

2nd Brigade Combat
Team Forward
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Striker Torch

EDITION
08 JANUARY 2006

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Bottom: Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, clear a room at a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Photo by 1st Lt. Timothy Connors



3rd Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, conducts close quarter marksmanship at a Kuwait firing range in December.
Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Love

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This Edition can also be found online at
<http://www.1ad.army.mil/2BCTNewsletters.htm>

We're 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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A Word from the Striker Command Team



COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

CSM Jose A. Santos



Iron Brigade Soldiers, 2006 is upon us, and we have an opportunity to improve ourselves as Soldiers and as a team. Continue to focus on the basics and improve your Iron Warrior skills. Over the past year we have accomplished many great things, including a deployment to this theater and an adjustment of mission that you have all handled with the utmost professionalism.

Remember that our focus is to be prepared for a call at any time to move forward. This means that we can not become complacent or lose focus. Continue to train hard, sharpening your

individual skills, and seeking improvement. Work to get better everyday.

Environmental leave will begin soon, and it is a time to relax and get a well-deserved break. Remember at the same time we must maintain our military bearing and discipline. We are all Soldiers 24-7, and every Soldier is an ambassador for this Brigade and the United States Army. Stay safe, you are each a vital part of our combat force.

Even though this year has just begun, we are excited and look forward to continue the mission for our Army and the Brigade Combat Team in the coming year. **Strike Hard!**

Front Cover:
Top Left: Sgt. Devon Lomax, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, prepares to store a HEAT round in his Abrams tank.
 Photo by Spec. Edward Palacio

Top Right: SSgt. Zachary Parrish, C Battery 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery Regiment's 6th Howitzer section chief, inputs data in the Automatic Fire Control System.
 Photo by PFC Jeremy Neece

Sgt. William Clark maintains manual traction on Pvt. 2 William Blackburn's right leg while Spec. Deidre Fante stops bleeding and PFC Michelle Catlin pulls security. The members of C Company, 47th Forward Support Battalion are evaluated by 1st Lt. Jeanne Deden during squad casualty training at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site.

Photo by Sgt. Tal Wick



Fine Tuning a Conqueror

Story by 1st Lt. Zachary Hadfield

Soldiers assigned to Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regt., have been training rigorously since their arrival in Kuwait. All armored crewmen, or "tankers," participated in the Tank Crew Gunnery Skills Test (TCGST) training. TCGST is a series of 12 individual tasks that prepare crews for tank gunnery. The training begins with three days of training led by qualified NCOs. The final two days of testing allow Soldiers to demonstrate their skills while being rated on their ability to perform certain tasks. Once the tankers have successfully negotiated TCGST, they are cleared to fire live rounds from their assigned duty position on the M1A1 Abrams tank.

Private First Class Jeffrey Whitman said, "It's different to come out and get a chance to train as a tanker." PFC Whitman, assigned to the 1st Bn, 35 Arm. Regt., support platoon, had the opportunity to participate in TCGST even though he is not currently assigned to a traditional tank platoon. Participating in gunnery training will help him remain proficient in his Military Operational Specialty (MOS), ensuring he will be ready when he is assigned to a tank platoon again.

Savers course which emphasizes hazards unique to the battlefield. This week-long class aims at teaching Soldiers valuable life sustaining skills for a multitude of combat and non-combat related injuries. They are required to demonstrate their new knowledge through a written examination, practical exercises, and must safely administer fluids intravenously to a fellow Soldier. Specialist Michael Campbell, a medic from 1st Bn., 35th Arm. Regt., said, "We are trying to prepare our Soldiers to handle medical situations without professional supervision.

It has been going really well over here." Soldiers have also received classroom instruction and led hands-on training on how to identify and react to Improvised Explosive Devices, ambushes, and indirect fire. Realistic training of enemy tactics allows Soldiers to confidently react to situations they will encounter while deployed in the CENTCOM area of operations.

