The WRANGLER

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6th Transportation Battalion DOERS assume control of Theater HET Mission

Article by Maj. Jonathan Cameron
6th Transportation Battalion XO

Members of the 6th Transpotation Battalion from Fort Eustis, Va., pose for a photo after weapons familiarization at the Udari Range Complex. Courtesy Photo.

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – A new battalion flag, belonging to the 6th Transportation Battalion, nicknamed the 'Doers,' from Fort Eustis, Va., was raised in Zone 6 on Aug. 20.

The raising of the flag signaled a successful conclusion of the 15-month deployment of Logistics Task Force 10, also from Ft Eustis and the transfer of authority of the mission to the 'Doers,' responsible for three Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) truck companies, a gun truck company consisting of elements from the three companies, a Logistics Support Vessel and two Landing Craft Utility ships.

The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Kevin Powers and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Melton. The 'Doers' mission is to provide theater-level transport of heavy equipment throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

The 'Doers' battalion is no stranger to the theater HET Mission. The battalion last deployed from 2004-2005 to conduct HET operations during OIF II, in fact, the battalion headquarters and staff now occupy the very same tents that they used during their previous deployment.

The main body of the battalion arrived in theater Aug. 7 and immediately began equipment draw and training at Udari range. After a successful training exercise, the 'Doers' returned to Arifjan to begin their leftseat/rightseat with LTF 10.

The transfer went so smoothly the battalion was able to conduct the transfer of authority four days earlier than originally planned.

When asked about his feelings on taking over the mission, Powers stated "I am very excited for this opportunity to build on the rich history and strong heritage of the 'Doers' battalion."

Although the units which make up the 6th Transportation Battalion at Fort Eustis are not with us, we are excited about the opportunity to work with the fellow outstanding companies and welcome them into the 'Doers' Battalion.

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The WRANGLER

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4th Sustainment Brigade Commander
Colonel Terence Hermans

4th Sustainment Brigade Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major Erik R. R. Frey

Chief, Public Affairs
Sgt. 1st Class Erick Ritterby

Operations Sergeant
Staff Sgt. Reginald Wright

Multimedia NCO/ Layout & Graphics
Sgt. Angiene L. Myers

Public Affairs NCO/ Editor
Spc. John Ortiz

BTB Commander's Words

Wolfpack Families and Friends,

Greetings Wolfpack! It's hard to believe we have been in Kuwait for almost six months. Since our arrival, our Combat Support Teams have provided life sustaining support to over 2,626 convoys. Our dedicated CSTs have streamlined more than 1,300 maintenance and 300 communication issues providing timely service to convoy vehicles.

During July, CST officers-in-charge attended the CST Intelligence Academy. This two- day event certified CST leadership on daily intelligence briefs, allowing them to brief convoy commanders on the latest intelligence summaries and preparing them before departure.

I commend our BTB Soldiers located at Camp Buehring who have provided excellent training to over 82,000 Soldiers on Humvee Eggressive Assistant Training, ensuring Soldiers are properly trained before heading to Iraq.

Task Force Medics continue to support weekly convoy missions to Scania providing first class medical support. They are setting new standards in providing convoy personnel first-aid and medical support.

Our medics are essential assets performing their duties alongside sister battalions during ranges and other diverse training events. In addition, they have conducted five Combat Lifesaver Courses for the brigade, training 87 Soldiers and recertifying 47 on CLS.

Task Force Wrangler Medic is establishing a Wellness Study for our Soldiers wanting assistance in weight-loss, APFT improvement, and overall improved well being.

The 9th Finance Company continues to set new standards in finance operations throughout theater. Maj. Brian Smith, the 9th Financial Management Company Commander and his staff recently achieved a break through, which will result in the establishment of a bank branch on Camp Arifjan by the National Bank of Kuwait in October. We commend all their efforts as they prepare for their redeployment back to Fort Lewis, Wash., in December.

As the 2008 Iron Wrangler Fitness Competition approaches, our Soldiers have been training diligently on the challenging events of: push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, 2-mile run, and bar dips. I'm confident the Iron Wrangler streamer we carried into Kuwait will return on our guidon in June 2009.

I would like to close by saying thank you to our rear detachment for preparing and sending out late deploying Soldiers. You're doing an important job. A special "WolfPack" thanks to all our Family members who stand behind us with their thoughts and prayers during this deployment. We are counting on you too!

Wolfpack 6,

Lt. Col. Kevin J. Stevens

Submissions

The Wrangler wants to hear from you

Do you want to highlight someone or something going on in your unit or section? Have a photo that you like posted? Please send all submissions via email to Sgt. Myers at **angienne.l.myers@kuwait.swa.army.mil**. In the body of the email, please include the following: Full Name, Rank, Unit and Duty Position. Attach your submission as a Word Document and limit to 300 words. Submissions are subject to editing. For photo submissions, please include a caption describing the photo (Who, What, When, Where and Why).

BTB CSM's Words

Warriors and Family Members of the Wolfpack Battalion,

We have just completed our 6th month of the deployment and our Warriors continue to perform phenomenally. I just returned from a two-week long visit out west talking with the Convoy Support Teams in that area, commending them for their performance to date.

Every time I go out to see the Warriors I am amazed at how much they have matured and grown. The contributions they are making are lauded by the units they support and are making a huge difference to our combined success.

On my second tour of duty as a battalion command sergeant major, it isn't the only job I've had, but it's the only one I wanted. Leadership in the Wolfpack Battalion starts with values and vision…just like the U.S. Olympic Basketball and Swim Teams - it's a team sport. I can say with all certainty that I am glad to be here with these outstanding Warriors. They are truly second to none!

I cannot thank you, the Families, enough for the support and inspiration you provide to the Soldiers. Care packages and letters are abundant and always bring a smile to a Soldiers' faces. We've had several Soldiers from the battalion renew their enlistment contracts, understanding the importance of the mission they are doing and have committed themselves to see this mission through to the end.

