

2nd Brigade Combat
Team Forward
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Striker Torch

EDITION 19 FEB 06

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A Word from the Striker Command Team



COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

CSM Jose A. Santos



Dear Iron Soldiers and Families,

This week we send another positive update on how well our Soldiers are doing. We continue to maintain our warrior's edge by sharpening our skills and continuing to grow as a team. Whether we are firing our weapons, conducting refueling operations, monitoring our dining facilities, or conducting sick call, each Soldier is an important part of the Iron Brigade team. Watching events like the Brigade Run, Platoon Stakes, Combatives, and Strength and Endurance competitions, it is evident that our Soldiers are competitive and give their all in every situation.

Iron Brigade Soldiers have a strong sense of pride in being able to do their jobs well, and their everyday Soldier discipline stands out. The high-quality training we are able to do here in Kuwait is not only keeping our warrior skills sharp, but the pride in accomplishment keeps our morale high. We are able to build from the basics of physical

fitness and individual training tasks to more-advanced training that maintains our ability to accomplish any mission. A special thanks this week goes out to all of our mechanics who are working so hard to get our Theater Provided Equipment up to standard. All these efforts have served to increase our combat capability.

We could never do this alone. We continue to appreciate the support of our families and we continue to rely on and take care of one another. As we become proficient in a task, it is just as important that our battle buddy becomes just as proficient. We train as a team, we will fight as team, and we will win as a team. Thanks for all you are doing for your Nation and for each other.

Iron sharpens Iron, as one Iron Soldier sharpens another.

Strike Hard!

Front Cover:

Top: PFC Catherine Blakely of B Co., 501st MP Co. demonstrates clearing procedures of a .50 Cal machine gun. Photo by Capt. Scott Leifker

Bottom Left: (From right to left) Sgt. Daniel A. Sisto, PFC Cyle C. Anderson, Pvt. 2 Jason R. Beatty and SSgt. Jose C. Laboy from Co. B, 1st Bn., 35th Armd. Regt., TF Gator prepare to clear a room at a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) range in Kuwait. Photo by SFC Brian Caponi

Bottom Right: Members of the Engineer Recon Team from HHC, 40th Eng. Bn. practice close quarters marksmanship in Kuwait. Photo by PFC Rick Zinkand

Rear Cover:

Top Left: PFC Cary Novavallanda (left) and PFC Aaron Musgrove (right) of Scout Platoon, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. of TF Regulars pull security while other Soldiers enter a building at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training site. Photo by 1st Lt. Bledy Taka

Top Right: Spec. Nicholas R. Figueroa of Co. B, 47th FSB provides security as his patrol starts the live fire portion of the convoy live fire lanes. Photo by 2nd Lt. Seth Norman

Bottom: Bradley Fighting Vehicles of Third Platoon, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., assemble outside of the objective, the MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) Site at Range Four. Photo by PFC Josh Ingram



The 1st Platoon Ammo Section of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment (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



Battery A Conducts Machine Gun Range

Story by 1st Lt. Bryan Fanning

Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment of Task Force Conqueror, under the command of Capt. Casey M. Randall, recently conducted a machine gun range at Udairi Range. Btry. A Soldiers fired the three machine guns in the battery's inventory: the M249, 5.56 mm Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW); the M2, Browning .50 caliber machine gun; and the MK19, 40-mm grenade launcher. Under the battery's new configuration as a Motorized Rifle Company (MRC), the M249, M2, and MK19 have taken on the role of Btry. A's firepower, traditionally provided by their M109A6 155-mm self-propelled Paladin howitzers.

Capt. Randall's intent for the machine gun range was for gunners to be evaluated on their accuracy and quickness of engaging targets. The battery-led machine gun range provided the "Redlegs" of Btry. A with the opportunity to engage targets between 200 and 400 meters and shift fire between targets, all while being timed. The targets were in closer proximity to the firers than a "textbook" machine gun qualification table; however, the range setup provided gunners with enemy and friendly figures to train discriminating fires.