Additionally, Task Force 1st Bn., 35th Arm. Regt. Soldiers have been using the nearby ranges to test fire, zero, and qualify with their individual and crew-served weapons. Countless rounds of ammunition have been fired on marksmanship and simulated tactical-situation ranges, honing basic Soldier skills and weapon proficiency. Spec. William Lahrmer of C Co., 1st Bn. 35th Arm. Regt., commented on the unique training opportunity the desert environment provides by saying, "The training here is most impressive."

For the time being, Task Force 1st Bn., 35th Arm. Regt. continues to maintain its readiness and fine tune the skills they have gained in order to support the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



B Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment ready to roll out for training.
 Photo by 1st Lt. Gregory Johnson



SSgt. Jose Laboy of B Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment prepares his .50 caliber machine gun before zeroing it at the range.

Photo by 1st Lt. Gregory Johnson

The tank crews of 1st Bn., 35th Arm. Regt. have not been the only ones training in the Task Force lately. The staff planners working in the Battalion Headquarters have also undergone rigorous deployment training. Task Force 1st Bn., 35th Arm. Regt. has been testing its readiness to push its assets and personnel out of Kuwait and into Iraq. Movement of personnel and massive amounts of heavy equipment can be a daunting task while deploying a Task Force on short notice. Planners train on the logistics of organizing and executing large scale moves, ensuring that the battalion is prepared for a rapid deployment.

The medic platoon is currently teaching a Combat Life

"The training here is most impressive."

*-Spec. William Lahrmer,
 C Co., 1st Bn., 35th Arm. Regt.*



HOT! HOT! HOT!



1st Lt. Kenneth Jordan (left) administers the oath of reenlistment of Spec. Brandon Hawn (right) of 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

Photo by Capt. Jason Wingear

MOS AND DEPLOYED BONUSES HAVE BEEN EXTENDED. EXTENSION ENDS 31DEC06.

ASSIGNMENTS AND RECLASSIFICATION RE ENLISTMENT OPTIONS OPEN UP FEB 2006.

CONTACT YOUR RE ENLISTMENT NCO AND CAREER COUNSELOR FOR MORE INFO

2nd Brigade Retention Office
Bldg. 6-9, Rm. 8
DNVT 828-1519



C S M Ramon Delgado motivates the entire 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment during Monday morning formation with a light workout of pushups.

Photo by 1st Lt. Zachary Hadfield



1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment Soldier catches the football for a touchdown.

Photo by PFC Jeremy Neece



A triumphant cheer as a Soldier watches another beautiful sunset in Kuwait.

Photo by PFC Corey Flugga



Joint Training Brings Air Support to 2nd BCT

Story and Photos by Capt. Thomas Viscelli



(From left to right) PFC Ryan Niziolek, Airman First Class Jesse Johnson, Senior Airman Rusty Welch, and SFC Marcus Carter, of HHC, 2 BCT guide in a Navy fighter jet while lasing their target.

Photo by Technical Sergeant Kenneth Moon

Camp Buehring, Kuwait - In early December, the Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) team from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, conducted live fire Close Air Support training in the urban training complex on the Udairi bombing range. The weeklong exercise

was conducted in concert with flying squadrons from the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier operating in the Persian Gulf. The intent of this exercise was designed to test the reliability of a kit that mounts on a 500lb. bomb, giving the bomb laser guidance capabilities.

The U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt tested the kits for accuracy by first using inert munitions.

The exercise not only tested the skill and accuracy of the pilots, it also tested the "talk-on" abilities of the Air Force JTACs themselves. On the first mission, after giving a brief area update and sending a strike coordination communication to the aircraft, it was time for the JTAC to clear



PFC Ryan Niziolek (left) and Airman First Class Jesse Johnson (center) point towards incoming aircraft as Senior Airman Rusty Welch lases the target. All are members of HHC, 2 BCT.

