

The 1844th Transportation Company Deployed During Natural Disaster at Home

By Sgt. Amy Andrews
1844th TRANSPORTATION COMPANY



Spc. Steve O'Hearn poses for a picture showing off a few of the many sandbags located on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait **Photo by Spc. Jack Stout**

Sandbags are not something foreign to the Soldiers of the 1844th Transportation Company of Quincy, Illinois who have been serving in Kuwait for nearly three months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-09. The 1844TC has become accustomed to the vast amount of sand found in the desert as well as the common uses for sandbags on a military installation such as added support and structure between cement barriers, borders for side walks and anchors for tents to keep them taut.

Sandbags are providing a different kind of support as Soldiers and citizens use sandbags to protect homes, crops and the community along the Mississippi river. Although the deployed Soldiers of the 1844TC are unable to provide hands-on help with the recent flooding in the mid-west area, the 1844TC rear detachment and many others at home are helping in their absence.

As a member of the Illinois National Guard, responding to the high waters of the Mississippi is not an unusual occurrence. Sergeant First Class Michele Elder, a twenty year member of the 1844TC, recalls the community coming together as a whole during the flood of 1993. "I remember working hand in hand with so many citizens and agencies, including the Corp of Engineers, FEMA and the Adams County Sheriff's Department. There were so many displaced people who lost their homes, but there were a lot of people willing to help," Elder said.

Although Elder is currently deployed and not able to help with the flood

efforts in 2008, her husband, Mike, and two daughters, Megan and Katelynn were happy to fill in for her by supporting the community and fighting the flood. "They filled sandbags for five hours on Father's Day. Megan and Katelynn even went back the next day to help some more," Elder said.

Spc. Steve O'Hearn, truck driver for second platoon, remembers filling sandbags with his grandfather in the Quincy University Stadium parking lot when he was only nine years old. Fifteen years later, O'Hearn is a member of the Illinois Army National Guard.

Joining in December of 2006, O'Hearn knew that he would be a National Guard member serving overseas to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. "It was almost assumed that the 1844TC would be deployed during my enlistment. I didn't expect it to be so soon after I completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training," said O'Hearn, who deployed only six weeks after completing the mandatory training.

Mixed feelings are present as the Soldiers of the 1844TC serve in Kuwait and also wish to be in Illinois in order to help those at home with the flood.

"It is a hard situation to be in," said O'Hearn. "I believe the National Guard is supposed to be there to help the state in a time of need, but also to serve the needs and demands of the country."

Although the deployed Soldiers desire to help the communities that have supported



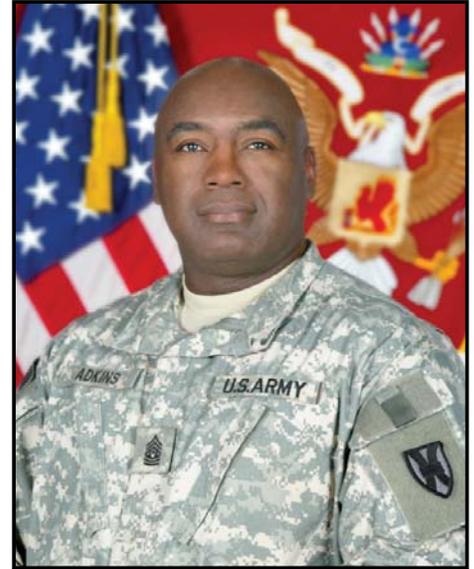
JLTF 28 Commander's and CSM's Words



Greetings Wrangler Team, Soldiers, Airmen, and Family Members. JLTF 28 is honored to join the 4th Sustainment Brigade supporting the best Warriors in the world.

The 28th Transportation Battalion, stationed in Mannheim, Germany, is a large and diverse organization providing Common User Land Transport (CULT)

assets to the United States Army Europe (USAREUR) as well as supporting the Global War on Terror and Army transformation. Although the unit is designated as a pure Transportation Battalion, it has performed the mission of a Multi-Functional Logistics Battalion for the past three years. Prior to deployment, the battalion included six line haul companies, two maintenance companies, an Army band, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) company, and a HQ detachment consisting of over 1,500 Soldiers. While we are deployed, our rear detachment picked up mission's in Germany and continue to provide deployable, responsive, multi-functional, theater-level logistics capabilities that include transportation, distribution, supply, maintenance, explosive ordnance, and musical operations



in support of USAREUR and global contingencies across the full spectrum of joint operations.

