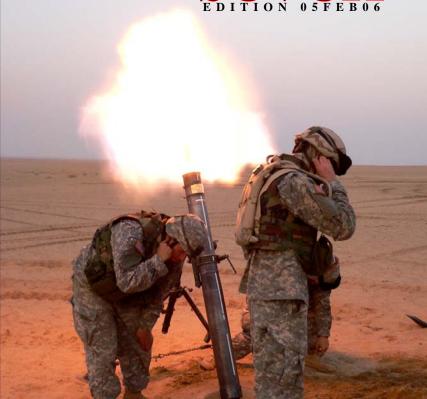
2nd Brigade Combat Team Forward Camp Buehring, Kuwait

# Striker Torch seven

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# A Word from the Striker Command Team



Iron Soldiers and Iron Families,

We are all continually encouraged by the improving conditions in Iraq. The Iraqi government continues to gain credibility and control, while the Iraqi Security Forces continue to improve and take on additional responsibility. The Iraqi people are embracing freedom and taking their future more into their own hands. These developments have a direct impact on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team mission.

You will probably hear many rumors about possible options for our BCT operations and timelines associated with those options. All actions involving our mission are condition based. Right now, that's what they are— possibilities. Our orders have not changed. We are still committed to 365 days, or until mission complete. If the political and military conditions in Iraq allow a change to that mission then you will be the first to know. Some of you may have heard that part of the 2BCT will return to Germany prior to the 365 days. If conditions allow for this redeployment option, that will not be the end of our mission. We will still be responsible to possibly redeploy and conduct missions in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. 2BCT Soldiers will still be responsible for keeping our Warrior skills sharp. We will still train and be ready to redeploy and execute our mission at any time.

I am sure you're going to have a lot of questions. I encourage you to bring your questions to your chain of command—they are the only ones who will be releasing official information. Thanks to all for your continued support of our Soldiers and our families.

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

#### Front Cover:

Top: "Hang it!" Spec. Stephen Hancock (Left), Sgt. Jeremy English (Middle), and Spec. Brandon Hawn (Right), all of HHC, 2-6 IN, launch a round from their 120mm mortar tube. Photo by Ist Lt. Kenneth Jordan

Bottom Left: 1st Lt. Terry Moody of Service Btry., 4-27 FA assists a Navy pilot during a sling load class. Photo by PFC Bryan Richards

Bottom Middle: PFC Brandon Hicks from Co. A, 2-6 IN, TF Conqueror prepares to enter and clear a building. Photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Swihart

Bottom Right: Spec. George Kusel from Co. C, 1-6 IN, TF Regulars charges ahead to engage targets as part of 1-6 IN's marksmanship competition. Photo by Spec. Alberto Bretado

#### Rear Cover:

**Top Left:** Soldiers from Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment prepare to fire their .50 caliber machine gun. Photo by Capt. Lucas Sparks

**Top Right:** Sgt. Jesus Cadena spearheads the movement of his team (left to right) PFC Willis Sanft, PFC Philip Lundy, and PFC Nathan Burton to their objective at Range 4's Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training site. All are from Co. B, 2-6 IN, TF Conqueror. Photo by PFC James Crabtree

Bottom Left: Soldiers from Co. A, 47th FSB mark the pick up site for a helicopter for a "simulated" medical evacuation during a convoy live fire exercise. Photo by Spec. Carlos Forcadilla



Bottom Right: Pvt. 2 Cory Olsen of Co. A, 2-6 IN, TF Conqueror conducts security by covering a stairwell during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. Photo by SFC Andrew Stembridge



Members of the Engineer Recon Team from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion practice close quarter marksmanship in Kuwait. Photo by PFC Rick Zinkand

# Versatile Artillerymen Continue Infantry Training

Battery A, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment recently completed Motorized Rifle Company (MRC) Tables VI, VII and VIII during the first week of January.

In July 2005, as part of the  $2^{nd}$  Brigade Combat Team's configuration, Btry. A traded in their six Paladins for 12 armored Humvees. Each gun truck is equipped with either a .50 caliber machine gun, a 40mm automatic grenade launcher or a Squad Automatic Weapon.

During MRC Tables VI, VII, VIII, Soldiers were evaluated on engaging stationary targets rangStory by 1st Lt. Brian Fanning

(TC), and gunner had to work together. Driver and TC evaluation criteria consisted of the

driver's ability to maneuver his truck with minimal guidance and the TC's ability to identify targets, to alert the gunner, and to give proper commands. fire The gunner, a vital piece of a truck crew, is his scored on ability to correctly identify targets



tryman is nothing new to many of

the officers, NCOs, and Soldiers

of Btry. A. During  $2^{nd}$  BCT's first

ing from 200 meters to 800 meters. Throughout the training, they occasionally had to don their chemical protective masks or call for indirect fire.