Photo by Technical Sergeant Kenneth Moon

the pilots to drop bombs on two key facilities in the Impact Area. When the aircraft announced readiness, the controller confirmed that the nose of the aircraft was on target. At the moment the pilot should have been told to release the bomb, he instead heard "Abort." The JTAC noticed a civilian vehicle moving toward the danger area. This hazardous situation involving unauthorized personnel wandering onto the range, made it critical that a vigilant controller coordinated with the aircraft from the ground. The JTAC paused all training

and escorted the civilian off the range. Once the vehicle was clear of danger, the JTAC brought the aircraft around for an-

other attempt to release the ordnance. This time the pilot received the "Cleared Hot" from the controller and released his payload. "Dead Hit!" was heard from the Forward Observer spotting the weapon's impact, as a cloud of dirt plumed from the target. The aircrew from the U.S.S. Roosevelt successfully struck the target with their ordnance. This operation was repeated many times by the JTACs and aircrews throughout the exercise.

The JTAC teams and aircrews were not the only ones receiving valuable training from the live fire exercise. Several personnel from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, such as the Combat Observation Lasing Team, Brigade Reconnaissance Team, Fire Support Teams, and the Brigade Fires and Effects Cell, gained from the experience as well. They trained along side the JTACs and witnessed first hand what it takes to get bombs on target. These forward observers spotted the rounds and passed on corrections to the JTAC, who directed the next aircraft inbound. This training for the aviators was a crucial step in their train-up to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the entire exercise, more than a dozen aircraft dropped more than thirty bombs. All Army, Navy and Air Force participants appreciated the unique opportunity and are looking forward to additional joint training in the near future.

Ra'aj Hadeed!

Iron Thunder Soldiers Learn Arabic

Story by 1st Lt. James Collado

Camp Buehring, Kuwait - "Durkah Durkah!" If you were to watch the comedy movie, *Teram America*, you might think this is a typical greeting of the Middle East. Far from it, as Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment are now learning as they take an Arabic class taught by Defense Language Institute



Spec. Ryan Lemmers, a volunteer instructor from B Company, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, explains the Arabic number system to the class he teaches twice weekly. Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Philippi

(DLI) trained Soldiers from B Company, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, attached to the Second Brigade Combat Team. The class was organized by Chaplain Capt. John Park who also coordinated with the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Robert G. Cheatham Jr. and the leadership of B Co., 501st MI Bn. Four Arabic linguists, Specialists Ryan W. Lemmers, Omar Z. Ahmad, John B. Fugate, and Nathan P. Piechocki, all from B Company, eagerly volunteered to teach the class. The goal of Chap. Park and the linguists of B Co., 501st MI Bn., is to teach their students the very basics, including reading and writing the Arabic language. Chap. Park's intent for the class was to spread a greater cultural understanding of the Arab world. In addition, it presents a more tactical benefit; the possibility of protecting the lives of Soldiers. If taught to read, write, and understand basic Arabic, these Soldiers will have a greater awareness of possible danger indicators while deployed in Iraq.

The class offers a unique chance for 4th

Bn., 27th FA Regt. Soldiers to gain a greater understanding of both the Arab culture and language. The Soldiers, who volunteered to attend, are learning how to write in Arabic, which is proving to be an extremely difficult alphabet to learn. In addition, they are learning the basics of polite conversation. The instructors, understanding the limited course time, can only teach a small amount of material, so they have focused their instruction on reading and writing. With this as a foundation, motivated students can continue to study and learn on their own, until they have a chance to take a more in-depth Arabic class. For PFC David Digondomenico, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt., learning Arabic is an opportunity he has never had before. He has been eagerly studying the classroom assignments in his free time. "I think the class is good, especially since we're fighting a war that requires a greater understanding of the Arab world. It also gives me something to do during my down time."

The class is taught by four instructors, all of whom have been trained in Arabic at the Defense Language Institute (DLI). They are all fluent in both speaking and writing stan-

dard Arabic, which allows communication throughout the widest variety of dialects within the Arabic speaking world. The four Specialists who teach the class have been studying and working with Arabic for a number of years. While working within the intelligence community, their focus is often on translating and transcribing spoken and written Arabic to assist in analyzing pieces of gathered information. The class helps the instructors themselves to remain sharp with their Arabic skills, as well as helping to pass on the knowledge they have accumulated through years of study and practical use. It also provides them with a chance to learn the fundamentals of teaching by using lesson plans and classroom improvisation. For the Soldiers of B Co., 501st MI Bn., the class offers them an opportunity for much needed language maintenance. As Spec. John B. Fugate says, "It's a chance to maintain the language for us and to help Soldiers better understand a language and culture they'll be immersed in." For Spec. Omar Z. Ahmad, the class allows him an opportunity to apply his language skills and maximize his time while here in Kuwait.

