

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat  
Team Forward  
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



# Striker Torch

22<sup>nd</sup> EDITION 18 JUN 06

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Quote of the Week  
*“The greatest mistake you can make in this life is to be continually fearing you will make one.”*  
 - Elbert Hubbard



**Left Top:** Sgt. Michael Pacerelli from 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad, Troop G, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment searches under a staircase for evidence during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. Photo by Spc. Jeremy Neece  
**Left Bottom:** Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment dismount and secure an area during a Personnel Security Detachment exercise. Photo by Pfc. Nickolas Orvik  
**Right:** Sgt. Kimberly Hedenberg of Company C, 47<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion administers an Intravenous line during the final test of Combat Life Savers Certification. Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano

**Front Page**

**Top:** Soldiers from Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment shoot and observe M203 grenade rounds as they hit the target. Photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bledy Taka  
**Bottom Left:** (From left to right) Pvt. Ali Malik of Co. B, 141<sup>st</sup> Signal Bn., Sgt. Aquita Johnson of HHC, 40<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn., Sgt. Irene Fernandez of HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, and Cpl. Theresa Ayache of HHC, 40<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn., lift an antenna pole for physical training during Task Force Ram's leadership academy at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey  
**Bottom Right:** Sgt. Sean Kennedy from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion moves tactically while practicing Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) techniques near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. Ricardo Espinoza

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**Left:** Pfc. Joshua Fameree of Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of Task Force Conqueror provides security during training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Pvt. Timothy Veltsos  
**Middle:** Spc. Christopher Graham of Battery C, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment pulls security while his section makes a tactical pause during a training event at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles Dayton  
**Right:** Sgt. Jesus Cadena from Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Task Force Conqueror advances to his objective at a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training site. Photo by Pfc. James Crabtree



# Task Force Ram Ensures Success from Junior Leaders

Story and Photos by Spc. Joshua Ramey



**Top:** Participants of the Task Force Ram's junior enlisted leadership training academy conduct basic training style PT at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

**Bottom:** Junior enlisted Soldiers take a class on nutrition from 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Robert Beausoleil of Company B, 141<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion during Task Force Ram's leadership academy at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

teaches legal responsibilities, proper counseling, and how to identify what Soldiers need," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mabini. Specialists that will be eligible for promotion to

Sergeant during the current deployment learned a great deal about duties of NCOs that were initially concepts. "I will be promoted in the next few months. I am much clearer about the roles of NCOs, the importance of enforcing discipline, standards, and dealing with problems junior Soldiers may have," said Spc. Kelly Mohammed of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion.

Cpl. Lewis Kuklinski, a terrain analyst in HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, went through the course as a newly promoted NCO. "We learned a lot of important information during the past five days. Supervision is necessary to make sure people do what they need to do. Failure to supervise could end up with someone hurt, or could harm the mission," he said when remarking on different aspects of the course. But more than just the theory of being an NCO, the academy participants learned some of the practical skills that many different occupational specialties rarely teach. The practical training included zeroing procedures for personal weapon systems, short range and urban combat techniques, vehicle maintenance, and reacting to improvised explosive devices. "The most challenging event in the course was the

Call for Fire class," said Cpl. Theresa Ayache, HHC, 40<sup>th</sup> Eng.'s training NCO. "We were pretty rusty on some of that stuff, plotting distances, calculating azimuths. [etc] It was very informative, and there were things I learned that I can take back to everyday life in my unit," she said.

The Leadership Academy, although only five days long, left a lasting impression on many of the junior leaders who now have a stronger foundation on which to build leadership traits. Many of the recently promoted NCOs were able to get answers on how to perform their duties, and to be leaders. Sgt. Cory Horras of Troop G, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Brigade Reconnaissance Team), was recently promoted in Kuwait. He said, "I haven't gone to any [formal NCO training] courses, and I had a basic concept of being an NCO, but this class definitely helped to boost my knowledge of how to do things right. It helps me do my job."