They are true American heroes that enjoy their chosen profession and I am honored to serve with them. We have an extremely large mission due to the Army wanting to grow the force. It is on our shoulders as Senior Leaders for our respective units to be an example and promote the benefits of staying Army Strong!

We are seeing some units return to Fort Bliss, Eustis, Irwin, and Lewis - and sustaining combat operations during their movement and rotation is very complex. The operation is complex, but the Warriors in the Wolfpack Battalion execute the mission without difficulty. This is largely in part due to the overall positive impact our Warriors are having on mission accomplishment.

Congratulations to 9 "Impact" Players on their recent promotion and/or board selection:

HHC – Maj.(P) Gary Martin
HHC – Maj.(P) William McClary
HHC – Capt. Lindsay March
ACO – 1st Lt. Barton Gatrell
HHC – Staff Sgt. Brittney McCoy
9th FMC – Staff Sgt. Analyn Besana
9th FMC – Sgt. Andrea Ramsey
HHC – Cpl. Nathan McDowell
Brigade Soldier of the 3rd Qtr – Spc. Alex Choi (9th FMC)

I ask that you continue to keep the Soldiers & Families of the Wolfpack Battalion in your thoughts and prayers.

Wolfpack 7,

Command Sgt. Maj. C.W. Mitchell, Jr.

"Attitude Is Everything"

Supporting the War Fight and Executing the Distribution Mission

'Just Get it Done'

Words From The REAR D Commander

Couresy Article by: Maj. Alanna Cook
4th Sustainment Brigade Commander (Rear)

FORT HOOD, Texas – On Aug. 8 Lt. Col. Michaele McCulley departed for the Support Operations section at 13th Expeditionary Support Command and I joined the Wrangler Team from the operations section at 13 ESC.

Two children place toppings on their Ice Cream at the Ice Cream Social put on by the 4th Sustainment Brigade Rear-D Family Readiness Group. Courtesy Photo.

Since that time, I've been meeting with each of the battalions and sections and getting to know the people here who ensure the team forward can concentrate on the mission in front of them.

Many Soldiers are double and triple-hatted, it's truly impressive how they manage all that goes on here.

As a new member of the Wrangler Family, I want to say Thank You for the warm welcome and for all the hard work going on behind the scenes here at the Rear-D. To the Soldiers forward, I look forward to meeting you soon and reacquainting with some old friends. And to our Families, your continued support is so essential for our success.

We've been most fortunate to be able to welcome Karol Pinkerton as the new Brigade Family readiness support assistant. Karol only started here on Aug. 18, but already her energy and knowledge base is truly an asset. Karol brings with her a wealth of experience and is a recent spousal veteran of a 15-month deployment.

A group of children from the Families of the 4th Sustainment Brigade pose for the camera before they recieve treats at the Ice Cream Social at Fort Hood. Courtesy Photo.

The 4th Sustainment Brigade is very pleased to be sponsored by the Killeen Convention Center. We had our first, of what we anticipate to be many events to come on Sunday, Aug. 24 at the Convention Center.

More than 100 Soldiers and Family members enjoyed the terrific accommodations as they socialized over ice cream before the first day of school on the 25th. The ice cream was donated by Dryers, door prizes and food sponsor coordination was arranged by Ms. Betty Carey from the Commissary, the toppings by Nestle Corporation, and the paper products and sodas by the USO.

Thank you to all the sponsors who made this event a great hit and to the FRG who organized it. Our Families really had a wonderful time.

Amanda Rosner, along with her girls, pose for the camera. Couresty Photo.

We look forward to many more Soldier and Family events and are equally excited by our relationship with the Killeen Convention Center. Future events will be posted on the web page, distributed through e-mail and listed below in this column.

Here are some Rear-D upcoming events:

2 Oct. – Brigade Steering Committee Meeting at the Oveta Culp Center

9 Oct. – Brigade Town Hall Meeting at the Oveta Culp Center

17 Oct. – Motorcycle Safety/Awareness Ride at Belton Lake – for all 4th Sustainment Brigade (Rear) Soldiers and spouses.

PATROL BOATS GET EXTREME MAKEOVER

Article By Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen
311th Sustainment Command

Soldiers with the Harbor Master Detachment shoot at targets in the water during a waterborne marksmanship training event to familiarize Soldiers with water operations. Courtesy Photo.

CAMP PATRIOT, Kuwait -- It sounded easy enough. Seven Soldiers had seven months to rebuild 17 boats in a borrowed tent. The boats were going to be sent to Iraq, however had to be outfitted with gunner's platforms, repaired, and repainted; until they were up to the task of patrolling the waterways of Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Dennis T. Brown and his team from the 10th Logistics Task Force's Harbor Master Detachment went to work. With little experience on this type of mission, the self proclaimed "boaties" still managed to complete their work on time and on budget.

"We don't normally work on these outboard engines," said Brown. "Usually we work on the larger vessels."

First came the Fast Attack boats, relics from the Iraqi Navy.

"We went on a convoy to Iraq to pick up the boats," said Brown. Even though it's not common place to send boaties on land missions, an exception was made to ensure that the boats were properly tied down and secured for the long journey to Kuwait.

"The boats were in various states of disrepair," said Brown. They couldn't order new parts for the foreign-made vessels and instead relied on repairing and salvaging to make them sea worthy and combat ready.

Once completed, the newly refurbished fast attack boats were loaded on trucks for the journey back to Iraq.

Next, the boaties received 11commercial fishing boats from the United States. They had been sitting around in storage for years and were better suited for a weekend fishing trip than for patrols of the rivers crisscrossing Iraq. The crew attended to every aspect of the refurbishing including attaching weapon stands and protective plates to sanding and painting the vessels.