Students that finish the course with a successful passing grade receive a Certificate of Achievement from the Battalion Commander. After course completion, Soldiers of 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. can continue to practice their blossoming Arabic skills; i.e. saying farewell with the traditional "Ma'Salaama!"



Chaplain Capt. John Park demonstrates different techniques that he used to learn a second language. Spec. Corey Dawson (lower right), Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, attends the class to improve his Arabic language knowledge.

Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Philippi

Stars Shine on Camp Buehring

Story and Photos by PFC Joshua Ramey

Camp Buehring, Kuwait - Soldiers from Camp Buehring lined up to talk with "X-Men 2's" Kelly Hu and SR-71's vocalist/guitarist Mitch Allen. The two celebrities are participating in the "Ambassadors of Hollywood Tour" sponsored by the U.S. Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR).

Allen first became known in 2000 with his band SR-71's debut album "Now You See Inside," an album that went gold after selling more than 700,000 copies. SR-71's second CD "Tomorrow," written and co-produced by Mitch Allen, pushed the band's total sales to nearly 1 million. Allen's most recent solo album "Clawing My Way to the Middle" propelled Allen into playing sold-out venues across the East Coast.

Kelly Hu began her career in 1985 when she was crowned "Miss Teen USA," and in 1993 she earned "Miss Hawaii USA." The exposure she received from the pageants led to various modeling assignments and subsequent acting roles. Hu performed with Jet Li in "Cradle to the Grave," and co-starred with The Rock in "Scorpion King." She went on to play the villain, Lady Deathstryke, in "X-Men 2," featuring an extraordinary fight scene with Wolverine. Hu is currently working on the TV series "CSI NY" and stars in the action drama "Martial Law."

The two celebrities attracted a multitude of Soldiers who lined up to take pictures and get autographs. Spec. Clint Emmons, from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, said, "It's good to see that people from home care." Many

Soldiers who attended the MWR event were thrilled that Hu and Allen decided to stop by Camp Buehring during this time of year. "With the holiday season coming around, it's great to see celebrities taking their time to see us," said PFC Kurtis Baumgartner, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

Kelly Hu and Mitch Allen were able to speak individually with troops who enjoyed the celebrities' attention. Hu even arm wrestled Maj. John D. Kuenzli, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion, who commented with a simple "She was very strong," after being defeated. Every Soldier that was able to get an autograph and a picture left the event with a large smile on their face. "It's a good thing to have for people pushing north" said Sgt. Juan Vega, from B Co., 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. Capt. Daniel Napolitano from HHC, 40th EN Bn



Spec. Devin Hall of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team smiles for a picture with actress Kelly Hu ("X-Men 2," "Scorpion King") and singer/guitarist Mitch Allen.

hear a performance from him. One individual shouted, "Play 'Right Now!'" Another Soldier asked Allen to teach him the guitar part of an SR-71 song. Allen was more than happy to give the brief lesson as the Soldier sprinted off to grab his own personal guitar. Everyone could see how thrilled the singer was that Soldiers were interested in his music, as he pulled out his acoustic guitar, and gave the unplugged solo performance. PFC Chris Krutzsch from HHC, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. said, "Mitch Allen is a guy I've been watching since he was playing in bars, SR-71 is a good band, it's awesome he's actually out here!" The smiles, the music, and the individual attention paid to Soldiers who were there, continued to draw a crowd that never stopped growing.