A graduation and award ceremony marked the end to the first-ever Task Force Ram Team Leadership Academy. Cpl. Matthew Crane of Troop G, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment earned an Army Achievement Medal for being selected by his peers as one who stood out as a leader throughout the course. "Teamwork really played an important part of the whole academy. During PT, and the [practical training exercises], everyone shared their own knowledge, and we learned a lot from each other as well as the instructors," he said. Spc. John Allen of HHC, 40<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. received his graduation certificate, and commented, "The team cohesion among the participants really made it a good experience. Everyone came together, and helped each other take the most we could out of the Academy."

Task Force Ram of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, recently conducted specialized training that focused on equipping future Non-Commissioned Officers with the knowledge they need to take care of today's Soldiers. The five-day Leadership Academy pushed the young leaders to strive for excellence in military bearing, discipline, and mental focus lasted roughly 15 hours on each day of training and classroom exercises. The course was the first-ever for the Task Force, and was designed by senior NCOs to help improve the quality of leadership throughout all ranks. "This training academy will give junior leaders a better idea of [their roles] when leading Soldiers. It is the Sergeant that makes important decisions on the ground in Iraq; it is the Sergeant that leads and checks Soldiers, and makes sure they are trained," said Command Sergeant Major Bernard Mabini, Task Force Ram's Command Sgt. Maj.

Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT has been deployed to Kuwait for more than six months, many of the newly-promoted NCOs have not been able to go through the conventional training available in a garrison environment. "Many NCOs across this Task Force need some of the warrior training that

## Redlegs Train With the AT-4

Story by Sgt. Mathew Wearly



**Top:** Pfc. Ryan Turner from Service Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment fires an AT-4 during a range held outside of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

**Bottom:** An AT-4 round explodes near targets during a range held outside of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

“What a rush! Seeing the smoke trailing a big ball of fire... best training event so far,” were the words used by Spc. Benjamin Swob of Service Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment after a recent AT-4 Anti-Tank range. Spc. Swob was not alone in his assessment of the Thunder Battalion’s training event as his sentiments were echoed by all of the Soldiers lucky enough to fire the live hand-held anti-tank weapon.

Spc. Sixto Rivera added, “This is the first time since basic training that I have even seen an AT-4. I had forgotten how to fire it until last week, but the training prior to the range really helped.”

Prior to firing, Thunder Battalion Soldiers conducted Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) for the AT-4 for individuals. Former Drill Sergeant and current Service Battery Ammo Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Martin Ware, oversaw the training and was pleased with the results. “We spent a lot of time teaching the guys how to fire the AT-4,” said

Ware, “and you could see the progress when they actually got on the range. The Soldiers were very comfortable with the munitions during the qualification portion of the range, but the nerves showed through when it came time for the live fire. They did an excellent job of concentrating on the task, remembering their training and applying it.”

In order to qualify to shoot the live AT-4, each Soldier had to first qualify with the 9mm tracer submunitions which are fired out of an AT-4 tube that closely resemble the firing characteristics of an actual rocket. Soldiers were required to hit six out of eight targets before being allowed to move on to the live fire range. After qualifying, the Soldiers were given the opportunity to fire one live AT-4. Spc. Wylie William Anderson III was especially grateful for this opportunity. “Being a mechanic, it’s really good for us to get this training because this is something that we normally wouldn’t do, but it’s good to know how.”

The highlight of the day’s events came with the last firer of the day. Spc. Bryan Richards, Battery C, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn., 27<sup>th</sup> FA Regt., stepped to the line, cleared his back blast area and fired a seemingly laser-guided shot that obliterated the target barrel and sent it about 20 feet straight up in the air. “Did you see that red barrel out there on the range,” Spc. Richards asked as he turned in his spent AT-4, “Well you can’t anymore!”