In order for a gun truck crew to successfully complete an MRC table, the driver, truck commander and his ability to engage targets with timely and accurate fire. This is coupled with reporting to the TC when the target is neutralized, suppressed, or destroyed. All Btry. A crews qualified during the three day training event.

Playing the role of an infan-

**Top:** SSgt. Esteban Aranguiz (left), Btry. A, 4th Bn., 27th FA of TF Gator gives instruction to the gunners to help them become more accurate. **Photo by Pvt. 2 Mark Norris** 

Left: Soldiers of Btry. A, 4th Bn., 27th FA of TF Gator clear a "glass house" as part of military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) training. Photo by 1st Lt. Brian Fanning

Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation, many served outside of their traditional role as a Redleg by conducting raids, cordon and search operations and both mounted and dismounted patrols.

When discussing his battery's role as an MRC, Capt. Casey Randall said, "Our transition to motorized infantry demonstrates the versatility of the modern day Artilleryman and it just may become our enduring contribution to the Global War on Terrorism."

# Bulldogs Hard At Work

After closing shop in Baumholder in October 2005, the Direct Support Unit (DSU) from Company B, 47<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion opened for business shortly after arriving at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Things started slowly at first due to a lack of facilities and vehicles in theater. However, once they had acquired several shop trailers from the 1072<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Company, a fully functioning DSU was established in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat team's motor pool. "The work Soldiers do here is amazing," said SFC Clark Newborn. "When you balance it against all the training they have to do, this is a round the clock mission."

At the end of 2005 all repair sections had completed a combined total of more than 1,300 work orders. Currently, the electronic maintenance and small arms sections are leading the way, having completed over 950 and 220 respectively. Both shops have maintained 24 hour operations at various times of peak activity during the deployment. These totals include work orders done for the Iron Brigade and work orders completed to support the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as they prepared to head to Iraq.

Recently Brig. Gen. Raymond Mason, the Combined Forces Land Component Command head logistician, paid a visit to Co. B, 47<sup>th</sup> FSB to inquire about the status of the direct support maintenance mission.

He was briefed by the battalion chain of command and Soldiers on several topics including work orders completed, Class IX repair parts flow, Supply Support Activity (SSA) assistance and facility and equipment requirements. He also visited with Sgt.

> Eric Aguirre from the DSU's small arms repair section and SFC Newborn from the electronic maintenance section.

The general was able to see the high volume of work orders

the small arms repair section and electronic maintenance section have completed since arriving in Camp Buehring. "It was nice to talk to the general and tell him what the Soldiers have been doing," said Newborn.

"They've taken what was just a pile of dirt and a few empty containers and turned it into a fully functioning DSU," Mason said.

The amount of work the Soldiers have done, while still maintaining a rigorous training schedule, has made the continued operations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT possible.





Top: Sgt. Patrick W. Herndon and Sgt. Samuel Bendon of Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, continue repairs after removing the transmission of a 40th Engineer vehicle. Middle: Sgt. Tad S. Fischbach of Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, tests a pair of night vision goggles. Bottom: Sgt. Erick O. Aguirre (left) instructs Spec. Leslie J. Horn (background) and PFC Gary R. Newman (foreground) all of Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, on upper level specifics of M249 Squad Automatic Weapon repair. All Photos by 2nd Lt. Seth R. Norman



#### **EDITION** SEVEN

### PAGE 5



# Learning to Use a Fork and Spoon at Church

I once talked to a Soldier who literally grew up in the back seat of an automobile. The family lived in their car and was constantly on the move. Personal hygiene was usually at public facilities. Burgers, fries, hotdogs, pizza, and sodas was all the Soldier knew. The Soldier told me that at fourteen her family abandoned her and she was placed in the custody of a godly foster family.

The foster family would dine at restaurants on occasion, and the girl always ordered a burger, fries, and a coke. One day the foster mom became upset and questioned why the girl constantly ordered the same thing. The foster dad began to gently question the girl. He asked if she was afraid to order something else because she Written by Chaplain (Capt.) Rick Brunson

might not like it. The girl replied, "yes." The foster dad said, "Tonight you can order anything you want from the menu. It doesn't matter how much it costs and it doesn't even matter if you like it or not. If you don't like what you order I'll get you something else. I just want you to try something new. Is that a deal?" That night the table became a whole new reality for the Soldier. It was through the loving compassion that she learned to eat real food at a real table.