Allen's impromptu performance kept the attention of interested Soldiers and it seemed not to matter to either Hu, or Allen, that the allotted time for the appearance was over. It was an unspoken sign of respect for service members when the celebrities' entourage was trying to jump into their vehicles and leave, but the two just ignored their escorts and continued singing and autographing. The entire autographing and socializing event was scheduled for an hour and a half, but ran well over that time limit by nearly an hour.

After signing autographs and talking with troops at Camp Buehring, Mitch Allen said a regretful goodbye to the surrounding group. "Keep your head low, be safe, and thank you for all that you're doing" were his humbly spoken departing words.

Kelly Hu departed after saying, "I wanted to come out here to show support for you. Visiting troops has always been very important to me... I couldn't imagine a better way to spend Christmas." Kelly Hu stated that she has close emotional ties to the Military, due to her brother serving in the Pentagon, and knows all too well the sacrifices that military members make during the Holidays. "[You] are greatly, greatly appreciated, and everyone back home misses you, and wants you to come home safely."



PFC Kurtis Baumgartner (left), PFC Chris Krutzsch (center) and Spec. Jeff Shannon (right) of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment get their picture taken with movie star Kelly Hu ("X-Men 2," "Scorpion King") and singer/guitarist Mitch Allen.

CSM Ramen Delgado of 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, greets General Schoomaker, Army Chief of Staff, during his visit with 2nd Brigade Combat Team senior leadership. Photo by SFC David Dockett



Sgt. Andrew Jensen and Sgt. Heather McFarland pick up SSgt. Edward Day, during B Company, 141st Signal Battalion's combat medic class. Photo by 1st Lt. James Mick



Spec. Francesca Duke of 2nd Platoon, 501st Military Police Company talks with Command Sergeant Major Ray Middleton outside of CFLCC Headquarters at Camp Arijfan after he had awarded them coins for their work as Personal Security Detail for Lieutenant General Whitcomb at the ceremony for the closing of Camp Doha. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson



2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment (black shirts) defend against A Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment. Photo by 1st Lt. Gabriel Martinez

Engineers Pass on Knowledge, Experience of IEDs

Story by Capt. Dan Napolitano

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team continued Improvised Explosive Device (IED) training to better instruct Iron Bri-

(EHAT). The 200th Eng. Bn. brought with them two RG-31 armored vehicles enhanced with special counter-IED equipment. These vehicles are designed to protect convoys from the IED threat.

Members of the 200th Eng. Bn. provided an in-depth, hands-on training session to several units around the camp to include the 40th Engineer Battalion and members of the 2nd BCT. Topics covered ranged from identifying IEDs to the methods Anti-Iraqi forces use to employ them. They also covered the best way for friendly forces to gather intelligence for defeating IEDs. The instructors, just back from Iraq, drew upon the recent events they witnessed while working to neutralize IEDs. Their experiences, gained from months in the Iraqi Theater of Operations, served to augment the training.

In addition, the Arkansas engineers walked Soldiers through the armored RG-31, a vehicle currently used to conduct route reconnaissance and route clearance on roads with a heavy IED threat. Soldiers were encouraged to step inside and view first hand the inner workings of the vehicle. The instructors guided the Soldiers through the modifications and improvements the 200th Eng. Bn.

had made to enhance the vehicle's effectiveness.

For leaders and Soldiers alike, the training provided some of the most informative, up-to-date intelligence on IEDs. "This training is crucial to the 2nd BCT," stated Capt. Andrew Staiano, 40th Eng. Bn. Intelligence Officer, "It will help save Soldiers' lives in Iraq."



Maj. Jason Kirk from the 40th Engineer Battalion, discusses with Col. Robert Scurlock the integration of RG-31 in counter IED operations conducted by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.



SSgt. Robert Sourbeck, of the 200th Engineer Battalion, uses personal stories to help teach other engineers practical knowledge in order to deal with the current IED threat.

gade Soldiers on one of the greatest threats in Iraq. The 200th Engineer Battalion, stationed in Arkansas, made a stop at Camp Buehring as part of a traveling instruction campaign designated as Explosive Hazardous Awareness Training

2006 Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Contributions

Information taken from 266th Finance Command (FWD)

Beginning 1 January 2006, the TSP 10% contribution limit of Basic Pay has been eliminated. You are authorized to increase your TSP Basic Pay contribution percentage to 100% of your basic pay after mandatory deductions. The only limitation, imposed by the IRS, is a deferred compensation restriction of \$15,000, taxable, and a combined deferred and exempt limitation of \$44,000 for combined taxable and non-taxable income. The military

pay system is not programmed to automatically subtract your deductions from gross pay to determine the amount available for TSP contribution.