Capt. Andrew Schwartz, the

range officer in-charge, developed a gunnery scoring system to put a competitive edge on the machine gun range, adding intensity to the training. Gunners were given a score based on the amount of time it took them to engage and neutralize targets on the range. The top gunners for the M249, M2, and MK19 were PFC Brandon Tesseneer, Spec. Matthew Roberts, and PFC Clyde George, respectively.

At the completion of the machine gun range, Redleg gunners were highly motivated after participating in the competition. Capt. Schwartz expressed, "This range allows us to assess our Soldiers' skills while instilling pride through friendly competition."



Top: Spec. Jerrod Gott of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment spots for one of the gunners.

Bottom: Spec. Riggan of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment gets ready to engage targets with the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon.

All Photos by Pvt. 2 Mark Norris

ATTENTION

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team
Retention Office

has moved to the
Admin Bldg. 1

Next to the new 2nd BCT TOC



Capt. James R. Embry (right) congratulates Spec. Chadwick J. Reed after administering the oath of reenlistment. Both are from Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, Task Force Gator.
Photo by 1st Lt. Gregg Johnson

A Day in the Life of Class III / V Platoon

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Patrick Warren

Within Company A, 47th Forward Support Battalion, one platoon performs specialized missions that are extremely important to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2nd BCT). These Soldiers purify drinking water, supply units with fuel (class III) and



ammunition (class V), and help maintain the mobility of the Iron Brigade. Even though many members of the Brigade rely on support Soldiers to perform their daily training, few know enough about the platoon to understand how important the platoon's work really is to them. These are the Soldiers of the "III/V Platoon."

The Soldiers of the Class V (ammunition) section, led by Sgt. Shekura Gopie, conduct missions in support of the ammunition holding area using forklifts to upload and download ammunition for the units in the 2nd BCT. Part of the ammunition management function includes continuous inventory of the ammunition signed out every day. Spec. Jason Cain said, "It is a hard job, but [it is] also rewarding." In addition to their primary military occupational specialties, many of these Soldiers also double as fuel handling specialists.

The Soldiers of the Class III section are usually found in the motor pool where they conduct daily preventative maintenance checks and services (PMCS) on their fuel tankers including inspection for leaks and other potentially hazardous problems. Following PMCS, the Soldiers drive the tankers to the bulk Class III yard and re-

ceive fuel for distribution to the 2nd BCT. When they return to the motor pool, the members of the Class III section are ready to meet the Brigade's fueling requirements. In most cases, the individual task forces will send their own fueling vehicles to the Class III platoon location to fill up. When rapid deployment of the Brigade is imminent, the fuelers can perform a refuel on the move for units that are getting ready to move in the immediate future. More recently, Class III Soldiers assisted other fuel handlers at Camp Beuhring in refueling helicopters and testing the aqua glow system.

imperative that the fuel source remains free of water.

Another section of the platoon has the responsibility of supplying the 2nd BCT with all of its drinking water. The water treatment and purification section of the platoon purifies water sources into clean drinking water. In order to complete the purification process, the III / V platoon's reverse osmosis water purification units filter the impurities from the water and use various chemical additives to make it safe for drinking and storage in a 5,000 gallon tank. Spec. Robert Dornbusch said, "When I tell people I'm a water purification specialist, they think of the movie 'In the Army Now,' but there is more to it than what is seen on the screen. In order to meet the Army's standard, [we] have to maintain a constant visual on the equipment in order to ensure the proper proportion of chemicals are added to the source and there is a steady flow of water."

The members of the III / V platoon



Left: Spec. Robert Dornbusch and Sgt. Tyrone Norman of III / V platoon, Company A, 47th Forward Support Battalion, make a final check on the supplies needed for the reverse osmosis water purification units which are used to purify water from sources such as rivers and lakes.

