Striker Torch

2nd Brigade Combat Team Forward
Camp Buehring, Kuwait

What's Inside?

New Arrivals join the Ironsides Team 3

R&R in Qatar 4

HCP Mission Training Transcends all MOSs 5

MWR Events 7

Quote of the Week

"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight it's the size of the fight in the dog."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Front Page

Top: Staff Sgt. Jose S. Saxtos coaches Pvt. Richard L. Larossa, both from Company C , 2nd Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment, while he zeros and test fires his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Bottom Left: Spc. Chad Maggie from Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion provides security during a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Wesley Brooks

Bottom Right: Spc. John Gonzales (far) and Spc. Jose Gonzalez (near) engage targets prior to entering the live-fire shoot house during a training exercise near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Capt. Brian Gerber

Left: A fire team from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment moves ahead to clear a location for the team to take emergency cover during the unit's Headquarters Combat Patrol training. Photo by Capt. Brian Gerber

Top Right: Staff Sgt. Edward Day of Company B, 141st Signal Battalion times the performance of Spc. Rachael Hoad, also of Company B, during a maintenance rodeo held by 141st Signal Battalion outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Bottom Right: Spc. Pedro Cruz (left) and Spc. Victor M. Bardales (right) of Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, disassemble a machine gun during a Foreign Weapons Program in Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Douglas Healy

Back Page

Top Left: Spc. Jon Capello (left) kicks open a door for Spc. Michael Mumford (center) and Spc. Cameron Ray to allow a quick entrance during a Military Operations in Urban Combat (MOUT) training event in Kuwait. All are from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Conqueror Photo by Spc. Jeremy Neece

Top Right: Soldiers from Company B, 141st Signal Battalion practice litter carrying procedures for physical training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Jeremy Neece

Bottom Left: Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment prepare their Bradley Fighting Vehicles for operations outside of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Pfc. Josh Ingram

Bottom Right: Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment perform maintenance on a Humvee in a motor pool at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

HCP Mission Training Transcends all MOSs

Story by Staff Sgt. Kirk Gamblin

Captain Brian Gerber, Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment recently asked members from every section within his battery to come together to form the Battalion's Headquarters Combat Patrol (HCP), something they had never done before. Most of these Soldiers were new to this mission, but their leadership is seasoned, and everyone welcomed the new challenge.

The training actually started over a year ago during rotations at Grafenwoher and Hohenfels Training Areas in Germany, but the training really intensified at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Soldiers from the Communications section, the Battalion Fire Direction Center, the Battalion Personnel section, and the Survey and Maintenance sections contributed personnel required to form two HCP Teams. In one day's time, they stopped working within their occupational specialties, and shifted their focus to become proficient at HCP operations.

"This is just how these Soldiers are. You give them a task and you will be surprised at how hard they will work to exceed the standard and have fun while they're doing it."

Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment's Headquarters Combat Patrol practice firing positions under the watchful eye of instructors outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Adam Nolte

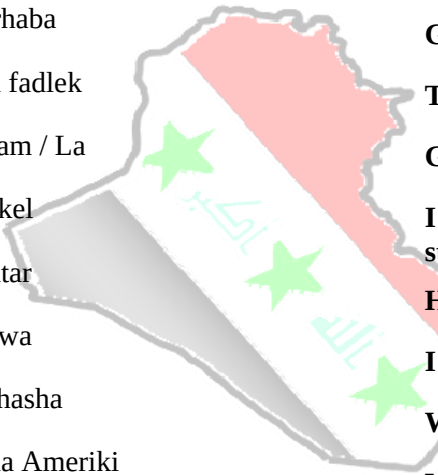
In addition to sustaining their fleet of gun trucks, the HCP teams have trained extremely hard to improve their weapons marksmanship, driving, and first aid skills. They executed training specific to combat Humvees, convoy live fire exercises, numerous marksmanship ranges, and tactical movements during the day and night across the Kuwaiti training areas.