"We didn't have any painting equipment, so we had to paint them by hand," said Brown.

Before sending the boats to Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Glenn E. Wilson and Brown used them to train the infantry Soldiers who would be the primary operators up North.

"I taught them maintenance, service and repairs of the boats," said Brown, a watercraft engineer by trade

See MAKEOVER Page 7

A row of 13 fast attack boats sit parked dress-right-dress next to each other, after being repaired, repainted, and outfitted with gunner's platforms and readied for movement into Iraq. Courtesy Photo.

Chaplain's Corner

WELCOME

Psalms 63

2 - So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary, beholding thy power and glory.

3 - Because thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise thee.

4 - So I will bless thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on thy name.

5 - My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises thee with joyful lips,

6 - When I think of thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the watches of the night;

8 - My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me.

9 - But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth.

MAKEOVER Continued from Page 6

.

"None of them had any experience," said Wilson, who serves as a watercraft operator. "Most of them said they had never been on a boat before."

Wilson's basic boating operations class included embarkation, debarkation, towing, knot tying, boat seamanship, boarding procedures and drown proofing.

He also set up a waterborne marksmanship training range in the water near the base.

"We set out a row of barrels and we would ride by and shoot," said Wilson.

After the training was complete and the boats had been tested, it was time for the Harbor Master Detachment to send their completed projects off to be put to use by the U.S. Soldiers who had trained on them under Wilson's watchful eye.

Sgt. 1st Class Dennis T. Brown, a member of the Harbor Master Detachment, workes on a fast attack boat's motor during a complete make over of the boats. Coutresty Photo.

'Boaties' with the Harbor Master Detachment give a fast attack boat a coat of fresh paint. 13 FABs were given complete makeovers, becomming readied for service in Iraq. Coutesty Photo.

The six Iraqi fast attack boats were given back to the Iraqi's and replaced by the new converted commercial fishing boats.

When the boaties left in August, ending their 15-month deployment, they did so with the confidence that their efforts had truly made a difference. Their out-of-the ordinary mission means the Soldiers -- both American and Iraqi -- patrolling Iraq's rivers, can now do so with the proper equipment and training.

"They took a stab in the dark giving us this mission," said Brown. "And now we have changed the shape of the war effort in Iraq's waters."

A Word From The Ghost Riders

Article By 2nd Lt. Jamie Lemon
10th Transportation Company "Ghost Writer"

It has been another great month for the 10th Transportation Company and we are proud to announce we are now five and a half months into our deployment!

While the tempo has been slow over the past few weeks, the Ghost Riders have taken the opportunity to conduct training, have award and promotion ceremonies, and show off our new company t-shirts during morale runs around Camp Arifjan.

We were pleased to have Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Adkins, the senior enlisted advisor for Joint Logistics Task Force 28, join the company on our recent enlisted run and are looking forward to many more in the future.

August began with the JLTF 28 Soccer Tournament. The Ghost Riders defeated the Air Force 424th Medium Truck Detachment and JLTF 28 Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, but sadly lost to the Air Force 70th MTD in the final game of the tournament.

We reluctantly handed over the JLTF 28's Sportsman Cup, but we have high hopes of winning it back next month. See you on the track JLTF 28!

Mid-August was better yet, as the company awarded 37 Driver's Badges and six Mechanic's Badges to Soldiers for their excellent service and dedication to the mission.

Joint Logistics Task Force 28 awarded Spc. Wilson an Army Achievement Medal for his outstanding performance on the Army Physical Fitness Test. Spc. Wilson scored 322 points! Spc. Buckner and Spc. Jefferson were also awarded Army Achievement Medals for their selfless service and quick action while on mission.

Spc. Buckner and Spc. Jefferson employed their Combat Life Saver skills to extract a Third Country National driver from his rolled over truck. These Soldiers acted without hesitation and truly lived the Army Values.

We would like to welcome Sgt. Agnew to the Noncommissioned Officer Corps and congratulate him on his promotion. Staff Sgt. Howell was also promoted to Sergeant

1st Class. Way to go Ghost Riders, you make us proud!

We look forward to the upcoming weeks and months as the tempo picks up and we continue to train incoming units. We have grown immensely as a company so far and anxiously wait for what the future holds for the 10th Transportation Company.

We are thankful for the support we receive from other units and are especially grateful for the ongoing support of our Family back home.

Clean New Look Brought to Buehring Brief Tents

Article and Photos By Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Clemmer
Task Force Gateway

The long awaited arrival of new chairs have now arrived to the 101st R5 Platoon on Camp Buehring. The new chairs have brought a fresher and more professional look within the briefing tents.

The Soldiers arriving into country will no longer be sitting in weak, uncomfortable chairs or benches, but in more sturdy and reliable chairs.

The first installment of chairs arrived late July. The chairs bring a more professional relaxing feeling to the briefing tent and it gives the Soldiers a more comfortable feeling prior to the culmination of their training for Iraq.

Brand new chairs were recently installed at briefing tents on Camp Buehring, giving the tent a new professional look.

Combat Engineers Provide A Diverse Framework Of Combat Enablers

Article By 1st Lt. John T. Vagnier
1-126th CAV

On January 4, 2008 Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 37th IBCT was mobilized to Fort Hood, Texas to train for a directed mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Yet, the directed mission outlined in the mobilization order was significantly different than the company's core mission.

Additionally, A37 (EN) grew from an authorized strength of 75 Soldiers to an assigned strength of 130, incorporating Soldiers from four different companies across the Brigade.

We mobilized to Fort Hood, Texas to conduct training on base camp and security missions before deploying in early spring to Kuwait. While at Fort Hood, Soldiers from A Company STB were separated from our parent battalion under the command of Lt. Col. John Dernberger, and attached to the 1/126 Cavalry Regiment under the command of Lt. Col. Clark Barrett.