Upon deployment, the 28th Transportation Battalion transitioned to Joint Logistics Task Force 28, assuming command and control of three line-haul companies, two Air Force truck detachments, two gun truck companies, and one HQ

The WRANGLER

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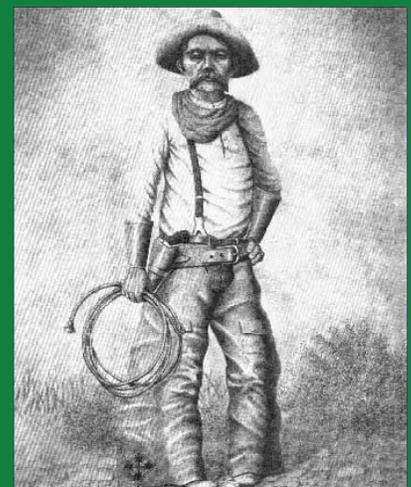
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detachment. JLTF 28's mission is to provide C2 of its six units engaged in distribution operations.

The 28th Transportation Battalion has a proud history of serving our nation in combat. The battalion was constituted in the Regular Army as 1st Battalion, 28th Quartermaster Regiment on February 10, 1936. Five years later it was activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and deployed in support of the World War II North African Campaign, earning the Algeria-French Morocco and Tunisia Campaign Streamers.

In September of 1943, the battalion deployed to Italy and earned the Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno Campaign Streamers. The 28th deployed again in August of 1944, this time to France, earning the Southern France

Campaign Streamer.

The battalion deactivated at Art-S-Meurthe following V-E Day but was soon reactivated on January 20, 1949 in Germany. Over the next decade, its headquarters moved several times between Germany and France finally making its home Mannheim, Germany in 1964.

In 1991, the battalion was again called into action to support Operation Desert Shield / Storm. In 1995, its Soldiers supported Operation Joint Endeavor / Guard/Forge/Allied Force. From 2001 to present, the EN TEMPS! battalion has made multiple deployments in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

After three months of boots

on the ground, we can honestly say we are in the driver's seat. Our units are fully rolling and making your leaders, Families, and especially me, proud. We've already crossed the two million mile mark in convoys and strive to maintain our professional and "can do" reputation.

As we get into the heat of the summer, along with the temperature rising, so will the mission load. We are ready.

We are proud and honored to be part of the Wrangler Team, and continuing our support to the Global War on Terror.

EN TEMPS!

LTC Christopher Benoit and
CSM Gilbert Adkins

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OFFICIAL PRAISES PROPOSED EDUCATION BENEFITS

By John J. Kruzel
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICES

WASHINGTON - A Defense Department spokesman on June 25 expressed satisfaction that a proposed G.I. Bill allowing service members to transfer their education benefits to Family members passed the first round of congressional voting.

But he also expressed concern that a possible provision of the bill could hurt the department's efforts to retain service members.

The U.S. House of Representatives last week passed a version of the bill that would provide military members a more generous education package, which for the first time could be passed to Family members if troops opt not to use it themselves.

"The No. 1 priority of this department was that any enhanced benefit coming out of the Congress provide for the ability for service members to transfer any unused benefit to their Family members," Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said during a Pentagon news conference.

But while the Defense Department is pleased the House version incorporates

transferability, Morrell said, officials have voiced concern that the amount of time before the benefits become available -- after 36 months of service - may hurt retention rates.

"That - we've said from the beginning - we believe, is too soon," Morrell said. "But if that's the way the Congress ultimately chooses to go, ... we will work with it."

The bill will next appear before the Senate, where it must receive approval before being enacted. Meanwhile, the Defense Department intends to study what effects the bill would have on military retention if it passes in its present form, Morrell said.

"If we find that it's having an adverse affect on retention, we're going to have to figure out other ways to entice men and women in uniform to stay in the service," he said.

Morrell suggested that bigger financial bonuses for re-enlistment could be offered if service members become "lured out" of uniform by taking advantage of the new package, which would double the education

benefit from about \$9,000 to about \$18,000 per year and kick in during the first enlistment.

The spokesman added that Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates is more pleased that the bill includes transferability than he is disappointed that it could adversely affect retention.

In other Defense Department news, Gates was scheduled to hold a meeting this afternoon to discuss an investigation by the Government Accountability Office -- the investigative arm of Congress - that found improper practices related to an Air Force tanker contract.

