

2nd Brigade Combat  
Team Forward  
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



# Striker Torch

EDITION 12 FEB 06

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# A Word from the Striker Command Team



**COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr.**

**CSM Jose A. Santos**



Iron Soldiers and Families,

As we observe and talk to Soldiers and leaders throughout the Iron Brigade, there is a common theme that is evident; morale is high, Soldiers are focused, and we are ready for any mission. We continue with the basics of improving our warrior skills focusing on weapons competence, medical training, professional development and Soldier discipline. No matter what the military occupational specialty, all Soldiers must be prepared to shoot, move, and communicate. We are conducting cultural awareness classes and language classroom instruction. Our new Education Center has opened up recently to allow Soldiers to continue their education. We continue to conduct field training exercises and command post exercises to sharpen our tactical and technical skills that will allow us to accomplish any mission we get called on to do.

The Baumholder community continues to provide our families with some great outlets and avenues for their energies. Examples of recent

events are AFN Commercials, Inflationable playground for kids on Wednesdays, and Family Night at the Rheinlander on Fridays (which will start in March). From training and maintenance to taking care of one another, we must always continue to work to make our team stronger, and build on the great efforts of our Soldiers, family members, and community.

As Valentine's Day approaches, it is important to remember our families and loved ones that bring balance to our lives. Although we train hard and prepare for future missions, I encourage all Soldiers and families to correspond with one another to maintain our strong bonds. We truly appreciate the great work our families are doing on the home front and we count our blessings for the great team with whom we are privileged to serve. Thanks for all you do!

**Iron sharpens Iron as one Iron Soldier sharpens another.  
Strike Hard!**

**Front Cover:**

**Top:** Spec. Juan Lopez from C Co., 1-6 IN of TF Regulars fires his M240B at a target during the Squad Live Fire. Photo by Spec. Alberto Bretado

**Middle:** The landing zone team of HHB, 4-27 FA "pop smoke" to signal a simulated incoming medical evacuation helicopter during a convoy live fire exercise. Photo by Spec. Christopher DeRouen

**Bottom:** Spec. Randy Martin from B Co., 2-6 IN of TF Conqueror engages targets with his M249 machine gun from the top of a Humvee at a gun truck range at Udairi Range, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Love

**Rear Cover:**

**Top Left:** (From left to right) Spec. Michael Mumford, Spec. Cameron Ray, Spec. Jerry Masaga, and Spec. Jon Capello of A Co., 2-6 IN of TF Conqueror stack up and advance into a building during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. Photo by PFC Jeremy Neece

**Top Right:** Members of the Engineer Recon Team from HHC, 40th EN practice close quarter marksmanship. Photo by PFC Rick Zinkand

**Bottom Left:** PFC Bryan C. Haven from B Co., 1-35 AR of TF Gator mans his weapon during a maneuver training exercise in Kuwait. Photo by Spec. Daniel Bruno

**Bottom Middle:** Pvt. 2 Joshua Ferguson of HHD, 47th FSB practices lateral shooting techniques as part of an Entry Control Point live fire exercise. Photo by Capt. Mark Bednarczyk

**Bottom Right:** SSgt. Jermaine Brown of C Btry., 4-27 FA looks into the distance from his M109A6 Paladin. Photo by 1st Lt. James Collado



PFC Brian Simmons (left) of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Conqueror kicks a door open while PFC David Kearney (right), awaits to enter the building. Photo by SFC Andrew Stembridge



# Ghosts Maneuver at Night

Story and Photos by Capt. Jeff Barta

A torrent of 7.62mm rounds splintered the still blackness of the night air as Troop G, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Brigade Reconnaissance Team) initiated an attack by fire during a recent training raid. “It’s an adrenaline rush to be running at night watching the [machine gun] tracer fire” exclaimed Spec. Jeremy Johnson the Troop Commander’s radio telephone operator (RTO). Spec. Donald Love, an M240B machine gunner that participated in the attack by fire said, “I could imagine how confused the target would be when we fired into the building, and then the doors burst open with 1st Platoon pouring in.”

Troop G of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cavalry Regiment was organized in the Western desert in 1842 and today “Ghost Troopers” continue to hone their skills in the Kuwaiti desert as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team’s Cavalry Troop. The night raid was the culmination of a month’s worth of training that focused on dismounted operations and validated the Troop’s most recent light infantry configuration. The exercise provided an opportunity to simulate a raid against a suspected weapons cache in a rural Iraqi village. “By far it was probably one of the most realistic training events I’ve seen since I’ve been in the military” said Pvt. 2 William Drago who served as the Platoon Leader’s RTO.

