

2nd Brigade Combat  
Team Forward  
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



# Striker Torch

EDITION 23 APR 06

SIXTEEN

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Quote of the Week:  
*“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.”*  
 -Dwight Eisenhower



**Front Cover:**

**Top:** Sgt. Cody Haugen (rear) awaits orders, while Sgt. Christopher Brown (front) prepares his driver for a Route Clearance Extended Patrol mission. Both are from Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion. Photo by 1st Lt. Wesley Brooks

**Bottom Left:** Sgt. Christopher Washburn (top) provides security as Spc. Michelle Mathias (left) administers medical aid to a simulated patient (medical dummy) during Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3) training. Both Soldiers are assigned to Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion. Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick

**Bottom Right:** Pfc. Paul St. Laurence, of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, tightens the lower bolt on a generator bracket on a Humvee. Photo by Staff Sgt. Yann Jugeat



**Top Left:** The 3rd Howitzer Section from Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment after receiving the Top Gun award. Photo by Pfc. Joshua Ramey

**Top Right:** Spc. Brandon Pounds from Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion moves an Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge to be worked on during Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion's motor pool maintenance. Photo by 1st Lt. Mustafa Durani

**Bottom Left:** Sgt. Michael Flanigan of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion prepares the fuse of a demolition charge during the 40th Eng. Bn. Sapper stakes training. Photo by Pfc. Jeremy Neece

**Bottom Right:** Sgt. Oliver Herrera of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, fires his M203 grenade launcher during weapons training near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Tobias Watson



## Regulars use Competition to Strengthen Squad Cohesion

Story by 2nd Lt. Ryan Todd and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Michael McGuire



Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion 'suck it up' in the tangle foot obstacle, part of the Task Force Regulars 'best squad competition' near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Task Force Regulars have recently developed their own rigorous best squad competition as a way to use the time and training assets available while deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. While applying high standards to all squads, the latest contest was a fine example of Task Force Regular's method of using competition to identify the best squad in the task force. Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Regulars, had a unique perspective on the best squad competition because they had a dedicated group of NCOs who built the lane in addition to all of their squads participating in the competition.

This competition was broken down into a two day event. The first day covered a unique fitness test along with day and night land navigation. The second day comprised of an all-day stress shoot which tested individual marksmanship skills after strenuous physical activity. Each company within the Task Force was organized into multiple squads removing the platoon-sized elements, creating six to eight squads per company.

Day one started at dawn with a detailed inspection of the squads. They then moved on to the battle fitness test site where Soldiers ran a two mile course in their combat uniforms and boots. An overall score was computed by averaging each squad member's time. The two mile run was only a taste of the sweat, pain, and exhaustion to come. The conditioning course awaited them in training area alpha.

became very familiar with the desert floor as they executed three to five second rushes, crawled on their backs through a tangle foot barbed wire obstacle, carried a litter used for casualty evacuation, conducted a fireman's carry, and ran carrying five gallon jugs filled with water. Soldiers then moved to the Common Task Training (CTT) area where they were tested on multiple Iron Warrior tasks including radio procedures, various emergency medical tasks, and proper use of chemical protective equipment, just to name a few.

Following a two hour break, squads put their map reading skills to the ultimate test - desert land navigation. Due to the flat terrain, Soldiers were unable to use contour lines and easily identifiable terrain features; dead reckoning was the only useful technique to navigate the Kuwaiti desert. Standards for the day portion of land navigation were to find four points within four hours. Night land navigation standards were three points in three hours. As expected, the Scouts came in first on this event. The night land navigation course ended the first day of competition. Squads took a much needed rest in preparation for day two.

Early the next morning squads began the March and Shoot portion of the competition. The March and Shoot tests the ability of the squad to move as a team along with measuring how effective the

"[We reviewed the various] weapon systems, studied land navigation, casualty evaluation and spent many hours of physical training together," said Pfc. Jon Lockyear, a participant in the competition from Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael McGuire, also of Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn., designed the conditioning course with two goals in mind: to push the Soldiers of Task Force Regulars to their limit and strengthen teamwork within each competing squad. Soldiers

squad leader is in designating sectors of fire and regulating volumes of fire. Squads conducted a five mile road march to the firing line. Firing after a strenuous road march is challenging to any individual's ability to mentally focus and remain physically calm to ensure a weapon's accuracy. Squad one, Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn. led by Staff Sgt. Lee Fraser took first place on the march. M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) gunners were issued twenty-four rounds of ammunition and the M16/M4 riflemen were issued twenty rounds.

