

2nd Brigade Combat
Team Forward
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Striker Torch

EDITION 02 APR 06

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Bird Flu and You...

by Capt. Pete Henning

Avian Influenza

Many of you may have heard about the “bird flu.” It is true that there have been two confirmed cases of Iraqi civilians being infected and it has even been detected in a cat in Germany. With this new disease on our doorstep, both here and back in Germany, many of you may have questions about the disease and the safety of yourselves and your family. Hopefully, I can answer some of those here.

The “Bird Flu” or Avian Influenza is a virus that is related to the same virus that causes the seasonal “flu” that makes its rounds every year. However, this virus causes a severe illness in birds, especially in wild waterfowl and domestic poultry. In rare cases, it can infect people, but it is difficult for humans to catch. There have been many cases in birds, but less than 200 cases in humans since the most recent outbreak in 2003. In the vast majority of human cases, people who have gotten sick had very close contact with sick birds. Butchering, de-feathering, and holding sick birds for prolonged periods of time are examples of how people became infected. In addition, the virus does not spread easily between people. In people, avian influenza causes symptoms very similar to regular influenza, but symptoms rapidly progress and become more severe. People who have gotten the disease have fever, muscle aches, runny nose, cough, congestion or malaise. There also have been many reports of eye infections with those infected with the Avian Flu. As the virus progresses, the lung and breathing symptoms become worse. Since the medicines we have for avian influenza are not proven, prevention is the best treatment. The most important preventive or common sense measure you may already realize is:

Avoid handling birds and avoid exposure to sick appearing birds.

Other common preventive measures are:

- **Getting your annual influenza vaccination**
- **Washing your hands regularly and practicing good “cough hygiene”**
- **If you are sick, see a doctor.**

In addition, if you see a dead bird here in theater, report it to your chain of command. They will contact the Veterinarian for proper testing and disposal. Currently, Avian Influenza should not be a cause of alarm, but should be a part of your “situational awareness.” There have been relatively few human cases because it is difficult to catch and is fairly easy to avoid the main risk--close contact with sick birds. As always, education is the key to prevention. By educating ourselves about this disease, we prevent it from becoming a serious threat.



Front Cover:

Top Left: Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment Soldiers conduct shot gun familiarization during a Task Force Regulars Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Barten

Top Right: Spec. Carroll James, a Petroleum Supply Specialist for Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, tightens a bolt on a vehicle. Photo by SSgt. Yann Jugeat

Bottom: Sgt. Alexander Froede (left), PFC Erik Butler (center), and Spec. Cole Smith (right) of Troop G, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, establish a dismantled observation post. Photo by Capt. Jeff Barta

Back Cover:

Top: A Small Earth Excavator (SEE) truck from Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion of Task Force Conqueror moves to the convoy staging area during an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Zachary Hatfield

Bottom: SFC Allen Goetzinger of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment engages targets with his M14 sniper rifle. His spotter is SSgt. John Keller. Photo by 1st Lt. David Powell



PFC Paul St. Laurence, of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery tightens the lower bolt on a generator bracket on a Humvee. Photo by SSgt. Yann Jugeat



47th Team Building Day

Story by Capt. Heather Jangraw



Company C, 47. Forward Support Battalion Soldiers pull hard during the tug-of-war competition during the Battalion's Team Building Day in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick

The 47th Forward Support Battalion recently celebrated their quarterly Team Building Day. The purpose of this day was to encourage unity, improve morale, and promote teamwork. By the end of the day, the Soldiers of the 47th FSB experienced just that. PFC Sandra Pockwince of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion, explained how the day affects Soldier's well-being, "It definitely boosted everyone's morale. It gave people a chance to relax, socialize, and come together as a unit." The temperate weather, the Soldier participation, and coordinated efforts of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) staff came together and made a great memorable day.

The day started with a three mile battalion run. "I normally do not enjoy unit runs; however, this run was fun with the cadence calling - everyone really got into it, sounding off... we

[came together as] a team," said PFC Linda Brannaman of HHD.

