

# The WRANGLER

Volume II Issue 7

Serving the 4th Sustainment Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10

January 1, 2009

## SOLDIER MARINERS SAIL THROUGH KUWAIT WATERS

Article and Photos by Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Barnes  
1099th Transportation Detachment

On the 24th of August, 2008, the new crew of the Lt. Gen. William B. Bunker (LSV-4) were saying their final goodbyes to friends and Family members at the 24th Transportation Battalion parking lot where a charter bus sat waiting to take them on the first leg of their long journey.

The atmosphere was full of mixed emotions as the Soldiers tried to put aside their sadness from leaving home and look forward to the road that lay ahead. They had been assembled from all over the 7th Sustainment Brigade in May and spent all summer training hard in preparation for the deployment.

In June, they traveled to Fort Drum, N.Y., for two weeks of training designed to prepare them for the rigors of life in the Middle East. Overall, the crew was ready and anxious to get started.

After a lengthy bus ride to Maryland, the crew flew to Kuwait and spent the next few days in-processing, attending theater specific training and qualifying on all their assigned weapons one last time before moving to Camp Patriot, located on the shore of the Persian Gulf.

The first week flew by as the crew worked long hours to inventory everything on the ship and prepare to properly relieve the crew that was currently in place. After two full weeks of traveling, training, and conducting inventories the crew finally moved into their quarters on the LSV-4.

There was a lot of work to be done and it had to be completed at a double time. As soon as Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kimball signed for the ship he was tasked to lead his crew of Army Sailors on one of the longest missions that is



The crew of the Lt. Gen. William B. Bunker (LSV-4) docked at the port of Camp Patriot prepared to embark on its longest mission executed in theater, sailing through the Persian Gulf, carrying millions of dollars in wheeled tactical vehicles, generators, excavators, dump-trucks, bull-dozers and palletized cargo to the port of Oman.

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## The WRANGLER

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Col. Terence Hermans

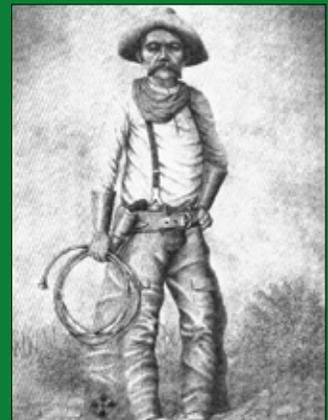
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# 6th Trans Commander's & CSM's Words



I would like to wish all of the Wrangler Brigade a Happy New Year from the DOERS battalion! At times like this, it is appropriate to look back at what we have accomplished, and look forward to what we will do in the year ahead. I am proud of the hard work and dedication of every member of the DOERS battalion. You have provided transportation support to Operation Iraqi Freedom both over land and over sea. You are always ready to complete the mission despite challenges and obstacles. You are truly the spearhead of logistics. This is a team effort where each member contributes to our success, and in turn the success of the warfighter. In the year ahead, we will continue to provide heavy lift support. We will adapt as the theater changes, and together we will overcome obstacles as they arise. I ask you to keep safety in mind as we do this. Every Soldier is a critical asset, and we cannot afford to lose anyone to accidents. I also ask you to keep your warrior skills sharp and remain focused on the mission. Again, I thank you for your sacrifices, dedication, and willingness to put the mission first. I am proud and honored to be your Battalion Commander. DOERS!

Happy New-Year from the "DOERS" Battalion. The beginning of this New Year means that another year has come and gone. 2008 was a busy year for all of the Soldiers of the 6th Bn. Every unit assigned to the battalion was notified and deployed to Kuwait to support the Global War on Terrorism during 2008, and all have met the challenges of this deployment head on. I am very proud of all of the Soldiers in this great battalion and thankful for all of their and their Families' sacrifices

Now for to business at hand with the New Year. The units of the battalion will find themselves busy with all of the missions that will come because of the new treaty between the Iraqi Government and the US Government. The treaty requires that all Soldiers be out of the cities of Iraq no later than 1 June 2009. That means their equipment will need to be moved, and the moving of equipment is what we do best. Remember the old saying "nothing happens till something moves."



Also with the New Year means new units coming in and old ones going out. The newest unit to join the fight is the 1133<sup>rd</sup> Trans Co out of Iowa. To the Soldiers of the 1133<sup>rd</sup>, I say welcome and get ready to start running. The 1133<sup>rd</sup> will be replacing the 257<sup>th</sup> Trans Co out of Kansas, who will be heading back to their families. To the Soldiers of the 257<sup>th</sup>, I want to say, thank you for your service and job well done. Good luck and God speed.