Soldiers fired at qualification targets, demonstrating their ability to place accurate fires under physical stress. "Although shooting after a road march was challenging, the training I received from my squad leader helped me control my breathing and relax my body while I shot," said Spec. Jessie Schafer of Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn. Squads then rucked up for the five mile march back to the start point.

Unfortunately for Company A, they did not take home the "best squad" title, however, Squad six, Co. C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment with Staff Sgt. Mark Oida, Squad Leader, won the top position with a cumulative score of 362.46 points. Staff Sgt. Lee Fraser from Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn. remarked after the competition was completed, "I felt that the competition brought the squad closer together. It took a joint effort by all the squad members to rise to the occasion." Task Force Regulars squads were proud of their accomplishments, proving once again that the Regulars Squads are anything but regular... they are outstanding!



Cpl. Eric Gremm of 1st Platoon, Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion of Task Force Regulars, runs for the finish line at the conditioning course of the 'best squad competition' at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

# Soldiers earn U.S. Citizenship While Deployed

Story and Photos by Pfc. Joshua Ramey



Pfc. Floyd Donaldson of Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion of Task Force Gator, a native of Jamaica, receives his Certificate of Naturalization with Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb (left), 3rd U.S. Army Commanding General, and Mr. Mathew Tueller (right) of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

enjoy the stability and freedom of life in the United States.

Spc. Costel Baciu, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and a native of Romania, was also a victim of political struggles.

When Baciu was six years old, the people of Romania with the national police and Army as

their allies, revolted against the Communist Party. Spc. Baciu's parents were both killed in the ensuing struggle, and he was adopted in the United States by an Air Force Officer. Baciu joined the infantry out of high school, and is seeking to advance his military career. "[My citizen-

ship] helps me get a security clearance, that will help me better serve the country that has helped me so much in the years I've lived in the U.S." He plans to become a warrant officer and work in aviation.

The new American Citizens left the ceremony, completing a major step in the continuation of their respective lives. Pfc. Seymour Benn of Co. B, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of Task Force Regulars from the Caribbean island of Antigua, said, "Citizenship is important because it opens the door to a whole lot of opportunities within the United States." Spc. Manjeev Bajwa from HHC, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. from India said, "I applied for citizenship two years ago and it feels great. Citizenship in the United States is something that I've always wanted to achieve." Pfc. Floyd Donaldson, the former Jamaican assigned to Co. B, 40th Engineer Battalion, remarked, "Everything I have up to this point in my life, I got in the U.S. It's where I met the most wonderful woman in my life."

This day marked a major step in these Soldiers' lives, as they continue to further their military careers, and eventually return to civilian life. Many of the Soldiers who earned their citizenship were on their 2nd deployment into the Iraq or Afghanistan theaters. The fact that immi-

grants are willing to join the U.S. military - to fight and die for a nation that is not their own, speaks volumes about what

***"There are people on this Earth that will never know the freedom [of America]; it's a thing that must be cherished. . . and preserved by those who take on the responsibilities associated with it."***

grants in the 'land of opportunity' means. Now, these Americans and their families, for generations to come, "...will be able to pursue the American Dream - the dream that we all hold so dear." Lt. Gen. Whitcomb said during his keynote address.

Fifty-Five Soldiers currently deployed to Kuwait and Iraq earned their United States Citizenship on Thursday, April 7th, 2006, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The ceremony was the capstone event for Armed Forces members who dedicated several years of filing applications, and preparing for an interview with the U.S. Consulate. These Soldiers joined the military as immigrants, and chose to serve the United States Military even without all of the rights granted to its citizens. "There are people on this Earth that will never know the freedom [of America]; it's a thing that must be cherished. . . and preserved by those who take on the responsibilities associated with it," said Lt. Gen. Steven Whitcomb, Coalition Forces Land Component Commander during his keynote address. The 55 Soldiers were administered the Oath of Allegiance by Ms. Lori Pietropaoli, the officer in charge from the Rome U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. This completed their endeavor to become citizens and enjoy the freedoms of the nation they are already defending.

