



Striker Torch

Volume 1, Issue 1 11 December 2005

2nd Brigade Combat Team Says Farewell To Families At Departure Ceremony

Story and Photos by PFC Evan Richardson

Baumholder, Germany – The 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) said farewell Thursday, November 10th, to their families and the Baumholder Community with a departure ceremony at Minnick Field.



COL Robert Scurlock and CSM Jose Santos case the 2nd BCT's colors for deployment.

The ceremony marked the completion of the brigade's deployment preparations. 2nd Brigade spent much of the last year performing gunnery exercises and field training tasks in preparation for deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 05-07.

The Departure Ceremony began with a moving invocation by Chaplain Roetzel. Major General Doug Robinson then spoke of how well the brigade trained over the past year and how well the 2nd Brigade Combat Team was prepared for their deployment. MG Robinson then spoke of the determination and spirit of "Iron Soldiers" as many of them were

preparing to leave Baumholder for the second time in three years. MG Robinson also told the Soldiers that they would have hardships placed upon them at times, but they would also see rewards in the missions they were going to perform. Specifically, the smiles on children's faces that they would assist.

COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr. spoke of the importance and relevance of the mission ahead and provided for the soldiers and families a reason for our deployment. The events of September 11th serve as the focus for their preparedness. Additionally, COL Scurlock spoke of the sacrifices of those that have gone before us, and focused the assembled audience on the challenges ahead for the BCT.

In honor of Veteran's Day, the names of the 2BCT Soldiers that paid the ultimate sacrifice in support of their country during OIF 1 were remembered during a moving tribute. Soldiers from the division Salute Battery, from the 1st

Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, fired one artillery round for each fallen Soldier. Following the tribute, the individual Battalions brought their colors forward to be cased by each Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major. After all the Battalion colors were cased, COL Scurlock and CSM Santos came forward to case the Brigade colors, reinforcing the fact that the Brigade was prepared for deployment.

Following the casing of the colors, the Brigade conducted a pass in review. This gave MG Robinson, COL Scurlock, and the rest of the command group one last opportunity to bid farewell to the Iron Brigade Soldiers.



COL Robert Scurlock, LTC Richard Anderson, and MG Doug Robinson "Troop the Line."

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**Quote of the Week:
"Learn and improve today; tomorrow may be the tough fight."
-CSM Roger P. Blackwood**

2 BCT Arrives at Camp Buehring, Kuwait

Story by PFC Joshua Ramey

Elements of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team started arriving in Kuwait in November. After a six hour flight from Ramstein AFB, Soldiers gathered their gear to continue the deployment for which they have been training for over the last year. When Soldiers exited the aircraft, Army and Air Force Personnel greeted them and instructed them where to rally for the bus ride to their next destination: Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Personal bags, unit equipment, and other personal packages being unloaded from cargo trucks at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Photo : PFC Joshua Ramey

Soldiers loaded onto buses and then linked up with their escorts to Camp Buehring. Once the convoy security was in position, the Soldiers departed and were on their way.

After a three hour drive, the much anticipated arrival to Camp Buehring was finally realized. An ID card swipe and a few briefings later, Soldiers of the Iron Brigade were finally able to start settling into their new living quarters.



Kuwait sunrise as seen from the perimeter of Camp Buehring.

Photo : PFC Evan Richardson

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team's new quarters consist of large white hanger-style plastic tents. The tents have wooden floors, electrical outlets, and an environmental control unit.

Shortly after locating the tents, trucks and trailers arrived in order to deliver personal bags and the rest of the gear brought on the flight. After everything was downloaded and cots set up, Soldiers took a much needed rest and began to recover from the exhausting trip. After an incredible journey of more than 24 hours, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team was finally deployed.

These Iron Soldiers were able to rest easily, comfortable with the knowledge that they had all the training required to support any mission asked of them.

Got OPSEC?

