

2nd Brigade Combat
Team Forward
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Striker Torch

SPECIAL EDITION 16 APR 06

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Expert Field Medical Badge



A Word from the Striker Command Team



Col. Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

CSM Jose A. Santos



Iron Soldiers,

This week I am proud to discuss the valued skills and performance of our Brigade Combat Team Medical Soldiers. These Soldiers are precious members of any team, and an inherent combat multiplier in mission planning at every level. Medical personnel must always be prepared for enormous mental and physical stress, responding rapidly and confidently to situations on and off the battlefield. Our combat medics recently underwent one of the most challenging events in the Army -- the testing for the Expert Field Medical Badge, or EFMB. This event put Soldiers in physically and mentally challenging scenarios that tested each individual's training and will to succeed.

Every Soldier who chose to compete in this historic event deserves the respect and admiration of this Brigade. Each Medical

Soldier learned and developed through the process, making each a better medic and a better Soldier. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the EFMB cadre and leaders who trained these Soldiers. Our medics, and indeed all of our Soldiers, appreciate the efforts of these individuals to instruct, evaluate, and lead Soldiers. I look to the Iron medics of this BCT to continue to share with their fellow Soldiers the knowledge and expertise they have worked hard to achieve. Iron Brigade, take the opportunity to appreciate the medical personnel in your unit, they are learning and training hard to be able to save you.

Iron sharpens Iron as one Iron Soldier sharpens another.

Strike Hard!

Front Cover:

Top: Spc. Kyle Clayton of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion under camouflage and smoke, runs a course during the Expert Field Medical Badge.

Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick

Bottom: Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team low crawl while transporting a wounded Soldier on a litter through a barbed wire obstacle for the Expert Field Medical Badge qualification.

Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick

Back Cover:

Top: Pfc. Karen Sanders (in combat helmet, 3rd from left) of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, is cheered on by peers, Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) cadre, and members of her unit.

Pfc. Sanders earned the EFMB after completing the foot march portion in 2 hours, 58 minutes, with only 2 minutes to spare to earn the EFMB at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Photo by Pfc. Evan Richardson



Sgt. Jeremy Johnson (left) and Capt. Travis Austin (right), both of Charlie Company, 47th Forward Support Battalion, take a tactical pause during the Expert Field Medical Badge litter obstacle course. Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick



Medics Vie for Expert Field Medical Badge

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett



1st Sgt. Karen Archonidis, of the 1st Medical Brigade, takes charge of Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) candidates before marching them to their orientation briefing. Medical Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and 1st Medical Brigade participated in the first EFMB held in Kuwait, which was held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Eighty-Five Soldiers from units deployed across Kuwait participated in the first-ever Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) competition held in this area. Medics from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2BCT) and the 1st Medical Brigade demonstrated their knowledge of common tasks and job-related skills in order to earn the award.

The medical badge was designed to recognize exceptional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel, and was initiated by the Department of the Army on June 18, 1965. The purpose of the EFMB is to recognize qualified Army Medical Department personnel who demonstrate a high degree of professional skill, stamina, and proficiency.

Medics participated in a rare opportunity to train for and earn the EFMB while deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The operational tempo of the United States Army has been high since the beginning of the Global War On Terrorism, with few chances for medics to participate in EFMB training and testing due to deployments and training exercises. The 2BCT, while serving as the theater reserve force, has taken an opportunity to conduct EFMB training and testing. During the EFMB competition, scenario based events tested the medics' ability to perform a variety of

tasks. The focus was on critical medical skills, such as casualty assessment, treatment, and evacuation procedures, but it dealt with much more than medical tasks. The competition also tested common tasks that are essential to every mission, such as land navigation, camouflaging one's self and individual equipment, chemical protection, and individual movement techniques.

Although the rate of success for participants in the EFMB is historically low (about 18%), the training that every participant received prior to the actual test supplemented the technical knowledge taught since the beginning of the 2 B C T ' s deployment to Kuwait. Additionally, this marks the first time medical personnel have participated in E F M B while wearing the latest com-

bat equipment, including Interceptor Body Armor. This reflects newer, more realistic field training that more closely replicates conditions found in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

The competition is long, arduous, and all EFMB candidates know before the competition, that it is a difficult skill badge to obtain. Every Soldier that takes part in the EFMB competition participates in an excellent training experience, learning from subject matter experts during a rare opportunity to earn the badge.