Staff Sgt. Foday Turray, of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, and a native of Sierra Leone, considered himself lucky to escape the current political conflict plaguing many west-African countries. "I came to America for a better life, with total freedom." America presents opportunities for Turray, his wife, and two American-born children. "I want to send my kids to college, and they can live their own lives from there," he said. Political upheaval is one reason people seek to leave their homeland, and



2nd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers, Spc. Manjeev Bajwa (right), of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, and Spc. Costel Baciu of HHC, 2nd BCT, with the other Soldiers who recently completed the naturalization process, receive the Oath of Allegiance as new citizens of the United States.

## 2-6 Infantry makes roads safer in southern Baghdad

Story and photo by Pfc. Jason Dangel 4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Improvised Explosive Devices remain the number one threat to military personnel and civilians in Iraq today, and according to recent statistics from the Department of Defense, more attacks are being directed towards innocent Iraqi civilians than ever before.

In an effort to combat these threats and further safeguard civilians and military personnel, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division cleared major travel routes of garbage and debris to deny terrorists hiding places for roadside bombs.

Operation Stallion Run, a nine day clearing mission headed by the 2nd Bn., 6th Inf., was a collaborative mission between 2nd Bn., 6th Inf.; company B 62nd Engineer Battalion — attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division — and Iraqi Security Forces, said Capt. Joseph Hammond, fires support officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf.

“Basically, our mission was to move all the loose concrete and debris, as well as some of the trash that has built up over time along the roads,” Hammond explained.

“The reason this is so important is because the terrorists have been emplacing IEDs in the loose concrete and have been striking the local Iraqi populace, Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. convoys,” he continued. “So what we’re trying to do is take away areas they use to hide these IEDs.”

Hammond acknowledged the great risks posed by the roadside bombs and explained that the successful completion of Operations Stallion Run not only will make safer traveling conditions for people on the roads, it will also help to clean up the area and make conditions more

favorable for people living in South and Central Baghdad.

“Once this mission is completed, the ability to travel safely will greatly increase for Iraqi civilians and it will provide security for the local Iraqi populace and Iraqi Security Forces,” he said.

Leading the main clearing effort was the 62nd Eng. Bn., from Fort Bliss, Texas, currently the only “combat-

***“The ability to travel safely will greatly increase for Iraqi civilians and it will provide security for the local Iraqi populace and Iraqi Security Forces.”***

heavy” engineer battalion working in Baghdad.

Company B, or the “Battle Dogs,” is equipped with an arsenal of heavy machinery, to include combat earthmovers, bulldozers, heavy excavators and armored dump trucks.

Security elements ensuring the engineers’ safety included a scout platoon from 2nd Bn., 6th Inf.; heavy combat power from 4th BCT’s Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry and patrols provided by 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry and the 101st Airborne Division’s 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment also operationally attached to the 4th BCT.

Iraqi Security Forces from the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Iraqi National Police also

played a part in the mission and were in charge of various checkpoints around the clean-up sites.

According to 1st Lt. Bryan Musgrove, earthmover platoon leader, Co. B, 62nd Eng. Bn., his company was in charge of clearing approximately ten miles of road which will ultimately make driving conditions safe for commuters on the heavily traveled highways in southern Baghdad.

Each day, under limited visibility, the battle Dogs cleared a predetermined area of road, and completed the project over the course of nine days, Musgrove said.

“We were mandated by Task Force 2-6 Infantry to eliminate as much of the IED threat as possible,” Musgrove explained. “So what that entailed is any place where the enemy could possibly hide an IED was cleared from the roadsides and disposed of properly.”

Musgrove said bushes, trash and concrete blocks and/or barriers were the focus for the clearance mission.

Despite the challenges that may lie ahead, Musgrove said the mission serves a two-fold purpose, to ensure the safety of traffic and clean up the roads for the Iraqi people.



Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, prepare for a mission in southern Baghdad.

# Task Force Conqueror Builds...

Story by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dustin R. Gray and Photos by 1st Lt. Tobias Watson



Spec. Jason Miller, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Conqueror digs a target pit with his M9 Armored Combat Earthmover (ACE) at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex (MPRC).

To maintain its readiness, Task Force Conqueror, of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2nd BCT) continually trains. Most of the training takes place at the Udairi Training Area near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Udairi training area consists of numerous small arms and vehicle ranges. The Brigade wanted a range that would allow its M1A1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles the opportunity to shoot, maneuver, and engage moving targets. 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment (Task Force Conqueror) initiated a project to construct a Multi-Purpose Range Complex (MPRC) suitable to all of the weapons system of the brigade. The MPRC allows Soldiers to fire gunnery for crews and sections, as well as provides a venue for more complex platoon live fire exercises.

Sgt. 1st Class David Ward, the Task Force Conqueror Master Gunner, began the initial planning for the project in January. The first thing Sgt. 1st Class Ward accomplished was taking a look at the land and assessing if it was capable of meeting the needs of the

range. He planned the entire range from scratch on terrain where no range existed. The concept he devised allows multiple tanks, Bradley's, or other combat vehicles to maneuver over two lanes while firing at a variety of targets. Sgt. 1st Class Ward's plan also incorporated an existing Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) live fire site into the range design to allow a combination of vehicle maneuver and dismantled assault. Another piece of the planning involved designing a surface danger area diagram, which helps to prevent accidents by ensuring that Soldiers training on other ranges will not enter the line of fire of the MPRC. After some challenges, Sgt. 1st Class Ward completed the diagram with the aid of Camp Buehring Range Control.

With the land selected and planning well underway, the assessment and coordination of raw materials needed for construction began. "Coordinating was one of the biggest challenges of the project," Sgt. 1st Class Ward explained. Capt. Patrick Fagan of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, the action officer for the MPRC project, aided in coordinating for everything that was required. Capt. Fagan coordinated resources through numerous agencies on and around Camp Buehring, which were instrumental in completing the project. Part of the challenge Capt. Fagan faced

***"By the end of the mission we were like a well-oiled machine. It was a thing of beauty"***



Pfc. Susavan Sengvrat of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Conqueror, cuts a 2x4 for the Multi-Purpose Range Complex (MPRC) range tower.

on this project was getting resources devoted to the MPRC project while the Task Force was concurrently conducting other training events.

The construction resources for the MPRC project came from Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, part of Task Force Conqueror. The MPRC construction mission was broken down into three key tasks: construction of target pits, clearing fields of visibility, and construction of a range tower. Second platoon, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, had responsibility for both the target pits (a hole in the ground where target lifting devices are placed) and clearing fields of visibility. The target pits were dug out of the ground using a combination of Armored Combat Earthmovers (ACE), Small Emplacement Excavators (SEE), and the company Bobcat (a "skid-steer" vehicle). The ACEs, which worked in teams for each position, were well suited

## ...Multi-Purpose Range Complex

to scraping the three foot deep target pits out of the ground. "By the end of the mission we were like a well-oiled machine. It was a thing of beauty" said Spec. Joseph Sowell of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion. The SEE truck also helped smooth out any spoil near the target pits to ensure a low profile target area, providing a more challenging and realistic gunnery for qualifying crews. The Bobcat was used for detailed finishing work on each pit. Thirty four target pits were constructed over the course of three days. The Engineer platoon also reduced a 200 meter berm, which was obstructing the visibility of several targets, using a massed force of six ACEs.

First platoon of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, received the mission of constructing a tower for the range. Using a combination of existing three-sided cement bunkers and prefabricated steel columns, they were able to create a solid base with a large elevated platform fifteen feet above the existing terrain. On top of this platform they constructed a workplace that target operators and gunnery graders could operate from. "I feel like we've made a structure that will allow the safe and effective [operation] of this range" said Pfc. Nicho-



Pfc. Michael Ripp of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Conqueror, reaches out to receive one of the tower walls on the Multi-Purpose Range Complex (MPRC).

las Suchoski, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion.

