

# Ghost Rider Post

Newsletter of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



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AUGUST 15, 2012

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## 191st CSSB Assumes Mission at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

By Spc. Michael R. Gault  
Public Affairs Specialist  
191st CSSB



**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait --** Lt. Col. James Groark, commander of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, resident of Salt Lake City Utah, and Command Sgt. Maj Christopher A. Beyer, command sergeant major for the battalion and resident of Hooper, Utah, uncase the battalion colors symbolizing the battalion's official assumption of mission from the 728th CSSB during the Transfer of Authority ceremony held here August 7.

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait –** The 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), Task Force Ghost Riders, officially assumed control of the logistics mission in Kuwait from the 728th CSSB during a transfer of authority ceremony held here, on August 7.

In the time-honored military tradition, Lt. Col. Lawrence Dugan, battalion commander of the 728th, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mainiero carefully wrapped and cased their battalion colors for its trip back to their home station in Lock Haven, Pa., symbolizing the completion of their command.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to turn

over our mission to our new best friends the Ghost Riders,” said Dugan, battalion commander for the 728th CSSB. “The 191st is a first-class organization that is more than capable of handling the mission and I have no doubt that they will be as successful as we have.”

With the unfurling of their colors by Lt. Col. James Groark, commander of the 191st CSSB, and Command Sgt. Maj Christopher A. Beyer, the 191st CSSB assumes responsibility of managing one of the largest military equipment and supply redistribution operations in recent military history.

(Continues on page 6)

## 191st CSSB BATTALION COMMANDER



Lt. Col. James Groark

### Families and friends of the Ghost Riders team,

First, the Ghost Riders arrived safely from Fort Hood, transitioned with the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and are now off and running. As I stated during our farewell ceremony I am honored to serve my country, the U.S. Army, and the 500 new Soldiers who have joined the Ghost Rider Team. We included a picture of a landing craft unit (LCU) to exemplify our diverse mission here in Kuwait and provide proof that the Army still has “boats” (watercraft vessels, to be precise). Of course, for our young Ghost Riders still in elementary school, these boats are a lot harder to draw than your typical tanks and trucks. Give it a try.

The U.S. Army vessels execute a critical mission transporting vital cargo along the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula. These Army ships operate as a family and require years of experience to safely and effectively conduct their mission. During World War II, the Army operated approximately 127,793 ships and boats. After WWII, most

Army vessels were part of the reorganization of forces and became Navy assets.

Although today they are not nearly in the same numbers, the Army still has a few vessels and I am proud to welcome these four: Logistic Support Vessel (LSV) 5, LSV 8, LCU 2013, and LCU 2018 into the battalion as part of the ‘*Ghost Rider Fleet.*’



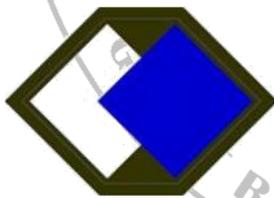
*Persian Gulf — USAV Churubusco, LCU2013, crewed by Reservists of the 824th Transportation Co. out of North Carolina, docks at a port in the Persian Gulf. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Mary Maxson, 728th CSSB)*

## 191st CSSB COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

The Transfer of Authority is complete and the Ghost Rider Battalion has assumed the role of the Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. I big HOOAH to the 728th team for their efforts during the RIP/TOA and for a job well done. For our new down trace, welcome to the Ghost Riders Battalion!

Since there are several units now aligned with the 191st CSSB, it's time to share our story. On Aug 7, a flag proudly displaying the battalion's Distinctive Unit Insignia began flying above the battalion's headquarters tent on Camp Arifjan. The Distinctive Unit Insignia is also known as the Unit Crest. This is also the symbol on any battalion slide presentation as well as the symbol on the battalion colors.

The 191st CSSB was established November 8, 2006, at Fort Douglas, Utah. From April 2008 through February 2009, an element of the battalion mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, earned the Meritorious Unit Citation for their efforts in supporting the Global War on Terrorism in Tikirt, Iraq.



The 191st CSSB wears the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 96th Sustainment Brigade. Commonly referred to as the "Double Diamond," it bears the history of the 96th Infantry Division; a division that was highly decorated for operations in World War II's Pacific Theater. The 96th is credited with an assault landing on Leyte Gulf of the Philippine Islands as well as their participation on Okinawa, Japan. During these two battles, the division earned five Medals of Honor, 22 Distinguished Service Cross, 232 Silver Stars, and was one of only four divisions to earn the Presidential Unit Citation for Operations in the Pacific Theater.