Training Soldiers on Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills is fairly straightforward. However, training Soldiers, teams, and sections to be highly proficient in MOS specific skills coupled with warrior tasks, was as complex and diverse as the organization and missions they were expected to perform.

To undertake the difficult task of developing specific theater and mission training plans that included mission-focused individual and collective training, leaders were first required to fully understand the mission of the unit and the available training resources.

The company leadership was charged with developing, resourcing, and executing a training plan that created experts in a broad range of specialties. The directed mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom required officers and NCOs within the company to be adaptable and multifunctional.

Fortunately, due to the increase in assigned strength, officers from multiple branches, and NCOs with a broad spectrum of MOSs filled the ranks of A37.

A mission specific training plan was developed which encompassed tasks such as personnel recovery, IEDs, weapons qualifications, and first-aid to ensure Soldiers were prepared to succeed in their assigned mission.

The goal, as in any command, was to produce Soldiers skilled in the Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, and instilled with the Warrior spirit.

Due to the diversity of the company, establishing teamwork and mission-focus was paramount to success. Whether you call it a vision, or the overarching mission of the company, the commander ensured that all Soldiers were prepared as combat enablers to enhance the 1-126 Cavalry Regiment's ability to successfully plan, prepare, and execute convoy security operations.

Ohio National Guard Soldiers with Company A, 126th CAV pose for a company picture in front of their headquarters buidling located on Camp Virginia. Courtesy Photo.

ROK ARMY GIVES WRANGLERS LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Article and Photo By: Spc. John D. Ortiz
4th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – A chaplain from the Republic of South Korea Army presented a letter of appreciation and a commander's coin to the 4th Sustainment Brigade on behalf of the ROK commanding general in Iraq.

Republic of South Korea Chaplain Lee Ho Sang, reads a letter of appreciation for the Wrangler Brigade for Wrangler Chaplain (Maj.) Yo Sup Lee's support of the ROK 58th Air Life Wing based at LSA, Kuwait.

Chap. Lee Ho Sang, with the Republic of South Korea Division presented Col. Terence Hermans, the Wrangler Brigade Commander, with a commander's coin and a letter of appreciation signed by Division Maj. Gen. Seon Woo Park.

The items were given as a token of appreciation for Wrangler Chap. (Maj.) Yo Sup Lee providing religious support to ROK Soldiers in Kuwait.

Due to the location of the main South Korean contingent in Iraq, the Koreans, members of the 58th Air Life Wing based at LSA, Kuwait, did not have internal religious support available due to the distance between the two locations.

"Due to the extreme locations of South Korean forces, and I being only one Chaplain, [I] am grateful to the 4th Sustainment Brigade in providing support to my Soldiers and for allowing Chaplain Lee to visit them and pray with them," said Sang.

South Korean Chap. Sang, asked Chap. Lee, to provide religious services and bible study for the 100-plus contingent of South Koreans in Kuwait.

Chap. Lee obliged and along with Chaplain Assistant Staff Sgt. Gregory Coots, every Monday, for the past three months has made the hour and half drive together to LSA to provide religious support, conduct prayer and worship, Bible study, and religious services for the South Koreans.

"This is a wonderful example of coalition forces working together to help Soldiers; from whatever country they are from," said Col. Hermans, "I am proud to have a Chaplain that not only takes care of Wrangler Soldiers, but also goes beyond his duty to help Soldiers from other countries in providing them with religious support."

MY WORST EXPERIENCE, MY BEST EXPERIENCE
A SOLDIER'S PERSPECTIVE IN WAR

Article By Spc. Stephen L. Nylen
A/1-126th CAV

On June 28, 2008, I was a member of a mission to provide security for a convoy going north into Iraq. After two days on the road, I arrived at Forward Operating Base Scania where I befriended an outstanding medic who was the fourth seat on my Armored Scout Vehicle.

Spc. Aubrey 'Doc' Cole was assigned as our combat medic on this trip. Once at Scania, we found out we would be laid-over due to dust storms. It was during this lay-over that my story unfolds.

Cole earlier had surveyed the local burn clinic called the Thunderbolt Burn Clinic, and was telling me about the people who worked there and their patients. I was intrigued and asked if I could go with him the next time he went.

We woke up at 7:00 a.m.and stayed at the clinic until about 3:30 p.m. The clinic treats only civilian burn victims. All the material and medications used at the clinic are donated; and most of the Soldiers who work at the clinic are volunteers, with the exception of the few Soldiers who are assigned to the location for the duration of their deployment.

Throughout the day, I received instruction on advanced first-aid burn care and later physically assisted five different patients aging from five months to 45 years old; males and females alike.

What transpired over the next 48 hours will be etched in my mind. I scrubbed flesh off bodies, peeled skin from charred faces, bandaged bleeding wounds, performed medical assistance procedures, provided comfort, and many other things that involved caring for these unfortunate civilians. Most of the patients had burns covering over 50 percent of their bodies.

In many cases you couldn't even find a spot for an IV needle due to the extent of the burns. Initially, when you receive a patient, all you can do is stand there and look at them dazed. It is a very humbling experience.

Spc. Stephen L. Nylen, member of 126 CAV. Courtesy Photo.

For lack of a better description, I would say it's like looking at the messiest room in the house that you're getting ready to clean. You just stand there and look at it, asking yourself, 'Where do I start?'

You are hesitant at that moment; there is so much to do. Where do I begin, do I want to do this feet to face or face to feet? Front to back or back to front?

First, it seemed to be an impossible task, but with a little guidance from someone who had been there before, it suddenly just clicks.

One of the largest challenges was relating to patients. The language barrier

Cpl. Joey Barzeski, attempts to dress a burn while the father of the young patient tries to hold him still. Courtesy Photo.