The GAO last week recommended the Air Force reopen the bidding process for the service's aerial refueling aircraft contract. The recommendation came after a review of the contract process that in February selected the Northrop-Grumman/EADS/Airbus consortium as the winner of the \$35 billion contract. Boeing Co., which had submitted a competing bid, protested the decision.

Chaplain's Corner

WELCOME

We have three services at the Zone 6 Chapel
that may lift your spirit:

The General Protestant Service at 0900

The Contemporary Service at 1100

The Blended Protestant Worship Service at 1730

These are just of few of our services.

If you have any questions please call

Chaplain Pena at 786-4504 or Spc. Henry at 964-1471



Trans. Co. continued from Page 1

them, the Soldiers are only able to learn as much as they can by staying updated on the status of those involved in the flood.

Various media resources such as television, internet and newspapers have provided pictures and live footage showing familiar areas now engulfed by water. "I am able to stay up to date with the flood through email, phone conversations and the websites provided

by WGEM and KHQA," said O'Hearn.

Among the various sources that keep the Soldiers informed, a common constant is the hard work and the presence of community in the area. By staying informed, the Soldiers are comforted knowing their friends, Family and community in Illinois have been and are currently receiving support from neighboring National

Guard units, various components of the Department of Defense, volunteers and contributory organizations in their absence.

Serving at home or abroad, the 1844TC keeps their community, Family and friends in their thoughts as they drive on with the mission at hand, serving and benefitting those in the state of Illinois as well as the United States.

Medic's Advice

PREVENTING BODY ODOR

By Sgt. Frederick M. Waterhouse Jr.
MEDICAL LOGISTICAL NCOIC



Have you ever finished a sweaty workout, and within minutes, noticed a peculiar smell? When "SPC Jones" (not his real name) left the gym after basketball practice, he walked up to a group of friends. They immediately commented on someone's body odor, wondering which of them was the culprit.

"When I realized it was me, I was humiliated," SPC Jones said. "I quickly went to my locker and realized that I didn't have a deodorant at school.

"I avoided all my friends that day. When I got home, I put my new deodorant in my backpack to make sure this never happens again."

Is Body Odor Normal?

SPC Jones is not the first (or last) teen to notice body odor. Bromhidrosis (another word for body odor) happens at puberty because of increasing hormones called *androgens*. These hormones are not active until puberty, which is why body odor wasn't a problem when you were a kid.

While sweat itself is virtually odorless, bacteria use it as a breeding ground and multiply rapidly. What you smell is the bacteria multiplying on the surface of your skin. Sounds disgusting, doesn't it? Chalk it up to an unpleasant fact of life!

When you work out or move around in the heat or sun, your body produces sweat. Sweating is the body's way of regulating

temperature. When sweat meets the bacteria on the surface of your skin, it produces an odor. That smell is what we call body odor (or B.O. for short).

Why Do My Feet Smell?

While body odor is usually associated with the armpits, bacteria can also produce odor in the groin, upper thighs, and feet, among other places. Thoroughly washing your skin with a wet washcloth and soap -- especially those areas prone to sweating -- can help prevent body odor.

Remember that smelly feet can also cause smelly shoes. Treating your shoes with an over-the-counter deodorizer can help. Also, wear thick, absorbent socks if you can.

How Do I Fight Body Odor?

If you want to be "odor-free," consider the following tips:

After washing with soap and completely drying, immediately apply an underarm antiperspirant. Remember, deodorants do not prevent sweating. They mainly mask the smell of the bacteria on your sweaty skin. Antiperspirants are chemical agents that reduce sweating. Many antiperspirant preparations also contain a deodorant, which helps to mask the smell. Check the product you use to make sure it contains an antiperspirant.

Keep your underarms dry. Bacteria have a hard time breeding in dry areas of the body.

Try a solution of hydrogen peroxide and water to fight body odor. Use one teaspoon of peroxide (3%) to one cup (8 ounces) of water. Wipe this on affected areas (underarm, feet,

groin) with a washcloth. This may help destroy some of the bacteria that creates odor.

If sweat from working out is your No. 1 cause of body odor, wash your workout clothes often. Sweaty gym clothes are a bacteria-breeding ground.

Change your diet. Sometimes, fatty foods, oils, or strong-smelling foods like garlic, curry, and onions, can seep through your pores and cause body odor. (Always see a doctor or dietician before making drastic dietary changes.)