Our Lord once described the kingdom of heaven and worship as a great banquet. The banquet table is one of my favorite descriptions of the community of faith. Unfortunately, there is an entire generation of young adults who, like this Soldier, do not know how to worship at our Lord's table because they were never taken to church as children.

In the past, our chapel programs offered a one-stop shop for worship. We have now learned to offer a greater variety of worship styles to meet the contemporary needs of our Soldiers. Through contemporary worship we make church culturally relevant without compromising our biblical and doctrinal foundations. So if you're afraid to attend a worship service because you don't know how to "do church" it's okay. You're not alone. I encourage you to attend one of our services at Camp Buehring in order to sit at the Lord's table, worship, and be fed with the words of life.

# 'Hanging' Mortars at Observation Post 10

The desert in front of Observation Post 10 at Udari Range, Kuwait, was recently covered with smoke, sand, and flying metal thanks to the efforts of the Mortar Platoon from 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The platoon processed calls for fire from forward observers and

engaged targets using high explosive and smoke rounds. The order to "Hang It!" was heard repeatedly as their 120mm mortar systems were fired in both track mounted and ground mounted configurations to replicate different methods of employment in combat situation.

The greater training flexibility afforded in Kuwait allowed the Soldiers to use types of ammunition that some had never used in training before. "It was cool to see the effects of the near surface burst and delay fuses and to be

Story and Photo by 1st Lt. Kenneth Jordan

learned a lot during our training, especially about the jobs in the squad that I will have in the future," said PFC Ricky Sarazin, a mortar carrier driver.

The mortar squads were also able to fire using direct lay, a technique where the enemy is engaged without a

more important for us to be able to fire live rounds in realistic scenarios. We get the effect of the rounds being dropped and having to adjust our rounds based on the forward observers," said squad leader Sgt. Jason Knapp. Mortars continue to provide an



Spec. Eric Spears and PFC Mark Rumler of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, await the command to fire.

able to shoot smoke rounds," said Spc. Stephen Hancock, a mortar gunner from

forward observer. Using direct lay, the gunner acquires the target himself effective and expedient method of indirect fire for many different types of

combat



tions. The training that Task Force Gator's mortar platoon has been conducting in Kuwait offers the unique opportunity to hone skills using live rounds in a different environment. Continu-

situa-

Explosions from mortar fire during a planned live fire exercise by Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment near Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., Inf. Regt. "I really through his sight. The squad leader then estimates the range, determines the charge of the round and the elevation of the mortar tube. "It's important for us to be proficient in our skills, but it's even

ous training and improvement of occupational skill knowledge maintains the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team's lethality while preparing for movement to any type of combat environment.

## Infantry Basics: Machine Gun 101 Story by 1st Lt. Herbert Hesselton Flather IV

There is more to know about machine guns besides loading, unloading, function checks, immediate actions and pulling the trigger. Task Force (TF) Regulars is committed to learning it all and more.

Soldiers of the task force conducted a two day M240B Machine Gun Course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The intent of the course was to teach Soldiers the proper use and employment of medium sized crew served weapons in order to maintain overall unit readiness. TF Regulars strove to embody the United States Army in Europe's "Any Mission, Anywhere" motto by ensuring



crews are properly trained and ready at anytime to move forward in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The course started with a briefing on the history of crew served weapons, going back as far as ancient Roman times. The class covered in depth the history and evolution of automatic weapons from the American Civil War to the present day. The Soldiers learned the capabilities and limitations of a wide variety of historical weapons. After learning the history behind the weapons, Soldiers proceeded to work in groups performing various tasks with the Army's current weapon arsenal.

Soldiers received a review of operating, disassembling, loading and unloading and conducting function checks of their weapons. After covering the basics, Soldiers learned more advanced skills that included weapons emplacement, interlocking fields of fire, attack by fire, and support by fire positions.

Gunners, assistant gunners, and ammunition bearers then formed machine gun crews and conducted practice operations. They honed their skills by learning to function as a single unit operating one lethal weapon system. Machine gun crews learned how to prepare their weapons for both day and night operations. The crews conducted focused training on placing their weapons in and out of action, moving into support by fire positions, and barrel change out drills. Finally, the Soldiers learned the proper way to employ their machinegun as a part of their squad and platoon

The training culminated with a day and night of live fire on a machine gun range. The range allowed the Soldiers to apply all they had learned throughout the course. According to Master Sgt. William Ridens, machine gun teams throughout the battalion fired more than 38,000 rounds. The Machine Gunner's course proved to Soldiers that they can always learn more about something, even if they have been carrying it for months.





