

2nd Brigade Combat
Team Forward
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Striker Torch

11th EDITION 05 MAR 06

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A Word from the Striker Command Team



COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

CSM Jose A. Santos



Iron Soldiers,

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team increased our readiness posture this past week in response to the Golden Mosque attack in Samarra and the fear of the break-out of sectarian violence. As the Reserve, we are prepared to deploy and fight anywhere. Increasing our readiness allows us to move forward more quickly, if required. We continue to review our BCT procedures for movement and continue to improve our ability to deploy more rapidly.

As with all of our missions, it is imperative that we remember Operational Security (OPSEC) and do not speculate on possible movements or missions, especially with anyone outside of the Brigade. If the situation warrants an eventual movement, the Brigade leadership will ensure that Iron Families are informed in a

timely manner.

The individual and collective training taking place throughout the Iron Brigade continues to be exemplary. With EIB and EFMB qualifications quickly approaching, Iron Soldiers are sharpening their warrior skills with pride in excellence. Our Soldiers continue to focus on readiness and performing our mission in a disciplined manner. We are proud of everyone's dedication and flexibility in support for our Soldiers. The Iron Brigade truly demonstrates the flexibility of our Army and continues to play an essential role in the global fight against extremism and terrorism.

*Iron sharpens Iron as one
Iron Soldier sharpens another*

Strike Hard!

Front Cover:

Top Left: PFC Joe Corbit of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion prepares to go around a corner during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. Photo by Sgt. Ricardo Espinoza

Top Right: PFC Brady Melear from Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, of Task Force Conqueror fires a 9mm pistol at a target. Photo by Capt. John Hiltz

Bottom: 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

Back Cover:

Top Left: Sgt. James Ingram of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment directs his Soldier to his scanning area during training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by SSgt. Yann Jugeat

Top Right: 1st Lt. Tobias K. Watson of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, part of Task Force Conqueror fires the 240B machine gun. Photo by Capt. John Hiltz

Bottom: Soldiers from Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment clean their howitzer tube (also known as "punching the tube") in the motor pool at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Capt. James Collado



PFC Phillip George of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion checks his GPS coordinates before heading out on a mission.

Photo by Spec. Zack Cole



Keeping The Wheels And Tracks Rolling

Story and Photo by Sgt. Christian Herndon

The Soldiers of all maintenance sections within the 40th Engineer Battalion have had some busy months in Kuwait. Not only have the mechanics been training on various Soldier's combative tasks, they have been working to maintain the Battalion's vehicles. To keep vehicles running in the desert requires constant work and vigilance. "There is always something to do, from greasing vehicles to blowing out air filters," said SSgt. Terry Lane, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Headhunters" Maintenance Platoon Sergeant. "Most people think we are like a Jiffy Lube, tires and oil filters, and that's it, but we do so much more than that." While tires and air filters are a big part of the job, other parts include troubleshooting components and vehicle faults, minor and major repairs, such as changing out an engine or transmission. The ten Soldier Maintenance Support Team, or 3rd shop, works side-

by-side with the unit maintenance teams to help with major component changes.

The Soldiers in maintenance have one of the Army's toughest jobs requiring long hours of hard work to keep the force running. Parts

clerks normally work long hours to get parts processed and reports updated. The vehicle mechanics are always busy working on equipment. The generator mechanics also have their hands full while constantly maintaining the Battalion's energy resources. The environment here is a stark contrast to Baumholder, where Soldiers were used to working in snow, rain, and mud; but in a few months, the Kuwaiti heat



Sgt. Christopher Denny of 47th Forward Support Battalion fabricates brackets that will allow mine clearing line charges to be attached to an Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge (AVLB).

and prolonged exposure to dust and sand will present a whole new set of challenges. Soon they will be unable to touch the metal vehicles soaking up the desert sun. Through it all, however, the Soldiers in maintenance remain upbeat and positive, knowing they are appreciated. All Soldiers know that it is the behind the scenes work that keeps the 40th Engineer Battalion ready to roll, no matter what the mission.

Camp Buehring Sunday Chapel Schedule

Main Chapel Chapel Annex

0800-0900 : Traditional Protestant

0930-1030 : Contemporary Protestant

1100-1200 : Catholic Mass

1230-1400 : Full Gospel

1500-1600 : LDS

1900-2030 : PM Protestant Fellowship

0930-1100 : Full Gospel

1130-1230 : Contemporary Protestant

1300-1400 : Liturgical Protestant

1800-1900 : Catholic Mass



You Call It, They Haul It!