The training objective was to execute a night live fire mission in an area that the Soldiers had not seen before. Spec. Darren Hamby, a dismounted team leader, explained the process his team used. “We rehearsed our planned movement and formations with the entire platoon. My team rehearsed room and building clearing.” Spec. Love said that his weapons squad “practiced manipulating our weapons in the dark.”

Nighttime provides a distinct advantage for the Brigade Reconnaissance Team’s “Ghosts,” who are as comfortable in the dark as their namesakes. “Operating at night seems a lot safer,

especially with the capabilities we have to see as though it were day,” stated Pvt. 2 Adam Guernsey, an M240B assistant gunner. Spec. Joseph Radcliffe, a Humvee driver and command post RTO, commented on a new radio system saying, “[It] was a good thing because communication between my section on [the radio] was better than before.” Cpl. Nathan Haag commented on the training by saying, “You need the hands-on aspect to really maximize the use of our equipment.”

The completion of the exercise made the Soldiers more confident in their ability to operate at night. “I thought the night live fire was a total success,” claimed Pvt. 2 Drago. Spec. Hamby provided the most poignant comment about the mission: “I told my family that missions like the night raid only help us better prepare for the call to go north.”



**Top:** SSgt. Trave Rhodes (center) breaches a fence near the target house so Spec. James Rowbotham (left) and SFC Bruce Hutcherson (right) can move in.  
**Middle:** Troop Quartermaster, Sgt. Victor Ingraham pulls security at the Casualty Collection Point (CCP).  
**Bottom:** Spec. Ryan Emond, Troop G, 1st Cavalry engages a target with his M4 Carbine while training at Udairi Range, Kuwait.

## 4-27 FA Competes for Top Gun

Story by 1st Lt. Charles Dayton

Every artillery organization conducts howitzer section evaluations. For the higher headquarters of the howitzer unit, these evaluations serve as a litmus test to determine the proficiency and competence of each gun section under their command. For the Soldiers taking part in the training, the evaluation offers a chance to prove themselves the best section and capture the coveted “red muzzle cover” or the “Top Gun.” The recent section evaluation in the desert sands of Kuwait presented many unique challenges and opportunities for the leadership and Soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment.

As planning began, the “Top Gun” evaluation appeared to be a routine exercise that each battery conducted in previous field rotations. Key components of the evaluation, such as a written test, inspections of vehicles, land navigation, ammunition upload, and the processing and conduct of live-fire missions, would remain unchanged. Each section would shoot four standard fire missions. From immediate suppression missions to high angle fire missions would be evaluated by senior NCOs from both the Battalion and other batteries. The howitzer sections would have then earned a point score from zero to 1000. The section that had the highest points at the end of the evaluation won. While seemingly a normal section evaluation, there were several small dif-

ferences to conducting an evaluation in the desert and operating in a sandy environment. Being in Kuwait with fewer range restrictions allowed the Battalion to shoot missions with live rounds that hadn't been



evaluated in years. The Battalion was able to incorporate a direct fire mission and degraded operations into the evaluations as well as a live “hip shoot” which involves the guns stopping during a movement and firing independently without a deliberate occupation. As Fire Direction Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Justin Philippi said, “When that first round goes downrange without a secondary check from the Fire Direction Center, you hold your breath until you hear that the round landed on target. However, at the end of the day you have much greater confidence in the guns and their ability to operate independently.” At the end of the competition, the winners were the crew from 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Leading the section was SSgt Sean Blevins with Sgt. Moreno as the gunner,

Sgt. Reonel Mina – Ammunition Team Chief, PFC Joseph Widel – Ammo Carrier Driver, Spec. Raul Montano – Gun Driver, Spec. Enrique Maysonet – number one man, PFC Michael Evans – number 2 man. SSgt. Blevins felt that the new and improved section evaluation “was definitely a challenge; we had to train our Soldiers on new tasks we have never done with real rounds before, but if it increases our survivability and we can bring everyone home, then all the training is definitely worthwhile.” Through this evaluation, Btry. C showed that even in this constantly adapting and non-standard environment, the Btry. C “Cobras” are more than able to meet and excel at any challenge confronting them.