"The hardest and most rewarding training we've received since arriving came when we attended a [class] that was specific to the HCP mission," said Sgt Alberto Romero, "Although the HCP training has similarities to other training that we have attended, the responsibility to protect one or more unarmed persons sets it apart from everything else we've done." The training lasted for two solid days. Early in the morning on the first day, the teams began with Close Quarters Marksmanship (CQM), emphasizing team movements and magazine exchange drills (rapid reloading). This was the founda-

Continued on page 4

Learn a Little Arabic

Helpful Words and Phrases



Hello	Marhaba
Please	Min fadlek
Yes / No	Na'am / La
Food	Ak-kel
Danger	Khatar
Medicine	Du-wa
Weapon	Rashasha
We are Americans	Ih-na Ameriki
Goodbye	Ma-aa sa-la-ma
Thank you	Shukran
Good / Bad	Zayn / Mu zayn
I do not understand	A-nee Meda Af-te-him
Help Me	Sa-aaid-ni
I am grateful	Ana Mamnoon
What?	Shinu
What's the matter	Shinu fee?

Continued from page 3

The teams then received an intense block of instruction explaining the actions and responsibilities of a HCP team. Once that was complete, the teams rehearsed the dismounted and mounted movement techniques to protect personnel. After receiving an Operation Order, the Soldiers conducted equipment inspections and rehearsed for the mission in the morning.

Early on the second day, before they executed their mission, the HCP teams conducted a stress shoot. Broken into three to five man fire teams, they sprinted about 75 meters, loaded their weapons, and operated as a fire team while conducting CQM. "This training was much more detailed and intense than any thing else we went through, here or in Germany," said Spc. Michael Cyphert. Each HCP team executed the training three times – the first two were without ammunition, and the last was a live fire exercise. The first iteration was the most difficult for the teams, as the observers made them painfully aware of their mistakes, creating "casualties" out of each person who made a mistake. In addition to executing their normal HCP tasks, they also had to treat and evacuate their own "casualties" – carrying Soldiers over 100 meters through soft, loose, sand. The difficulty of the first mission paid off, as the second dry fire and the live fire exercise were executed almost flawlessly.

Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment's Headquarters Combat Patrol teams react to a disabled vehicle during training outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spec. Adam Nolte

The training the Soldiers went through validated much of the drills the teams had worked on previously. Perhaps the most valuable lesson they learned was the value of detailed planning. "Planning each part of the mission and every contingency seemed boring at times, but it paid off when things happened that weren't [expected], and we were able to react successfully," said Cpl. Ricardo Torchon

While the teams conducted an after-action review with the instructors, the vehicle commanders were asked by the instructors, "How is it that these Soldiers are so motivated?" Sgt. Romero replied, "This is just how these Soldiers are. You give them a task and you will be surprised at how hard they will work to exceed the standard and have fun while they're doing it." The Soldiers of HCP have come a long way and have completed their training. It is their motivation which makes them continually successful as they are called to perform their mission.

Don't Get Caught Up!

Recognize and Prevent Heat Injury

Heat Cramps: Heavy sweating; painful spasms usually in the leg or abdomen muscles.
*Provide cool water, shade, and monitor.

Heat Exhaustion: Person experiences nausea, dizziness, weakness, headache, pale and moist skin, heavy perspiration, normal or low body temperature, weak pulse, dilated pupils, disorientation, fainting spells.
*Provide water, shade, elevate feet and seek immediate medical attention.

Heat Stoke: Person experiences headache, dizziness, confusion, rapid/strong pulse, and hot dry skin, high body temperature of 106 or higher
possibly leading to vascular collapse, coma, and death.
*Move to a cool shaded area, soak victim with water and fan, elevate feet and seek immediate medical attention.
(This is a medical emergency)

Spc. Benjamin Luker, of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment takes a drink from his canteen during training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

R&R in Qatar

Story and Photos by Spc. Joshua Ramey

The Doha, Qatar, skyline observed on a sponsorship trip during a four day R&R pass.

Most of the time, escaping the day-to-day stress that accompanies battlefield conditions is impossible. However, all deployed service members have the opportunity to take 15 days of leave with transportation paid by the government, or taking a four-day pass to Qatar at least once during their tour in designated combat zones.

One of the primary functions of Camp As Sayliyah at Doha Qatar, is to administer an active Rest and Recuperation program for military members serving anywhere in the Middle East. "The purpose of the program here is to allow our fighters a chance to relax, to decompress, and experience some of the Arabic culture without any worries about safety," said Maj. Ben Dennis, Army Preposition Director of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and the R&R Program. "We are on a mad-dash to improve the amenities here. We're building a bowling alley, an Irish pub, expanding our off-post trip capacity, and getting an Arabic food restaurant, all within the next four months," Dennis said.