The insignia of the 191st CSSB unit has seven distinct features of the 191st CSSB Unit Insignia. The color gold is emblematic of excellence and high achievement. Scarlet is the color of valor and zeal and is also one of the colors traditionally used by the support organizations. The lion is the



symbol of Courage. The Key highlights the logistics mission to secure, control and distribute Army material to the war fighters, anywhere, and anytime. The chevron configuration of the shield alludes to the Rocky Mountain peaks which are right outside the doors and windows of the Battalion Headquarters, located on Fort Douglas, Utah. The bee reflects Utah's nickname, the "Beehive State." The crossed swords signify cooperation and the mission to defend. The color blue represents the Great Salt Lake. Finally, the color buff recalls the unit's quartermaster affiliation and is also one of the colors traditionally used by support organizations.

As the Battalion Command Sergeant Major I am proud to wear the Double Diamond patch and I look forward to sharing our rich history throughout the battalion during this deployment.



CSM Christopher A. Beyrer



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)

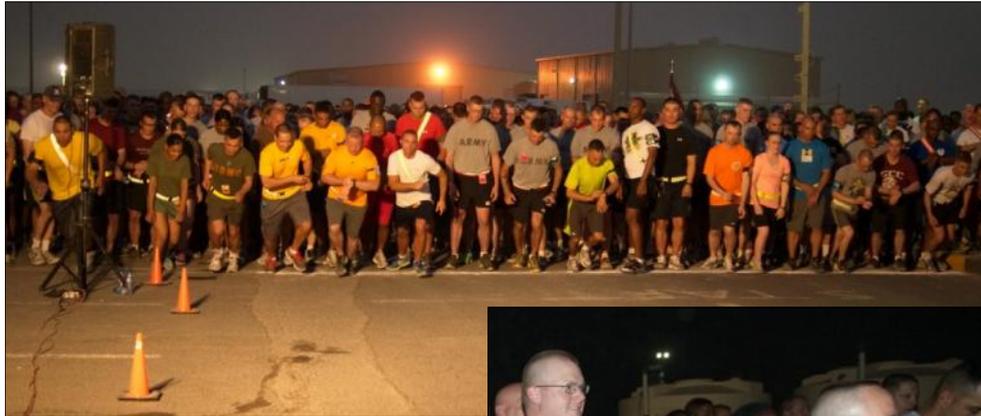
## 191st CSSB HHC COMMANDER



Capt. Berni Davis

**M**oving into the month of August has taken the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion into the main phase of the deployment. We have officially said goodbye to Fort Hood, Texas, and 18 hours

later said hello to Kuwait. The transition from training to do the job and actually performing the job has gone very well. The Soldiers are now settled into our temporary homes for the next nine months.



*CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — On the hot desert evening of Aug 4, servicemembers representing each U.S. military branch stationed here participate in a 5K run in celebration of the U.S. Coast Guard's 222nd birthday. A few Ghost Riders from the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, who had arrived the week prior, could be found also ran in the event.*



### Kuwait Mailing Address

**Soldier's Rank and Name  
191<sup>st</sup> CSSB  
APO, AE 09366**

### BIRTHDAYS

1LT	SNOW SARAH	1-Sep
SSG	ARRIOLA AARON	7-Sep
SSG	DELEONRAMOS ARIEL	11-Sep
CPT	NOBLE ROBERT	15-Sep
SPC	BASSETT BRANDON	21-Sep
CPT	DAVIS BERNI JO	21-Sep
SPC	JOHNSON MATTHEW	24-Sep
MAJ	CHILSON NICOLE	26-Sep



## 'Outlaws' Manage Large Scale Convoys

By Sgt. Kenneth A. Fahnestock  
Unit Admin NCO  
1462nd Trans. Co.

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – For the second time during their deployment here, the 1462nd Transportation Company, 'Outlaws,' managed a multi-day convoy operation of more than 100 trucks, moving key supplies worth more than \$100 million bound for troops in Afghanistan in each of the two missions.

The first mission took place over four days in April 2012, with non-commissioned officers of the 1462nd leading convoys of up to 126 trucks between here and the Kuwait Naval Base (KNB) each day. The convoy, one of the largest

to travel the roads of Kuwait, transported more than 400 shipping containers without any accidents or mishaps.