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Truely Masters and 'Knights of the Road'

Article Courtesy of
129th Transporation Company

The 129th Transportation Company spent only a couple of months together prior to deployment. The unit completed pre-mobilization training at Fort Riley, Kan., and Camp Atterbury, Ind. We battled through the bad times, enjoyed the good times, and really came together as a unit.

There are a couple of factors that make this reserve unit worth their weight in gold. Do not let the cactus patch fool you, we are not from Arizona.

We all come from different paths of lives. We are correction officers, contractors, students, mail clerks, teachers, mechanics, IT gurus, truck drivers, but above all we are parents, sons, daughters, bothers, and sisters. With so many Soldiers coming from different backgrounds it makes it easy for to accomplish big things as a whole. We are unusually self-reliant and savvy at getting things done due to our expertise in many different areas.

Thinking outside the box, at problem solving, is what we do best. We look at problems as an opportunity to excel. With an abundant of experience in numerous areas, there is always a solution to any problems that arise. We can honestly say "we make it happen." Regardless of our civilian occupations, make no mistake, we are masters of Combat Logistic Patrols. We are "Knights of The Road!"

Perspective Continued from Page 11

was an enormous obstacle. The patients, who speak little, if any English, coupled with the fact they are scared to death, makes this whole process very difficult.

You want to reassure, but how? You want to comfort or console, but how? As Soldiers, we learn to quickly adapt to situations. I learned enough key words in Arabic to get me through the day. Words like, stop, gentle, good, bad, it hurts, all in broken Arabic, but enough I could communicate with patients.

I realized the easiest form of communication was a smile and the simple act of caring. I related with people in a way I never thought I could.

I had a young boy whom I vigorously worked with for three hours actually try and dance for me, even though 90 percent of his body was burned, he was still able to move his hips and attempted to smile for me as I performed burn care on his body.

He was trying to dance to the loud music being played in the connex next to us; I think it was just his way of coping with the situation. The loud music wasn't just for the patient either; it was for us too, the Soldiers helping.

The loud music was an attempt to block out the screams you tried to ignore as you pulled or scrubbed skin from bodies.

The smell, the screams, they stay with you, repeating over and over in your mind. However, the feeling inside knowing that I helped and hopefully saved someone's life will stay with me for the rest of my life.

This positive alone, far outweighs the negative experiences I allowed myself to take in that day. No matter how ugly that day was, there was beauty to be found in the care given by so many.

People lived and people died during those days and I soon learned that sometimes no matter how bad you want to keep something from happening, there is little you can do to stop it, but that is no reason not to try.

You just have to give them the best smile they've ever seen in their life; knowing that even though there is a war going on in their backyard nothing can stop Soldiers from being Soldiers.

Soldiers help a burn victim by providing advance burn first-aid at the Thunderbolt Burn Clinic located on FOB Scania. Courtesy Photo.

Whether we get credit for it or not, it's who we were born to be. It is our duty as Soldiers to help the people of Iraq and I am proud that for one day, I could do my part.

1-148 Infantry Regiment adds to lineage honors

Article By Pfc. Kimberly Johnson
USARCENT PAO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Soldiers of the 1-148 Infantry Regiment were officially awarded Combat Infantry Badges for the first time since World War II and Combat Action Badges for the first time in the brigade's past.

An officer pins the Combat Infantryman's Badge to a member of 148 Infantry during the award ceremony. Courtesy Photo.

As part of the history making 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 1-148 continues to add to the pride and decorated honor of the Ohio National Guards largest combat arms unit.

"There were many CIBs awarded to the 37th back in WWII," 37th IBCT Commander, Col. Richard T. Curry said. "Eight medals of honor, by the way, seven belonged to the 1-148. I want you all to know, that everything you are doing to accomplish the mission, reflect on you as an individual and the 37th."

The Soldiers are committed to conducting convoy security during long haul missions deep into Iraq territory. The men are trained to protect the lives of all who are under their watch.

"Convoys are the meat and potatoes of this mission," Capt. Michael Wood, D Co., 1-148 Infantry Reg. commander, who was also pinned a CIB, said to his formation. "Never forget that we are the infantry, in the IBCT, you are the guardians of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, you are what make the 37th IBCT great."

Throughout the history of the brigade wearing the same buckeye patch, thousands of men have fought since WW I and into today, currently supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Federally activated in 1917, the Buckeye Division was sent to WWI to fight in two different campaigns.

In WWII, the Buckeye Division fought in the bloodiest conflict of the history of Ohio National Guard, losing over 5,000 men. The Soldiers withstood eight major Japanese attacks under the command of Maj. Gen. Robert Beigthler, the only general to command the same division during all of WW II. It was during WW II that the Medals of Honor Col. Curry spoke of were awarded.

Postwar, the division went through many reorganization processes through the years until Sept. 1, 2007 when it was reassigned as the 37th IBCT. With the redefinition of the brigade came the return of the shoulder sleeve insignia of the WW II era, 37th Infantry Division.

As the senior enlisted advisor to D Co., 1-148 Infantry, 1st Sgt. Jonathon Cepek, reminded the Soldiers of the history they are now a part of.

"You men and your actions are a part of this decorated battalion and to that historic Buckeye patch's history," Cepek said. "It's a good day to be a first sergeant."

Col. Curry spoke directly about the honor the Buckeye patch holds.

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The Combat Action Badge sits atop the U.S. Army nametape of a Soldier after the award ceremony. Courtesy Photo.

Lineage Continued from Page 13

"You who receive the CIB are the first Soldiers to receive and wear this patch since WW II," Col. Curry said to the men. "That is a significant and great honor."

"That's what today is all about," he expressed. "Being a part of the 37th, doing it right all the time, disciplined and vigilant all the way through."

Staff Sgt. David Malolepszy and Sgt. Gerald Pruitt were the first Soldiers to earn their CIBs in the battalion under the buckeye patch, since WW II, for an improvised explosive device detonation April 20.