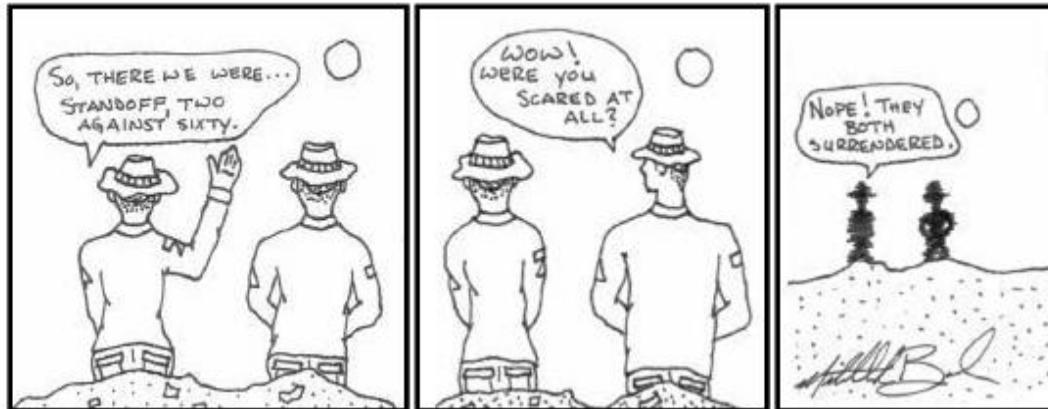
To prevent flagging of your account, subtract all deductions and allotments from your Basic Pay before selecting a TSP percentage. All TSP elections of 85% and below will automatically process if sufficient net pay is available. The upcoming

changes to TSP are complex. If you would like to contribute above 85% or you have questions about the new limits, three good sources for information are the myPay and TSP websites and your local finance customer service representative.

For more information regarding this and other finance questions, call or stop by your local finance office at Camp Buehring or call 828-1013.

The Torch Comix

"Bakers Dozen" by PFC Mitch Baker



Can you draw? Do you have an idea for a comic strip? Do you have too much time on your hands? We are looking for talented cartoonist from within the Brigade. If you're interested, contact us and we can get YOU published!



Upcoming MWR Events

Sunday, 8 January 2006

1000 : Spa Day @ Events Tent
1900 : Bingo Night @ Events Tent

Monday, 9 January 2006

1900 : Hearts Tournament @ Oasis

Tuesday, 10 January 2006

1500 : 9 Ball Tournament @ Rec. Center

Wednesday, 11 January 2006

1500 : Madden Tournament @ Palms
1730 : 5k Weekly Fun Run @ Hole-N-One

Thursday, 12 January 2006

1400 : Spades Tournament @ Oasis
1900 : Ping Pong Tournament @ Rec. Center

Friday, 13 January 2006

1500 : Bingo Night @ Events Tent
2100 : Rendezvous Club @ Events Tent

Saturday, 14 January 2006

1000 : Bazaar @ Events Tent
1500 : Scavenger Hunt @ MWR Stage

Sunday, 15 January 2006

1000 : Bazaar @ Events Tent
1500 : Darts Tournament @ Rec. Center

Can You See Where You're Going?

Information by 2nd BCT Safety Office

Drivers and senior occupants should ensure that they have maximum visibility when operating their vehicles

At every opportunity, drivers should clean their windshields, headlights & taillights

Additionally, clean them again at the end of each mission before you leave your vehicle for the day

Being able to SEE is crucial to STAYING ALIVE!