If you have excessive sweating (called hyperhidrosis), talk to your doctor. There are many treatment options for those with more severe sweating who desire more permanent treatments. Also, certain medical problems can lead to excessive sweating. Your doctor can make a diagnosis and prescribe treatment.

Shaving your underarm regularly will help prevent the accumulation of bacteria and can reduce sweat and odor.

In some societies, body odor is accepted. But most countries today frown on body odor. In fact, some religions have strict guidelines about bathing practices and personal hygiene.

The best way to fight body odor is through prevention. For most adults, proper hygiene -- like washing well and applying an underarm antiperspirant or deodorant -- should be enough.

Reviewed by Brunilda Narzario, MD on December 19, 2007. © 2007 WebMD, Inc. All rights reserved. <http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/preventing-body-odor>

Steering Committee Complete 10 Family Action Issues

Army News Service



Dental services for retirees overseas:

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan contract was re-awarded to Delta Dental for an additional five years and will become effective on Oct. 1, 2008. The new contract authorizes retirees living outside the Continental United States to enroll in the dental plan.

Nonsubsidized reserve component group health and dental insurance:

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2005 established the TRICARE Reserve Select program, a shared premium-based health care benefit for National Guard and Reserve members and their Families. This Act required military members to agree to serve for the coverage selection period. The coverage had a three tiered payment scale. The NDAA for fiscal year 2007 eliminated the tier levels, the requirement for annual service agreements and extended the TRS benefits to Selected Reserve members and their Families. The program, implemented October 2007, requires that members enrolled in the TRS must continue to serve in the Selected Reserve.

Reserve component retired pay:

Reserve Component retired Soldiers do not receive retirement pay until age 60. The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act allows for early or retired pay benefits for Reserve component Soldiers based on the amount of time spent mobilized in

support of contingency operations. Section 647 of the ACT describes the new Reserve Soldier Retirement Benefit Program and eligibility.

Leave accrual:

Effective Oct. 1, 2008 the National Defense Authorization Act allows an increase in annual leave carryover to 75 days from 60 days. On Jan. 1, 2011 leave carryover reverts back to 60 days. Special leave accrual rules were also amended for Soldiers deployed to hostile fire/imminent danger areas, allowing them to retain leave for four fiscal years instead of three. Also, Soldiers serving in support of a contingency may retain earned leave for two years instead of one.

Enlisted promotion points submission:

A new automated system was initiated Oct., 2007 that allows Soldiers to update limited aspects of their promotion points as points are earned using the Army Knowledge Online portal. The self-service DA Form 3355 eliminates the requirement to accumulate 20 promotion points prior to an evaluation. Soldiers are now being considered for promotion based on the accumulation of all points as they are earned.

Temporary lodging for single service members with partial custody/visitation:

Service members with partial custody can now make lodging reservations up to 10 days in advance for visiting dependants. Before, there was a zero day advance reservation if service members who live in barracks had dependants visiting. The other services have agreed with this recommendation and the policy was signed and became effective in May.

Shortage of professional marriage and professional counselors:

The number of marriage and Family therapists in under-served areas increased to 46 in the U.S. and 14 overseas. Based on utilization data, modifications to staffing locations will be made if needed.

Staffing to support the physical disability evaluation system:

Work is being done to provide hiring actions to support warrior transition units and physical evaluation board liaison officers within medical treatment facilities. This issue is being addressed in the Army Medical Action Plan and will be monitored by the Surgeon General's Office of Warrior Care and Transition and is no longer considered an AFAP action.

Army Community Service manpower and funding:

ACS received funding of \$33.6 million to cover staffing shortages of 477 positions. Global War on Terrorism funds are being used in fiscal year 2008 and supplemental funding is included for positions in fiscal year 2009. The United States Army Manpower Analysis Agency approved the ACS staffing models and the Installation Management Command has provided authorizations and funding for all ACS positions according to USAMAA staffing guidelines.

Funding for the exceptional family member program respite care:

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Command received funding of \$8.2 million for respite care for Families with exceptional Family members. \$6 million of the \$8.2 million has already been used for respite care in 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS

Staff Sgt. James Garlitz

2008 U.S. Army Central

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR



FORT MCPHERSON, Ga. (June 27, 2008) - Staff Sgt. James Garlitz has been named the 2008 U.S. Army Central Noncommissioned Officer of the Year June 27 in a ceremony at the command's headquarters at Fort McPherson, Ga. Staff Sgt Garlitz is assigned 9th Financial Management Company, out of Ft. Lewis, WA, currently serving under the 4th Sus Bde, BTB, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathon Wiley, USARCENT Public Affairs.