Here in Camp Buehring Operational Security, or OPSEC, is more important than ever. OPSEC refers to limiting unwanted and un-needed release of sensitive information to those who don't "need to know." OPSEC is not limited to classified or SECRET info, but to all kinds of knowledge. A unit's maintenance report, daily personnel status, or even your leave form could be used by the enemy. So why Camp Buehring? This camp employs over 8,000 third country nationals, with about 3,000 on camp at any time. Most are earning an honest Dinar, but statistics show that you can never be 100% sure. So burn or shred your trash, don't discuss operational info in public, and always think OPSEC!

Welcome To Camp Buehring

Information taken from Camp Buehring official website

Welcome to Camp Buehring, the largest staging area for troops heading into Iraq and other Theaters of Operations throughout the Central Command Area of Responsibility. There are many facilities available to improve quality of life in the desert. Some of the services include: two fully-stocked exchanges, several phone centers, two 24-hour internet cafés, three coffee houses, new gym facilities, Burger King, two Subways and a 24-hour Pizza Inn. There are two DFACs on camp, which are capable of serving several thousand Soldiers at every meal. Multiple fast-moving serving lines ensure Soldiers never wait too long.

when a rocket propelled grenade exploded near his hotel room.

The main entrance to Camp Buehring has a memorial which reads:



Army Lt. Col. Charles H. Buehring, 40, of Winter Springs, Florida. Buehring was a 1985 graduate of The Citadel and served 18 years in the Army.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CAMP BUEHRING

Camp Buehring is located in the Kuwaiti desert near the Iraq border. Formerly Camp Udairi, Camp Buehring, was renamed in May 2004 in memory of LTC Charles Buehring, Army Special Forces (PSYOPS). The camp is one of the largest camps in Kuwait, providing a secure environment while military personnel transition to and from the Iraqi Theater of Operation.

LTC Buehring was killed in action on October 26, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq,

“LTC Charles H. (Chad) Buehring Headquarters Company, 3rd United States Army. His enduring legacy of leadership, commitment to the mission, and compassion, survives through his family, his Soldiers, and his friends.”

You will find hours of operation and contact numbers for services you will most need here. In addition, a brief description of each service is provided to help you better utilize their services.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION
Lost Sensitive Item: Report to BSB North Command Cell and the PMO

MAILROOM -

The mailroom is located on Eisenhower Drive, 200 meters south of the main Dining Facility (DFAC #1). Mailroom Hours:

Monday-Friday: 0700-1900
Sunday: 0800-1900

Be sure to check with your unit to ensure you will be able to receive mail at Camp Buehring. Generally, units staying longer than 3 weeks can coordinate with the mail room in order to receive mail here. If your unit will receive mail at Camp Buehring, your mailing address is:

Rank, Name
Unit / Task Force
APO, AE 09330

Outgoing letters can be dropped off at mail receptacles located at the Dining Facilities and the Post Office. Letters and packages up to 14 oz. (non-commercial uses only) are shipped free of charge.

MWR Facilities -

The two MWR areas are located south of DFAC 1. The MWR Tents contain the camp movie theater, board games, as well as a TV that usually shows AFN and sports games. The chapel is located near the MWR tent. Directly behind the chapel is the MWR building where Soldiers can use the internet free of charge in 30 minute intervals. Daytime users of the free internet can anticipate a two to three hour wait. In addition to the internet, there is a room with DSN phones where Soldiers may make morale calls back home.

Sick Call / Dental Sick Call -

The Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) and Dental Sick Call clinics are located east of the southern PX. Medical emergency assistance is available 24 hours a day.

Sick call hours:
Monday - Friday: 0800-1000 and 1500-1700
Saturday: 0800-1000

2BCT Soldiers are instructed to use the Brigade Aid Station services provided by Charlie Med, 47th FSB. It is located in a tan GP medium tent near the consolidated battalion Tactical Operations Centers. Hours are: **0700-0900 & 1700-1900 Daily**

The Dental clinic is for relief of pain, and does not provide cosmetic or prophylaxis services. Soldiers visiting the Dental clinic may not wear PT's, only duty uniforms.