"YOU GET WHAT YOU EARN"

## Wrangler Command Team Message



For the past 10 months, the 4th Sustainment Brigade has evolved, improved, and provided outstanding support to our number one customer: the War Fighter. The Wrangler Brigade is truly a team, and together we have overcome obstacles, tackled problems head-on, and broken through barriers. It is through dedication and hard work this is possible. It is because of you: the Soldiers in the motor pool working at 3 a.m. to ensure vehicles are ready for tomorrow's mission, the Airmen in the driver's seat delivering critical cargo to bases throughout Iraq, and NCOs setting and keeping the standards high. It is your accomplishments that truly make this brigade successful. Thank you for your hard and continuous efforts. We are grateful everyday that we lead, coach and mentor such great men and women.



4th Sustainment Brigade  
Commander  
Col. Terence Hermans

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

Happy New Year WRANGLERS!

SAIL Continued from Front Page



Among the cargo of the Lt. Gen. William B. Bunker (LSV-4) were about 31 MRAPS, which were sailed safely through potentially dangerous waters to its final destination at the port of Oman.

executed in theater. They had one week to load the ship with spare parts, rations, and enough water to last a month.

Although extremely busy, some of the crew made time to get up very early on the morning of September 11th and pay their respects to our American heroes by participating in the 9/11 5K Run. The sun was up and the temperature was well over 100 degrees by 6 a.m. when the race started but the Soldiers who ran were dedicated and fit to race.

In mid-September, spirits were high and the entire crew was excited to cast off lines and get underway on their first big mission. The very first trip away from the pier and home port was going to last at least 25 days.

The mission required them to sail over 1,200 nautical miles one way. Some of the stops along the way included Shuiabah, Qatar, and Bahrain for re-supply.

A major highlight of the mission was

loading the deck with a full load of 31 MRAPS and additional palletized cargo. Once the ship was topped off with fuel and rations they set sail for Salalah, a little port 1,000 nautical miles away on the South-western coastline of Oman.

To get there they sailed East through the Persian Gulf and through the highly publicized and potentially dangerous Straits of Hormuz. Every precaution was taken to ensure the ship could defend herself if necessary, but fortunately they were able to pass through without incident.

In the days that passed by between Bahrain and Oman the crew did many drills to hone their skills. It has been said that the number one thing to fear on a ship is a fire, and the second would be hostile enemy action.

So they reacted to fire alarms at all times of day and night, each time donning their full fire-fighting ensembles and hooking up fire hoses and nozzles for each different scenario. The engineers rushed to put portable salvage pumps into operation and supply water to the fire-hoses.

One drill in particular really required them to think on their feet by manning Battle Stations to simulate defending the vessel while still fighting a fire elsewhere on the ship. The crew reacted immediately and had all the crew-served weapons in operation in a matter of minutes.

To top it all off, the alarm then sounded that all was lost and it was time to abandon ship. There were Soldiers in fire-fighting suits and some in Body

Armor and Kevlar but everyone was accounted for at the life-rafts very quickly with all required items.

There really wasn't much to see at the port in Oman, and the ship was only there long enough for cargo operations. Then they got underway to make the long trip back to home port at Camp Patriot. The sail back was generally uneventful and then on a Saturday they finally pulled into the pier after 25 days underway.

Any Army Mariner will tell you that being underway is the best way to be. "Haze Grey and Underway" is a favorite phrase in the boat field. However, those days underway are hard on the Family members left at home.

Twenty-five days underway means twenty-five days without access to a phone or internet. There is only limited e-mail capability underway, so as much as anyone loves to be sailing onboard an Army ship, the crew was very excited to be back in Kuwait for a little while and call home.

They washed down the ship, took out the trash, cleaned weapons, picked up parts and rations and did everything else that needed to be done to get the ship ready to go back out on a moments notice. Finally, after all was complete, the crew received some much needed and well-deserved rest.

For many of the Soldiers onboard the Lt. Gen. William B. Bunker, this is a first major deployment. For a lot of the crew, the twenty-five days they just sailed was the longest mission they had ever been on.

They sailed over 2,500 nautical miles and safely delivered millions of dollars of wheeled tactical vehicles, generators, excavators, dump-trucks, bull-dozers and palletized cargo. On this mission, the crew of the LSV-4 proved that they are trained and ready for any mission that comes their way.

# Care Team Training

Article Courtesy of  
Sandra Frey

On November 20, 2008, I participated in the 4th Sustainment Brigade's Casualty Notification and Casualty Response Team, known as the Care Team Training, which was held at the Killen Convention Center.

The Soldiers and Family members were segregated at first by a wall divider. The Soldiers, on one side of the wall, trained on the onerous task of transporting a casualty and notifying the Family of the death of their Soldier. While on the other side of the wall the Care team also began its training.