Malolepszy is one of my original infantrymen of the battalion, said Cepek. Pruitt is a cross level volunteer who joined our company just prior to deployment, he said.

"As a first sergeant, I am proud to watch these Soldiers I have trained an entire year go through a transformation," Cepek said. "They trained hard, engaged the enemy and are here to talk about it. Along with a commander who leads from the front, we did something right."

There is no question of the hard work and dedication the infantry Soldiers have to their family, their unit and their country.

"We are Ohio National Guardsmen," Cepek added. "In WW II, under the Buckeye patch, the division stayed together. For us to be out there as Ohio infantrymen, wearing the same patch under the 37th IBCT is an absolute honor."

UPDATE TO CONTRABAND IN THE MAIL

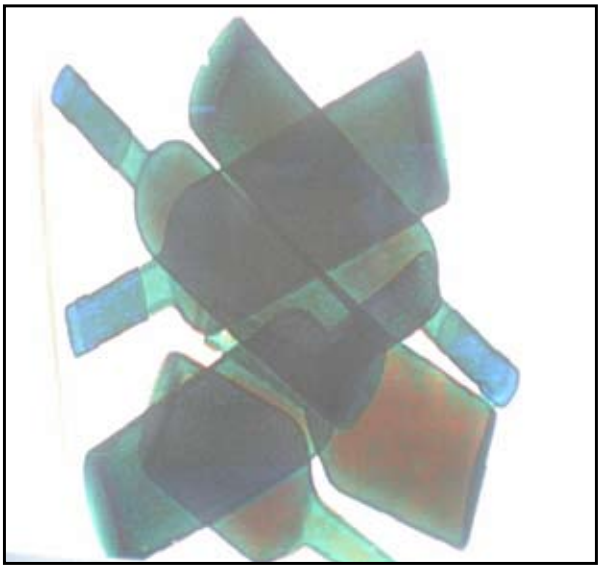
The X-raying of mail came from a DA integrated assessment as a force protection measure to protect servicemembers and Kuwait military camps.

As a consequence of the mandate, the Area Support Group – Kuwait Commander requires all incoming packages into theater are scanned for force protection and General Order 1B violations to ensure compliance with host nation rules and sensitivities.

Scanning for force protection and contraband is done at the Joint Military Mail Terminal any suspicious mail is marked based on a force protection assessment and delivered to the appropriate APO address.

The recepient is then called, along with the Chain-of-Command, and given the option to accept or reject the parcel. If accepted the package is opened in front of a certified postal inspector.

Force Protection and the Provost Marshal's Office X-ray all packages, independent of any commercial postal agencies.



A picture of an x-ray of six bottles in a parcel that was sent to a service member.

To avoid any possible problems, the customs declaration form must be correctly filled in detailing all items containted in the package.

100 percent of all packages sent to Kuwait military camps and all outgoing mail are scanned for violations.

Discomfort, So Others May Live

Article by Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth W. Hart
E. Company, 1-148th INF

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- When Soldiers raise their hands and begin to speak the oath-of-service, one of the first things they are taught are the Army Values, consisting of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

These are expected from all service members 24/7, whether in uniform or out. However, every now and then, a Soldier may show how much these values affect their lives; in the extreme.

Case in point is Sgt. Adam J. Waisanen from McComb, Ohio. Sgt. Waisanen has four years prior service in the Marine Corps, during which, he served a fourteen-month tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After an honorable discharge from the Marines, Sgt. Waisanen joined the Ohio Army National Guard serving a second combat tour in support of OIF.

In the short time he has been here, he has made three convoy escort missions across the entire length of Iraq. That might not seem so unusual if Sgt. Waisanen was in an Infantry unit, but Sgt. Waisanen is a mechanic with E Company 237th Support Battalion, supporting the 1-148th Infantry Battalion.

When they asked for volunteers from his company to help fill the ranks needed for gun trucks Sgt. Waisanen stepped forward, which meant double duty and long hours, but he could not ignore the call to duty requested of him.

Sgt. Waisanen demonstrated his commitment to service, to a point where it would seem there would be time for little else. Once again Sgt. Waisanen proved his ability to live the Army Values to the extreme.

Sgt. Adam J. Waisanen, a native of McComb, Ohio, tightens a bolt underneath a M1151 in the motorpool. Courtesy Photo.

During his out processing with the Marine Corps, Sgt. Waisanen was approached by the medical branch to be tested as a possible donor for a bone marrow transplant. Sgt. Waisanen did not hesitate and responded by giving a DNA sample just before his separation from the Marines.

Almost two years later, just prior to deployment with his unit to Kuwait, Sgt. Waisanen received word he was a match for someone in need. He was scheduled for the procedure, even though it would be a little over five months into his mobilization.

When the time came, he was given medical leave to travel to Washington D.C. where he was checked into the medical clinic. His wife, who is expecting their first child, was flown to be by his side.

For those who have never had the pleasure of being a bone marrow donor, here are a few facts about the procedure.

A donor receives a series of shots for the first four days of Filgrastim, a medication that draws stem cells out of your bone marrow into your blood stream. On the fifth day, medical personnel insert an IV in your arm, which is attached to a tube leading through a filtering system into another IV inserted into your other arm.

They then begin to process every drop of blood in your body, as it is drawn from your arm, through the filter, being returned to your other arm, a process that can take up to four hours.

The after effects include aching bones, a feeling of being unbelievably tired and extremely weak; and a loss of appetite for up to a week.

Nevertheless, Sgt. Waisanen was back at his duty station within five days after the procedure.

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Others Continued from Page 15

To top it all off, he never saw or met the individual he was going through the procedure for, nor will he ever be allowed to, a standard procedure for all donors.

The one thing that has to be asked is why? It's not like this young Soldier has not already proven his commitment to his country. Why give up time away from the primary mission, endure a great deal of discomfort for someone he does not know, has not met, nor will ever be allowed to meet.