Story by 1st Lt. Christian Fiero



Members of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment ammo section download ammunition from a Service Battery Palletized Load System at a supply point near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Capt. Joey Errington

In the Field Artillery there are the Soldiers who man the guns, the Soldiers who control fire direction and the Soldiers who call for fire, but what about the Soldiers who deliver the ammunition and supplies needed for all artillery missions? The Transportation Specialists of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment live by the phrase, “You call it, we haul it.” Anywhere a mission takes place you will find transportation Soldiers hauling the ammunition to the site ensuring the artillery ammunition carriers can load up and supply their guns with the proper projectiles, fuses, and charges to accomplish the artillery mission. Any mission, anywhere, a Transportation Soldier does whatever it takes until “mission complete.”

In Service Battery, transportation Soldiers are part of the Ammunition Platoon; however,

these Soldiers do much more than just “haul” ammunition and supplies. SSgt. Marcus Levingston, Ammunition Manager, plays a key role in the organization and distribution of all ammunition within the Battalion. “It’s an experience, always something new when working with Ammo Platoon,” states SSgt. Levingston.

The transportation Soldiers within the ammunition platoon learn much from their counterparts, who are trained artillerymen. Everyday Soldiers from these two occupations work closely together in order to accomplish daily exercises or real world missions. “I think they help us expedite our mission, their expertise on vehicles and well rounded knowledge on all munitions really makes our platoon strong,” said SFC Martin Ware, Ammunition Platoon Ser-

geant. In some cases, by handling artillery ammunition on a daily basis, the transportation Soldiers have learned the munitions more proficiently than some artillerymen. Sgt. Matthew Wearnly said, “Anyone can drive a truck, but we are developing an expertise in the distribution and maintenance of ammunition and supplies.”

The Soldiers of “Ammo Platoon” know they can depend on the Transportation Soldiers for any task, whether it is large or small. Since becoming a part of the platoon, these Soldiers have taken great pride in making a name for themselves throughout the Battalion by accomplishing any mission, anywhere. If you are out in the middle of the fight and need supplies, just ring the Ammo Platoon because they live by their credo - “You call it, we’ll haul it!”

Task Force Conqueror Participates in EDRE

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Zachary Hadfield



Company B, of 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment from Task Force Conqueror, stages Bradley fighting vehicles so they can be loaded onto Heavy Equipment Transports during an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

“Ready to go at a moments notice” is a concept to which a heavily armored unit, such as Task Force Conqueror, is not accustomed. Armed with M1A1 Abrams tanks and M2A2 Bradley fighting vehicles, rapid deployment is far from the norm; however, such is the mission at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, for units of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. It’s a different mission for a different style of war.

Using a heavy task force as a rapid deployment force, the ability to meet urgent timelines requires significant training. Task Force Conqueror addressed this need with the Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise or EDRE. The EDRE is a brigade-level training exercise that prepares Iron Brigade Soldiers to pack out equipment, and hastily leave Camp Buehring to go anywhere in theater at a moment’s notice.

Task Force Conqueror, the deploying unit in this scenario, received support from Task Force Gator, known as a “pusher” unit, which greatly helped in the EDRE’s success. Task Force Gator assisted in every way possible to ensure that the “Conquerors” deployed out of Camp Buehring on time and with all their equipment. They helped with load-

ing food, water, fuel, and ammunition as well as offering logistical support to monitor the unit’s progress throughout the exercise.

The deploying unit had plenty to do themselves. Upon receiving the call to deploy, TF Conqueror immediately notified the chain of command while NCOs inspected every Soldier to ensure they would

not leave behind any essential equipment. The Soldiers then loaded their vehicles with supplies, solved any last minute problems, and organized a pre-planned convoy to move from Camp Buehring. Simultaneously, other Soldiers were packing away their unit’s equipment into containers which would

then be loaded onto trucks. Once the trucks were loaded, they joined the convoy and prepared for their journey.

Meanwhile, the battalion S1 (personnel) shop manifested every Soldier in the Task Force to ensure everyone had a means to get to the destination, from advanced party to trail party. Members of staff sections left with the advanced party to set up essential resources and relay current information back to the unit regarding activity in the destination area. Commanders maneuvered their personnel and equipment into the movement order while executive officers coordinated resources and finalized business with Camp Buehring. Soldiers ensured the plan was properly executed.