The second mission, with even larger convoys of up to 139 trucks, happened in July 2012 and was even more successful, resulting in over 580 containers of essential supplies and ammunition worth in excess of \$125 million being routed to and from KNB and Camp Arifjan at the end of a four-day stretch. This mission was also completed with no accidents or serious incidents. Both missions combined represented one

of the largest undertakings by a single transportation company in the history of Operation Enduring Freedom.

With 1462nd personnel acting as convoy commanders, the unit was responsible for coordination with contractors, military personnel from several branches of service, and the Kuwait Ministry of the Interior to ensure each mission would proceed as planned. Additionally, they managed the day-to-day operations and supervised the actions of more than 200 contract personnel and Soldiers

*(Continues on page 15)*



**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** — Soldiers of the 1462nd Transportation Company, recently managed a multi-day convoy operation which involved more than 100 trucks to move supplies needed by troops in Afghanistan.

(Continued from page 1.)

During the ceremony, Groark recognized the accomplishments of the 728th CSSB highlighting on the battalion's ability to adapt to a multitude of new missions thrown to them.

"The 191st will also be required to be as flexible, adaptive, and proactive," said Groark. "As our motto says, we will stay 'Out Front'."

The 191st CSSB will also assume command of ten separate sustainment units covering Kuwait, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan to support US CENTCOM requirements.



ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- Soldiers of the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Lock Haven, Pa., standing in formation during the Transfer of Authority ceremony here August 7.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- Capt. Berni Davis, commander of 191st HHC, resident of West Valley, Utah, and Spc. Justin Kelleher, human resource specialist and resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, stand ready to uncasing the company colors during the Transfer of Authority ceremony between the 728th CSSB and the 191st CSSB here August 7.



### Ghost Riders Out Front!

"Soldiers of noble purpose and heart, move over sea's to do their part.

Leaving their families is not fun, but they'll do their part till their parts done.

Serving their country and manning their station. Bringing honor to family and pride to our nation.

They'll stand out front, Ghost Riders are steady. I promise you this, these Deadeyes are ready!"