Next, the Soldiers of the Modern Pioneer Battalion sang, played musical instruments, and rapped during a talent show. The talent show was held at the MWR tent and was a huge success. Spec. Tiffany J. Knotts, of HHD, sang in the talent show and acted as the DJ throughout the day, "There was an outstanding amount of participation and dedication from the performers. The appreciation and applause from the crowd for the performers was really awesome. I'm looking forward to the next time the Battalion does this. I think even more people will want to showcase their talents." Spec. Knotts encapsulated the show with a big "HOO-AH!" to her fellow performers.

Following the talent show, Soldiers migrated back to their living area for a delicious cookout. On two massive grills, SSgt. Donald Grover of HHD, PFC Brandon Slusher, and PFC Casey Callister of Company C, spent hours producing mouth watering steaks, chicken, hamburgers, and hotdogs; there was not an empty stomach in the whole Battalion.

After the feast, the real fun began. A volleyball tournament and dodge ball tournament commenced. SSgt. Crystal N. Elliot of HHD said, "The companies were very competitive. I played volleyball and had a great time even though my team did not win." Co. A took first place in the volleyball tournament against Co. C, proving they were the best. Co. C won the dodge ball tournament by brutally pelting their opponents with the volleyballs and came out victorious as the 'sure shots' of the Battalion.

Other events of the day included a tug-of-war tournament, sit up and push up competitions, and a 100m dash. Co. B decimated the

other companies with their brute strength in the tug-of-war competition. Sgt. Shekura Gopie of Co. A won the female sit up competition with 515 in 36 minutes. Sgt. Michael L. Bradshaw of Co. B won the male push up competition with 200 push ups and CWO 2 Celeste Melena of Co. A won the female push up competition with 103. Sgt. Beverly Jones and Sgt Henry L. Lipsey, both of Co. C, 47th FSB won the female and male 100m dash respectively. The fact that the Battalion winners represented a diverse selection from across the Battalion is testament to the talents of the unit and their ability to rise to challenges and excel in competition.

The day wrapped up with an awards ceremony complete with certificates for all event winners and trophies for the top three talent show competitors. The 47th FSB Team Building Day was considered fun by all and is anticipated next quarter. As PFC Sandra E. Pockwince of HHD said, "It was a success for everyone involved."



Left: Soldiers from 47th Forward Support Battalion race the 100 meter dash during their Team Building Day event. Sgt. Henry Lipsey of Co. C (left foreground) wins the race with other Soldiers from his Battalion following close behind during the Team Building Day event at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick

Right: SSgt. Michael Rice of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion spikes the ball as Sgt. Bruce Antonio (left) of Co. C covers for him at the volleyball tournament during the Battalion's Team Building Day at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick

Legendary Marathon

Story and Photos by PFC Joshua Ramey



Soldiers stationed in Kuwait receive a safety briefing before running in the 26.2 mile marathon sponsored by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR). The run began at 0400 on Sunday, March 19, 2006, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The history of the marathon dates back to Pheidippides, a wounded Greek Soldier who, according to legend, ran from the city-state of Marathon to Athens to announce that the Persians had been defeated in the Battle of Marathon. He died shortly after announcing the news. The idea of organizing the race came in 1896 as part of the first modern Olympics Games in Athens, Greece. The actual distance of a marathon was officially set in 1921 by the International Olympic Games Committee at 26.2 miles (42.195 km), the distance Pheidippides ran between Marathon and Athens.