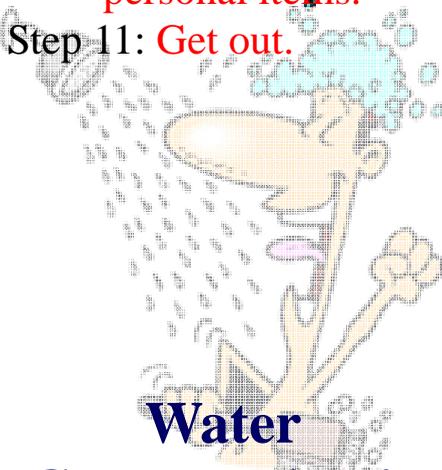
Task Force Conqueror successfully met its deployment timeline while learning valuable lessons about rapid deployment. Rehearsals are always a vital part of training and deploying is no exception. Soldiers of Task Force Conqueror are confident of their ability to quickly and successfully deploy anywhere in theater, should the call come.



Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, draw ammunition for their Bradley fighting vehicles during Task Force Conqueror’s deployment exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Love

Combat Shower Procedures

- Step 1: **Get in.**
- Step 2: **Turn on water.**
- Step 3: **Get wet.**
- Step 4: **Turn off water.**
- Step 5: **Lather.**
- Step 6: **Turn on water.**
- Step 7: **Rinse.**
- Step 8: **Repeat steps 2-7 as needed.**
- Step 9: **Turn off water.**
- Step 10: **Collect personal items.**
- Step 11: **Get out.**



Water Conservation is Everyone's Responsibility!



Top: Capt. James Collado (left with pointer), a platoon leader for Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment briefs Capt. Joey Errington, Btry. C Commander, (right seated) in a rock drill prior to an exercise near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Sgt. Reginald Orr

Bottom: Spec. Wesley F. Belcher (Right) of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion teaches SFC Edgardo LeGrand of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th FSB (Left) and SSG Matias-Ortiz of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment (Middle), proper oxygen therapy in the EMT course. Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick



Alpha Battery Conducts Driver's Combat Logistics Patrol

Story by Capt. Andrew J. Schwartz

Beginning in the summer of 2005, Battery A "Redlegs," 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, of Task Force Gator, began to assume the role of a Motorized Rifle Company (MRC) in place of its traditional role as a howitzer firing battery. An MRC consists of two platoons with Humvees that mount one of three weapons systems, either an M2 .50 caliber machine gun, a MK19 40 mm automatic grenade launcher, or an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. This fighting configuration is in sharp contrast to the traditional role of artillerymen with their 155 mm howitzers, and requires a much different package of skills than the run-of-the-mill cannoner. The Soldiers of "Redleg" Battery have adjusted quite well to their new role on the battlefield.

Battery A, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. of TF Gator continues to train and prepare for its mission within the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) as an MRC. Recently, the Battery conducted a Combat Logistics Patrol (CLP) Situational Training Exercise (STX). These training events are fundamental in the Redlegs' new role as an MRC. Mastering the individual

and collective skills involved in these training events is essential for mission success.

CLPs are tactical movements within an area of operations that involve moving logistical assets between two points on the battlefield. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, these patrols occur in the complex, asymmetrical battle space of Iraq and expose the Soldiers that conduct CLPs to the same dangers that face their maneuver brethren. CLPs are a potential mission for Battery A, since their vehicles and weapons are well suited to the CLP mission.

Situational Training Exercises (STX) are essential in Army training because they present a realistic scenario in which to apply a variety of skills and training objectives. During STX, the unit being trained receives an operations order from its next higher headquarters. Upon receipt of



Spec. Juan Rodriguez, a .50 caliber machine gunner from Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, provides security from his gun truck during Btry. A's CLP Mission. Photo by 1st Lt. Bryan Fanning

this order, leaders conduct analysis, issue directives, rehearse their particular tasks, and conduct inspections. During the execution of the mission, the unit being trained faces an opposing force that simulates the enemy threat. Situational Training Exercises create the most realistic combat situations without having to be in combat.

In the case of CLP STX, Battery A conducted a mission where they escorted supply assets between two points in the Udairi Range Training Area. The support platoon from Task Force Gator provided three logistics cargo vehicles for the training. During the STX lane, both motorized platoons escorted these logistics assets along a route and reacted to potential threats such as Improvised Explosive Devices, small arms fire, and mortar fire. The units also used that opportunity to conduct additional training such as a medical evacuation exercise.