FORT MCPHERSON, Ga. (June 24, 2008) - Staff Sgt. James Garlitz, a native of Annapolis, Md., listens intently to instructions at a M-4 range at the U.S. Army Central Noncommissioned and Soldier of the Year competition in Atlanta June 23-27. Garlitz is one of seven warriors competing for the honor of being named the best of the distinguished U.S. ARCENT organization. During the three-day competition, warriors faced rigorous tests that challenged every aspect of their training, skills and abilities. Staff Sgt Garlitz is assigned 9th Financial Management Company, out of Ft. Lewis, WA, currently serving under the 4th Sus Bde, BTB, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

WHY I SERVE

By PV2 James Hemingway
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Private 1st Class Edisette Lamourvega is a Human Resources Specialist for the 4th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Hood, TX.

Lamour was in school and worked a part time job before she joined the military.

She joined the Army after her brother signed up in 2004, and enlisted in 2006 at the age of 17.

Lamour went to basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., on July 18, 2006 and Advanced Individual Training also at Ft. Jackson, in November of 2006. Her brother and two cousins all serve in the military.

Private 1st Class Edisette Lamour
Human Resource Specialist
4th Sus Bde

Ft. Hood, Texas is her first duty station and this deployment is her first to the Middle East.

Spc Eliborio Mata is a Human Resources Specialist for the 4th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Hood, TX.

Mata was a part-time bartender and worked as a Nurse’s Assistant before he joined the military.

Mata’s first enlistment was in 1994 when he joined the Navy. After the Navy, Spc. Mata transferred into the Army in 2003.

Mata completed basic training in Fort Jackson, S.C., and attended Advanced Individual Training at the same installation.

“My first duty station was at Giebelstadt, Germany it was great to have Germany as my first duty station,” said Spc. Mata.

Spc. Mata has a brother who is a Staff Sergeant currently stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spc. Mata will be promoted to the rank of Sergeant on July 1st, and he plans to submit his application for the Army’s Warrant Officer Program.

His infant son, Elijah, will turn one in July.



Spc. Eliborio Mata
Human Resource Specialist
4th Sus Bde

Spc. Zac Clark is an Information System Analyst for the 4th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Hood, TX.

He enlisted in the military while he was still finishing high school where he was very active in the JROTC program.

Clark decided he wanted to join the military at an early age after watching the movie Top Gun.

Clark went to basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C. and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Gordon, GA. He said he had a blast at AIT.

Clark has what you call two families due to the closeness of his best friend and his Family. Spc. Clark’s brother and best friend joined several years after he did, and his friend is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

Clark has a little girl back at home.

“She is adorable as can be,” he said.

Hood is his first active duty station. He is on his third deployment and he has served six years in the military.



Spc. Zac Clark
Information Systems Analyst
4th Sus Bde

Soldiers in Action



JLTF 28th Chaplain Erik Gramling stands with SSG Thomas G. Hall the truck commander of the maintenance bobtail for 1st platoon, 3rd Squad/truck team prior to departure for Buehrig.

Sgt. Phillip Piste presented Command Sgt. Maj. C.W. Mitchell, BTB Command Sgt. Maj., a plaque of appreciation. Command Sgt. Maj. Mitchell was the guest speaker for the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) NCO Induction ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Date palms are considered the fruit of life in Kuwait. An old Kuwaiti saying holds that if you are like a date, you can survive anyhow. The date palm is revered in the Arab world for its sustenance and the wide variety of uses it offers. For Kuwaitis and other desert people of the Gulf, it was the main source of food during the years before the oil boom.



Souvenir shopping is one of the highlights of the Morale Welfare and Recreation trips to Kuwait City. For one day, Soldiers experience the many sights and sounds of Kuwait without being in uniform.



The long road to Iraq - is traveled nearly everyday by 4th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers as they provide combat logistics patrols for convoy missions into the warzone. The hot air blows constantly from the Gulf coast picking up sand along the way creating regular dust storms.

The Kuwait Towers are three towers of reinforced concrete in Kuwait City. The main tower is 187 metres high and serves as a restaurant and water tower. It also has a Viewing Sphere which rises to 123 meters above sea level and completes a full rotation every 30 minutes.