**Top Right:** Task Force Regulars Soldiers prepare to fire during training at the machine gun range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by MSgt. William Ridens

**Bottom Right:** Sgt. Ryan Moore from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment issuing ammo for the machine gun range firers. Photo by MSgt. William Ridens **Left:** Spec. Daniel Freeman (left) and PFC Griffen (right) look on as Spec. Angel Regalado bore sights his M240B automatic machine gun. Photo by 1st Lt. Herbert Flather



PFC James J. Cross, Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment of TF Gator, waits for his turn at Range 5 during Scout Table VIII on the 8th of January, 2006, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

"Gunner, Troops, 10 O'clock!" the vehicle commander shouts over the sound of the Humvee engine. "Identified!" yells the gunner as he aims his M240B machine gun on enemy troop silhouettes 400 meters away. "Fire!" announces the vehicle commander. "On the Way!" were the last words said by the gunner before the thunderous crack of the machine gun.

## Blackjack Company Prepares for Any Mission

Story and Photo by 1st Lt. Greggory Johnson

Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment of Task Force Gator, spent the past week learning a new trade: fighting from uparmored humvees. Co. B, or "Blackjack" Co., has been training to perform missions using humvees instead of their M1A1 main battle tanks. Tanks are sometimes too heavy for many of the roads and canals along the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, so a lighter vehicle is often used in such terrain. "This training gives us an appreciation of the skill set it takes to fight from Humvees,"

said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Sean Frerking, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon leader.

Scout Gunnery first appeared in the 1930s when the Cavalry traded its horses for trucks with mounted machine guns. The Cavalry, often referred to as Scouts, was hesitant about the swap, but adapted quickly to the "gun truck."

Tank Crewman are training to perform missions that are tradition-

ally performed by Soldiers outside their own MOS, so they are adopting many of the rules of scout gunnery as they become familiar with their new vehicles.

"I believe this is good training in case we go to Iraq and do not take our tanks," said Pvt. Jason R. Beatty, a tank crewman of Co. B, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 35<sup>th</sup> Armd. Regt. of Task Force Gator.

The training consisted of engaging troop, bunker, and truck targets from both a stationary and moving gun truck. The training also included night fire exercises that challenged the Soldier's ability to engage targets while wearing Night Vision Devices.

The Soldiers were able to accomplish everything they expected from the training. Of course, Blackjack Co. also dealt with the unexpected: camels. These creatures repeatedly shut down the range by wandering into the impact area. The temporary diversion was not wasted, but used to develop other desert warfare skills.



#### **EDITION** SEVEN

# Engineers Construct Field Expedient Washrack





**Top Left:** Breaking ground, Pvt. 2 Michael N. Ripp from 1st Platoon, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, of TF Conqueror uses the Bobcat to dig the hole for the evaporation tank.

Bottom Left: PFC Billy A. Daffron and Sgt. Bryan J. Osborne of Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, of TF Conqueror, watch as Spec. Kenneth J. Stroede uses a pick mattock to break through a hard spot while trying to create a level base for the evaporation tank for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's new washrack facility.

Right: The 2nd Brigade Combat Team's improvised washrack was completed January 8th, 2006, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Camp Buehring was established to be a transit station for units deploying and redeploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Camp has developed excellent facilities to support that mission. Now that the  $2^{nd}$  Brigade Combat Team has made Camp Buehring its new home, additional improvements continue. C Co.,  $40^{th}$  Eng. Bn., of TF Conqueror have been instrumental in improving the facilities

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Tobias Watson

on the Camp. The mission to perform regular maintenance highlighted several needs of the Brigade. One of the most evident was the need to build a vehicle washrack.

When considering the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT's long-term deployment to Kuwait, a washrack was required to conduct scheduled maintenance. Cleaning the outside of a vehicle as well as the internal engine compartment is critical to a good maintenance program. It is much easier to spot deficiencies and leaks on a clean vehicle instead of one covered in oil and sand. Without a washrack on Camp Buehring, the only way the 2nd BCT could wash their vehicles was to move them more than an hour away for scheduled The 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT services. tasked the engineers to build a washrack making it possible to clean vehicles and engines.