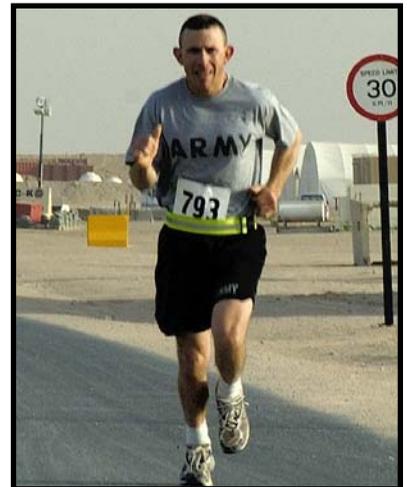
Soldiers from the various camps around Kuwait gathered at Camp Buehring to participate in the legendary 26.2 mile marathon run at 0400, Sunday morning, March 19, 2006. Excitement was high in anticipation of the long distance around the camp since most of the participants had never run a marathon before. The run began at the Base Support Battalion Command Cell with a safety briefing from Violet Kelly of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) staff. She made sure everyone knew the route, where to find the water points, and that medical services were available. The route circled the camp four times, and ended near the main MWR stage. Lt. Col. Steve Schmid stationed at Camp Arifjan, won the race completing the 26.2

miles in only 2 hours and 43 minutes. "I've been running about 70 miles per week but it was still a difficult run. We had perfect weather, no winds - couldn't ask for a better day," he said at the completion.

There were 115 people that began the race with 80 people that completed the whole run. CWO 2 Richard Wills from Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion finished in 3rd Place overall, 1st place in the 30 - 39 age group with 3 hours, 9 minutes. "I run a lot, but this run was still really tough," CWO 2 Wills said. Spec. Rogelio Renteria of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion finished the run in 3 hours, 25 minutes, 5th Place overall - 2nd in his 30-39 age group. "This is the first time I've run a marathon. My mind feels great from finishing it, but my body is in agonizing pain, I only run once per week," Spec. Renteria said.

Around the 10 mile mark, the runners started to have looks of pure, unrestrained torture in their faces. The die-hard runners in the group soon realized that the only way out - was to finish the race. They pushed through the difficulty, completing their first marathon. Long runs are a good test of mental and physical endurance which are a welcome challenge to those who believe they can finish anything they begin. Just as Pheidippides of ancient Greece, these warriors recog-

nize the inseparable nature of stamina, physical fitness, and overall combat readiness. The run was considered a success with no injuries. It brought together a variety of Armed Forces members and military occupational specialties from all over Kuwait.



CWO 2 Richard Wills from Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion finishes the marathon in 3rd Place with 3 hours, 9 minutes in the event sponsored by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Engineers on the Cutting Edge

Story and Photos by PFC Joshua Ramey



A Soldier from 1st Platoon, Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion, a part of Task Force Regulars, visually inspects an area recently interrogated by the arm of the "Buffalo," a Counter Improvised Explosive Device tool used for Route Reconnaissance and Clearance.

As training missions continue to be a routine part of life for Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2nd BCT), leaders have begun to narrow the focus of training so Soldiers have the opportunity to become more proficient at tasks that were otherwise grouped into large and broad exercises. 1st Platoon, Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion, a part of Task Force Regulars, recently conducted a Platoon Situational Training Exercise

"...this training will help prepare the Platoon for Counter-IED route clearance to assure mobility for the 2nd BCT."

(STX) which emphasized honing the skills of vehicle crews to spot Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The most essential aspect of IED detection is locating and neutralizing the explosives before they are able to harm Soldiers or unsuspecting civilians. The STX also focused on helping to improve Soldiers' knowledge on how and when to detain suspicious personnel, as well as passing on the information required to travel with detainees when they change custody.

Before sunrise, 1st Platoon rolled out of the gate of Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and began clearing "Route Paris" for possible IEDs or any threats that might prevent the 2nd BCT from moving around its area of operations. After

locating several buried IEDs along side of the road, the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck, serving as a "Buffalo" for training, used a robotic arm to interrogate the suspected IEDs, neutralized them, and continued along the route. Soldiers from 1st Platoon noticed an SUV driving erratically around the convoy. Two M113A3 Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) chased the vehicle and were unable to stop it; however, along the way one of the APCs observed and detained a suspicious person digging holes along side of the road. Spec. Allan Bevington from 1st Platoon, Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn. was the first to question the person, "First, he said he was digging holes for his plants, then he jumbled his story around, and said that he was being paid \$300 to dig holes for an irrigation system for someone else's plants. There was no irrigation system... which was highly suspicious behavior, so we detained him."