Dental clinic hours:
Monday - Saturday: 0800-1600
Dental Sick call hours:
Monday-Saturday: 0800-0900

Discovering the Camp

Story and Photos by PFC Evan Richardson

Camp Buehring, Kuwait - With 2nd Brigade Combat Team already inside



From Left: SPC Phaedra Mudge, SPC Donald Clements, and SPC Dennis Wilkerson of B Co, 141 Signal Battalion talk while waiting in line for the Internet Café.

Camp Buehring's sprawling tent cities, Soldiers have begun to explore its facilities.

With such offerings as an enormous brand-new gym, numerous restaurants, two PXs, a Shopette, and two internet cafés, there is quite a bit to

do. On any given day, Soldiers can spend personal time working out at the gym, surfing the internet, or dining at one of the many fast food restaurants. The lines are usually long at the PX, but they move quickly so Soldiers can get the things they need and want. The internet cafés also draw long lines, many Soldiers enjoy the chance to surf the internet and email friends and family back home. Camp Buehring has three AT&T phone centers as well, allowing Soldiers to speak to loved ones all over the world.

Other services are available as well, such as souvenir shops that sell anything ranging from old Iraqi Dinars with Saddam's face to jade cups and traditional Arab outfits. There are jewelry stores that sell chains, bracelets, and other items. Also, there are two free laundry service tents that clean and fold a Soldier's clothes within three days.

Camp Buehring far exceeds most

expectations or the living conditions the BCT experienced in May, 2003. The living tents are comfortable, large, have A/C, and plenty of power. The facilities offered help Soldiers cope



SPC Lloyd Richardson of HHC, 2nd BDE shops at one of the Exchanges.

with the separation from family and friends, which makes being away from home easier to bear.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

“What is your most / least favorite thing about Camp Buehring?”



PFC Iraq Blackledge
Unit: 1-35 AR
Most: Being able to train with no threat.
Least: Long chow lines.



1SG Reginald Orr
Unit: 4-27 FA
Most: No bullets flying over my head.
Least: No bullets flying over my head.



SPC Danielle Woline
Unit: 47th FSB
Most: The availability of phones and internet.
Least: The distance between everything.



SGT Anthony Roszko
Unit: 1-6 IN
Most: I have plenty of time to get back in shape.
Least: We train to go somewhere and we get stuck here.



PFC Catherine Blakely
Unit: 2/501 MP
Most: I like the combat pay.
Least: There is not a lot of things to do.

Next Week: How do you plan to use your extra pay?

Questions and Photos by PFC Jeremy Neece

A Word from the Striker Command



COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

Iron Brigade Soldiers, these past weeks have seen many historical events for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. We said goodbye to our neighbors, friends, and families in Baumholder, taking the cherished memories of their love with us. The entire Brigade Combat Team was able to deploy 3,000 miles from our home station safely and efficiently with no serious injuries or loss of life;

a feat that in itself is worthy of note. We traveled as many separate groups, but we were all united by our team focus and warrior spirit, answering our nation's call to arms. Train hard today, as tomorrow you may be using those very skills in combat. Finally, Command Sergeant Major Santos and I want you to know how pleased we are with the amazing accomplishments of every Task Force, every Company,

and every Soldier. Each day we find a new reason to be proud of the trained, disciplined, and lethal team with which we have the privilege to serve. Iron Brigade, we must always be prepared to Strike Hard!



CSM Jose A. Santos

2 BCT, 1 AD Uncases Their Colors at Camp Buehring, Kuwait

Story by PFC Evan Richardson

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team 1st Armored Division uncased their unit colors today at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

After establishing residence and receiving their vehicles, the only thing remaining was for 2nd BCT to uncasing their colors, affirming their readiness for any mission ahead of them. The Commanding General from 1st Armored Division, Maj. Gen. Robinson, took part in the ceremony, addressing the deployed Soldiers on the day before Thanksgiving.