Lt. Col. John Farr of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment gives medical Soldiers their overview briefing for the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). Lt. Col. Farr is the President and Course Evaluator for the first EFMB held in Kuwait.

Task Force Ram Gears Up for EFMB

Story by 1st Lt. Patrick Turner and Photos by Pfc. Evan Richardson

One of the most important jobs in the military is that of the Combat Medic. Not since Advanced Individual Training (AIT) have many of the medics been so tested as the recent Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) qualification. This eleven day event is the pinnacle of field medic training. Finally, at the end of the EFMB train-up and testing, only six out of the eighty-five candidates that started the qualification stood ready to accept the Expert Field Medical Badge.

Task Force Ram had three Soldiers undergo EFMB training and testing. Sgt. Shauna Walters, Spc. Kyle Clayton, and Pvt. Adrie Funk represented the Task Force and attempted to earn the badge of excellence. The first day, the medics started with a train-up that



Spc. Kyle Clayton of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Regiment, begins his 12 mile foot march during Expert Field Medical Badge testing at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

primed them for the qualification events. The train-up was essential, ensuring the Soldiers understood the EFMB standards for each task such as field camouflage, land navigation, and chemical protection. Following this, the first challenge to obtain the award was the written test. Spc. Clayton recalls preparing for the written test as a “make me or brake me” event, from which approximately sixty of the candidates were eliminated. The remaining twenty-two personnel including Pvt. Funk and Spc. Clayton, moved on to the next day of qualifications.

Over the course of five days, the remaining medics proved their determination by completing both common skills and medic specific tasks. Some of the challenging tasks included loading patients in non-standard military evacuation vehicles, establishing a helicopter landing zone, communication tests, a litter obstacle course, mass casualty evaluation and treatment, land navigation and the capstone 12 mile foot march event. Spc. Clayton recalls one of the most difficult aspects of the training was low crawling under barbed wire with a patient on a litter. “The smoke in your face made it hard to breathe, you’re low crawling and coughing while pushing a litter.” The litter obstacle course is not only a physically challenging event, but a very technical event as well. Candidates are required to know the techniques and commands for overtaking any obstacle. The technique for a walled obstacle is different than barbed wire or a trench. Improper techniques can slow the four man litter team, or worse yet, further injure the patient. After negotiating the four testing lanes, 15 more medics had been eliminated from contention for the award.

The final hurdle separating the



Pfc. Andrew Baxter of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion (left) and Pvt. Adrie Funk of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (right) prepare a simulated casualty for transport during Expert Field Medical Badge training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

remaining seven candidates from the Expert Field Medical Badge was a daunting twelve mile foot march to be completed in three hours or less. It was the most physically demanding event of the qualification due to the rucksack, interceptor body armor, and the mileage required. Medics from across Kuwait gathered to support their fellow medics. Spc. Clayton recalls, “After mile eight I didn’t want to run at all, and it would be so easy to stop, but nearing the finish line there [were] hundreds of people there and they all want you to make it so you run to the crowd.”

In considering qualification, Task Force Ram’s EFMB award winner, Spc. Clayton, best summarized the event, “It’s a physical thing, it’s a good challenge... [and it] makes you appreciate the job, reminds you of [its] importance, and gives you pride.”

Operation: Swashbuckle

Story by Pfc. Jeremy Neece and Photos by Pfc. Joshua Ramey



The stars of Operation Swashbuckle line up to sign autographs for their audience. Sgt. Clink (middle) and Sgt. John Kauffman from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team receive autographs from the comedians at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

humor and off-the-cuff puns. The show was rich in audience participation, requiring those present to “ooh” and “ahh” on demand as others clamored on stage to assist in a variety of “dangerous” activities. Before the stunning conclusion of the show, the comedians thanked

prepared to work with courage, tolerance, and a smile instead of going at it with a tired and stressed out attitude,” said Spencer Humm, aka “Slash.”