The officer in charge, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Christian Fierro, of Service Battery summed up the range by highlighting a few key points. “First of all, this training successfully accomplished its desired objective and met standards in qualifying Soldiers on the AT-4.” 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Fierro continued, “The Soldiers were very focused on the training, and the preparation they received prior to coming out here played a big part in that. Finally, and most importantly,” 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Fierro added, “the Soldiers were able to have fun with the training without increasing risk or compromising safety.”

## Bulldog Matrimony

Story by Capt. Heather Jangraw

Not every couple can say they got married in the middle of a year-long deployment, but that is just what happened to Spc. Laura Caron and Pfc. Sean Durand, both of Company B “Bulldogs,” of the 47th Forward Support Battalion. Currently deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the couple went on leave together to Griswold, Connecticut, and on 29 April, 2006, the Durands were united in Matrimony.

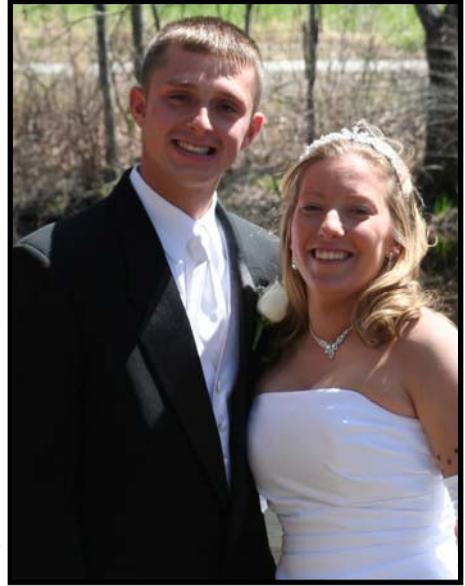
Spc. Durand laughed as she described how they got engaged. “We got engaged on 11 Feb,

2006. As we were walking to a basketball game [at Camp Buehring] he stopped me and got down on one knee.” When asked about picking a date, Spc. Durand explained, “We were originally going to wait until the end of the deployment to get married, but due to the possibility of being split up, we decided to do it whenever we could get leave.”

Pfc. Durand’s father, Francis, stood beside his son as his best man. Spc. Caron chose to have two maids of honor, her sister Rachelle Caron and her cousin, Crystal Caron.

The tuxedos, maid of honor dresses, and wedding dress were chosen on the couple’s second day back from leave just a mere ten days before the wedding. “It was the first dress I tried on and it fit perfectly,” said Spc. Durand.

The ceremony was held at The First Congregational Church in Griswold, Connecticut. It was an intimate ceremony with around 60 of their closest family and friends. The reception was held in the hall attached to the church. Following the reception, friends and family changed into casual wear, filled their coolers and attended a charity event hosted by Spc. Durand’s parents. “It was great,” states Spc. Duran.



Spc. Laura M. Durand and Pfc. Sean Durand, both of Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, at their wedding on 29 April 2006. Photo by the Duey family



Spc. Laura M. Durand and Pfc. Sean L. Durand smile happily at their wedding on 29 April, 2006. Photo by the Duey family

“We had one party (the reception) and everyone just shifted right into the next at the charity event.”

Due to the deployment, the couple did not have an opportunity for a honeymoon although they are considering taking a cruise in the Bahamas during their next leave opportunity. Two days after the wedding, the Durands were back in Kuwait and back to work. Spc. Durand is a fire control repairer in the armament shop and Pfc. Durand is a light wheeled mechanic working in auto bays. They both recently reenlisted to serve their country and further their military careers.

# What You Need to Know About The UCMJ

by Capt. Joel Cummings, Brigade Judge Advocate

Just as many Soldiers are not familiar with the UCMJ, many Soldiers probably do not realize that the UCMJ, in some ways, affords greater protections than the civilian system. Keep in mind, comparing military justice to civilian justice is like comparing apples to oranges. The civilian justice system is not concerned with good order and discipline. The UCMJ criminalizes much more conduct than the civilian world. In the civilian world, if you are late to work or are disrespectful to your boss, it is not a crime although you may get fired. Despite the increased zone of criminal conduct, the UCMJ is more careful about individual rights than state and federal criminal systems.