**Top:** Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment Commander, Capt. Joey Errington, (center foreground) and 1st Sgt. Reginald Orr (right foreground) address all Btry C Soldiers after the completion of howitzer section evaluations at a firing point near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Charles Dayton

**Bottom:** 3rd Section, 1st Platoon, Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, commanded by SSgt. Sean Blevins, leads his crew to victory in one of the “Top Gun” events where a howitzer fires in direct fire mode at a target on a range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Cpt. Lucas Sparks



# Muslim Soldiers Feast with Kuwaitis

Story and Photos by Chaplain (Maj.) Anthony Horton

Many generations ago, religious history states that God appeared to Abraham and commanded him to take his son and kill him as a sacrifice to God. According to the scriptures, Abraham was obedient to God's command and took his son to a mountain top that he saw in a dream. There, he would kill his son as a sacrifice to the Lord. As Abraham was about to deliver the fatal blow, an angel suddenly intervened and stopped him from killing his son and praised Abraham for his willingness to obey the Lord without hesitation or complaint. The angel directed both Abraham's attention to a thicket nearby, where a lamb was trapped and used to complete the sacrifice.

This story is shared in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. However, to the world of Islam it is Abraham's other son, Ishmael, who is the subject of sacrifice. It is Abraham's journey to the mountain top location that is celebrated with the Hajj. That holy site is essentially where the Kabah in Mecca is now located. For Muslims around the world, the journey of the Hajj concludes with this story of

divine intervention which is celebrated with the feast of Eid al Adah. On this holiday, Muslims celebrate Abraham's faithfulness to the Lord, and reflect on the events surrounding the sacrifice that Allah commanded Abraham to offer. Even those Muslims who this year did not make the once in a lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca participate in The Eid al Adah celebration each year. The celebration is an opportunity for Muslims to fast, pray, and feast in contemplation of those Muslims who made the pilgrimage.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Unit Ministry Team recently sponsored a trip to the home of Dr. Adnan Shatti in Kuwait City so that four Muslim American Soldiers could participate in the Eid al Adah feast and celebration. This marvelous opportunity was a once in a lifetime experience for the Soldiers, who had never dreamt of being able to worship with local Kuwaitis, much less feast at their tables and worship in their homes. In

two short days, these four Soldiers were invited into over 20 homes, which included members of the Kuwaiti Parliament, government ministries, and universities. Doctors, oil industrialists, and various other government leaders opened their homes and mosques to the four Soldiers so they could celebrate the Muslim faith together.

Part of the celebration included the slaughtering of a lamb at the door step of the home, and preparing the meat for the feast only four hours later.

allow all Soldiers, regardless of religious preference, the ability to worship according to their respective beliefs and consciences.



**Top:** From left to right Sgt. Marc Colden, Spec. Omar Ahmad, 1st Lt. Mustafa Durrani, and SSgt. Moussa Doukoure worship at a Mosque in downtown Kuwait City.

**Bottom Left:** From left to right Sgt. Marc Colden, Dr. Adnan Shatti, SSgt. Moussa Doukoure, 1st Lt. Mustafa Durrani, and Spec. Omar Ahmad stand outside a mosque in preparation to attend services during the Eid al Adah celebration in downtown Kuwait City.

**Bottom Right:** From left to right Spec. Esse Agnegue, a guest of Dr. Adnan Shatti, SSgt. Moussa Doukoure, and 1st Lt. Mustafa Durrani eat a meal in the home of Dr. Adnan Shatti in Kuwait City.

While everybody waited, they prayed, petitioning Allah to continue to protect and bless their families, their homes, and all American Soldiers sacrificing their lives for freedom's sake. The elderly Kuwaiti gentlemen were especially sensitive to the sacrifices made by Americans on their behalf, and prayed collectively that our efforts in Iraq will be successful and timely.

In terms of spiritual growth and personal development, this trip surpasses all previous opportunities to assist Soldiers in their worship. It has set a new standard in how religious support should be given; to

While deploying to this theater of operations over the past three years, Chaplains have succeeded in helping Muslim Soldiers worship in local mosques; however, few have been granted the opportunity to witness the generous and open hospitality demonstrated by the Kuwaiti people. They embraced and welcomed Soldiers into their homes, their mosques, and their fold. These four Muslim Soldiers will undoubtedly have stories to tell for years to come about how they dined with the Kuwaiti elite on one of the most special and holy days, Eid al Adah.