After the engineers completed construction, Sgt. 1st Class Ward and Sgt. Kenneth Hagood, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 35th Armd. Regt began proofing the range lanes. They used two M1A1 Abrams Tanks to check the lanes for acceptable

target heights, clear fields of fire, and visibility. With construction complete and the lanes proofed the MPRC was ready to host Task Force Conqueror's gunnery exercises.

Gunnery began on April 1st with Co. C, 1st Bn., 35th Armd. Regt., firing tank tables. The targeting operator for the range, Bradley Master Gunner Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Carter stated, "Everything is working out great, the biggest challenge right now is keeping the targets in good shape long enough for every tank to run through the training." The qualifications for tank gunnery have changed recently, and the newly constructed MPRC is one of the first in the Army that will fully support the new gunnery standards. Sgt. 1st Class Ward said that this range in Kuwait is one of the first to transition to the new standards, "this new MPRC will [support the new tables] and I'm proud of that," he said. Task Force Conquerors will use the MPRC to qualify all five companies in various gunnery tables through the early summer.



M1A1 Main Battle Tanks of Company C, 1st Battalion 35th Armored Regiment, Task Force Conqueror, at the new Multi Purpose Range Complex to shoot Tank Tables.

## What You Need to Know About the UCMJ

### Part 1: Role of The Commander

By Capt. Joel Cummings

Most Soldiers have probably heard about proceedings under Article 15 of the UCMJ. Article 15 was created in order to handle minor crimes without going to a court with a judge. That is why it is called nonjudicial punishment. Soldiers may turn down the Article 15 and opt for a trial by court-martial. The Article 15 process is faster and a Soldier only risks rank, money, restriction and extra duty. The court-martial process is longer and affords the Soldier more rights, however, the Soldier risks confinement (jail) and a federal conviction.

There are three types of Article 15; summarized, company grade and field grade. The summarized Article 15 may only impose 14 days of

restriction and extra duty and is always locally filed. A company grade Article 15 may impose 14 days of extra duty and restriction, forfeiture of 7 days pay and reduction of one grade for E-4 and below. The field grade Article 15 may impose 45 days of extra duty and restriction, and forfeiture of half your pay for two months. The field grade Article 15 may reduce an E-4 to E-1 and may reduce an E-5 or E-6 one pay grade. All Article 15's may impose an oral or written reprimand. All Article 15's for E-4 and below are locally filed. Except for a summarized, Article 15's for NCO's must be filed in either the performance or restricted fiche.

In between an Article 15 and court-martial lies the summary court-martial. A battalion commander or higher commander may convene a summary court-martial. The summary court-martial is run by a captain or higher, not a judge. The summary court-martial may give 1 month of confinement to E-4 and below. A summary court-martial may also reduce a sergeant first class, staff sergeant or a sergeant one grade. It may reduce E-4 and below to E-1. The summary court-martial may impose 45 days hard labor without confinement, restriction for two months and forfeiture of 2/3 of one month's pay.

## Shout Outs!



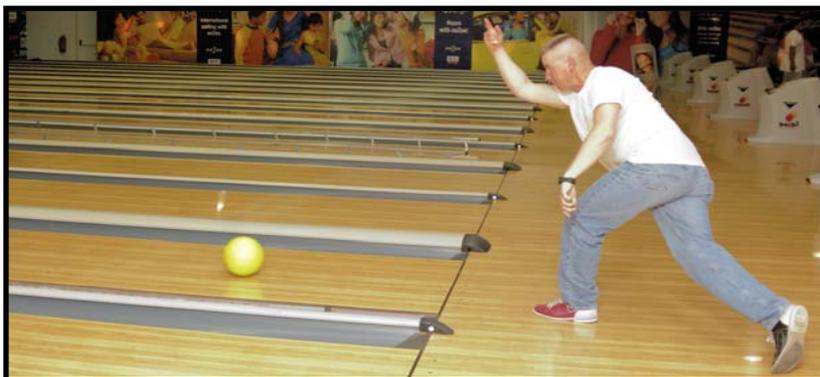
**Left:** Wives of Alpha and Headquarters and Headquarters Companies, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment hold up their certificates of participation after completing their point of contact training.