Under Article 31, a Service Member must be advised of the right to remain silent whenever another Service Member suspects that Service Member of a crime and wants to question him or her about it. In the civilian world, the police do not have to read you your Miranda

rights until they question you while you are in custody.

Service Members also have the right to a free defense attorney whenever they go to court-martial. Service Members can also talk to a defense attorney when faced with an Article 15 or adverse administrative action. In the civilian world, such services cost a great deal of money. Public Defenders are free defense attorneys for civilians, but high demand over tasks them.

Under Article 32, no charges can be sent to a general court-martial without an impartial investigation. An Article 32 investigation is like a grand jury proceeding in the civilian justice system. An Article 32 provides an important right to the accused because it forces the government to test its case in an informal mini-trial. Whether or not a civilian is entitled to a pre-trial hearing depends on local state law.

The UCMJ appeals process affords greater review

post-trial than many state systems. The role of the commander in the UCMJ system is unique and affords another layer of protection to the Service Member unlike anything in the civilian world.

Service members also have the same rights under the Fourth Amendment of the US Constitution as civilians. The Fourth Amendment protects people against unreasonable searches and seizures. The fact remains that compared to civilians, Service Members have less privacy especially when deployed.

Commanders, though, are still required to have "probable cause" when searching or seizing Service Members' property for the evidence of a crime. The UCMJ is no less diligent in protecting Service Members' Fourth Amendment rights despite the differences in military versus civilian life.

This concludes this series on the UCMJ. For more information on the UCMJ, please contact SSG Philip Neal at the Soldier Support Center.

## Upcoming MWR Events

### Sunday, 18 June 2006

1000: Spa Day @ Events Tent  
 1200: Chess Tournament @ Oasis  
 1500: Dominoes Tournament @ Palms

### Monday, 19 June 2006

1930: Spades Tournament @ Oasis

### Wednesday, 21 June 2006

1830: Fun Run @ Z1 Green Beans  
 1930: Fight Night Tournament @ Palms

### Saturday, 24 June 2006

1000: 3 on 3 Blacktop Basket Ball Tournament  
 @ Basket Ball Courts  
 2000: Casino Night @ Events Tent

### Sunday, 25 June 2006

1000: 3 on 3 Blacktop Basket Ball Tournament  
 @ Basket ball Courts  
 1200: Spades Tournament @ Oasis  
 1400: Ruff & Ready STREND  
 Competition @ Gym  
 1930: Bingo @ Events Tent



**Top:** Sgt. William Taylor from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team catches a ground ball during a softball tournament held at Camp Airifjan, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

**Bottom:** Soldiers of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Company C, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion conduct convoy operations during route clearance training. Photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Tobias Watson



## What Do YOU Think?

# “What would be your choice for your next duty station?”

Questions and Photos By Sgt. Raul Montano and Spc. Joshua Ramey



SFC Gregory Moses  
 B, 47<sup>th</sup> FSB

Aberdeen Proving  
 Grounds because it is in  
 the area I want to retire.



SGT Robert Quidilla  
 HHC, 40<sup>th</sup> EN

Hawaii, because  
 I want to be  
 close to my son.



PFC Brandon Kaufmann  
 C, 4-27 FA

EOD at Garmisch, because  
 I can snowboard in the  
 winter and rock climb in  
 the summer.



SSG Michael Horn  
 HHB, 4-27FA

Ft. Sill. I want to  
 be a Drill  
 Sergeant.



SSG Yvonne Nelson  
 B, 47<sup>th</sup> FSB

Fort Bragg, that is  
 where my husband  
 is.

Next Week: “What are your favorite MWR events?”



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**We are looking for any type of submissions to include:  
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