# Death Dealers Assault MOUT Site

Story by 1st Lt. Kenneth Jordan

The “Death Dealers” of Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of Task Force Conqueror recently spent a full day training at Camp Buehring’s Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site. This was not the first time at the range for Company B, but this day’s training was more challenging than previous urban training ranges. The primary training objective was to certify the company’s squads on urban live fire. Dismounted infantrymen from Co. B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., TF Conqueror have been training hard, practicing entering and clearing small houses. The training has paid off as the Death Dealers demonstrated their knowledge during a live fire familiarization which included more than marksmanship. Co. B’s squads were assessed not only on their shooting, but on their tactical knowledge, the treatment and evacuation of casualties, and tactical reporting. The Company’s Master Gunner, SSgt. Lee Rinehart, and several headquarters platoon Soldiers prepared realistic targets that featured clothing and wooden weapons. Balloons were attached to the center of each target to help verify marksmanship. Spec. Lee Gilchrist of Company B said, “I think it was the best training that we’ve had in a while,” while PFC John Gray remarked, “It’s always good to keep working. We start to forget if we don’t work on our skills on a regular basis.”

Company B’s squads were already proficient with MOUT operations thanks to extensive urban training conducted in Germany in 2005. In the ten months preceding its deployment to Kuwait, the Death Dealers conducted two Hohenfels rotations and two Grafenwoehr gunnery rotations. All of these rotations featured realistic MOUT training that prepared the Soldiers for this deployment. MOUT operations are nothing new to Dealer Company; however, the deployment to Kuwait provides an excellent opportunity for Soldiers in the company to fine-tune their MOUT procedures and perfect movements into and out of buildings. The company leadership viewed the squads’ performances, with each squad receiving four thorough critiques by the end of the day.

Squads rehearsed building clearing in the morning with several iterations of dry fire. Problems and issues were identified, talked through, and corrected before the squads went through the training sites again. Following the dry fire, squad leaders ran their squads through short range marksmanship qualification, which reinforced speed, accuracy, and individual

weapon discipline.

By mid-afternoon, Company B’s squads were clearing buildings with live ammunition. In the midst of the building clearing, one member of the squad was identified as a ‘casualty’ and ‘evacuated.’ The squad’s Combat Life Saver assessed and treated the injured Soldier while the squad leader continued with the mission. The squad leader also reported the casualty to the platoon leadership

and evacuated the “injured” Soldier. As the day progressed, each squad grew more efficient at simultaneously treating the casualty and continuing the mission. Many of Company B’s Soldiers expressed a new confidence after the day’s training. PFC Don Carlo Geroche said, “More communication equals more teamwork, I learn every time we clear a building.” Spec. Gilchrist reflected after the day, “I learned to trust my instincts.”



**Top:** Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of Task force Conqueror, (from left to right) Sgt. Scott Lines, PFC Willis Sanft, and PFC Daniel Straight, enter and clear a room at a Military Operations In Urban Terrain training site. Photo by PFC James Crabtree

**Bottom:** (From Left to Right) Spec. Erik Rillera, Sgt. James Welsh, PFC Mario Castillo, and Spec. Lee Gilchrist, all of 3rd Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, of Task Force Conqueror, prepare to enter a room at the Military Operations In Urban Terrain (MOUT) training site. Photo by PFC Joshua Ingram



# Regulars Distinguish Top Marksmen

Story by 1st Lt. Bledy Taka

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, better known as Task Force Regulars, recently conducted a marksmanship competition that utilized every type of crew served and individual weapon system. Each company in the Task Force provided ten teams to compete in the on-going training events that continue to improve and sharpen marksmanship skills.

The competition involved four separate events for the M2 .50 caliber machine gun, the MK-19 40 mm machine gun, the M249 squad automatic weapon (SAW), and the M4/M16 rifle. For both the M2 and MK-19 events, Soldiers had to disassemble the weapon system, run 50 meters with it, mount it on a vehicle, and engage targets as the vehicle moved to different firing points. Soldiers competing in the crew-served events fired during the day and at night, which gave them the chance to improve firing in the dark using night vision equipment. Spec. James Guy of the Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., enjoyed shooting the MK-19 during the marksmanship competition, and said, "It was great shooting 100 rounds; I feel that I am better trained on my assigned weapon."