**Right:** Sgt. 1st Class John Cebak, Family Readiness Liaison for 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, and wives of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment stand next to an Easter poster board. The board represents an Easter bunny in ACUs, and was painted by Cecilia Ramos. It has several messages attached, each message written by a spouse. The wives will be sending the board down-range to their soldiers.



## Soldiers from 4-27 FA visit Kuwait City

Story and Photos by Pfc. Joshua Ramey



Spc. Daniel Tucker from Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment bowls a few games while on an MWR sponsored trip to Kuwait City.

Soldiers in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, after receiving briefings and classes on cultural awareness, can enjoy organized opportunities to leave Camp Buehring and experience Kuwait City. The local city, within driving distance of Camp Buehring, is populated with a wide diversity of people that are much different than a Soldier would experience in the States. Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment left Camp Buehring on April 11th, 2006, for a trip to a medium sized mall in Kuwait City. The MWR sponsored event went flawlessly and was a welcome experience which allowed Soldiers to get away from the routines of day-to-day deployment life, and return to Camp Buehring with boosted morale, and higher motivation.

“Putting on civilian clothes and leaving was a big break. I’m pretty sure everyone from the lowest to the highest ranks needed it, after all the hard work and long days we have spent here. I’m really grateful for having the opportunity to leave the FOB, at least for a couple hours,” said Spc. Jose Cabrera from Svc. Battery, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. Other Soldiers wore smiles on their faces for the entire trip at the opportunity to set this day apart from the rest in a memorable experience of a foreign culture.

One of the first things that American Soldiers noticed shortly after arrival was the difference in clothing that westerners typically see. There are groups of people representing a wide variety of cultures in Kuwait, with a mixture of Kuwaiti citizens, 3rd Country Nationals, and tourists, who all wore clothing

ranging from traditional Islamic dress, to modern western styles of clothing. “The entire trip was an amazing experience. The drive to the mall showed us how the Kuwaiti’s have many modern things; yet still keep a sense of tradition,” said Spc. Clinton Owens from Svc. Battery. “The people were interesting; the way they dressed from full traditional to newer western style was odd, [displaying] examples of completely opposite styles,” said Spc. Benjamin Swob of Svc. Battery, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt.

There were several areas in the mall that attracted the attention of Soldiers for the duration of the trip. There was a bowling

alley, a video game arcade, McDonalds, and a Pizza Hut. The arcade had some of the newest games with a roller-coaster that circled the area that was relatively inexpensive. Spc. Christopher Osborne and Pfc. Tyler Karrick played a Light Amplification by Stimulation of Emitted Radiation (LASER) video game and won about 100 tickets. “We were going to cash in the tickets and get a prize, unfortunately, we ran out of time and gave the tickets to a 10 year-old boy. When I saw his face light up. . . I knew we just made his day,” said Spc. Osborne. Other Soldiers were eager to get out and represent America allowing local nationals to see American Soldiers first-hand, rather than relying on their own perceptions and stereotypes.

The trip to Kuwait city allowed many Soldiers who are on their first deployment to the middle east, a chance to see how the Arab culture is different from the Western world. Kuwait city offers an excellent starting point, because the people are very open to outsiders, and English speakers can get by doing business there. “It was easy to figure out, because [the literature] was in English, and most people spoke English,” said Pvt. Billy Eastes, from Service Battery. Nearly every Soldier is anxiously waiting for the next time they are able to travel to Kuwait city and see additional sights the city has to offer. Trips to Kuwait City are coordinated at the battalion level. Soldiers must attend a Cultural Awareness class and receive a certificate of completion prior to participating in MWR trips abroad.



On the left Pfc. Richard Daniel (far), Spc. Wayburn Harbison (near) and on the right, Spc. Christopher Osborne (far) with Pfc. Tyler Karrick (near) all of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, play video games during a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation trip to Kuwait City.