When the question was put to him, the young sergeant just looked at his hands and replied, "Just to save a life. It may have been a discomfort to me, but it was a matter of life or death to someone. In the end I am sure we both came out ahead."

Sgt. Waisanen is not the only one to volunteer to be a bone marrow transplant donor. During the last donor drive here many came forward to add their names to the list.

It is final proof that Sgt. Waisanen and many other soldiers like him have not only truly learned the meaning of selfless-service, but live it on a daily basis.

As long as we have Soldiers like Sgt. Waisnen, and many others like him, our military will always remain the best.

Not just because of the equipment or training given to them, but because of the character and morals the new generation brings with them.

This is the true meaning behind our motto, "There is strong, and then there is Army Strong."

The DOERS Hit The Ground Running And Rollin

Article by Maj. Jonathan Cameron
6th Transportation Battalion XO

A line of M1151s roll along a road at the Udari Range complex after gunnery qualification, part of the training units go through after arriving in theater. Courtesy Photo.

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The 6th Transportation Battalion, from Fort Eustis, Va., arrived in Kuwait on Aug. 7, and in true 'Doers' fashion, hit the ground running.

Hours after stepping off the plane, the members of the battalion drew the gear and protective equipment required to conduct their mission as the headquarters for four companies conducting heavy equipment transport operations to all major bases in Iraq, along with two vessel detachments, support local shipping missions.

Within 24 hours of in-processing into theater, the 'Doers' began training at the Udari Range Complex in Kuwait.

The focus of the training consisted of convoy operations, counter–IED training, and Close Quarters Marksmanship.

The 'Doers' had to quickly adjust to the 120 degree heat of the Kuwaiti desert, a big change from Virginia's temperate climate.

With an ample supply of water and Gatorade, MREs and hot evening chow provided by Logistics Task Force 10, they adjusted quickly.

All members of the battalion took part in the training, to include the firing range and convoy lanes.

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DOERS Continued from Page 16

In fact, the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Powers and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Melton, the battalion command sergeant major found themselves operating as gun truck drivers during the convoy lanes designed to teach newly arrived Soldiers how to deal with many situations they might face on the roads of Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Mark Hood, the battalion's supply Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge, was selected to be the convoy commander for the training event.

At the conclusion of the training event, he stated, "Although [Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment] was exhausted from their travel to Kuwait and initial processing, spirits remained high."

"It was a collective effort from the entire team that made the convoy training a success, which shows the strength of the 'Doers' no matter the conditions," he said.

Members of the 6th Transpotation Battalion from Fort Eustis, Va., pose for a photo after weapons familiarization at the Udari Range Complex. Courtesy Photo.

"This is just another example of how the 'Doers' team overcame all odds and completed the convoy training in the top 20 percent of all units that rotate through with no simulated casualties," he said.

"I consider it a privilege to be part of such a great organization," said Hood, "I look forward to the rest of the year with best leaders I have ever known."

SUDOKU

The rule are simple. All you have to do is fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the number 1 through 9. **Remember**, each puzzle has only one solution.

Puzzle: Beginner
Solution on Page 21

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

Birthday "Shout Outs"

4th Sus Bde

MAJ Smith, Brian	1 Sept	SPC McNabb, Darrie	7 Sept	SFC Ludlam, Jason	11 Sept
SFC Smith, Phillip	1 Sept	SGT Ahrens, Alisha	8 Sept	SPC Gunter, Adam	12 Sept
2LT Feehan, Stephen	3 Sept	SSG Berry, Don	8 Sept	SFC Tyler, Fredrick	12 Sept
SGT Aitcheson, Stephen	4 Sept	MSG Lewis, Robert	8 Sept	PV2 Burney, Donte	14 Sept
SPC Valdeamendez, James	6 Sept	SGT Collins, Gerrolyn	10 Sept	SPC Shorter, Kevin	14 Sept
SGT Cho, Joon Ho	6 Sept	SFC Lazaro, Daniel	10 Sept	SGT Trevino, Richard	14 Sept
SSG Maldonado, Isaac	6 Sept	SGT Hill, Dallas	11 Sept		

1-126th CAV

SPC Lopez, Jose	1 Sept	SPC Stander, Joshua	6 Sept	PFC Neuenschwander, Robert	9 Sept
SPC Barhorst, Daniel	2 Sept	SGT Smith, Jason	6 Sept	PFC Pierce, Kyle	10 Sept
PV2 Blow, Joshua	3 Sept	PFC McFadden, Mathew	7 Sept	SGT Vanvoorhis, James	10 Sept
PV2 Johnson, Patrick	3 Sept	SPC Henline, Joshua	7 Sept	PFC Pyles, Gregory	11 Sept
SSG Copeland, Mark	3 Sept	SPC Raymond, Randy	7 Sept	SPC Lollar, Neil	12 Sept
PFC Thomas, Jason	4 Sept	1LT Anderson, Nicholas	7 Sept	PFC Scanlan, Kiley	14 Sept
SPC Schwab, Daniel	4 Sept	PV2 Ochocadeltoro, Juan	8 Sept	SPC Anderson, Chad	14 Sept
SPC Sanford, Andrew	5 Sept	SPC Parzych, Casey	8 Sept	SPC Busick, Paul	14 Sept
SGT Kent, Jayson	5 Sept	CSM White, Michael	8 Sept	SGT Buck, David	15 Sept
SPC Daniel, Laura	6 Sept	PFC Gazzeny, Darryl	9 Sept	SGT Becktel, Matthew	15 Sept