The "Redlegs" of Task Force Gator understand the importance of proficiency in training and continue to keep their skills sharp. Battery A has prepared for similar training in order to continue improvement and adjust to new tactics used by an unseen enemy. The Soldiers continue to impress with steadfast resolve and a desire to accomplish the mission no matter what.



Elements of 2nd Platoon, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment investigate a potential Improvised Explosive Device near an overpass. Photo by Capt. Andrew Schwartz



Left: Spec. Brandon Pounds of Co. C, 40th Eng. Bn. mans his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon in the turret of an Armored Personnel Carrier during a company training exercise. Photo by Capt. Daniel Napolitano

Right: The 1st Platoon Ammo Section of Btry C, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. (from left to right) Spec. Randy Williams, Sgt. Gary Grubb, and SSgt. Zachary Parrish distribute ammunition to a howitzer at a firing point near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Capt. Joey Errington

OIF Tips - Helping a Soldier/Buddy in Distress

Any Soldier can run into rough times. Sometimes anything from combat situation to being away from family can get us feeling down.

If you see a buddy upset, or sad, you can help. Emotionally distracted Soldiers can endanger the mission, the unit, and themselves. Often, just talking, listening and focusing on their strengths, is all that people need to find their own answers. Here are some things that you can say and do that can help:

1. **Be a good friend.** For example, say, "Something

seems to be bothering you. How can I help?"

2. **Listen and encourage** your buddy to talk about what is bothering him or her. Stay calm and objective.

3. **Don't criticize or argue with the Soldier's ideas and feelings.** Encourage your buddy to continue to tell you what's wrong.

4. **Acknowledge your buddy's grievances** against others, but don't make it worse by agreeing too strongly.

5. **Ask questions to understand** the problem and the

feelings. If the talking stalls, summarize what has been said and ask if you have it right.

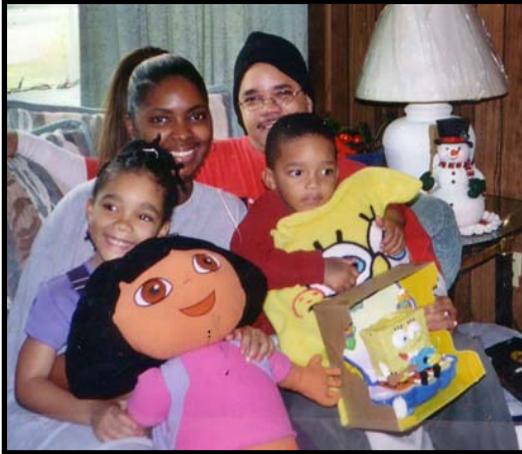
6. **Don't give a lot of advice.** It is okay to plant the seeds of new ideas but don't drive them in with a hammer. Remember you don't need to have all the answers for the Soldier's problems.

7. **Praise your buddy's** work he/she has been doing under such difficult circumstances, and for talking with you.

...More Helping a Soldier/Buddy in Distress Next Week...

Destruction of New Orleans Touches a Soldier from 47th FSB

Story by PFC Kerrisa Simpson



Spec. Michael Lindolph and his family; his wife Darlann, daughter, Relynn, and son Michael. Photo by Michael's Mother Dolores Lindolph.

On August 28th, 2005, residents of New Orleans received news that a catastrophic Category 4 storm was on the way and were advised to evacuate their homes. The next day, according to wikipedia.org, winds from Hurricane Katrina reached speeds of 175 miles per hour and raced across the Gulf Coast heading straight towards Louisiana. Nearly 80 percent of the city was soon beneath ten feet of water from breached levees that were unable to handle the storm surge. As a result, an estimated 1,100 people were killed from Louisiana alone with nearly 3,500 currently unaccounted for. Over 200,000 homes were flooded, and businesses and schools were destroyed. Spec. Michael Lindolph from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion, was directly affected by this event with his wife and children, just a few of the 1.5 million people displaced by one of the worst natural disasters in

American history.

Spec. Lindolph was busy at work performing the daily functions of the battalion's personnel shop in Grafenwoehr, Germany, when he began receiving information on the destruction of his home town of New Orleans. He was informed that his wife and two children were headed toward Winnfield, LA, and his parents were en-route to Houston, TX. After receiving approval from the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Jeanne Hooper, Spec. Lindolph urgently flew home to locate and help his family.