By Spc. Matthew D. Johnson  
Human Resource Specialist  
191st CSSB



## OPSEC: Loose Lips Sink Ships

By 2nd Lt. Aubree Shurtz  
Intelligence Officer  
191st CSSB

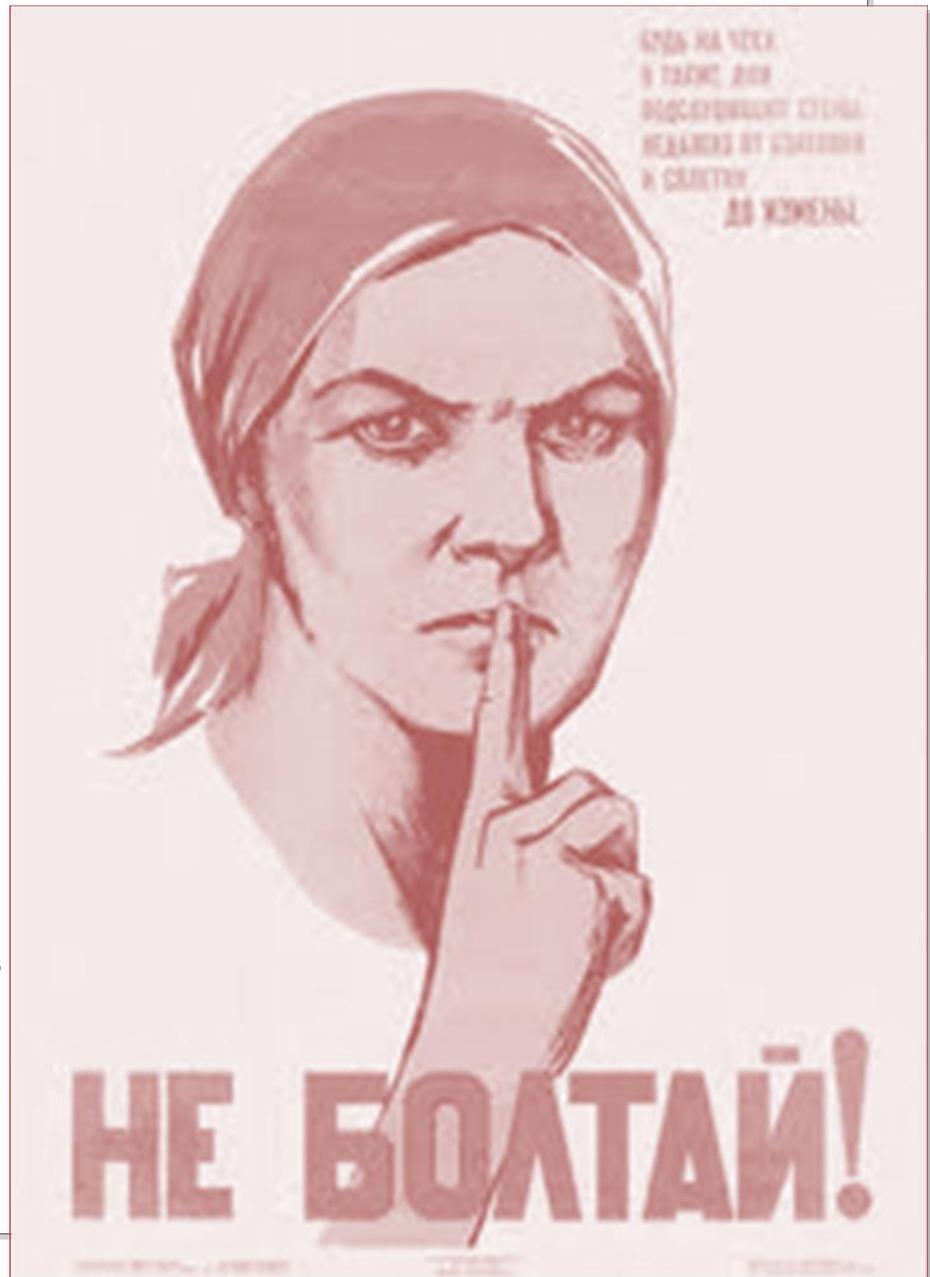
It amazes me to see posts from friends and acquaintances on Facebook logging lovingly the every minutia of their lives. Every thought, goal, and their bathroom trip – recorded for the world to see. How easy is it (literally, and not just in the Facebook sense) to stalk these people? Exploit them? Rob them blind? The address is written; their departure and arrival date posted, the location of all photos inserted. Soldiers are plight to this weakness like anyone else.

As much as this might feel like a blast to the WWII past, please consider what al-Qaida might do with a Soldier's information. Terrorist groups do not have to go far to know information concerning number of U.S. troops, U.S. flight plans, and U.S. missions. We give it to them. We hand it to them on a silver platter when we post details of our lives on social networks and even in emails. The majority of the information they use to kill US soldiers comes from the internet.

The purpose of OPSEC (Operational Security) is not to become such a burden that it is disregarded (which is often the case). It's also not to estrange us from our families. It is simple. It is easy. All OPSEC re-

quires is to leave out details unnecessary to your family and necessary to the enemy. Omit phrases like "I'm here in (exact location in Kuwait) with (number of soldier's in unit) of my buddies!!!" and photos showing new and exciting technology. Sounds silly, but you'll be saving lives.

I've included my favorite Soviet Union WWII propaganda poster. The woman represents the Motherland. She pleads with her citizens "Ne Boltay!" (Don't Gossip!). The Soviets understood it. We understood it. Let's not forget it.



## I Drive Like You Do



Chaplain (Capt.) John Marriott

“Often our tongues get in the way. Sometimes it seems like every kind of animal has been tamed.”

One of my favorite bumper stickers was near a Utah license plate. It read, "CAUTION: I drive like you do!" When we feel annoyed, angry, or irritated, it might seem easy to assume that the other person has bad motives or character flaws. Maybe we can clearly see the negative results of other people holding grudges, but feel that our judgment of "those idiots out there" is different. We may feel we know all the facts we need to, and that our perception of "those idiots" is flawless. At the same time, however, we may get bent out of shape when someone judges or gets mad at us for something. Letting go of our grudges and tolerating people is a difficult business; but if we want people to not judge us the only fair thing to do is to extend the same courtesy to them.

"Grudge not one against another," the saying goes, "lest ye be condemned"(James 5:9). Often, our tongues get in the way. Sometimes it seems like every kind of animal has been tamed; "but the tongue can no man tame" (James 3:7-8). One important point along this line of thought is often not discussed. I have observed that when we are filled with anger towards ourselves it becomes more difficult to be patient, tolerant, and good natured towards others. In order to get along with others, it always helps to learn to get along with ourselves.