While this individual was being detained, 1st Platoon Leader, 1st Lt.

Ryan Todd, notified the chain of command, which then sent a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to pick up the individual for further questioning. Meanwhile, one of the platoon's vehicles was struck by a simulated IED and was immobilized causing recovery assets to be sent out to the site along with the QRF for the detainee. The primary focus of this training exercise was to deal with multiple situations requiring specialized counter-IED support, and to receive that support from within the Task Force organization.

"Since we've been out here, we've been working to integrate our operations within the task force structure. We did it in Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr, but this training will help prepare the Platoon for Counter IED route clearance to assure mobility for the 2nd BCT," said 1st Lt. Ryan Todd, 1st Platoon Leader for Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn. of Task Force Regulars. 2nd BCT continues training to focus on more detailed tasks, to ensure proficiency of Soldiers, no matter what missions lay ahead.

Soldiers from Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn. conduct an AAR to discuss methods Anti-Iraqi Forces are using to conceal IEDs.



Soldiers from Co. A, 40th Eng. Bn. conduct an AAR to discuss methods Anti-Iraqi Forces are using to conceal IEDs.

Mechanics Take Pride in Humvee Rebuild

Story by 1st Lt. Christian Fierro

When Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment received vehicle SVC 69 as part of 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Theater Provided Equipment (TPE), most people thought it was an impossible mission to bring the vehicle back to fully mission capable status. The mechanics shrugged after reviewing the huge amount of work that the Humvee would require and began the restoration process of Service Vehicle 69. The mechanics kept a positive frame of mind when inspecting most of the TPE vehicles, but it was obvious that this vehicle would need much more energy than most vehicles. "It was a mess when we got it. I knew it was going to be a project, but I knew we would get it back up," said PFC Paul St. Lawrence, Service Battery mechanic, after reflecting on the handy work of his section.

"Service Vehicle 69 was the worst Humvee in the Battalion and people [started to call] us 'The Humvee Rebuilding Shop' once the project [commenced.] Today, it is one of the best vehicles in [the] unit," states SSgt. Yann Jugeat, Section

Sergeant from Service Battery, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. Service Vehicle 69 was considered non-mission capable for only a total of 36 days while the maintenance team used every asset available to restore the vehicle. From the battery maintenance team to

"Service Vehicle 69 was the worst Humvee in the Battalion and people [started to call] us 'The Humvee Rebuilding Shop' once the project [commenced.] Today, it is one of the best vehicles in [the] unit,"

the Maintenance Support Team (MST) from 47th Forward Support Battalion, every mechanic put more than the time expected of them to bring the vehicle to mission capable status.

Mechanics operate within different areas of responsibility. The lowest level, or 10-level maintenance, lies in the hands of the vehicle operator. The operator, usually the primary driver, ensures the vehicle runs properly and replaces items that re-

quire routine maintenance, such as air filters, tires, and fluids. The next level of responsibility is the 20-level maintenance, which is handled by the mechanics in the battalion. The Humvee required a majority of body work such as fender replacement, repairing the suspension systems, and replacing side panels on the vehicle. The MST, from 47th FSB mechanics, replaced most of the vehicle's wiring, and replaced the electrical devices needed for the vehicle to function properly.

The young Soldiers from Service Battery used the restoration project as a valuable learning tool with all of the hands-on training they received. Sgt. Guillermo Marquez exclaimed, "It was great! Especially after we did everything to it and got it back on the road." Service Vehicle 69 was only one of the many TPE vehicles that needed repairs, but overall it was the most challenging for the mechanics. However, after a month of rebuilding, the mechanics were triumphant as Vehicle 69 hit the road and performed just as well as the newest Humvees. SSgt. Yann Jugeat stated, "Having my guys bring it up to what it is today is just phenomenal. These Soldiers took great pride in all the work that went into Service Vehicle 69."