Right: PFC Calvin P. Payno and Spec. Carlos A. Forcadella, Class III Soldiers from Company A, 47th Forward Support Battalion, help refuel a helicopter at an airfield near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Spec. Carlos Focadilla said, "We learned that the aqua glow is a very crucial test that is performed to ensure the fuel distributed to any aircraft is clear of any water that would prevent [the aircraft] from completing its mission." Because Kuwait is a rather humid climate this time of year, it is

perform a variety of services that sustain the Iron Brigade in its day to day missions. Whether it is distributing ammunition, pumping fuel, or purifying water, each member of the platoon contributes greatly to the overall success of the Brigade's mission.

Tax Season is Here, Are You Ready?

Information Provided by the 2 BCT Legal Office

"How does my deployment to Iraq affect my income tax situation?"

Service members stationed in Iraq or Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom benefit from several state and federal tax initiatives. According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), service members in Iraq are entitled to income exclusions, filing extensions, and deferral of some tax debts.

Exclusions: Members of the U.S. Armed Forces who serve in a combat zone (including Kuwait) or qualified hazardous duty area can exclude certain pay from income. Enlisted personnel, warrant officers and commissioned warrant officers can exclude:

- Active duty pay earned in any month served in a combat zone.
- Imminent danger/hostile fire pay and military pay earned while hospitalized as a result of wounds, disease or injury incurred in the combat zone.
- A reenlistment bonus if the voluntary extension or reenlistment occurs in a month served in combat zone.
- Pay for accrued leave earned in any month served in combat zone. (The Department of Defense must determine that the unused leave was earned during that period.)

Pay received for duties as a member of the Armed Forces in clubs, messes, post and station theaters and other non-appropriated fund activities earned in a month served in a combat zone.

A commissioned officer (other than a commissioned warrant officer) may exclude pay according to the rules above, but the amount of the exclusion is limited to the highest rate of enlisted pay (plus imminent danger/hostile fire pay received) for each month during any part of which he or she served in the qualifying zone.

Filing Extension: The IRS automatically extends the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for refund, and taking other actions related to federal income tax for service members serving in a qualifying zone like Iraq or Kuwait.

Deferral of Taxes for Reservists and Enlistees: According to the IRS, enlistees in the armed forces may qualify for a deferral of taxes owed if they can show that their ability to pay taxes was affected by their military service. The source of this benefit is the Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA).

The deferral applies to taxes that fall due before or during military service, and extends the payment deadline to six months (180 days). No interest or penalty accrues during the deferral period. The deferral is not automatic; taxpayers must apply for it. When applying, the taxpayer must show how the military service affected the taxpayer's ability to pay. A taxpayer must also have received a notice of tax due, or have an installment agreement with the IRS, before applying for the deferral.

"When do I have to file my federal income tax return?"

The deadline for filing returns or taking any other action with the IRS is extended for at least 180 days after the later of:

- The last day of qualifying combat zone service, or
- The last day of any continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from the combat zone.

In addition to the 180 days, the deadline is extended by the number of days that you were deployed in the tax filing season of January 1st to April 15th. Here are some examples of how the filing extension works.

- Example 1: You entered Kuwait on the way to Iraq on 1 October 2005. You were not injured and did not return to the United States until your unit redeployed on 1 August 2006. Your deadline to file your 2005 return is extended 180 days plus 105 days (the entire filing period, 1 January 2006 – 15 April 2006); therefore you do not have to file your return until 13 May 2007. Your deadline to file your 2006 return is unaffected; it is still 15 April 2007.
- Example 2: You entered the Iraqi theater of operations on 1 April 2005. You were not injured and did not return to the United States until your unit redeployed on 14 April 2006. Your deadline to file your 2004 return is extended 180 days plus 14 days (1 April 2005 – 15 April 2005); therefore you do not have to file your 2004 return until 15 October 2006. Your deadline to file your 2005 return is extended 180 days plus 104 days (1 January 2006 – 14 April 2006); therefore, you do not have to file your 2005 return until

23 January 2007. Your deadline to file 2006 return is unaffected.

"How does the IRS know I am in Iraq? How do I request my extension?"