A story comes to mind about letting go of the grudges of the past.

A French writer named Guy Maupassant created a story about a village character named "Hauchecome." Hauchecome finds a piece of string on the ground, picks it up, and puts it in his pocket. This act is seen by the town harness maker. Later news travels that a purse is stolen. The harness maker didn't like Hauchecome and takes this opportunity to tell everyone that Hauchecome did it. Hauchecome is arrested, but later the purse is found and he is liberated. Hauchecome resents how he was treated, he refuses to let it go. For the rest of his life he spends all of his energy and time making sure everyone knows about the injustice he suffered. He becomes so obsessed with it that his health declines and eventually sends him to his death-bed. In the semi-conscious state before his death, he still mutters to himself as he dies, "a piece of string, a piece of string." In the end, the reason we need to let go of the grudges of the past is not because everyone we meet deserves our forgiveness, but it's because if we don't forgive, our own "piece of string" may control us and rob us of peace of mind. I promise that as we let go of our own grudges we will find an inner freedom that is powerfully sweet, liberating, and worth the price tag.

### References

Guy de Maupassant, "A Piece of String," in *The Complete Short Stories of Guy de Maupassant* (Garden V-City, New York: Hanover House,



## THE HEAT IS ON: THINK SAFETY THIS SUMMER

By 1st Lt. Edgar Nicolau  
Safety Officer  
191st CSSB

**T**he weather is hot, and now is the time to start thinking about preventing heat injuries to yourself and other Soldiers.

The incidence of heat stroke hospitalization in Soldiers has increased eight-fold during the last 20 years, according to the latest Army Heat Injury Prevention Policy Memorandum. Heat injuries can occur in garrison and operational environments, during unit and individual physical training, training exercises, recreational events and non-exertion activities.

Leaders are charged with putting in place the necessary measures to prevent heat injuries. Medical personnel also have a key role in supporting unit leadership. Individual Soldiers also play a part by following the guidance they are given and paying attention to warning signs.

The primary reference on preventing heat injuries is TB MED 507, "Heat Stress Control and Heat Casualty Management." This guide covers all aspects of heat injury prevention, including heat mitigation procedures, identifying high-risk individuals, heat acclimatization, fluid and electrolyte replacement, work/rest guidelines, management of heat casualties and vigilance.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Mayo Clinic, the symptoms of heat injury (exhaustion) include excessive sweating, extreme weakness or fatigue, dizziness, confusion, nausea, clammy skin, a pale or flushed complexion, muscle cramps, elevated body temperature, dark urine, a rapid and weak heartbeat, headache, low blood pressure, and fast, shallow breathing. These signs of heat injury (exhaustion) are warning indicators that one needs to drink water and enter a cool place to rest before a dangerous heat stroke occurs. The signs of heat injury (exhaustion), not so coin-

identally, are also potential signs and symptoms of someone who is suffering from heat stroke.

The variables of climate (temperature and humidity), intensity of activity and individual risk factors interact to cause a heat injury. Individual risk factors include lack of heat acclimatization, cumulative exposure to heat, poor physical fitness, overweight, concurrent illness, medications/dietary supplements, alcohol use, prior history of heat injury, skin disorders and being over 40 years old. Drinking beverages containing caffeine and alcohol within 48 hours of training increases heat injury risk. Newly mobilized personnel, especially those from cool climates that are not properly heat acclimatized, are more at risk of becoming a heat casualty in hot weather. Training in a compressed timeframe also increases risk.



Drinking too much water is also a risk. Deaths have occurred in the Army due to water intoxication, an electrolyte disturbance in which the sodium concentration in the plasma is too low. Fluid needs can vary based on individual differences ( $\pm \frac{1}{4}$  qt/hr) and exposure to full sun or full shade ( $\pm \frac{1}{4}$  qt/hr). Hourly fluid intake should not exceed 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  quarts and daily intake should not exceed 12 quarts.

Commanders, noncommissioned officers and medical personnel must implement a risk management-based, comprehensive heat injury prevention program. Programs must include identification and assessment of hazards in terms of severity and probability, implementation of appropriate controls for hazard abatement, and evaluation of the effectiveness of control measures. Early recognition of heat exhaustion is critical to prevent progression to more serious heat injury and death.