After the show, Soldiers lined up anxiously to get autographs and talk to the comedians. “It was a great show and good for the Soldiers. We appreciate anyone who takes their time to come out and

“It was a great show and good for the Soldiers. We appreciate anyone who takes their time to come out and give us a good time.”

give us a good time,” said Sgt. John Kauff-

man of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. The comedians accomplished their mission by leaving the Soldiers with a smile that will last.

On their sixth tour for Armed Forces Entertainment, John Davis and Spencer Humm, the comic sword-fighting duo known as Hack and Slash, swept away Camp Buehring, Kuwait, with Operation Swashbuckle on 23 March, 2006. The long standing comedy duo was joined by two other comedians, Todd Key and David Vanderveer, multiplying the show’s humor exponentially. The comedy group has performed their bizarre comedy and sword fighting act for bases all over Europe and South-west Asia.

the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines for the defense of the country. They then smashed a concrete block on the torso of Spencer Humm as he stretched on a bed of nails, all in the name of education. “We come out and bring a laugh, get Soldiers to smile, and relax a little bit. We try to remind them of home as much as we can; so when they go out to do their job, they’ll be that much more

prepared to work with courage, tolerance, and a smile instead of going at it with a tired and stressed out attitude,” said Spencer Humm, aka “Slash.”



The two stars of Operation Swashbuckle, Spencer Humm (left) known as “Slash,” and John Davis (right) known as “Hack” give the audience a brave stunt at the end of their show.

U.S. Combat Medics Test for EFMB

Story by Spc. Michael R. Noggle



1st Sgt. Melissa McFrazier of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion helps proctor the written test, a requirement for earning the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). Soldiers had to answer 75 out of 100 questions correctly to be able to continue the process of earning their EFMB while deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett

Kuwait- It started off with 85 contestants, and finished with six.

No, it's not this year's American Idol competition, but it had participants leaving exhausted and disappointed. Soldiers in the medical field around Kuwait traveled

here to test for the Expert Field Medical Badge, March 27 through April 1. "This is the first EFMB competition done in Kuwait," said Lt. Col. John Farr, EFMB course director. "It's a chance for all medics to come out to the field to practice and get trained not only on the

medical skills, but skills of soldiering as well."

The course standards met all the requirements of competitions conducted in a non-deployed environment. In addition, it was the first time in the history of the competition that Soldiers were required to go through the testing in interceptor body armor. "Being a medic in the field is not an easy task," Farr said. "We put Soldiers under stress during training so they'll know how to perform when they're doing the real thing up north." According to Lt. Col. Farr, the success rate of the written exam is 50 percent, while the historical pass rate of the EFMB competition is 18 percent.

Aside from a written exam and the tasks of combat medics, each participant was tested on performing function checks for the M-16 rifle and M-9 pistol, day and night land navigation, responding to a chemical attack, reacting under fire to treat a patient and then calling in



Left: Sgt. Craig D. Ulrich of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment gives pointers to Sgt. Kristen Halsey of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, during the individual movement technique lane of Expert Field Medical Badge training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett

Right: Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team emerge from smoke obscuration at the litter obstacle course during the Expert Field Medical Badge qualification. Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick



Sgt. William Monk of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 35th Armored Regiment decontaminates his hands during Expert Field Medical Badge testing at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett

Headquarters Company, 1st Medical Brigade. “I had to study a lot.” Those who survived the exam were just getting started. Over the next five days, the book knowledge

... This is the hardest thing I've done, both mentally and physically.”

was put into action out in the field; a failure to complete a test meant an early trip back to the tents. “There were a lot of little details you could screw up,” Spc. Anguita said. “The pressure is on memorizing the correct procedures... It’s actually been more physically challenging than I thought it would be.”

“Each night I think of what I am doing the next day and what I need to accomplish,” 1st Lt. Masserini said. “Take it one day at a time or one mistake will get you.” Spc. Anguita and 1st Lt. Masserini said the litter obstacle course put the most strain on them. Four-man teams were re-

quired to carry a 180-pound patient more than 750 meters through diverse terrain features

while encountering enemy fire.

“There are a lot of physical aspects

that go into the event,” Lt. Col. Farr said. “Going through the obstacle course in the desert with an IBA is physically challenging.”