Working with the Department of Defense, the IRS identifies taxpayers who are serving in a combat zone so that they may suspend compliance actions, such as audits or enforced collections, until 180 days after the taxpayer has left the zone. When filing your return, write "Combat Zone" at the top of the form along with the date of deployment. If the IRS inadvertently sends a tax delinquency notice to an individual serving in a combat zone or his or her spouse, the notice can be deferred by sending the notice back to the IRS marked with the words "Combat Zone" and the date of deployment.

"Where can I go for more information?"

Go to <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/index.html>. The IRS has created a new section on its web site containing important information to help ensure members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in a combat zone get all of the tax benefits available to them. The new section highlights several special tax provisions that apply to those in combat, which can include extensions for filing tax returns and paying taxes and exclusion of some military pay from taxes.

"Where can I do my taxes while deployed?"

Some tax assistance will be available on Camp Buehring for Service members with easy taxes. Easy tax filers generally are single with no dependants and can use the 1040-EZ Form. The Camp Buehring Tax Office is located at the old MP station near Burger King. The Camp Buehring Tax Office will be open 220900FEB06 at the old PMO trailer near Burger King. Walk-ins will be seen on a first come first serve basis.

"How can my spouse file my taxes?"

Your spouse may file your taxes at the local Army tax office with a power of attorney. The Baumholder Tax office is located at the other end of the 8th Finance Building on Smith Barracks. The Baumholder Tax Office can electronically file complicated tax returns. The 2BCT Legal Office can help you issue your spouse a power of attorney for tax filing.

STREND Takes Soldiers to the Next Level of Physical Fitness

Story by 1st Lt. Johnathan Martin

The stresses of being deployed combined with busy and ever changing schedules make it difficult for Soldiers to focus on excelling beyond the standards of the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). Lt. Col. Daniel Walrath, Commander of Task Force Regulars, knew that this decline was unacceptable for the Soldiers of his Task Force. As a solution, he instituted the first ever Regulars Strength and Endurance (STREND) competition. The STREND competition was structured as a continuous event with little to no rest between tasks. Lt. Col. Walrath briefed the Soldiers prior to the start; "Lift until you can't possibly do any more reps, then do two more."

Competitors began the STREND contest with a weigh-in, which helped to determine the amount of weight which they will be lifting. From there on the workout was non-stop, encompassing the entire body with a variety of strength exercises. Competitors began with the bench press, followed by the chin-up. Following that, the lower body got into the action with a max-rep, body-weight, and dead-lift. Shoulders were next with a half-body weight military press followed by pull-ups. Competitors then worked their lower body once more with weighted alternating lunges. Finishing a set of dips completed their work in the gym and competitors began their final event, a two and a half mile run. At the completion of the STREND, Soldiers drank water



and stretched their tired muscles and many began planning for the next STREND. Congratulations went to the top three competitors: Cpl. David Fernandez, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., came in third; second place went to Spec. Hector Lopez-Rivera, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, "Aggressors," of Task Force Regulars. Spec. Alfredo Alvarado, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, of Task Force Regulars claimed top honors and the title of "Strongest Regular." SPC Alvarado plans to continue training hard, because soon there will be a whole new crop of competitors vying to be the "Strongest Regular."

Top: The winner of the Task Force Regulars Strength Endurance (STREND) competition, Spec. Alfredo Alvarado of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, "Aggressors," on the bench press.

Middle: Spec. Jose Martinez of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment of Task Force Regulars, pushes hard during the Strength and Endurance (STREND) competition conducted by TF Regulars.

Bottom: Spec. Alfredo Alvarado, a medic in Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, crosses the finish line after a two and a half mile run.

All Photos by Capt. Kyle Marcum



Platoon Stakes Competition Builds Esprit de Corps

Story by 1st Lt. Christian Fierro

Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment conducted a platoon stakes competition to decide the top platoon in the Battery. The platoon stakes focused on morale building and unit cohesion within the “Stallions” of Service Battery,

which consists of the Maintenance Platoon, Ammunition Platoon, Support Platoon, and the Maintenance Support Team (MST). Spec. Kevin Thornton, of the Ammunition Platoon, stated that, “The competition was something different from everyday training and classes.” This particular contest consisted of a 40 lb. rucksack march, performing maintenance checks on a Humvee, evaluating a casualty, calling for a medical evacuation of a casualty, setting up an antenna to establish communications, assembling an assortment of weapons (9mm, M16, M249, M2, MK19), and re-supplying ammunition for a howitzer battery. Soldiers marched to each event, with a 40 pound rucksack and plenty of motivation.