SFC Robert Shenk led Spec. James Sovich and PFC Michael Aserov from HHC, TF Regulars to first place in the MK-19 grenade launcher competition. Sgt. Michael Brown with Sgt. Cody Haugen and PFC Jason McKeever, a team from Co. A, "Assassins," 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion of TF Regulars, won the M2 .50 caliber machine gun competition.

For the M249 (SAW) competition, two-man teams from Task Force Regulars had to overcome a barbwire obstacle course and engage three different targets from the prone and standing positions. Soldiers executed individual movement techniques, including buddy rushes, before engaging transition, or pop-up targets. "This was a really good course. It made us apply our movement techniques and marksmanship skills by engaging the obstacle

course and the mix of targets," said SSgt. Kenneth Rose, a squad leader in Co. B, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., of TF Regulars.

Spec. Christian Villanueva and PFC Cory Colin of 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, Headquarters Platoon of Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt. "Commandos" of Task Force Regulars were the big winners in the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon day fire competition. The competition was close, with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place separated by only one point. The first place winners in the night firing portion of the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon competition were PFC Michael Crawford and PFC Seymour Benn of Co. B, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., "Warriors" of Task Force Regulars.

The M4/M16 competition was a timed, team event. With each squad entering a team, the competitors carried a 160 pound medical litter for 50 meters before taking firing positions next to a barbwire obstacle. Soldiers moved tactically around different obstacles, engaging targets from a vari-



**Top:** Sgt. Todd Bowling and Pvt. 1 Joshua Hintz of Company A, 40th Bn. of Task Force Regulars carry a litter during the marksmanship competition. Photo by SFC Nick Wilkinson  
**Left:** PFC Greg Johnson of Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of Task Force Regulars takes aim with his M203 Grenade Launcher. Photo by 1st Lt. Bledy Taka



ety of positions such as the prone, kneeling, and supported. Soldiers also engaged targets from standing positions, exercising their Close Quarter Marksmanship skills.

2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon from Co. A, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 35<sup>th</sup> Armd. Regt. "Aggressors" of Task Force Regulars, led by Sgt. Gerard Kerr won

first place in the M4/M16 competition. Sgt. Fernando Folgueral, leading 1<sup>st</sup> Squad of the same platoon took second place. Third place went to SSgt. Paul Castro, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company C, TF Regulars.

Overall it was a job well done by the organizers and competitors of TF Regulars' marksmanship competition. The contest helped keep the Soldiers trained on their weapon systems and built team cohesion through the thrill of competition.

# Valentine's Day Shout Outs

To : Sgt. Vincent Nunez

You are my one and only love, you are my best friend and soul mate, I have never been happier than I am with you!  
I look forward to many more Valentine's with you! Your wife for life, Angel Nunez

To: Sgt. Timothy Powell

Happy Valentine's Day baby and I hope that this day is filled with love from me to you. You make this life worth living, everyday.  
Be safe and come home soon. Ya wife, Tracy

To: SFC Hundley, C Co., 40th EN

I Love you, and am very proud of you!!! We miss you very much!!!  
Love, Kodie, Mel, Lexie, and (baby Hundley on the way)

*Happy Valentine's Day*



To: 40th EN

Happy Valentine's from your 40th ENG BN Sweethearts..da girls'  
You know who you are.  
Big hugs from Joanna, Casey, Melanie and Lisa

"It takes a strong man to serve his country,  
It takes a strong woman to support him,  
and it takes a strong marriage to survive it all!"

To: Sgt. Erik Nalley, C Co., 47th FSB

Erik , Happy Valentine's and Happy Anniversary. We love you so much and can't wait to hold you in our arms. We hope all is well and you are ok and rested. Please know you are missed and Zack can't wait to beat you up and I am sure Dom has a few things up his sleeve for you as well. Love Kris, Zack, and Dom

To: SSGT. Kevin Addley, HHD, 47th FSB

Dear Kevin, we wish you a Happy Valentines Day, we love you and miss you very much and we can't wait for you to be home soon...many, many hugs and kisses. Love, Cytharea, Macie & Jadon :-)

To: SFC Eugene Uriegas, B Co., 47th FSB

As this is our 15th Valentine as husband and wife, there are not too many things I can tell you that you don't already know. For over 20 years now you have been the person that comforts me when I am sad, laughs with me when I am glad, taken care of me when I was sick, held my hand when I was scared, and no matter what state I am in (at any given time : ) ), you have always supported me and allowed me to be ME. Thank you! I am so proud and honored to be your wife. I love you! Forever and Ever....Amen.