MWR Movie Schedule

	0600	0900	1200	1500	1800	2000
Sunday 08JAN06	THE RING 2	THE CAVE	INTO THE BLUE	THE GOSPEL	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN'
Monday 09JAN06	THE ROCK	COLLATERAL DAMAGE	GUESS WHO	40 YR OLD VIRGIN	MR & MRS SMITH	AMERICAN PIE
Tuesday 10JAN06	MEN IN BLACK	DUKES OF HAZZARD	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	AEON FLUX	THE GOSPEL	MR & MRS SMITH
Wednesday 11JAN06	FOUR BORTHERS	MOD SQUAD	NEVER DIE ALONE	SKY CAPTAIN & WORLD OF TOMORROW	WALK THE LINE	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE



Chaplain's Corner God: A Solid Anchor During Times of Change

Guidance by Chaplain (Capt.) Matt Kreider

A burglar stalked the neighborhood watching for homes left unguarded by people leaving for vacation. He watched as a family loaded their suitcases into their car and departed. He waited until dark and then approached the front door and rang the bell. There was no answer. The burglar neatly picked the lock and let himself in. He called into the darkness, "Is anybody home?" He was stunned when he heard a voice reply, "I see you, and Jesus sees you." Terrified, the burglar called out, "Who's there?" Again the voice came back, "I see you, and Jesus sees you." The burglar switched on his flashlight and aimed it in the direction of the voice. He was instantly relieved when his light revealed a caged parrot reciting the refrain, "I see you, and Jesus sees you." The burglar laughed out loud and switched on the lights. Then he saw it. Beneath the parrot's cage was a huge Doberman pinscher. Then the parrot said, "Attack, Jesus, Attack!"

We are often told to expect the unexpected. I am not sure the burglar in this illustration could have ever expected a dog named Jesus to ruin his plans for the evening.

Most of us have learned by now, that in

the Army, we should never grow too comfortable with the way things are because unexpected change comes unannounced and very quickly. As Soldiers, planning for unexpected change is part of our way of life. Unfortunately, that kind of unexpected change brings with it much stress; stress for Soldiers and their loved ones.

When we reflect on the events of 2005, no one could have realistically expected the changes that have occurred in our mission. Some are disappointed, some are relieved. Yet as the changes to the mission came our way, the Soldiers of Iron Brigade rose to the challenge and executed the mission with professionalism. Despite the successes of the past year, the future now grabs our attention.

Traditionally, during this time of the year, we take stock of our lives and reflect on the past while setting goals for the future. While this is a worthy tradition, as resolutions come and go and unexpected events come our way—disappointment and frustration often follow in tow. Unexpected (or unwanted) missions, deployment separations, health problems, financial chaos can bring discontentment and regret leading to personal and professional problems.

I don't know about you, but I could use an anchor in my life; something to help maintain stability and direction in a fast-paced, always-changing, never-two-days-alike life.

Max Lucado, Christian author and pastor, writes, "Haven't you had enough change in your life? Relationships change. Health changes. The weather changes. But the God who ruled the world last night is the same God who rules it today. Same convictions. Same plan. Same mood. Same love. He never changes. You can no more alter God than a pebble can alter the rhythm of the Pacific. He is a still point in a turning world." Psalm 90:2 says, "Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." This speaks of God's eternal, never-changing character.

Perhaps the only thing we can count on not to change in 2006 is God. Resolve to get to know Him better this year. Allow Him to bring stability and direction into our often chaotic lives filled with unexpected change. He will never let you down! May God bless you in 2006!!

What Do YOU Think?

"What training in Kuwait has been the most rewarding?"

Questions and Photos by PFC Jeremy Neece



Sgt. Roger Leach
2-6 IN

Mobile MOUT
Training



PFC Stephen Demoss
HHC 2 BCT

The Live Fire
Ranges



PFC Joel Moreno
40th EN

IED Lane
Training



PFC Andrew Brown
1-35 AR

Screening a Service
(Firing a Live)
HEAT Round.



Spec. Matthew Nelson
1-6 IN

360° MOUT
Site

Next Week: What other type of training would you like to see conducted here in Kuwait?