## Just Another Day for the Chief

By Capt. Alexis Melendez  
Contract Management Rep.  
191st CSSB

**NORTH FORT HOOD, Texas** – Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Lee Nunley steps through the crowd of protesters in the 120-degree heat of the Kuwaiti desert. Accompanied by his interpreter, he meets with a

end soon with no word of renewal. Jobs are on the line. A pleasant conversation quickly turns into a tense business meeting.

That is the scenario Nunley finds

leadership,” said 1s Lt. Jeremy Willson who accompanied Nunley as a transportation subject matter expert. “It was a great negotiation experience to prepare us for our deployment to the Middle East.”

“The experience of dealing with an interpreter and another language is tough. You have to be clear and concise with what you are trying to



**NORTH FORT HOOD, Texas** — Warrant Officer 4 Michael Nunley, a contract coordination manager for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, listens to the concerns of “contract representative” role players during key leader training exercise here July 8. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)

local leader, Mohamed Salam, a well-respected police chief in the Arifjan area. Nunley introduces himself and his companions. Mohamed Salam does the same with the local governor and sheiks of the region. Both parties briefly exchange pleasantries, but soon turn to business as concerns of job security for Kuwaitis grow. A contract is expected to

himself in as he takes the lead in a key leader engagement during training at here, Texas July 8. The event is meant to incorporate the lessons learned from cultural awareness training and implement them into a contract negotiation setting. “The opportunity to participate in these exercises has proven invaluable to the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB)

communicate so that the message is not misunderstood,” said Nunley.

He elaborates by saying, “They (Arabs) are very passionate and express themselves differently from Americans. They can appear intimidating, but this experience has allowed us to understand the culture and will be helpful when we experience these situations,” he added.



### “I Want that Photo!”

Did you see a photograph you liked and want?

Submit a request for a copy at:

[michael.gault@kuwait.swa.army.mil](mailto:michael.gault@kuwait.swa.army.mil)



## Operation: Foot Print Ascendancy

By 2nd Lt. Cole Landon  
Assistant S3/FRAGO Manager  
191st CSSB

### CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait –

*“But the worst o' your foes is the sun over'ead, You must wear your 'elmet for all that is said, If 'e finds you uncovered 'e'll knock you down dead, An' you'll die like a fool of a soldier.”*

- Rudyard Kipling, "The Young British Soldier"

This poetic expression mirrors the initial impressions of Soldiers of the Operations cell section of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during their first few days here in Kuwait, more specifically regarding what felt like 130+ degree temperatures.

“It feels a lot like when you're pulling open the oven

door and you get blasted in the face by the initial heat wave,” said Spc. Kristyn Dixey, a radio transmitter operator, resident Fort Hall, Idaho. “You can't help your eye lids from starting to squint when you step outside.”

“If there is a breeze, it feels more like a hot blow dryer,” said Sgt. Justin Maher, a battle captain assistant and resident of Salt Lake City, Utah when he was asked just how hot it is. “It doesn't really cool you off any.”

The ever resilient S3 non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Master Sgt. Michael Coffey of Ogden, Utah, compared his recollection of the first impressions of Kuwait to previous deployments that he has experienced. “I stay cool by staying inside!”

Nearly all indoor facilities have air conditioning, although there is no plumbing inside of the living or working areas. Our counterparts, the 728th CSSB, had briefed which outhouses had air conditioning, and which ones did not.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — 1Lt. Sarah N. Snow, a human resource officer from Salt Lake City, Utah, and Aubree Shurtz, a intelligence officer from Provo, Utah stand outside for 'fresh air' at Arifjan, Kuwait. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)

“When we were in Buehring, another Army base in the area, we had bathrooms inside of our billets.” said Coffey.

After running and tracking operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the transition from one command to another is no easy task. But thanks to the officer-in-charge, 1st Lt. Timothy Washburn, they are on our way.

“We have been ahead of schedule every step of the way, and we continue to set the standards high,” said Washburn. “My guys are exceeding expectations; it's

as simple as that. Our Soldiers have already begun to get in to their own personal battle rhythms whether it is an early trip to the gym, playing cards with their warrior companions, or catching up on some much needed sleep lost through the challenges of jet lag while traveling. Surely there will be stories to tell tomorrow of the

times spent in camaraderie from the current events of today.”

Getting down to business has been pretty smooth for the operations cell. They have successfully taken on the mission from the current operations cell of the 728th CSSB by applying their skills and training to mold within the current missions that are fully underway. They also officially transferred authority to the 191st “Ghost Riders” CSSB. They gathered the tools from their counterparts, and developed the processes that will set them up for success with their current missions, faster than the standard demanded.