To: Taiger

Happy Valentine's Day! We love you and miss you very much.  
Hugs & Kissies, S.Peaks & Baby Boy

To: SFC Michael Reed, HHC, 2-6 IN  
Happy Valentine's Day to SFC Michael Reed of HHC/ 2-6 IN.  
We love you and miss you. XXOO, Kaye & Christopher



To: Spec. Joseph Leduc, C Btry., 4-27 FA

We love you and miss you and can't wait for you to come home!  
Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Naomi and Amya

To: Spec. James Britton, HHC, 1-6 IN

James, Just wanted to wish you a Happy Valentine's Day and let you know that we are SO proud of you for all of your accomplishments! We Love and Miss you very much! Enjoy your cookies! Love, Your Wife



# Newlyweds Spend Honeymoon on Deployment

Story and Photo by SSgt. Audry Fuller

On October 22, 2005, Spec. Amber Grimm of Abbotstown, Pennsylvania, wed her longtime fiancé Pvt. Jacob Hettich in his hometown of Lexington, Kentucky. Less than a month later they both deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The newly married specialist is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, as a Food Service Specialist, and is also a key member of the Engineer Reconnaissance Team. Her husband is assigned to Company C, 40<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. as a Combat Engineer. At a time in their marriage when most newlyweds are inseparable, the Hettichs only get to see each other for about an hour every other day.

They usually spend that time eating dinner together in the dining facility since Amber works the evening shift everyday. When apart they write letters to each other and reminisce about each other by looking at pictures.

She is grateful for even the limited time the couple has together. "I am just glad that he is here and I get to see him at all, because most Soldiers do not get to see their spouses at all. When I do see him it makes my day that much better," she said.

Her husband says the hardest part of being a deployed newlywed is not being able to show any type of affection while in uniform. Deployment to a combat zone means the uniform is on 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Even though the Hettichs say they are deeply in love, they both agree their part in OIF is most important at this time. Feedback from her family has shown Amber that they are proud to support both her and her husband.

The biggest sacrifice the Hettichs are making, along side every other married couple affected by the deployment, is just not spending enough time together. When asked what keeps them going every day, Spec. Amber Hettich says, "Knowing that when

it is all over I can look forward to starting my married life with my husband." When the Hettichs return to Baumholder, they plan on taking a honeymoon cruise to a Caribbean island.



Spec. Amber Hettich and Pvt. 2 Jacob Hettich, a newlywed couple from the 40th Engineer Battalion, are experiencing their first months of marriage while deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

To: Pvt. 2  
Jayson Bonds  
We love you  
Daddy oh so  
much and hope  
that your Valen-  
tine's Day is a  
blast. Even  
though we cannot  
be together you  
are with us in our  
hearts. Missing  
you every day.  
Love,  
Your Little  
Valentines,  
Your Girls



To: Spec. Ryan Persails  
From : Tracy Persails

## Upcoming MWR Events

**Sunday, 12 February 2006**

**1900:** Bingo @ Events Tent

**Monday, 13 February 2006**

**1900:** Hearts Tournament @ Oasis

**1900:** Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent

**Tuesday, 14 February 2006**

**1900:** Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent

**2000:** Coffee House @ Oasis

**Wednesday, 15 February 2006**

**1730:** 7.5k Weekly Fun Run @ Hole-N-One

**1900:** Texas Hold'em Poker

Tournament @ Oasis

**Friday, 17 February 2006**

**1900:** Bingo Night @ Events Tent

**1900:** Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent

**Saturday, 18 February 2006**

**SPA DAY**

**0900:** Hoop It Up @ Hangar 4

**1500:** Darts Tournament @ Rec. Center

**Sunday, 19 February 2006**

**0900:** Hoop It Up @ Hangar 4

To: SFC Marc Inbody, TF Regular  
Daddy, No matter how old I get I will always be  
"daddy's little girl." I love and miss you. I can't wait to  
see you again. Your "little" girl,  
Rachel



On this Valentine's Day, honey, I  
feel lucky to be "content" in more  
than 18 years of marriage to you.  
Loving you from afar, Patty.