"At first I didn't know how to react to the whole thing. All my wife had packed was a suitcase with a few days worth of clothing and a couple of toys to keep my son and daughter occupied. Nobody took the warnings too seriously because we had similar warnings before," Spec. Lindolph declared. "They thought we would return to our homes like we had in the past."

When the storms were over and it was time to return home, there was nothing left to return to for many New Orleans residents. The condition of Spec. Lindolph's home was an unbearable sight. Imagine the place that you call home, and the next moment all that remains is its memory. His furniture was destroyed and the only personal

items he could recover were a few personal pictures and his wife's wedding ring. Spec. Lindolph explained how strange it is when one day life continues as usual, then the next day you own nothing. Despite the fact that the family would have to make a completely new start, they can still be happy and thankful that no one in their family was hurt in the estimated \$75 billion dollar natural disaster.

In the weeks that followed the destructive hurricanes, citizens throughout the world began to donate money for the victims of the hurricanes. Churches donated many items including clothes and food while numerous other organizations arranged volunteer workers, donated time and money, and organized activities that helped families in their time of need.

As of now, cities near the Gulf Coast are being rebuilt, Spec. Lindolph's daughter is in school, and his son is with relatives during the day. His wife is attending classes at Southern University of Louisiana and his family life is slowly returning to normal.



Spec. Michael Lindolph took this photo of his children's room after returning to New Orleans to view the destruction left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Photo by Spec. Michael Lindolph

Upcoming MWR Events

Sunday, 05 March 2006

1500: Darts Tournament @ Recreation Ctr.

Monday, 06 March 2006

0400: Oscars Night @ Theater

Tuesday, 07 March 2006

1900: Chess Tournament @ Oasis

2000: Checkers Tournament @ Oasis

Wednesday, 08 March 2006

1730: 7.5k Fun Run @ Green Beans

1800: Montgomery Gentry Concert

1900: Halo Tournament @ Oasis

Thursday, 09 March 2006

1900: Ping Pong Tournament @ Rec Ctr.

Friday, 10 March 2006

2000: Karaoke Night @ MWR Stage

Saturday, 11 March 2006

SPA DAY

Sunday, 12 March 2006

SPA DAY

1900: Bingo @ Events Tent



Left Top: Spec. Pedro Cruz (left) and PFC Victor M. Bardales (right) of HHB, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt, disassemble the RPK during a Foreign Weapons Program of Instruction (POI). Photo by 1st Lt. Douglas Healy

Right Top: PFC Ralph E. Meadows of Co. A, 47th FSB softball team swings for a hit. Photo by 1st Lt. Patrick Warren

Right Bottom: Gen. Wallace, TRADOC Commander, shakes hands with CSM Jose Santos, of the 2nd BCT during his visit to Camp Buehring. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

Did you know?

March is Women’s History Month

Summarized from About.com by PFC Evan Richardson

Women’s History Month Began in Europe as “International Women’s Day” on March 8th, 1911 at a time when women’s rights were a political hot topic in many European Nations, as well as in the United States. Woman suffrage—winning the vote—was a priority of many women’s organizations.

Throughout the 1970’s, many universities began to include the fields of women’s history and the broader field of women’s studies, due to the growing sense by many women that “history” as taught in school—and especially in grade school and high school—was incomplete without attending to “her story” as well.

In 1978 in California, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women began a “Women’s History Week” celebration. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women’s Day. The response to this was positive. Schools began to host their own Women’s History Week programs.

Three years later, the United States Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women’s History Week. This encouraged even wider participation in Women’s History Week. Organizations sponsored talks on women’s History Week, and the National Women’s History Project began distributing materials designed to support Women’s History Week.

In 1987, at the request of the National Women’s History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month, and the U.S. Congress has issued a resolution every year since then, with wide support, for Women’s History Month.

What Do *YOU* Think?

“What are your plans for R&R Leave?”

Questions and Photos by PFC Jeremy Neece & PFC Evan Richardson



Capt. Michael Busby
Co. A, 40th EN

I’m going home to see the birth of my baby.



Spec. Benjamin Hensley
Btry C, 4-27 FA

I’m going to take a 4 day pass to Qatar with my wife.



PFC Carl Moore
Co. B, 1-6 Inf

I’m going to go water skiing in Qatar.



PFC Samuel Bengoa
Co. B, 47th FSB

Changing diapers, doing laundry and cooking dinner for my wife.



Pvt.2 Charles Dominguez
2nd Plt., 501st MP

See my new born child for the first time.

Next Week: “What kind of MWR/USO shows would you like to see?”



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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:
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