With the expertise of their battle captains, they are tracking convoys not only on the ground throughout this dusty desert, but they are also keeping tabs on the vessels out to sea.

As they continue to put forth their best work, and escape the heat anyway they can, their thoughts go out to their families and friends back home who are supporting them during their endeavors here at Camp Arifjan.

# PROMOTIONS



 **NORTH FORT HOOD, Texas** — Kristyn V. Dixey, a signal support system specialist with the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, resident of Fort Hall, Idaho, was promoted to the rank of specialist July 7. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)



 **NORTH FORT HOOD, Texas** — Matthew D. Johnson, a human resource specialist with the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, resident of Salt Lake City, was promoted to the rank of specialist July 13. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)



 **CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** — Joshua D. Bird, a mechanic for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, was promoted to the rank of sergeant Aug 7. Bird, a resident of West Haven, Utah, has been a member of the U.S. Army Reserves for nine years. He is currently on his second deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)



 **CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** — Jennifer M. Gonzales, an information technologies specialist for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, was promoted to the rank of sergeant Aug 7. Gonzales, a resident of Salt Lake City, has been a member of the U.S. Army Reserves just over two years. She is currently on her first deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)



 **CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** — Joshua J. Maher, a transportation management coordinator for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, was promoted to the rank of sergeant Aug 7 here. Maher, a resident of Salt Lake City, has been a member of the U.S. Army Reserves for three years. He is currently on his first deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)

# BOOTS ON GROUND: **Around Kuwait**



**Camp Buehring** — Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, move a 'casualty' during medical evacuation training here July 17. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Joe Bush, 1-15 Inf. Bn)



**CAMP ARIFJAN** — Lt. Col. Lawrence Dugan, battalion commander of the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mainiero, also with the 728th CSSB, carefully wrap the battalion colors for its trip back to home station in Lock Haven, Pa., during their change of command ceremony August 7. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Gault, 191st Bn)



**CAMP ARIFJAN** — Members of the 1462nd Transportation Company recently trained soldiers from 3rd Infantry Division and Tennessee Army National Guard's 230th Engineer Battalion on the M1070 Heavy Equipment Transporter, or HET, during an eight day course here. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kenneth Fahnestock, 1462nd TC)



**CAMP ARIFJAN** — Spc. Regis Kessler, a resident of Pittsburgh, practices a take down on fellow 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) member, Sgt. Andre Patterson, a resident of Swissvale, Pa., during Modern Army Combatives Program Level One training here Aug. 6 through 10. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Peter Berardi, 316th ESC)

# THE XO FILES

From the Desk of Major O'Leary

## James Groark

Code Name: The Professor

191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Salt Lake City, UT 84113  
Made & Printed in U.S.A.

CLIP & SAVE  
SAVE! PROOF OF PURCHASE  
FOR SPECIAL GHOST RIDER PREMIUMS 1 PT. VALUE



Primary Military Speciality: Commander

Hometown: Somewhere in Missouri

A closet Star Wars and Star Trek fan, LTC Groark often spends his resiliency time reading science fiction books and searching Amazon.com for the elusive 1982 Captain Kirk Star Fleet Uniform with signature stun-ray gun. Not one to shy away from the camera, LTC Groark has established a personal goal during deployment to have more pictures on the unit's Facebook page than all other Ghost Riders combined...he is well on his way! His photo getting on the plane when departing SLC has even gone viral due to the uncanny resemblance to the professor in Back to the Future...Hey Marty! As the battalion commander he gave the go ahead for the unit's Ghost Rider name, coming from his love of the movie and his resemblance to Nicolas Cage (his words). Other hobbies include writing children's books, cutting a little rug (dancing) and spinning records as DJ J.G. down in Zone 1!

Years in Service: 30  
Rank: LTC (O-6)



## Annamarie LaPorte

Code Name: Jersey Shore

191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Salt Lake City, UT 84113  
Made & Printed in U.S.A.

CLIP & SAVE  
SAVE! PROOF OF PURCHASE  
FOR SPECIAL GHOST RIDER PREMIUMS 1 PT. VALUE



Primary Military Speciality: S-1 Super Troop

Hometown: Edison, NJ

Hailing from the state of New Jersey and the original "Jersey Shore," she is the great aunt of renowned reality TV personality Snookie. As a child growing up, Jersey Shore could often be found arguing with the other kids at the school bus stop over exactly how far they were supposed to stand from the curb; challenging teachers over what the School Board really meant (or should have meant) in their last meeting; and researching school code into the early morning hours. It is no surprise that once in high school, Jersey Shore won four state championships in argumentative debate! In her spare time she loves reminiscing of her SGM days gone by and looking forward to her Golden Years when she pins on CW2!