## Upcoming MWR Events

**Sunday, 23 April 2006**

BAZAAR (in front of movie tent)  
1500: Water Balloon Dodge Ball @  
Volleyball Courts

**Monday, 24 April 2006**

1900: Phase 10 Tournament @ Oasis

**Tuesday, 25 April 2006**

1900: Dominoes Tournament @ Palms

**Wednesday, 26 April 2006**

1000: Kite Flying Day @ Palms  
1700: 7.5k Fun Run @ Green Beans  
1900: Halo @ Palms

**Thursday, 27 April 2006**

1900: Ping Pong Tournament @ Rec Ctr.

**Friday, 28 April 2006**

1900: Karaoke Night @ Palms  
2000: Gong Show @ MWR Stage

**Saturday, 29 April 2006**

1500: Survivor Final Task @ MWR Stage  
1700: Power Lift Contest @ Gym

**Sunday, 30 April 2006**

1200: 9 Ball Pool tournament @ Rec Center  
1930: Bingo @ Events Tent



**Top:** Sgt. Joe Collins spots Sgt. Shawn Mendoza's rounds as he fires his M14 Rifle during Designated Marksmanship training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Both are from Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

Photo by Sgt. Brian Primous

**Middle:** Sgt. Timothy Powell of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion conducts his first sermon at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick

**Bottom:** Soldiers from Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment present their tools during a change of command inventory.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Yann Jugeat



## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Anthony Horton

Like so many things in life, the challenge is to finish what we start, chapter by chapter, one page at a time.

As many know, former President George Bush was a Navy pilot during World War II. On one mission his torpedo bomber was hit by Japanese gunfire. The bail out wasn't a pleasant experience. His head slammed against the plane, tearing his parachute and causing deep cuts and bruises. He plummeted to the earth and may have died had he not landed in the ocean. For his actions, Mr. Bush received a Distinguished Flying Cross. But before he left the Navy he promised himself that someday he would jump out of an airplane and this time get it right. Five decades later he finally got around to his promise. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1997, seventy-two-year-old George Bush bailed out at twelve thousand feet over the Arizona desert. Jumping with members of the Army's Golden Knights, Mr.



Bush made a feather-soft landing just forty yards away from the target X.

The jump, referred to as Operation Second Look, was fifty years in the making and finally closed the book on a bad memory. Bringing closure in life takes different forms for each of us. It could involve revisiting past pain, fear or failure. Maybe it's a long overdue apology or the fulfillment of an unkept promise. Perhaps it's completing a challenge, like a college degree program.

It might even mean tackling some unfinished business with God Himself. Undertaking your own 'Operation Second Look' can help resolve issues that have kept you from walking close to the Lord and following His purpose for your life. Final Closure with Him can make it possible to say, as the Apostle Paul did at the end of his life, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

### What Do *YOU* Think?

**“What would you like families to know about life here?”**



Pfc. Seth Capson  
Co. B, 2-6 IN

There is a lot of sand, but it makes for a great training environment.



Pfc. Steven Townsend  
HHC, 1-35 AR

We have received training we were unable to perform in Baumholder.



Cpl. Robert Hopkins  
Co. A, 40th EN

Not a day goes by that we don't think of our families.



Spc. Kyle Phillips  
Co. C, 1-6 IN

There is internet and Taco Bell, so its not too bad.



Sgt. Ryan Moore  
HHC, 1-6 IN

It's hot, but bearable.

**Next Week: Special Maintenance Edition**

# What's in a Crest?

**The Crest:** The shield is red for artillery. The fractured bar represents the break in service between the history of the organization and as a World War I unit and its reconstitution in 1923.

**The Heraldic items:** The star-shot is a medieval missile provided with spikes for inflicting extra damage. It simulates the blazing star on the shield of the province of Salerno in central Italy. The gold and red bars on the roundel are from the arms of the city of Salerno. The star-shot and roundel represent the unit's outstanding role in the invasion of



Salerno. The spikes are seven in number in reference to the seven World War II campaigns in which the organization participated. The scallop shell refers to the Mediterranean Sea for which the unit launched an assault landing in North Africa, which is represented by the two battering rams.

## 27th Field Artillery

**The Motto:** *Coniuncti Stamus (United We Stand)* is fitting since we exist to provide massed fires in support of our maneuver brethren so that they may survive to fight on and vanquish the enemies of our great nation.

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