Left: Service Vehicle 69 is Theater Provided Equipment that the mechanics of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment spent many hours repairing. This is the rear of the vehicle before work was applied. Photo by SSgt. Yann Jugeat

Middle: Sgt. Jovito Manrique of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, replaces a bolt on the new tail gate of the Theater Provided Equipment, SVC 69 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by SSgt. Yann Jugeat

Right: Mechanics of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment worked hard to completely repair Service Vehicle 69. This is the rear of the vehicle after mechanics spent over a month working on it while stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by SSgt. Yann Jugeat



Left: Colonel Robert E. Scurlock congratulates PFC Kendric T. Jackson of Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, for a job well done during the Battalion's Combat Lifesaver course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on 6 January 2006. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

Right: Spec. Donna Hawkins of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion, coaches Sgt. Garon Daley of HHD, 47th FSB at the .50 caliber machine gun range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Sgt. Scott Visser

HAPPY **Five April** BIRTHDAY!



2nd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division was organized on 5 April, 1942, at Fort Knox, Kentucky, as Combat Command B. During Operation Torch, the 2nd Brigade deployed as part of the

North African invasion force fighting in Algeria, Bizente, Tunis, and Kasserine Pass. The young unit was forged into the decisive force that defeated Rommel's veteran Africa Corps.

Shout Outs!

To Spec. James R. Britton, from HHC, 1st Bn., 6th Inf Regt.:

Just wanted to let you know that the boys and I think of you ALWAYS and miss you more than you know! We are so proud of you and we LOVE you!

Love Always, Your lucky wife, Kim Britton



Ursula,
I love you and miss you. I would marry you all over again in a second if I could only sooner. I love my "Black Coffee"! Happy Anniversary. See you soon!!! April 24th R&R!!!

Love, Pat AKA: "Sunshine"

Retention



Bonus Increases for Soldiers who ETS in FY 2006 and FY 2007 are Scheduled to expire on 30 April 2006. Contact your Unit Career Counselor and take advantage of "Tax Free" Re-enlistment Bonuses of up to \$22,500.

Inquire about assignment and retraining opportunities!

Striker Softball Championship

Story and Photos by SFC David Dockett



Spec. Nathan Kovell, the 3rd baseman from Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2nd BCT) snags the ball out of the air during the 2nd BCT's "Striker Series" championship softball game at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

When Soldiers take time from their rigorous training schedule, one of the things that they like to do is take a break by playing softball. Since the third week of January, thirteen individual softball teams from around the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) have been meeting on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays to determine who has the best softball team in the Brigade. The "Striker Series" was intended to help get units in the 2nd BCT build esprit de corps and get acquainted with the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) opportunities available while deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

"The 'Striker Series' softball league was a part of the 2nd BCT's first round of MWR activities. [The Brigade is] also running flag football and soccer leagues right now," said 1st Sgt. William Fox of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 2nd BCT. "The main focus of the 'Striker Series' was to give Soldiers some release, some time away from the job. The pace of operations is high here, and this gives them the opportunity to get out on the field, have some fun, and compete." In early January, the 2nd BCT started to draw recreational equipment to assist units with starting up

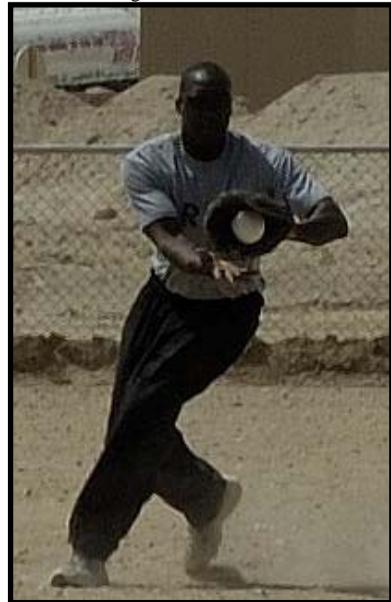
athletic programs intended to help build esprit de corps and compliment the physical fitness programs already in place. This allowed Soldiers the opportunity to represent their units in friendly competition, as well as earn bragging rights between games until the Camp Buehring Area Support Group begins a league encompassing all units from Camp Buehring.