Major General Robinson told the troops "Your most important asset is your confidence. You are trained. You are ready for the fight. Be confident that you can accomplish any mission that is set before you. I have complete faith and confidence that you're ready."

While troops are in Kuwait, Major General Robinson said: "You're mission here is to continue to prepare for battle, continue to prepare to get in the fight. Take every opportunity to train, train, train."

As the ceremony came to a close, COL Scurlock emphasized the importance of combat readiness by saying: "Continue to train hard, take care of each other, and continue disciplined preparation. Maintain that fighting edge, and keep the knife edge sharp."



COL Robert Scurlock & CSM Jose Santos uncasing the 2BCT colors.

Photos : PFC Evan Richardson



"Your most important asset is your confidence... you are ready for the fight... you can accomplish any mission..."

MG Robinson addresses the 2nd Brigade Combat Team during the uncasing of the colors ceremony on the 22nd of November.

Photo : PFC Evan Richardson

2-6 Hits The Ground Running

Story by PFC Joshua Ramey

Camp Buehring, Kuwait - After arriving in Kuwait on an early Monday morning, Soldiers from C Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment (2-6IN) dismantled their aircraft, jumped onto busses, and headed for the world of being deployed. No one knew what to expect, but after a brief walk around Camp Buehring, most Soldiers were pleasantly surprised.

PFC Timothy S. Ivey, of C Co 2-6 Infantry, test fires a Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) while SGT Brian R. Smith coaches him on using proper firing techniques.

Photo : PFC Joshua Ramey



"It's a lot better than I thought it would be" said PFC Earnest Gentry, a Scout from Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) 2-6, referring to the overall quality of the facilities at



C-12 "Arbiter," a Bradley from C Co 2-6 with SPC Anthony Mack driving; SGT Kirk A. Waymire, gunning; and SSG Adam T. Williams, commanding; test fire rounds from its 25mm main gun.

Photo : SFC David Dockett

Camp Buehring, SSG Tony Williams, C Co 2-6 added, "The gym [here] is better than a lot of the gyms in Germany, to be honest with you." But the day for HHC and C Co definitely did not end with a leisurely tour of the camp.

ensuring that the armorer solved any mechanical problems they may have had. The only remaining task is for Soldiers themselves to make sure their bodies and minds are ready to move North.

"WE'RE GOING TO FIRE SOME WEAPONS!"

Monday afternoon, HHC and C Co loaded up all of their weapons, started all their Bradley Fighting Vehicles and headed out to the middle of nowhere for a desert range.

"We'll fire every weapon to make sure they work, and we'll start zeroing within the next couple days" said PV2 Richard Larossa, C Co 2-6. The Soldiers were out at the range for several hours, working with their weapons,

Need To Know...

Everyone in 2 BCT should know about General Order #1 (GO #1). Even if you do not know about GO #1, you can still be punished for violating it. It applies as soon as you set foot in Theatre and it is in effect until you leave. Here are some of the things you **CANNOT** do:

- Possess or consume any alcoholic beverage. Anything you buy at any AAFES location in theatre is OK. Alcohol use during authorized religious ceremonies is OK.
 - Cohabitate with a person of the opposite sex to whom you are not married.
 - Have sexual contact with foreign or local nationals.
 - Take war souvenirs except as IAW MNC-I FRAGO 076 (09JAN05)
 - Adopt, care for or feed any wild or domestic animal.
 - No gambling of any kind unless authorized by host nation law and Army regulations.
 - Possess, sell, display or introduce any pornographic or sexually explicit material. Anything you buy at any AAFES location in theatre is OK.
 - Possess or consume any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia. You must keep the original label for any drugs your doctor issued to you. Drug paraphernalia includes hemp products and pot pipes. Hookahs are in a legal gray area. You may bring or import a hookah into the U.S. but it is illegal to mail it US Postal Service.
- Every Soldier should read GO #1 for further clarification of what else is prohibited because ignorance of this order is no excuse.