On the fifth day, those remaining in the fight attempted a 12-mile road march as the final test. As the six Soldiers crossed the finish line within the three hour time limit, they were met by the cadre and staff who put them through the challenge. “If the competition wasn’t like this, they wouldn’t call it the EMFB,” Spc. Anguita said. “We had to take the punches as they came... This is the hardest thing I’ve done, both mentally and physically.”

a medical evacuation. “You train as best you can in the most realistic situations and put stressors on the candidates,” Lt. Col. Farr said. “I’m not used to getting all that hands-on combat training,” said Spc. Nathan Anguita, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment field medic. He added that not only did the course fine tune up his medical academics, but the physical conditioning pushed medics to their limits.

Of the original 85 Soldiers who began the event, only 22 made it through the written exam on the first day. “Mentally, it was very difficult,” said 1st Lt. Leanne Masserini, Headquarters and



Staff Sgt. Alan Barley of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, watches as Sgt. Jeremy Johnson secures a litter for transport aboard a Humvee during Expert Field Medical Badge training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett

Chaplains Corner

By Chaplain (Capt.) Junghun Park

I hope all the families in Baumholder had a great Easter even though we were not there to share it with you! Everyone is very busy and works very hard every day. I am so impressed with the motivation and professionalism of the Strike Hard BCT. These Soldiers are accomplishing every mission with boldness and bravery. They would make you very proud.

This week we started a full schedule of worship and Bible study opportunities along with other religious group meetings and non-religious morale support programs. Our morale programs help everyone cope with the distance from loved ones, the austere conditions, and provide a break from rigorous training. We have a movie theater that shows recent releases every night. The pool tables and ping-pong tables are always full with those who want to let off a little steam in friendly competition. We also have a basketball court that always stays busy. There is plenty to do when the

Soldiers are off duty. I just wanted you to know a little about what Soldiers can do during down time.

Please continue to pray for the safety and protection of the Strike Hard BCT and all the U. S. Soldiers serving in this



battle. We are doing our best to build a strong unit and family among each other and take care of each other. I have already seen some lasting and lifelong friendships develop.

One thing is certain; we will never be the same and neither will you. We are all growing and changing through this experience. We are all learning about sacrifice, flexibility, and what it takes to endure hardship away from loved ones.

We know the time apart seems long, but we will use everyday to become better men and women, better husbands and wives, better fathers and sons, and better sons and daughters. Remember us in your prayers and we will do the same for all of you. Again, don't forget the Rear Detachment; they are our lifeline and are doing a great job for the Strike Hard Family.

This month we will be celebrating the fullness of the Passion, in the joyful entry of Christ into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), and the ultimate miracle of all miracles in the Resurrection (Easter). It is my contention the true Passion is the joyful acceptance of our God in our living; much like the Palm Sunday parade and the emergence of new abundant life in our living; much like the bursting of a new sunrise on Easter morning. May God and faith during this week blossom and all of the friends and families of 2BCT have a chance to rededicate our lives to our God.

Fire Prevention Safety

Faulty wiring, shoddy installation, cheap parts. The list goes on and on. You have to be proactive each and every day.

- . Turn off all electrical appliances when you leave your billets, this includes all lights.**
- . Never overload your outlets.**
- . Understand the difference between 110 / 220 voltage.**
- . Don't daisy chain power strips.**

For more information contact 2BCT Safety for the Electrical Safety in Iraq video



Expert Field Medical Badges Awarded to 2nd BCT Medics

Story by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett



The six (out of 85) candidates that earned the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) stand in formation at an awards ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Pfc. Evan Richardson

medical care in a simulated combat environment.

The 2BCT Commander, Col. Robert E. Scurlock, Jr., and Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Santos, also congratulated the winners for a job well done. Col. Scurlock described the recent experience of the candidates saying, "You grew as a team. Watching the team form all around young Pfc. Sanders as she finished the 12 mile road-march, with two minutes to spare... We are proud of all of you."

During the introduction of the EFMB, the experience was described by the narrator, Staff Sgt. Joe Sielski, who said, "The course is unforgiving in nature, and demands the very best of the Soldiers who go through it. During testing, there are no second chances. Such are the demands of field medical personnel; You only get one chance to save a Soldier who needs you. Instead of one shot, one kill; it is one shot, one save."