1-148th IN

SGT Harris, Chad	1 Sept	SSG Stockdale, John	6 Sept	SPC Elek, Brett	9 Sept
PV2 Artis, William	2 Sept	SPC Endberry, Seth	7 Sept	SPC Hensley, Christopher	10 Sept
PVT Purdy, Charles	3 Sept	PV2 Cramer, Justin	8 Sept	PFC Rivers, Antawon	11 Sept
PFC Lucas, Jeffrey	4 Sept	PFC Harris, Kevin	8 Sept	SSG Botchis, Arthur	13 Sept
SSG Boyles, David	5 Sept	PFC Nance, Patrick	8 Sept	SPC Stewart, Travis	14 Sept
SGT Sanders, Steven	6 Sept	SGT Brown, Robert	8 Sept		

TF Gateway

SGT Marquez Corona, Guillermo	2 Sept	SSG Whitaker, Spencer	6 Sept	SGT Kafadarov, Petko	13 Sept
SSG Small, Leon	2 Sept	PFC Dean, David	8 Sept	SGT Williams, Adam	13 Sept
A1C Shelton, Kenneth	3 Sept	SPC Worley, Corey	8 Sept	PFC Lomeli, Julio	14 Sept
PFC Anderson, Edward	5 Sept	SPC Reynolds, Alan	8 Sept	SPC Zepeda, Joshua	14 Sept
SPC Magee, Lemeka	6 Sept	SPC Clarke, Jessica	11 Sept	2LT Jackson, Sequincellia	14 Sept
SPC Deemer, Ryan	6 Sept	SGT Buford, Kia	12 Sept	PFC Draper, Sandi	15 Sept
SPC Medrano Salamanca, Delia	6 Sept	SPC Lewis, Antown	13 Sept		

6th Trans

PV2 Keller, William	1 Sept
PFC Green, Mark	1 Sept
PFC Barton, Jeremy	1 Sept
SPC Vang, Yong	1 Sept
SGT Rogers, Anthony	1 Sept
SGT Magrata, Leeallan	1 Sept
SGT Perez, Lorenzo	1 Sept
SPC Ortega Perez, Magdalena	2 Sept
PFC Bianchi, Edward	3 Sept
SPC Manuel, Ricardo	3 Sept
SGT McFadden, Joseph	3 Sept
SSG Morris, William	3 Sept
PFC Escoto, Ronnie	4 Sept
SPC Hathaway, Tepsiri	4 Sept
SPC Harding, Zachary	4 Sept
SGT Smith, Jeremiah	4 Sept
SGT Legg, Delbert	4 Sept
SSG Buchanan, Robert	4 Sept
SPC Stevens, Meloni	5 Sept
SGT Brown, Antoine	5 Sept
CW3 Pettigrew, Kali	5 Sept
PFC Williams, Eldrin	6 Sept
SPC McLaughlin, Matthew	6 Sept
SGT Gant, Donald	6 Sept
SSG Masten, Albert	6 Sept
SPC McFadden, Gayla	7 Sept
SGT Moleon, William	7 Sept
PFC Gunn, Joshua	8 Sept
SPC Bram, ANdrew	8 Sept
SPC Haywood, Jazzmine	8 Sept
SPC Shanks, Troy	8 Sept
SSG Darosa, Joao	8 Sept
PV2 Montano, Carlos	9 Sept
PFC Burkert, Austin	9 Sept
PFC Hennnessy, Matthew	9 Sept
SPC Bertels, Loren	9 Sept
SSG Petersen, Jonathan	9 Sept
SSG Thompson, Lawrence	9 Sept
1LT Nolen, Christopher	9 Sept
SFC Davis, Thomas	10 Sept
SGT Martin, Christine	11 Sept
PFC Gills, Clinton	12 Sept
SSG Cox, Shannon	12 Sept
PFC Herron, Dustin	13 Sept
SPC Baker, Robert	13 Sept
SPC Kudlicki, Thomas	13 Sept
SSG Perkins, Bernell	13 Sept
SPC Pittman, Jason	14 Sept
SPC Abell, Christopher	14 Sept
SSG Evidson, Jill	14 Sept
PFC Drummond, Derek	15 Sept
PFC Moore, John	15 Sept
PFC Washington, Willie	15 Sept
SPC Green, Jason	15 Sept
SGT Jones, Roderick	15 Sept
SGT Cantrell, Vance	15 Sept
SFC Currie, Alan	15 Sept
1LT Birch, Paula	15 Sept

JLTF 28

SPC Carter, Andrew	1 Sept
SPC Martinez, Alfred	1 Sept
SSG Medina, Dennis	1 Sept
1LT Horsfall, Andrew	2 Sept
PV2 Riverscardoza, Noe	3 Sept
SGT Hand, Eric	3 Sept
SGT Moore, Rickie	3 Sept
1LT Grimes, Scot	3 Sept
SGT Scott, Daniel	4 Sept
SSG May, Jason	4 Sept
SSG Walker, Larry	4 Sept
SSG Wilfong, Michael	5 Sept
SSG Allen, Johnny	5 Sept
PV2 Buckert, Jonah	6 Sept
SPC Hurley, Matthew	6 Sept
PV2 Rieckmann, Dennis	7 Sept
PFC Perrine, Seth	7 Sept
SPC Touchet, Michael	7 Sept
SSG Jackson, Robert	7 Sept
SSG Harper, Justin	7 Sept
PFC Rivera, Jesus	8 Sept
SRA Rios, Craig	8 Sept
PFC Palmer, Steven	9 Sept
TSG Abistado, Allan	9 Sept
PFC Jackson, Lee	10 Sept
A1C Decker, John	11 Sept
SRA Meas, Monyrith	11 Sept
MSG Wilson, Derric	11 Sept
SSG Mancha, Mark	12 Sept
CMS Malenic, Matthew	12 Sept
PFC Roberson, Tony	13 Sept
PFC Edgar, Geoffrey	13 Sept
SGT Patterson, Allen	13 Sept
SSG Noble, Daniel	14 Sept
SSG Williams, Aubrey	15 Sept
SSG Thompson, Bernard	15 Sept

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