No matter how long it takes to travel to Qatar, the actual four-day pass does not begin until the Soldier has arrived at Camp As Sayliyah. Once on pass, military members receive briefings on how to best take advantage of the amenities available, can wear civilian clothes, and are allowed three beverages of beer or wine per night.

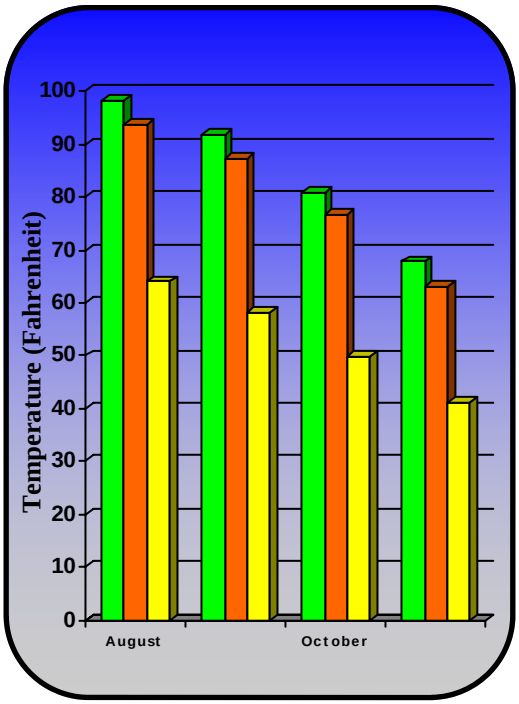
The United Services Organization maintains a facility that is free and available 24 hours a day for Armed Forces members. The facility includes free and unlimited use on DSN phones, internet access, a video game room, and a lounge showing movies around the clock. Also readily available on post is a swimming pool, Chili's Restaurant, and a well-equipped gym with spa.

The MWR trips cost a maximum of $20, and include: water sports; a day cruise in the Persian Gulf; lunch at an Iranian restaurant; trips to several of Doha's malls; a deep sea fishing trip where you eat what you catch; and a 4x4 ride to a beach with a scenic picnic. Some of these trips fill up quickly, so it is important that people wishing to attend the more popular trips are on time for the signups, and attend all of the briefings. Finally, a good way to get off the post is to signup for a sponsor, who is a volunteer stationed at Camp As Sayliyah. Sponsors can take up to four service members off-post with relatively few restrictions, and are generally more flexible with taking R&R Soldiers where they want to go.

The whole program is designed to allow each individual participant the flexibility to do whatever he or she wants. Once Soldiers are in-processed, no briefings are mandatory; there is no wake-up time and no accountability formations. "Qatar is what you make of it. All of the facilities here really make it hard to go back to Iraq. I look at it as a once in a lifetime experience where you actually get a chance to experience the Middle Eastern Culture," said Sgt. Robert Finn of the 501st Special Troops Battalion, Military Intelligence Detachment, 101st Airborne Division. Spc. Nathan LeBlanc, of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, was able to take several trips off the post. "I had a lot of fun, met some cool people, and got a chance to relax."

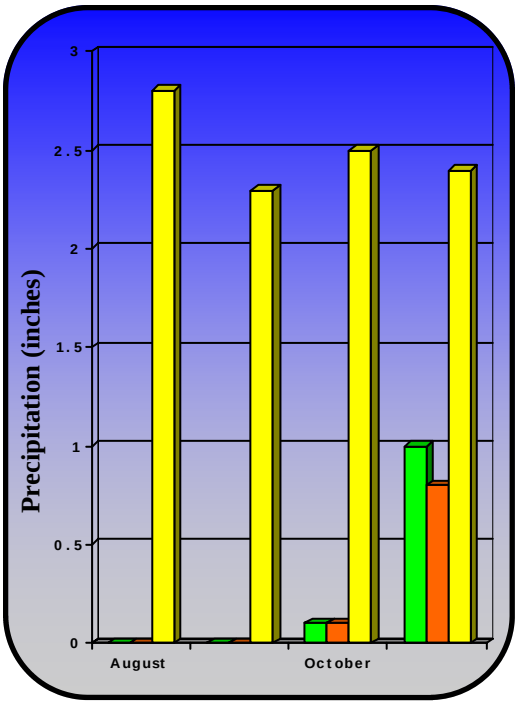
One of the many modern buildings constructed within the past three years during major expansion and development of Doha, Qatar.