After five days of examinations that tested the knowledge, skill, and heart of 85 Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) candidates, seven Soldiers participated in the final event, a 12-mile foot march. The Medics started their last task at 0430 Hours on the morning of 1 April, determined to earn the award.

Three hours later, only six medics completed the exhausting march, crossing the finish line to the cheers of more than a hundred of their peers, unit leadership, and course cadre. The sweat-soaked, sore and tired candidates enjoyed many congratulations for a job well done, and savored the satisfaction of joining a small, elite group of medics that can say that they are EFMB winners.

All six awardees were members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2BCT). The Soldiers who earned the EFMB were: Spc. Kyle Clayton

of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion; Spc. Nathan Anguita of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; and the following Soldiers from Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion: Capt. Gregory Archer, Capt. Travis Austin, Sgt. Jeremy Johnson, and Pfc. Karen Sanders. In addition to being awarded the EFMB, the Soldiers were also awarded the Army Achievement Medal presented by Brig. Gen. John Bivens, the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Operations Officer. These medics received special recognition for demonstrating a high degree of personal skill, stamina, and proficiency; expertly applying basic



Sgt. 1st Class Peter Moise of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment prepares a small number of Expert Field Medical Badges before they are awarded to the six candidates that completed EFMB testing at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Pfc. Evan Richardson

Upcoming MWR Events

Sunday, 16 April 2006

1000: Kite Flying Day @ Palms

1900: Bunny fun Run @ Green Beans

1930: Bingo @ Events Tent

Monday, 17 April 2006

1900: Spades Tournament @ Oasis

Tuesday, 18 April 2006

1700: Chris Gray Concert @ MWR Stage

2000: Coffee House Social @ Oasis

Wednesday, 19 April 2006

1700: Weekly Fun Run @ Green Beans

1900: Madden Tournament @ Palms

Thursday, 20 April 2006

1900: 8 Ball Tournament @ Events Tent

Friday, 21 April 2006

1700: Dead Lift Competition @ Gym

1900: Bingo @ Events Tent

Saturday, 22 April 2006

BAZAAR (in front of Movie Tent)

1900: Team Feud @ Oasis

Sunday, 23 April 2006

BAZAAR (in front of Movie Tent)

1500: Water Balloon Dodge Ball @
Volley Ball Courts



Sgt. Jesse Kaplan of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, camouflages his face during Expert Field Medical Badge training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett



Left: Spec. Paxton Stewart of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment takes a written test, which is a requirement for earning the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett



Right: Sgt. Jesse Kaplan of HHC, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., fills out paperwork after treating a simulated casualty (Spec. Thomas McElvany, Service Btry, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt.) during Expert Field Medical Badge testing at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett



Left: Capt. Shawn Kelly, of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, helps transport a simulated casualty under a wire obstacle on the litter obstacle course during Expert Field Medical Badge training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett

Right: Spc. David Fernandez of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment receives instructions from Staff Sgt. Kisean Huggins, of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, before performing the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) portion of Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) testing. Medical Soldiers have to evaluate and treat multiple simulated casualties during this event, which was held just outside of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett

Headphone Use:

Soldiers may wear headphones attached to electronic devices while conducting individual physical training **indoors**. Headphones may be worn outdoors **only on designated running tracks/paths**. (Camp Buehring has no designated running tracks or paths) Headphones may not be used while walking.

What Do *YOU* Think?

“What do you feel you gained from the EFMB experience?”

Questions and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett



Capt. Gregory Archer
Co. C, 47th FSB

We not only gained a badge, but we had some excellent training.



Spc. Nathan Anguita
Co. C, 1-6 Inf.

I've gotten to know my job much better.



Staff Sgt. Lorraine Griffin
Co. C, 47th FSB

A lot more experience on our common tasks, especially land navigation.



Capt. Travis Austin
Co. C, 47th FSB

More confidence.



Spc. Kyle Clayton
HHC, 40th EN

I gained a great appreciation of my MOS.

Next Week: “What do you want your family to know about Camp Buehring?”



It is not necessarily how you run the race, it is how you finish the Race.

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