Soldiers weighed in with their 40 lb. rucksacks prior to the start of the march and then literally put their best foot forward toward their platoon’s success. The competition commenced at dawn with a 10 kilometer rucksack march around Camp



Buehring. “The road march and running to each event with a rucksack was very difficult,” said SSgt. Kelly Sullivan.

The events tested the Soldiers’ common skill tasks that coincide with their everyday training and professional maintenance. Many of the Soldiers believed the training was important for future operational readiness. When asked about the day’s competition, PFC David Pittenger of the Maintenance Platoon said, “All stations were things that we needed to learn and will be using in combat operations.” Soldiers kept the competition mindset throughout the rigorous training day, but some events were unfamiliar to the platoons.

The ammunition station consisted of filling an ammunition request from a unit. Although no platoon lost points in the event, most received a workout from carrying the 98 lb. artillery projectiles roughly 25 meters. The competing platoons also identified various types of ammunition in this event. Soldiers calculated the number of rounds in each box of ammunition and then carried them to the pick up point. The Maintenance Platoon Observer Controller, Sgt. Duane Danns of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, said, “This event was tough and fun for the platoons. It demonstrated physical strength and teamwork within the platoon.” The Maintenance Support Team was the fastest group in this event; completing it in five minutes.

At the conclusion of the competition, leaders from Service Battery calculated all scores and times in order to determine the winners of the competition. In the end, the Maintenance Platoon achieved the honor of top platoon in Service Battery. Most of all, the day’s events helped build morale and cohesiveness within the battery. “Good training today, it really helped build esprit de corps. We all did well on the events and came together to accomplish the tasks at hand,” said Spec. Joran Jackowski of Maintenance Platoon.



Right Top: PFC Tyler Karrick of Maintenance Platoon, Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment rushes to the ammunition point with a box of rounds during the Platoon Stakes Competition. Photo by 1st Lt. Christian Fierro

Right Bottom: Sgt. Matthew Wearly of Service Btry., 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. performs a maintenance check on a vehicle during the Platoon Stakes Competition. Photo by 1st Lt. Christian Fierro

Left Top: Soldiers from Service Btry., 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. catch their breath after running to the various events during the Platoon Stakes Competition. Photo by 1st Lt. Christian Fierro

Left Bottom: Sgt. James Bateman of Ammunition Platoon, Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment carries two 98 lb. artillery rounds during the Platoon Stakes Competition. Photo by 1st Lt. Christian Fierro

Tougher Job than Most

Story and Photos by Pvt. 2 Kerissa Simpson

Ssgt. Jeffrey Blankenship (left) and Sgt. Paul E. Girard (right) of HHD, 47th FSB, demonstrate the proper folding of the flag during the ceremony used at funerals.



One military occupational specialty to strike the interest of today's Army is the 92M, Mortuary Affairs Specialist. It is one of the least picked military occupational skills today, with only an estimated 600 Soldiers from all four branches of service performing this job. Not everyone has what it takes to endure the responsibilities and intensity for this combat career. While the Soldier's Creed declares that Soldiers are both physically and mentally tough, nothing can prepare an individual for the obstacles a Mortuary Affairs Specialist faces in a wartime environment.

Out of the entire 2nd Brigade Combat Team, SSgt. Jeffery E. Blankenship and Sgt. Paul D. Girard are the only two personnel to actively work in this military occupational specialty (MOS). Both are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion's Support Operations section.

Sgt. Girard spoke first hand on what operations in a combat zone are like. "In combat when things get bad, you don't have time to sit and think about all you are seeing. Your mind isn't able to process what is going on. Afterwards though, it hits you as this numbing feeling. Knowing I am helping bring a Soldier home allows me to keep my head up."