To: SSgt. Bruce Culpepper

We love our GREASE MONKEY!!! Have a Happy Valentines Day, we love  
and miss you, SSG Bruce A. Culpepper! LOVE YOU! Snookums, Punk,  
Monkey, & Precious

To: Spec. Joe Martinez

To My Dearest Joe, Even though we are apart this Valentines, you are and will  
always be close to my heart." Mahal kita, walang iba." Happy Valentines my  
hero! Your son, Joey says "Hurry home, Papa"! Can't wait to see you soon.

Your loving wife, Mimi Martinez



To: Capt. Pat Workman, HHC, 1-6 IN

We are sending all of our love this Valentine's Day!  
Lots of hugs and kisses from Baumholder! We miss  
you! Love, Carrie and Jack

To: Spec. Peter Poole

Everyone is different. No two people are not on fire (we are  
*definitely* on fire, SPC Poole!). Kisses and an ice cream sand-  
wich. Some people need an ice cream sandwich! Lauren



To: Spec. Lopez

"Amor I can't be with out you, no matter  
where you are, you will always be in my  
heart. I miss you and truly love you. Just  
wanted to tell you how much you mean to  
me. Happy Valentines Day baby.

Love Jackie



## Annual Black History Month Talent Show

24 February 2006 - 2000 Hours At the Main PX MWR Stage

**1st Prize - \$500**

Accepting the First 20 Contestants - Sign Up No Later Than 17 February

1SG Whitehead : Bldg. 7-16 Rm. 4 : Cell 722-1924 - SSG Spence : DFAC 1 : Cell 610-6052

SSG Valezquez : Bldg 7-16 Rm. 4 - SGT Minus : Bldg. 7-16 Rm. 1 : Cell 698-2361

SFC Owens : Bldg. 6-9 : Tel. 828-1621



Mi Gordo: Quiero que sepas que te amo mas que nunca; le pido a Dios que pronto estemos juntos para disfrutar de nuestro amor. Mi vida junto a ti se convierte cada dia en dia de enamorados. te amo, x-100-pre tuya, jany



Hola pupi, quiero que sepas que aunque la distancia nos separe nuestros corazones estaran unidos por-siempre.tu eres #1 en mi vida. que este año sea el principio de una vida llena de amor y alegria junto a ti y a nuestros hijos..te amo.. Tu mariposa--jennifer..besos

To: B Co., 47th FSB

Happy Valentine's Day Bravo 47th!!! We miss you, we're proud of you, and we can't wait for you to come home! Bulldogs Rock! Love, Bravo 47th FRG xoxo

To: Spec. Clifford Jones

Thank you for making these past 7 1/2 years the best years of my life. I am blessed to have you as my husband and also my best friend. I look forward to many, many more years to come. I love you so much and I can't wait to see you again. Thinking of you always and loving you more and more each and every day. Happy Valentine's Day Baby. Roshanda

To: Spec. Johnson, C Btry., 4-27 FA

My dear KIC, Roses are red, My heart is blue; You're downrange, And I miss you. Through good times and bad, We'll make it through; Because no matter what...I choose you. Love, Your Princess

To: C Btry., 4-27 FA "Cobras"

We love our COBRAS. We miss you. Come home soon. The COBRA Wives



To: SSgt. Blevins, C Btry., 4-27 FA

Happy Valentine's Day SSG Blevins! All of our love to you, xoxo! Love, Ayden & Sasha

To: SSgt. Charles McNabb, C Btry., 4-27 FA

Dear Charlie, We wish you could be here with us, but since you can't, just know that we are thinking of you everyday. Happy Valentine's Day cutie and daddy. Missing you your Alexa,Kaja,David and Daja.Volimo te!!!!

### What Do YOU Think?

### "What is something you wish they would carry at the PX?"

Questions and Photos by PFC Jeremy Neece & PFC Joshua Ramey



SSgt. Marcus Thomas  
C Btry., 4-27 FA

A variety of music and DVDs.



PFC Amanda Thomas  
C Co., 47th FSB

Crest White Strips.



PFC Frankie Acevedo  
HHC, 1-6 IN

More movies and electronics.



Capt. David Rhodes  
HHC, 2-6 IN

More post cards for wives.



Sgt. Hym Mezier  
HHC, 1-35 AR

More of a music selection.

Next Week: How do you prefer to communicate with your loved ones back home?



# STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

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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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1-35AR: 1LT Zachary Hadfield, 40th EN: CPT Daniel Napolitano,  
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