Of the thirteen teams that competed, the six with the best records began a single-elimination tournament during the second week of March. On Sunday, March 19th, the highest ranked unit of the series, Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, met the fourth ranked unit, HHC, 2nd BCT, and competed in the championship game of the "Striker Series." HHC, 2nd BCT took an early lead in the title game, eventually winning the competition. Co. B, 141st Sig. Bn. made a late run, trying to rally in the final innings, but HHC, 2nd BCT held onto their lead, eventually winning with a final score of 13-6. "I don't think anyone expected our defense to be so strong out there, we've been working on our defense at all of our practices this week," said Sgt. William Taylor, HHC, 2nd BCT. "We knew that [Co. B] 141 Signal Battalion would be a strong opponent, they were ranked #1 and have a really strong offense."

"We are a really good team, and it got a little frustrating out there," Spec. Jacob Denoncour of Co. B, 141st Signal Battalion said. "We've usually got bigger bats than that, but we had some trouble getting the runs, getting those bats going out there. It's just great being a Signal Company in this championship game. It lets us go out there and show the rest of the Brigade who we are."

The day didn't end there, however, at the conclusion of the game, the 2nd BCT Commander, Col. Robert E. Scurlock Jr., presented the participants of the game certificates of excellence, recognizing Soldiers for outstanding performance, dedication, and contributions as a member of the Striker Brigade softball league. An Organizational Day followed, with the members of the separate companies of the 2nd BCT taking in the weather and enjoying barbecue chicken and ribs, steaks, potato salad and corn on the cob. It was a great way to spend a Sunday,

taking time off to play games, enjoy good food, and socializing with Soldiers from around the Brigade.



Top: CWO 2 John Williams, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2nd BCT) fields the ball before firing it back to the infield during the 2nd BCT's "Striker Series" championship softball game at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Bottom: Col. Robert E. Scurlock, Jr., the Commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2nd BCT) awards Certificates of Achievement to members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, the winners of the 2nd BCT's "Striker Series" softball tournament at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Navigating toward the Expert Infantryman's Badge

Story by Sgt. Joshua Weaver



PFC Joshua Fameree of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., of TF Conqueror, prepares himself for the daytime EIB land navigation course. Photo by Pvt.2 Timothy Veltsos

In 1943, The Department of War led by Henry L. Stimson, approved the wear of the Expert Infantryman Badge, or EIB. During World War II, the War Department released the statement saying, *"The present war has demonstrated the importance of highly proficient, tough, hard, and aggressive infantry, which can be obtained only by developing a high degree of individual all-around proficiency on the part of every infantryman. As a means of attaining the high standards desired and to foster esprit de corps in infantry units; the Expert Infantryman and the Combat Infantryman badges are established for infantry personnel."* Ever since then, infantry and special forces Soldiers alike have been striving to meet the Army standards necessary to earn and wear the badge. As the tradition continues here at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the Soldiers of Companies A and B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of Task Force Conqueror are rigorously training and testing in hopes of meeting the standards required to achieve the cherished EIB badge.

The EIB is awarded by excelling in 40 different individually performed tasks includ-

ing: the operation of multiple weapons systems, medical training, radio use, and qualification with hand grenades. Each task is strictly graded by EIB qualified NCOs using objective scoring criteria. Each event must be successfully completed to the Army standards with little room for error. Soldiers are allowed no more than two attempts in a single event, or three failed attempts during the entire EIB test.

In addition to the extremely high standards necessary to receive the badge, Soldiers must meet certain requirements before even being eligible to make an attempt for the EIB.

Soldiers are required to: score 70 points or higher in each event of the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), complete a day and night land navigation course, foot march 12 miles in under 3 hours with a rucksack weighing 60 lbs., and qualify as an expert marksman with their personal weapon. Recently, Soldiers from Co. A and Co. B, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. of TF Conqueror have completed the marksmanship range and finished a difficult land navigation course.