Col. Terence Hermans, 4th Sustainment Brigade Commander and Lt. Col. Michael Melendez join the leadership from the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command in Kuwait to assume the sustainment mission in theater.



JLTF 28 Chaplain Erik Gramling says a prayer before Soldiers of the 1844th Transportation Company depart Arifjan.



A Soldier from the 546th Transportation Company performs maintenance on a Heavy Equipment Transport truck - one of the Army's largest vehicles - at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. To beat the mid-day heat, the Soldiers of fourth platoon perform their unit's maintenance between the hours of midnight and noon.



Cpt. Luke Lisell (right) of the 4th Sustainment Brigade jogs out of the gate during the Army's Birthday 5K fun run at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



JLTF 28 Chaplain's Assistant, SPC David Teakell passes out goody bags to Soldiers of the 1844th Transportation Company prior to their departure from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Mechanics Keep Trucks Rolling

By Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen
311TH ESC PAO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- When the sun goes down and the temperatures finally dip below triple digits, Staff Sgt. Bobby F. Western and his crew are just waking up. Their uniforms are filthy. They have nicknames like Smoke, Pinky, and Tum Tum. And their language isn't exactly the kind you would use in a letter home to grandma.

But the mechanics of the fourth platoon of the 546th Transportation Company from Fort Bragg, N.C., keep the wrenches turning and their unit's vehicles mission ready.

The mission of the 546th includes transporting equipment from other units to their destinations in Iraq. They also bring equipment back from Iraq for units who are redeploying back to the United States. The mission of 546th's maintenance platoon is to keep those vehicles moving.

Whether it's in the unit's motor pool at Camp Arifjan or out on the road in a wrecker, the 43 Soldiers of fourth platoon are responsible for the maintenance of one of the Army's biggest vehicles. The Heavy Equipment



To beat the mid-day heat, the Soldiers of fourth platoon of the 546th Transportation Company perform their unit's maintenance between the hours of midnight and noon. **Photo by Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen.**

Transport Systems, which are known by the acronym HET, weigh 41,000 pounds and are capable of towing up to 70 tons when outfitted with the HET semi-trailer.

One of the most common challenges the mechanics face, and one of the most time consuming, is gaining access to the engine of the HET. It's not as simple as popping the hood; they were designed

with the engine directly underneath the cab of the vehicle. In order to perform maintenance on the engine, they usually need to use a crane to remove the cab. This difficult and time consuming process can take three mechanics two hours. But the Soldiers of fourth platoon came up with a quicker solution when only minor repairs are needed.

"There is a tiny little spot on the HET that the bigger guys can't get into to fix," said Spc. Jason M. Little. But 'little' isn't just his name; it's also one of his best assets. Standing at five feet, eight inches tall, and weighing in at 130 pounds, Little is one of the platoon's few mechanics who can fit in a small space between the vehicle's cab and the engine to gain access to the often inaccessible engine.

"It's also a downfall because now I have to take on extra work," said Little. "I'm the only one small enough."

When Little isn't available to climb in the small space, the platoon relies on Spc. Jose L. Parra. At five feet four inches tall, the North Hollywood, Calif., native is one of the smallest in the motor pool. But it isn't just his size that makes him a valuable asset to the team.



North Hollywood native Army Spc. Jose L. Parra performs maintenance on a Heavy Equipment Transport truck - one of the Army's largest vehicles- at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Parra is assigned to the 546th Transportation Company from Fort Bragg, N.C. **Photo by Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen.**



Spc. Justin M. Little cozies up to the muffler of HET while making repairs. Because of his small size, Little is one of the few mechanics in the 546th Transportation Company who can fit in the small space between the engine and cab of a HET to make repairs, which saves the platoon the trouble of removing the cab with a crane. **Photo by Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen.**

“That’s my money right there,” said Western. “He’s one of the smartest and he works hard. If I had a whole squad of him I’d be great.”

Spc. Parra, who the platoon agrees isn’t allowed to consume energy drinks, can be seen zipping around the motor pool from just after midnight till just before lunch time.

Spc. Parra’s seemingly endless energy is a good match for a unit that has almost 100 vehicles to maintain, often with a very short amount of time between missions.

“About half the trucks that come back have deadline issues that have to be fixed before they can go out again,” said Western. “They were actually made for *short* hauls with heavy equipment. We take them on *long* hauls with heavy equipment.”