"[The whole process] really changes the way you look at the world and the people in it. So many innocent people lose their lives while others are just giving theirs away," SSgt. Blankenship declared. In the end, things may become hard and complex for a Mortuary Affairs Specialist, but both SSgt. Blankenship and Sgt. Girard are proud of what they do. Both draw satisfaction from knowing they have the ability to cope with their surroundings. They vow to live by three words learned in training: dignity, reverence, and respect.



Engineer Leaders Learn to Teach Explosives Hazard Awareness

Story by Capt. Andrew Staiano

A 20 person class stands outside in the warm afternoon sun. They “drive” an imaginary Humvee down a dusty dirt lane at Camp Liberty in Baghdad. They are

honing skills they have just learned from instructors from the 200th Engineer Battalion (Alabama National Guard). “BOOM! You just hit a bomb!” the instructor from 200th Engineer Bn.

practical training on explosive hazard awareness. The training was targeted at leaders in order to certify them to teach other Soldiers upon their return to Kuwait.

The focus of the class, Explosive Hazard Awareness Training (EHAT), taught Soldiers how to identify and react to mines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and unexploded military ordinance. The 200th Engineer Bn. instructors have gathered a year’s worth of knowledge and experience in Iraq. The students spent time watching classroom presentations in addition to walking through training lanes riddled with simulated munitions and IEDs which reinforced the classroom work. Each day after class, the 40th Engineer students often had dinner with their instructors, swapping engineer stories of encounters in Iraq.

Recently, five Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team traveled to Camp Liberty in Baghdad, Iraq, to conduct three days of high intensity classroom and

practical training on explosive hazard awareness. The training was targeted at leaders in order to certify them to teach other Soldiers upon their return to Kuwait. The focus of the class, Explosive Hazard Awareness Training (EHAT), taught Soldiers how to identify and react to mines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and unexploded military ordinance. The 200th Engineer Bn. instructors have gathered a year’s worth of knowledge and experience in Iraq. The students spent time watching classroom presentations in addition to walking through training lanes riddled with simulated munitions and IEDs which reinforced the classroom work. Each day after class, the 40th Engineer students often had dinner with their instructors, swapping engineer stories of encounters in Iraq.

After graduation, the students returned to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, armed with information and motivation to teach their fellow Soldiers about the right ways to deal with explosive hazards in Iraq.



Leaders that attended the EHAT training from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team shortly after graduation. From left to right: SFC Robert Miles, SFC Joshua Walls, Capt. Andrew Staiano, SSgt. Aaron Mang, SSgt. Marvin McKay.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Robert Varvel

Camp Buehring Army Education Center

Programs & Services Offered

- DANTES Testing (CLEP, DSST, GED, TABE, Online Testing)
- APT (Army Personnel Testing; (DLAB, AFAST, DLPT, AFCT, etc)
- Counseling
- FAST (Functional Academic Skills Training; GT Improvement)
- ASEP (Advanced Skills Education Program)

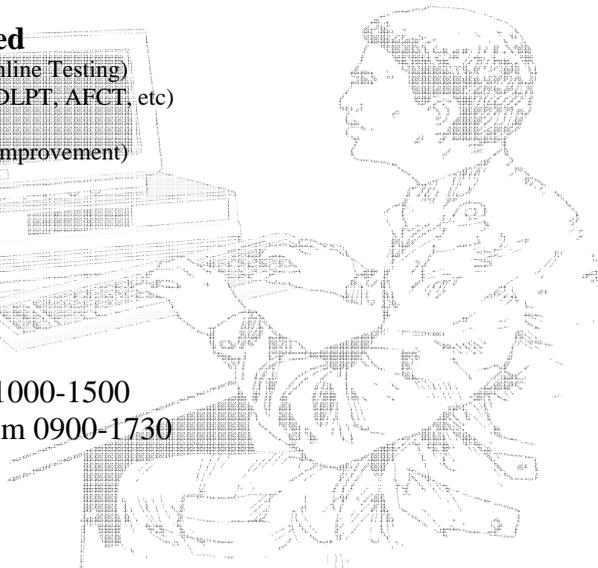
Local College Programs

- University of Maryland
- Central Texas College
- Embry-Riddle University

Testing occurs on Wednesdays from 1000-1500

Open Wednesday, Friday & Saturday from 0900-1730

POC: Mr. Jewel W. Everett
DSN 828-1054 - Cell 788-5317
Located @ Admin Bldg. 1
Next to the new 2nd BCT TOC