Years in Service: 30  
Rank: Warrant WO1



## Patrick O'Leary

Code Name: The Golden Boy

191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Salt Lake City, UT 84113  
Made & Printed in U.S.A.

CLIP & SAVE  
SAVE! PROOF OF PURCHASE  
FOR SPECIAL GHOST RIDER PREMIUMS 1 PT. VALUE



Primary Military Speciality: BATTALION XO

Hometown: A Great City in the Great State, Texas

As the leader of the staff, MAJ O'Leary has to walk tall and carry a big stick, especially with such Staff OICs/NCOICs like Super Mario (CPT Stanfield), Asian Sensation (1LT Snow), Soulman (SFC Jones), Gump (SFC Sivewright) and Spy Kid (2LT Shurtz). Hailing from the great state of Texas, it is said that George Strait's hit, "All My Exes Live in Texas" was for all the hearts Golden Boy broke when he joined the Army and moved away. An Army Aviator he finds comfort each month when the flight pay comes in! A real hero, MAJ O'Leary saved a fellow Ghost Rider one day at Fort Hood driving on West Range Road. His cat-like reflexes kept Blue Slurpee from running off the road when he decided to take a little cat nap!

Years in Service: 25  
Rank: MAJOR (O-4)



*(Continued from page 5.)*

supervised the actions of more than 200 contract personnel and Soldiers on the first mission and over 250 on the second. This included ensuring all the workers and Soldiers were fed and cared for, not an easy feat with 15 countries represented in the group of contract drivers.

At the start of a typical day during the mission, Soldiers and contract drivers would arrive on site, sometimes as early as 6 a.m. Then shipping containers, most measuring in at 40-feet long by eight feet wide, would be loaded onto flatbed trailers hauled by the contractors, or “white” trucks. The white trucks would line up in a convoy with “green” trucks, or those operated by the Army, and haul containers to KNB. Once they arrived, those containers would be offloaded from the trucks and prepared to be loaded onto cargo ships, and new containers loaded onto the white trucks for transport back here.

“(This was) one of the biggest convoys I have ever commanded and one of the largest convoys here in Kuwait,” said Staff Sgt. Arthur Bauman, convoy commander for the Julys mission. “The AS-58 mission was a success due to the 1462nd Transportation Company’s proper planning and extreme dedication.”

The large scale of both missions and the amount of supplies to be moved meant long days and minimal rest for unit personnel, especially for the second mission when more than half of the company was not available due to being forward deployed to Afghanistan. The missions’ successful completion was considered a major achievement for the unit, which hails from Howell, Mich. and is part of the Michigan Army National Guard.

Unit personnel were recognized for their efforts and performance by Task Force Vulcan, a U.S. Navy task force working at KNB to provide security and force protection. The task force leadership presented the company with a Certificate of Achievement for their hard work and dedication. The Soldiers’ performance was also lauded by unit leadership.

“I am very proud of our Soldiers and their will to succeed regardless of scale of the mission,” said Master Sgt. Terry Stephens, the company operations noncommissioned officer. “Their dedication and ability to overcome obstacles proves them to be some of the finest Soldiers in the Michigan National Guard.”



**Help us make the Ghost Rider Post even better!**

What type of things is your unit doing? We want to know!  
Send us your stories, photographs, comments, or suggestions to:  
[sarah.n.snow@kuwait.swa.army.mil](mailto:sarah.n.snow@kuwait.swa.army.mil)



# Certificate of Appreciation



Presented To

**SFC John Haag**

*SFC Haag has taken the lead in getting all the training requirements assessed and pushed them out to the down traces. He has spear headed the drivers training program and worked long days to ensure all information, training, and operations data is captured.*

*Christopher A. Beyer*  
CSM Christopher A. Beyer  
Ghost Rider 7



*James J. Groark*  
LTC James J. Groark  
Ghost Rider 6



191st COMBAT SUSTAINMENT  
SUPPORT BATTALION  
'GHOST RIDERS'  
APO, AE  
09366

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**"Ghost Riders, Out Front!"**