lopez, the senior noncommissioned officer assigned to Company C of the Centurion Battalion.

With the help of multiple

noncommissioned officers in the battalion – to include Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Machado, 1st Sgt. Lopez, Staff Sgt. Monika Castillo and Sgt. Baltazar Lopez – the program was off to a great start. Using all their resources to put together a classroom with computers, materials, teachers and a course outline.

The Centurions have held three cycles of the FAST Class the past seven months with 41 students.

All participants now hold a GT score of over 100 and some improved their scores up to 26 points.

"The FAST class is a great opportunity for Soldiers who want to improve," said Tucson, Ariz. native, Spc. Ella Puente, a food service specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Centurion Battalion. "I'm grateful that Command. Sgt. Maj. Machado gave a lot of Soldiers the opportunity to bump up their GT score."

The program is always finding new ways to improve the quality of education Soldiers are receiving, whether



it's by After Action Review's or leaders who come to oversee the course.

"Once an improvement is identified, I implement it right away" said Weslaco, Texas native, Sgt. Lopez, a chemical sergeant assigned to Co. C.

All the Soldiers seem to be very excited at the opportunity to progress and achieve more.

They are more so excited at the doors that will be opened to them, like Military Operation Specialty Reclassifications and Commissioning Programs.

"With [the FAST Class] we can continue our service to our nation and secure our obligation as Soldiers" said Brooklyn, N.Y. native, Pfc. Kareem Harrison, a combat engineer assigned to Company C of the Centurion Battalion.

# Muleskinner activities

Photo by Capt. Victoria Nieto, 115 BSB UPAR

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Pfc. William Wise (right), an armorer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, shakes the hand of his commander Capt. Mark Renteria (left) following his re-enlistment, Feb. 1.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Sgt. Jesus Holloway (left), a Soldier assigned to Company A, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, trains Spc. JennyAnn Zhang (right) on the M4 and M16, Feb. 1.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, participate in sergeants time training, Feb. 2.

# GarryOwen welcomes new Soldiers

Photos by Sgt. Vincent Medrek, 1-7 CAV UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Incoming Soldiers assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, receive the 'Do's' and 'Don'ts' from Lt. Col. Dolph Southerland, the GarryOwen commander, Feb. 24.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait— Soldiers assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division learn what it means to be a member of GarryOwen at a Soldier orientation brief, Feb. 24.



# Muleskinner Soldier training

Photo by Capt. Victoria Nieto, 115 BSB CAV UPAR



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, conduct a M2 .50 caliber, heavy machine gun range, Feb. 1.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Spc. Spears (center), a Soldier assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, instructs peers on map reading during platoon instruction time, Feb. 1.

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Spc. Collazo, a Soldier assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, utilizes a simple key loader training to operate radios during a communication exercise, Feb. 1.



# Centurions graduate FAST class

Photos by Sgt. John Couffer, 1 BCT Public Affairs



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – A group of 15 Soldiers assigned to the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, sit at the position of attention during a Functional Army Skills Training class graduation ceremony, Feb. 20. This class had an average Technical Score increase of 12 points during its 30-day instruction period compared to civilian-hosted FAST classes which typically see increases of three to five points, according to one instructor.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, sit at the position of attention during a Functional Army Skill Training class graduation ceremony, Feb. 20. The Centurion Battalion is graduating 15 of its Soldiers, whose average General Technical score is now 107, the highest being 120. Their new scores will open doors for those who are looking to progress in their careers.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Lt. Col. David Northridge (right), the deputy commanding officer of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, shakes the hand of a Soldier assigned to the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and recent graduate of a Functional Army Skill Training class, Feb. 20. The FAST class, held by the Centurion battalion, graduated 15 successful students, most of whom increased their General Technical Scores allowing for more opportunities to progress in the Army despite current cutbacks.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pose for a photo after a graduating from a Functional Army Skill Training class hosted by the Centurion Battalion, Feb 20. The FAST class graduated several students whose increased General Technical scores received an allocates from the Director and Education Services Specialist, Mr. Gordon Nero from Arifjan, Kuwait, says one instructor.

# Hellfighters spirit still

Photo by Spc. Bailey Jester, 1 BCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Since the Revolutionary War, African Americans have played a significant role in the U.S. military.

During World War I, one regiment, the 369th Infantry Regiment, became known as “the best known African American unit of World War I,” according to Edward Mikkelsen Jr., a contributor to blackpast.org.

The 369th was a regiment from the 15th New York National Guard, originally organized in 1916 and manned by black enlisted Soldiers with both black and white officers.

They prepared for a deployment to Europe and arrived December 1917. In the spring of 1918 they were assigned to the French Army for the duration of the war.

“They didn’t see combat action right off the bat. They were given other duties like cleaning up,” said Dublin, Ga. native, Spc. Joshua Harvey, the chaplain assistant for the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade



Photo courtesy of nytimes.com



Photo courtesy of freedomsjournal.net

Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “They finally saw action when they got transferred to the French.”

They earned the nickname “Harlem Hellfighters” by the German Army who were surprised to

see a regiment, made of entirely black Soldiers, fight so well.

The Hellfighters spent 191 days in frontline trenches, more than any other American unit.

“There was often nothing

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between the German and Paris but these black volunteers from New York,” Frank Martin wrote in the article “*For Love of Liberty*,” an article explaining the history of the Harlem Hellfighters. “During that time, they never had any men captured nor any ground taken.”

Although no man was captured, approximately 1,500 Soldiers were wounded and replaced by only 900 men.

“Not many people know this, but in this regiment at the end of World War I they had around 1,500 casualties, and 177 got awarded the Legion of Honor,” said Harvey.

The “*New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs: Military History*” believes that the Hellfighters are “one of the most under-appreciated contributors to World War I,” and “only in France did they receive proper recognition; 500 of its members received the French ‘Croix de Guerre.’”

On Nov. 17, 1918 the 369th made its last advance, and nine days later were the

first allied unit to reach the banks of the Rhine River.

Two Soldiers, Cpl. Henry Johnson and Pvt. Needham Roberts, were the first Americans to be awarded the Croix de Guerre.

The French relieved the regiment Dec. 12, 1918, and returned to the New York Port of Embarkation. They were demobilized Feb. 28, 1919 at Camp Upton at Yaphank, New York.

“To me personally, to serve in the United States Army as an all black regiment that means a lot, Harvey proudly stated. “Back in those times you didn’t really see black people in the service and for them to be the first black regiment in World War I, I can look up to them and follow in their footsteps.”

The Hellfighters are currently deployed to Mali, providing operational support for Atlas Accord 2012, an annual exercise that brings together U.S. Army personnel with African militaries.

Today, the Hellfighters are remembered by the 369th Veterans Association, the 369th Historical

Association, and mostly by the Soldiers of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, still headquartered in Harlem.



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