Before each Combat Logistics Patrol goes out, the mechanics of the 546th perform the necessary inspections and correct any delinquencies. Upon the mission’s return, they again inspect the equipment for any new damage or malfunctions.

But the HETs don’t spend all of their time in the Camp Arifjan motorpool. Though the drivers can perform small repairs, the Soldiers

of fourth platoon accompany the truck drivers on the road in a wrecker in case of breakdowns.

“They take a wrecker on every mission,” said Western. “Just about everybody’s been out two or three times. Of course, you’ve got your guys who love it and keep going out, but we try to give everybody the opportunity because it’s a good learning experience.”

“We troubleshoot when we can so we don’t have to bring little problems to the mechanics,” said Private 1st Class Don M.

Wolford, a driver in the unit. In addition to diagnostics like checking the oil, the drivers are expected to perform a certain degree of their own maintenance to include replacing filters, adding oil (but not changing it), and changing broken lights.

“I think it’s safe to say that we have some of the best mechanics,” said Wolford. “When I go out on a mission I feel confident seeing the wrecker in my rearview mirror.”

But with up to five missions going out a week, that leaves only a few mechanics to make sure the vehicles left behind get the necessary repair work before they too are scheduled to go back out on the road.

“At most you’ll have three days to make repairs before the truck goes out again,” said Western. “The worst part of the operation is the tempo.”

But if the op-tempo is the worst part of his job, Western thinks the camaraderie is the best part.

“This is actually one of the largest motor pools I’ve worked with,” said Western, who has been in the Army 16 years. “Sometimes that can be a bad thing trying to get a large group to mesh, but with this group it was easy. It’s like having a Family reunion every day.”



Columbia, S.C. native Staff Sgt. Bobby F. Western uses a hammer and chisel to remove part of a damaged trailer tire. Western is the maintenance shop foreman of the 546th Transportation Company, which is currently conducting operations in Kuwait and Iraq. **Photo by Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen.**

Army Accelerates Delivery of Future Combat Systems Technologies

By Lindy Kyzer
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICES

WASHINGTON - The Army is accelerating the delivery of key Future Combat Systems' technologies to the field, officials announced on June 26.

Infantry brigade combat teams will receive the technologies, called "spinouts," sooner than previously planned, officials said.

The spinouts include tactical and urban unattended ground sensors; the non-line-of-sight launch system, the Class I, Block 0 unmanned air vehicle; the small, unmanned ground vehicle; and network kits for Humvees.

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Vane, director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, discussed the accelerated fielding of cutting-edge equipment in a teleconference with bloggers and online

journalists.

"This decision reflects the need to move more aggressively to support current operations across both our active and reserve-component capabilities with the Future Combat Systems capabilities," he said.

Commanders and Soldiers in the field, as well as members of Congress and Defense Department and Army leaders have been asking for future combat technologies to be used for the current fight in Iraq and Afghanistan, Vane said.

Operational needs statements from infantry brigade commanders in 2007 and 2008 were double the number from heavy brigades, and accelerating the fielding of FCS spinouts addresses many of those capability gaps, Army officials said.

Vane pointed out that FCS is not being developed to provide "perfect information."

"We recognize that Soldiers will always fight for information," he said. "But the Soldier on the battlefield and the commander is the best decision maker, the best sensor, the best shooter, the best communicator, the best negotiator with both allies and potential enemies.

"What we want to do is we want technology to enable that Soldier and that commander to better understand the battlefield," he continued. "And sometimes people think we're building something that's a fantasy or that technology is the answer to everything, and we absolutely are not. What we are doing is trying to leverage that technological advantage that American industry and Americans' allies help us bring to the battlefield."

SUDOKU

The rules are simple. All you have to do is fill in the grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 square contains the number 1 through 9 and the same goes for each column. In addition, each 3x3 square must also contain the numbers 1 through 9. **Remember**, each puzzle has only one solution.

**Puzzle # 2: Hard
Solution on Page 15**

5							7	
	8		5		6			
	3		8				4	2
		1		4			2	
8				2				6
	5			8		7		
9	2				8		6	
			4		7		1	
	7							5

Happy Birthday!