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (CPT) Robert Roetzel

On behalf of the 2BCT Unit Ministry Team, I want to extend our wishes for God's blessing upon all of you serving here. Your battalion chaplains are available to assist you by providing a wide range of religious services and programs. Flyers

containing full information about times and locations of various events are updated and posted by your battalion ministry teams in most unit areas. The majority of these activities take place at the Camp Chapel located next to the

finance and post office buildings. If there are any other forms of religious support required, please let your battalion chaplains and assistants know, so that they may provide for your needs. Godspeed, and Strike Hard!

Artillerymen Account For Nonstandard Conditions

Story by 1LT Justin Philippi

Camp Buehring, Kuwait: In the world of Field Artillery, accounting for nonstandard conditions comes naturally. Everything from weather patterns to the rotation of the earth must be taken into consideration when lobbing a 96 pound chunk of steel at targets over 14 kilometers away. Charlie Battery, 4-27 FA, recently trained to account for another factor while test-firing its M109 A6 Paladins:



C Battery 4-27 FA Soldiers practice setting up their improvised Fire Direction Center. Photo : CPT Joey Errington

Post. This armored vehicle can best be described as a metal cube on tracks. In preparation for any possible mission on a 360 degree battlefield, while awaiting the arrival of their two required M577A2s, the decision was made to run the FDC out of a FAAS-V, a more heavily armored ammunition carrier based on the M109A6's chassis. The vehicle's interior, cramped with racks for holding artillery shells, had sufficient space with which to set up a work table and hang maps, but lacked the essential power resources to run the AFATDS, or Advanced Field Artillery Technical Data System. A 5-ton truck towing a

10K generator provided the required power and additional radio mounts were installed in the vehicles. A rehearsal in the motor pool of the trial FDC validated the FAAS-V concept and gained the confidence of the howitzer section chiefs and battery leadership that it was fully capable of firing the battery. A dry-fire exercise in the field proved that the FDC setup was not quite live-fire ready, but had potential. With no prior SOP for full setup and operations, much trial-and-error went into finding the best arrangement. Ultimately, the most functional configuration found two FAAS-Vs parked parallel to each other, with the 10K generator set up on the side. Six OE-254s were set up to maintain the essential communication nets, as a FAAS-V traditionally has

only one antenna mount. Behind the two vehicles, modular command posts were erected to provide additional work and planning area. The final arrangement took nearly four hours to setup, but was able to emulate all the essential components of a traditional M577 based Fire Direction Center. Two days later, Charlie Battery employed the new setup in a successful live-fire exercise of six Paladins, firing 120 rounds in less than six hours. Upon completion, the basis for a new SOP directing the alternate setup of an FDC had been established. Further modifications to the FDC FAAS-Vs, including removing some gratuitous ammunition racks and installing more permanent wiring for radio equipment, were deemed important for future combat operations. The Fire Direction Center Soldiers and NCOs agreed that the FAAS-V platform definitely has great potential as their operations center and are content with their new setup, for now.



Combat Operation Center from C Btry 4-27 FA ready to bring the fight to the enemy. Photo : CPT Joey Errington



C Btry 4-27 FA fires a round from their M109A6 Paladin. Photo : 1LT James Collado

Iron Soldiers Give Thanks

Story by SFC David Dockett

Camp Buehring, Kuwait - This Thanksgiving, the Iron Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, celebrated the holiday in new and very different surroundings. The brigade recently deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, getting settled-in and continuing training for their part in Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.