How's the Weather in your neighborhood?



These are the average daily temperatures and precipitation for Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Baghdad, Iraq, and Baumholder, Germany according to www.worldclimate.com.

Kuwait
Iraq
Germany



Top Left: Spc. Michael Cyphert of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment uses the Laser Marksmanship Training System (LMTS) to verify his bore sight zero prior to going to a range.
Bottom Left: Sgt. Barry Dreyer of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, throws a practice hand grenade during the Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) verification.
Right: M1A1 Abram Tanks from 1st Battalion 35th Armored Regiment perform training missions at night outside of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

New Arrivals join the Ironsides Team

Story and Photos by Spc. Joshua Ramey

(from left to right) Pfc. George Bradford, Pvt. Authur Spears, and Pvt. Jarrod Peters, all of Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, carry their newly issued uniforms and equpiment to their barracks at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

For most Soldiers graduating basic training, they have at least a few months to get accustomed to their surroundings, make some friends, and fall into their unit before deploying in support of combat operations. However, for 63 Soldiers who recently arrived with 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, many of them fresh out of basic training, their situation falls outside of the norm.

Pvt. Sean Vercellone is a light wheeled mechanic from Company A, 47th Forward Support Battalion. His post-basic training included convoy live-fire training in Grafenwoehr, Germany, and is working to get fully up to speed before going into Iraq. "I'm not really expecting anything, and keeping an open mind. The NCOs are really helping me out to get acquainted with the area and familiarizing myself with all of the new faces," he said. Most of the new Soldiers spent at least a month with their respective Rear Detachment units in Baumholder, Germany, prior to deploying, and were exposed to rumors and conjecture before actually moving in-country. "Everyone in Rear-D told me how hot and miserable it was here, but it's not really that hot out. I was excited about coming; I thought 'Hey it's a new place to see and visit!' Staff Sgt. [Victor] Perez and Sgt. [Erica] McDonald helped keep me out of trouble, and answered any questions that I had," said Pvt. Megan Connely while remarking about her Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT co-workers.

Other new-arrivals considered leaving Baumholder an 'escape.' Pvt. Joshua Branstetter of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment said he was glad to deploy. "Here, I'm actually doing something that pertains to my [occupational specialty] rather than sit around on Rear-D and do lawn work," he continued, "at least here, I can let my lawn-mower's license expire." The new Soldiers really found no problems whether moving to Germany, or deploying to theater. "I've known a lot of prior service people that told me what to expect with the Army, so I'm not really surprised by anything," said Pvt. Phillip Weisheit of HHB, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt., "but [deploying] offers something a lot different than working a regular job."

Pvt. Jason Hawkins (left) and Pvt. Seth Mitcham (right) transport their newly issued gear to thier barracks after arriving at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

2nd BCT Commander
Col. Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

2nd BCT Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Jose A. Santos

2nd BCT Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Frederick K. Bower

Striker Torch Editor in Chief
Capt. Thomas A. Hasara

Striker Torch Editors
Sgt. 1st Class David R. Dockett
Sgt. 1st Class (P) Armaruel T. Peralta
Sgt. 1st Class Liviu A. Ivan
Sgt. Ben T. Siep

Striker Torch Design Coordinator
Spc. Jeremy E. Neece

Striker Torch Staff Writers
Sgt. Raul L. Montano
Spc. Joshua P. Ramey

CONTACT US!

HQ, 2BCT, 1AD
ATTN: PAO
Camp Buehring
APO, AE 09330
Call Us @ DSN 318-828-2018
tom.hasara@us.army.mil
david.r.dockett@us.army.mil
This Edition can also be found online at
http://www.1ad.army.mil/2BCTNewsletters.htm

We are looking for any type of submissions to include: letters, articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs.

If you would like a copy of this issue please contact your Battalion UPAR

1-6 IN: Capt. Herbert Flather	**2-6 IN: Capt. Gabriel Martinez**
1-35 AR: 1st Lt. Dustin Gray	**40th EN: Capt. Matthew Holbrook**
47th FSB: Capt. Maurice Miles	**4-27 FA: Maj. Frederick Bower**

The Striker Torch is an authorized publication for Department of Defense members. Contents of the Striker Torch are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.