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, of TF Conqueror, was assigned the construction project. They worked with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Camp Support Authority (CSA) on Camp Buerhing to acquire items such as a dig permit, a hazardous materials evaporation tank, hazardous material rubber to protect the

ground from being contaminated, and a 1,000 gallon water tank. Construc-

tion of the washrack began on December 26, 2005. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon broke ground using a Bobcat to dig the hole for the evaporation tank. After the hole was dug, the Soldiers used manual tools such as shovels and pick mattocks to make sure the floor of the hole was level and compacted. Once the hole was completed the evaporation tank was set into place and leveled off. The ground around the tank was then sloped using both the Bobcat and manual tools to ensure that any excess liquid from vehicles would flow into the evaporation tank. With the tank in place and the ground sloped, the rubber material was emplaced and secured with more than 300 sandbags. The final step to completing the project came with the help of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon as they laid the bridge that would allow vehicles to pull over the evaporation tank and be cleaned. Seeing the project completed, Capt. John Hiltz, Commander of Company C Engineers said, "1st Platoon has done Yeoman's work!"

The Commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment of TF Conqueror, Capt. Michael Schoenfeldt, went to see what the engineers of his task force had constructed. Capt. Schoenfeldt's company was just beginning services and sought to use the washrack to clean their tank engines and hulls in order to maintain them properly. Capt. Schoenfeldt felt that it was a 100% improvement to be able to wash a tank out in the middle of the Kuwaiti desert, and was a great step forward in being able to perform necessary services on the vehicles of his company.

After further assessment, Task Force Conqueror Leadership realized that washing only one tank at a time was less than ideal when entire companies perform services on the same schedule. Capt. Hiltz, the Company C Engineer Commander, modified the design of the current washrack so five tanks could be washed at the same time. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon went to work on the modifications, striving to meet the January 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. At 2345 on the eve of the deadline, the washrack was completed and by 0900 the next morning, Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 35<sup>th</sup> Arnd. Regt. began services at the washrack. Mission complete!



## Upcoming MWR Events

Sunday, 5 Feb. 2006 SPA DAY 1900: Darts Tournament @ Rec. Ctr.

Monday, 6 Feb. 2006 0000: Super Bowl Party @ MWR Stage 1900: Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent 1900: Spoon Tournament @ Oasis

Tuesday, 7 Feb. 2006 1900: Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent

Wednesday, 8 Feb. 2006 1730: 10k Weekly Fun Run @ Hole-N-One 1900: Halo Tournament @ Palms

Thursday, 9 Feb. 2006 1900: Ping Pong Tournament @ Events Tent

Friday, 10 Feb. 2006 1900: Aerobics Class @ Aerobics Tent 2000: Karaoke Night @ MWR Stage

Saturday, 11 Feb. 2006 2100: Valentine's Dance @ Events Tent

Sunday, 12 Feb. 2006 1900: Bingo @ Events Tent

Capt. James R. Embry (right) congratulates Spec. Chadwick J. Reed after administering the oath of reenlistment. Both are from Co. B, 1-35 AR, TF Gator. Photo by 1st Lt. Greggory Johnson







**Top:** SSgt. Marvin Mckay of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment successfully lifts 425 pounds in a single repetition to win the "Push Pull Power Competition" sponsored by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) on 21 Jan. 2006 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by SFC David Dockett **Bottom:** SFC Shawn Anders of Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion speaks on the status of the engineer branch with Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers, in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Maj. Jason Kirk

## EDITION SEVEN



# 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 : #722-1924 SSG Spence : DFAC 1 : #610-6052 SSG Valezquez : Bldg 7-16 Rm. 4 SGT Minus : Bldg. 7-16 Rm. 1 : #698-2361 SFC Owens : Bldg. 6-9 : #828-1621

## What Do **YOU** Think? "What do you miss most about Germany (besides your loved ones)?"



1st Sgt. Brent Jones SVC, 4-27 FA

The weather.



Spec. John Stanton HHC, 2BCT

Days off from work.



1st Lt. Doug Healy HHB, 4-27 FA

I miss the trees and grass.



Spec. Adrian Puentes C Co., 47th FSB

Donar Kebabs.



PFC Jason Coles HHC, 40th EN

Having the weekends off.

Next Week: What is something you can't find at the PX that you wish they would carry?







# STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

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We are looking for any type of submissions to include: letters, articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs.

If you would like a copy of this issue please contact your Battalion UPAR 1-6IN: 1LT Bledy Taka, 1-35AR: 1LT Zachary Hadfield, 47th FSB: CPT Heather Jangraw

2-6IN: 1LT Gabriel Martinez, 40th EN: CPT Daniel Napolitano. 4-27 FA: MAJ Frederick Bower

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