A massive Thanksgiving cake prepared by the dining facility staff was placed at the front of the DFAC. Photo : PFC Evan Richardson

The Soldiers are deployed and far away from home this holiday season, but they found plenty to be

thankful for out in the Kuwaiti desert. As they entered the Dining Facility, they were greeted by their Commanders and Sergeants Major, serving a Thanksgiving feast. The menu included many traditional Thanksgiving items:

- Roasted Turkey w/ Herbs
- Black Angus Tenderloin
- Prime Rib
- Cornish Game Hen
- Jumbo Shrimp
- Mashed Potatoes
- Turkey Gravy
- Combread Dressing
- Candied Sweet Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce
- Green Beans

Soldiers washed down their feast with non-alcoholic sparkling white and red wines, along with the season's first eggnog. For dessert, there was fresh fruit cake, southern style pecan pie, American apple pie, pumpkin pie and "sweet, sweet potato pie." The cooks of all the units on Camp Buehring worked hard all evening to provide a meal fit for a king.

"A lot of preparation and effort went

into today's meal" said SFC Donald R. Boyer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry. "We love getting the opportunity to provide a great meal for everyone that is getting ready to deploy north into Iraq." The amount of effort was appreciated by the Soldiers, who enjoyed their meal while surrounded by orange and brown streamers, ice sculptures, and large,

elaborate decorated cakes. Being served by the chain of command was "icing on the cake." "Serving Soldiers on Thanksgiving is a tradition," said Command Sergeant Major Jose Santos, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Command Sergeant Major. "Their Leaders appreciate the Soldier's service and this is one way that we can show our thanks."



From Left: PVT Robert Mahon, SGT Reginald Clark, and PFC Alberto Peters sit down to enjoy the Thanksgiving 2005 meal. "It makes you actually feel Thanksgiving with all of the decorations around," said PVT Mahon. Photo : PFC Evan Richardson



BCT Commander COL Scurlock (left) and LTC Cheatham (right) the 4-27 FA Commander prepare a Thanksgiving plate for one of the Iron Soldiers. Photo : PFC Evan Richardson

HYDRATE!



Because you'd rather



drink 4 of these

than get 1 of these

Standard Comix

"Baker's 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!

See last page for Contact Information

Upcoming MWR Events

MWR Facilities

SUN - 11DEC05
1000 : Bazaar @ MWR Events Tent # 3
2100 : Salsa Night @ MWR Events Tent #3

TUE - 13DEC05
1900 : Tae Kwon Do @ Fitness Center

WED - 14DEC05
1730 : 7.5K Fun Run @ Hole In One Donut

THU - 15DEC05
1900 : Tae Kwon Do @ Fitness Center

FRI - 16DEC05
2100 : Hip Hop Dance @ MWR Events Tent #3

SAT - 17DEC05
1000 : Bazaar @ MWR Events Tent #3
1700 : MWR Lunch Night @ MWR Oasis
1900 : Tae Kwon Do @ Fitness Center



SPC Josue Torres of 1AD Property Book Office (PBO) works out at Camp Buehring's huge new gym.

Photo by PFC Evan Richardson



Soldiers enjoy a retreat to the camp's MWR tent to play video games, board games, and watch movies.

Photo by PFC Jeremy Neece



2nd BCT Soldiers play a competitive game of volleyball in the hot Kuwaiti sun.

Photo by PFC Jeremy Neece

Stories from the Home Front

Messages & shout-outs and stories from Baumholder families

We are currently looking for written submissions from families and friends. Please refer to the back cover of this issue for contact information. We can accept messages, articles, and anything else you may have via MPS and also eMail (preferred).

We are currently looking for photo submissions from families and friends. Please refer to the back cover of this issue for contact information. We can accept messages, articles, and anything else you may have via MPS and also eMail (preferred).

What we are looking for:
Child's Graduation
Birthdays
New Births
Etc.

Images from the Home Front



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This Edition will be on our website soon.

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

The Striker Torch is an authorized publication for Department of Defense members. Contents of the Striker Torch are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.