Upcoming MWR Events

Sunday, 19 February 2006
0900: Hoop It Up @ Hangar 4

Monday, 20 February 2006
0600: Presidents Day 10k @ Hole-N-One
1900: Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent
1900: Spades Tournament @ Oasis

Tuesday, 21 February 2006
1900: Dominoes Tournament @ Palms
1900: Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent

Wednesday, 22 February 2006
1730: 5k Weekly Fun Run @ Hole-N-One
1900: NBA Live Tournament @ Palms

Thursday, 23 February 2006
1900: Ping Pong Tournament @ Events Tent

Friday, 24 February 2006
1000: Mardi Gras Mask Making @ Oasis
1900: Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent

Saturday, 25 February 2006
1530: Mardi Gras Parade @ Eisenhower Drive
1700: Mardi Gras Cookout @ MWR Stage
2100: Masquerade Ball @ Events Tent

Sunday, 26 February 2006
BAZAAR
1500: Foosball Tournament @ Palms
1900: Bingo Night @ Events Tent



Top: Spec. Audrey U. Bailey of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion is waiting for her signal to move a package with the forklift during forklift operator training. Photo by Sgt. Paul Girard

Bottom Left: Sgt. Michael Horn of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment instructs the Battalion's officers during an Officer Professional Development on survey control operations.

Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun

Bottom Right: Pvt. 2 Alan K. Feng of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion displays the Silver Medal he earned in the Camp Buehring weightlifting competition, sponsored by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) for his weight category. Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick



Shout Outs from the Homefront

Hello,

My name is Brian Jakubson, I've been reading your news letters for a while now. Now I don't know if you have the ability to do this, but if its at all possible, could you tell my brother that I miss him? I haven't talked to him in a while. His name is Michael Jakubson, he's in B Company, 40th Engineers, 2nd Platoon. Please tell him to email me whenever he gets a chance. Thanks, even if you can't get in contact with him, you (all Military Service members) have no idea how much we as a nation owe you. Keep pushing forward and return home safely.

Brian Jakubson

Late Valentine's Day Shout Out

I would like to send a shout out to MAJ Pat Brundidge in HHC 1-6 INF. "Happy Valentines Day we love you and miss you" see you soon
Homefront 6

Just a Reminder from the Striker Torch News Team

We are always accepting shout outs from loved ones back home. We encourage and accept any and all forms of submissions.

Look for contact info on the back of this issue.

Annual Black History Month Talent Show & Ethnic Observance

24 February 2006 - 2000 Hours At the Main PX MWR Stage
w/ Guest Speaker

CSM Robert Clark

What Do *YOU* Think?

"How do you prefer to communicate with your loved ones back home?"

Questions and Photos by PFC Joshua Ramey



Pvt. 2 Ricky Watkins
HHC, 40th EN

I use phones because it's more personal to hear someone's voice, and letters are best to express yourself.



SSgt. Kevin Addley
HHD, 47th FSB

AKO, instant message, and DSN phones.



1st Lt. Eric Carmichael
Co. A, 1-35 AR

I use the phones because they're more personal, while the internet is good to deal with the time difference.



Sgt. Edward Wisdom
Co. C, 1-6 IN

AT&T and MWR phones to talk with my wife in Idar-Oberstein.



Spec. Devin Hall
HHC, 2 BCT

Internet to talk to my mom in Portland, Oregon.

Next Week: "What do you plan to do with your tax returns this year?"



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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:
letters, articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs.**

If you would like a copy of this issue please contact your Battalion UPAR
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