Preparation for the land navigation test began where all Army training begins; in the classroom. Soldiers went through a series of NCO-led classes that included map reading, route planning, terrain association, using a compass, measuring distance, and operating a Precision Lightweight GPS Receiver (PLGR pronounced "plugger"). When the time came for the EIB land navigation course test, the infantry Soldiers had the knowledge and equipment needed to successfully pass the navigation test.

A land navigation course consists of multiple points staked into the ground of a large area that Soldiers use a variety of methods to find. The Soldiers then receive the points they will locate in the form of grid coordinates, similar to civilian latitude and longitude coordinates. From a known starting point, the EIB partici-

pants had to find two out of the three assigned points with a magnetic compass in both the day and night. After receiving a passing score in the event, Soldiers were then issued a PLGR and required to successfully find three out of three points.

"Land navigation is a lot different in the desert, you have no terrain features to work with," said Spec. Michael Williamson. Other Soldiers felt the same way; some Soldiers

who were very confident in their land navigation skills, failed on their first attempt through the course. They found that terrain association, one of the most reliable techniques used in Ger-

many where Soldiers match the lay of the land with its representation on the map, did not apply in a flat desert environment. Dead reckoning, which is navigation solely based on distance traveled along an azimuth, was the only sure way to successfully negotiate the course. This method requires Soldiers to walk in a straight line determined by the compass, and count their steps in order to measure distance. Some Soldiers required a second attempt during the land navigation test, but every Soldier ultimately completed the land navigation portion of the EIB and left the course with a clear idea of what it takes to navigate in desert terrain.

"Land navigation is a lot different in the desert, you have no terrain features to work with"



SSgt. Marion Stepniewski of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., of TF Conqueror gives a class on first aid in preparation for the EIB test, which involves 40 different tasks an infantryman might have to perform during battlefield situations.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Ian Blackstone

Upcoming MWR Events

Sunday, 02 April 2006

BAZAAR (in front of movie tent)
1600: Darts Tournament @ Recreation Center
1700: STREND Competition @ Gym

Monday, 03 April 2006

1900: Sports Tournament @ Oasis

Tuesday, 04 April 2006

2000: Coffee House Social @ Oasis

Wednesday, 05 April 2006

1700: 10K Fun Run @ Zone 2 Green Beans
1900: Texas Hold'em @ Oasis

Thursday, 06 April 2006

1900: 9 Ball Tournament @ Recreation Center

Friday, 07 April 2006

1900: Bingo Night at Events Tent

Saturday, 08 April 2006

BAZAAR (in front of movie tent)
1700: Squat contest @ Gym
1900: Hotdog eating contest @ MWR stage

ROLLOVER!



NEW! ROLLOVER PROCEDURES

BC	GUNNER	DRIVER	SQUAD
Drops seat. Braces for impact.	Braces for impact.	Braces for impact.	Braces for impact. Holds hand straps for stability.
BFV HAS ROLLED OVER			
Begins crew checks to ensure no fires; checks accountability of personnel.	Ensures weapon system is on safe and engages travel lock, if possible.	Pulls fuel shut off and turns accessories off. If a fire is present, sets off engine compartment fire suppression system.	Leader checks squad for injuries and reports to Bradley commander.
SENIOR CREWMEMBER DETERMINES IF IT IS SAFE TO EXIT THE VEHICLE AND BEGINS EVACUATION			
Checks for injured personnel; reports incident.	Assists the Bradley commander in evacuating vehicle.	Exits vehicle through driver's hatch or through crew compartment if driver's hatch is blocked.	Exits vehicle through unobstructed hatch. If fire is present, extinguishes fire.
IF SENIOR CREWMEMBER DETERMINES THAT IT IS UNSAFE TO EXIT THE VEHICLE, PERSONNEL WILL WAIT FOR RECOVERY AND ATTEMPT TO CONTACT WINGMAN OR HIGHER.			
WARNING!			
DURING A ROLLOVER, GAS FROM BATTERIES CAN EXPLODE AND CAUSE SERIOUS INJURIES. IF THE DRIVER MUST EXIT THROUGH THE CREW COMPARTMENT, PRECAUTION MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT CONTACT WITH BATTERY ACID THAT COULD SPILL AND CAUSE SERIOUS BURNS OR BLINDNESS.			