LTF 10

PFC Shinice Hill	1 June
SPC Kalle Williams	1 June
SFC Gabriel Saenz	1 June
SPC Derek Swartzel	3 June
SGT Adam Hughes	3 June
SGT Jordan Betbeze	3 June
SGT Guadalupe Cervantes	4 June
PFC Dana Crawford-Law	5 June
SSG Shawn Anthony	5 June
PFC Eric Levine	6 June
SPC Jason Leblanc	7 June
SPC Chadwick Taylor	7 June
1LT Erin Lieto	8 June
PFC Robert Whitfield	8 June
PFC Rosalio Aguirre	10 June
SPC Christopher Delaney	10 June
SPC Joel Brown	10 June
SPC Justin Ledgerwood	10 June
SGT Kevin George	11 June
PFC Stephen Sharp	12 June
PFC Kenneth Hill	12 June
SSG Virgil Pierce	12 June
SPC Ricardo Robles	13 June
SGT Staci Heidelberg	13 June
SPC Frances Marroquin	14 June
PFC Kenneth Gilbert	16 June
SSG Sharlene Kadoi	16 June
SSG Donnie Cole	16 June



PFC Deanna McGee	17 June
SGT Samuel Moncada	17 June
SFC Willie Porter	17 June
PFC Joseph Moody	18 June
PFC Garen Lowrey	18 June
SSG Melinda Gintilas	18 June
SPC Malia White	20 June
SGT Harold Barnett	20 June
PFC Guy Polin	21 June
CPT Patrick Knight	21 June
PFC Zachary Hagerty	22 June
PFC Christopher Harris	22 June
SGT Terrance Rhodes	22 June
SPC Ferguson Curley	23 June
SPC Pedro Marrero	23 June
SPC Neal Stevens	23 June
SGT Michael Carroll	23 June
SGT Robert Dyer	25 June
SGT Charlton Winder	27 June
PFC James Winchester	28 June
SGT Jessica Patrick	28 June
SSG Nathan Besmer	29 June
SSG Donald Gillenwater	29 June
PFC Michael Flint	30 June
MAJ Scott Davidson	30 June

4th Sus Bde

* SSG Carla Williams	19 June
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* Note: Missing birthday from Issue 4 of the Wrangler Newsletter.
Happy belated Birthday



Happy Birthday!

1-148th

SGT Charles Kittle 1 June
 SGT Paul Carroll 1 June
 SGT Michael Haines 2 June
 SSG Jason Willoughby 2 June
 SGT Michael Smith 3 June
 PFC Kai Cheng 4 June
 SSG Mark Molyet 4 June
 SPC Joshua Steinke 5 June
 PFC Tyler Thierry 6 June
 PFC Kiel Yahner 6 June
 SPC Quinton Viney 6 June
 SGT Mark Passmore 6 June
 SPC Justin Richardson 7 June
 SSG Nickolas Daugherty 7 June
 SSG Jason Oneil 7 June
 SGT Christopher Myers 8 June
 2LT Tobias Hollohazy 8 June
 1LT Matthew Marrone 8 June
 SSG Wesley Martz 9 June
 PFC Ryan Randall 10 June
 PFC Gregory Gaskill 10 June
 1LT David Hampton 10 June
 SPC Ryan Stewart 11 June
 SGT Dennis Brogan 13 June
 PFC Devin Cooper 14 June
 SPC Jonathan Motiall 14 June
 2LT Nathan Maiken 15 June
 SPC Aaron Henning 16 June



2LT Michael Bystry 16 June
 SGT Gregory West 17 June
 SGT Manuel Salazar 17 June
 SSG Benjiman Jardell 18 June
 SGT Eric Manicsic 19 June
 PFC Brian Connelly 20 June
 SFC James Scally 20 June
 PFC Joseph Burnich 21 June
 SPC Kurtis Jacobs 21 June
 SPC Matthew Viers 22 June
 SPC James Heilman 22 June
 SSG Michael Wallace 22 June
 SGT Clinton Johns 24 June
 SSG Richard Zugelder 24 June
 PFC Kyle Ware 29 June
 SSG Bryan Corn 29 June
 PFC Alejandro Guerra 30 June
 PFC Caleb Shanks 30 June
 SGT Crystal Dunlap 30 June



Puzzle Solution								
From Page 13								
5	1	9	2	3	4	6	7	8
4	8	2	5	7	6	9	3	1
6	3	7	8	9	1	5	4	2
7	9	1	6	4	5	8	2	3
8	4	3	7	2	9	1	5	6
2	5	6	1	8	3	7	9	4
9	2	5	3	1	8	4	6	7
3	6	8	4	5	7	2	1	9
1	7	4	9	6	2	3	8	5