A Word to the Wise...

As you know, the military has mandated use of Mypay for receipt of payroll products (leave and earnings statements, net pay advices, etc.). The overwhelming majority of members receive their information via Mypay, resulting in lower postal costs and fewer people in the finance office. Mypay also allows members to update certain segments of their pay, like federal withholding exemptions.

Recently there have been copycat or look-a-like websites being developed to make people think they are accessing official sites, including the Mypay website. These sites request personal information that, if provided, could cause a variety of problems for you. There are also sites that use the words "Mypay" as part of their web address. While they may be legitimate business concerns, they are not in any way affiliated with DFAS and Mypay.

Following are some sites that use "Mypay" in their web address:

- Http://www.mypay.com
- Http://www.mypay.se/indexen.html
- Http://www.mypaysolutions.com/
- Http://www.mypayloanservices.com/

Please remember that the official Mypay website is **https://mypay.dfas.mil**. Also remember to not mistakenly provide personal information to copycat, look-alikes, or other sites that use "Mypay" in their web address.



Left: Capt. Yousef of the Kuwaiti Army (foreground) joins members of Troop G, 1st Cavalry Regiment at the Engagement Skills Training (EST) at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Capt. Danial Napolitano

Middle: Spec. Maxwell Conrad of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery tests at the Hand Grenade Station of the Expert Infantry Badge Lane Validation. Photo by PFC Anthony Smith

Right: PFC Jacob Simmons from Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, uses a skill saw as he helps build two mock UH-60 helicopters for Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) training. Photo by 1st Lt. Tobias Watson

This is OUR home!

Camp Buehring sees many units move through on their way to and from Iraq, but to many Soldiers, particularly those of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, this is our home. High winds and dust storms make trash a serious issue on Camp, and it is everyone's responsibility to help. Please ensure all waste is placed in trash bags and dumpsters. Do not walk past trash, police it up! Remember, this is your home too.



What Do YOU Think?

“What training events would you like to see?”

Questions and Photos by PFC Jeremy Neece



Sgt. Melissa McCoy
Co. C, 40th Eng.

Communications
Training



PFC Seth Capson
Co. A 2-6 Inf.

Live Fire
Ranges



PFC Jason Coats
HHC, 1-6 Inf.

Fire Support
Training



Spec. Frank Murillo
HHB, 4-27 FA

Convoy Training
Exercises



Sgt. Jessie Morales
HHC, 1-35 AR

Close Quarters
Marksmanship

Next Week: “What would you like families to know about life here?”



STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

2nd BCT Commander
COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

2nd BCT Command Sergeant Major
CSM Jose A. Santos

2nd BCT Public Affairs Officer
MAJ Frederick K. Bower

Striker Torch Editor in Chief
CPT Thomas A. Hasara

Striker Torch Editors
SFC David R. Dockett
SFC(P) Armaruel T. Peralta
SFC Liviu A. Ivan

Striker Torch Design Coordinator
SPC(P) Ben T. Siep

Striker Torch Staff Writers
PFC Evan Richardson
PFC Joshua P. Ramey
PFC Jeremy E. Neece

CONTACT US!

HQ, 2BCT, 1AD
ATTN: PAO
Camp Buehring
APO AE 09330

Call us @ DSN 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

1-6IN: CPT Herbert Flather,

2-6IN: CPT Gabriel Martinez,

1-35AR: CPT Matthew Husted,

40th EN: CPT Daniel Napolitano,

47th FSB: CPT Maurice Miles

4-27 FA: MAJ Frederick Bower

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