I sat amongst other Family members at one of the four circular tables squeezed into the room. A white binder with the 4th Sustainment Brigade's Wrangler's motto 'Just Get It Done' sat in front of each Family member on the table.

I breathed deeply as I thought to myself 'God, please just keep them safe,' while thinking of all the Soldiers fighting to keep our country free.

I couldn't help but think of my Soldier at that moment, but I pushed him out of my mind; I didn't want to cry.

Corinne Hermans, the Brigade Commander's spouse and the Senior Advisor for the Family Readiness Group, who took on the mission to create the Wrangler standard for caring for the Family members of a deceased Soldier, stood at the front of the room.

A panel consisting of the 13th SC(E) Chaplain and four volunteers, who have sadly had many Care team experiences, were available to answer questions and give reassurances.

We opened our books as Corinne

began to speak. She began to explain each of the tabbed sections of the book.

As we sat in the blue plastic chairs hanging on every word Corinne spoke and forming questions that some were brave enough to ask the panel, we discovered that if there is a death in the 4th SB, a sequence of events are followed.

After official notification has been made, and only if the Care team has been requested by the Family, the Go Team, consisting of the Rear Detachment Commander and Senior Advisor of the Soldier's unit, visits the Family.

The Family and the Go Team assess the Family's needs and ensure the Family maintains control over what they can reasonably do for themselves.

The Go team may make suggestions or offers of help. After the needs are assessed, the Go team returns to the Brigade and activates the Care Team.

It is important that neither the Go team or the Care team becomes an additional burden on the Family by being overly helpful; therefore feedback from the Family is essential.

There are many tasks the Care team may be called to help with. Examples of task include but are not limited to home care, childcare, meals, transportation, or call support such as screening calls and visitors according to the Family's wishes, keeping a phone log of consolidated calls of condolences the chain-of-command receives.

There are things the Care team should not do, these include serving as a grief counselor, benefits counselor,

making funeral arrangements, or preparing death notices for the newspaper. The Care team is short term support for the Family; if the Family needs long care support then their Casualty Assistance Officer should refer them to the Gold Star Family Support Center.

With all questions answered and most fears allayed, the wall dividing the Soldiers from the Family members opened and we sat down together for dinner.

It seemed that no sooner than I sat down with my food and began to talk with the ladies around me while I ate it was time to once again begin training. I succinctly remember the apprehension welling up inside me.

I knew what was next...the Rear Detachment Commander, Maj. Alanna Cook had prepared two scenarios that were to be performed after dinner. I participated in the first scenario, which follows.

The actors entered the room and sat at a far table, soon standing to perform the casualty notification.

Knock, knock, knock. Mrs. Staff Sergeant G. I. Jane, opens the door. "Hello. May I help you?," she states slowly as the uniformed Soldier, part of the casualty notification team, begins to speak. Her mind telling her that two uniformed Soldiers meant death, but her heart praying otherwise, she listened intently.

"Ma'am I am Master Sergeant

# BTB Establishes Forward TOC

Article Courtesy of  
Brigade Troops Battalion

The Brigade Troops Battalion (BTB) (Forward) Tactical Operations Center (TOC) Command Post (CP) located on Joint Balad Base, Iraq, is effectively running due to the technically and tactically proficient staff who provides the Brigade Troops Battalion Commander with the capability of “seeing the battlefield.” The BTB TOC demands special operations by implementing Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) to prepare, coordinate, and authenticate information, in order to publish orders involving subordinate units. The current systems in place provide these battalion leaders the ability to track Soldiers and equipment movement during operations. With the BTB TOC now fully operational, the synchronization of combat operations is ensured and support requirements are provided on time and on target.



Lt. Col. Kevin Stevens, Brigade Troops Battalion Commander and Command Sgt. Major Clyde Mitchell, Brigade Troops Battalion Command Sgt. Major pose with Soldiers from the 4th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion at Joint Balad Base, Iraq.

CARE Continued from page 5

Charles Morris. I regret to inform you that Staff Sergeant G.I. Joe was killed.”

At this moment, I am sitting in my seat telling myself over and over this isn't real, but the tears still welled up. I looked around the room to gain some composure. This is the image and the words no spouse of a Soldier wants to see or hear, yet it seems so real, even in this setting.

Jane keeps her composure. She thanks the casualty notification team and says some kind words about her husband, “He is a good man, and loves being a Soldier. He died doing what he felt he needed to do.” I remember thinking the same about my husband.

The night continued with each of the

teams visiting Jane to ensure the Family's needs were met. After the scenarios ended, Mrs. Eliane Wentz, the 13 SC(E) Commander's spouse, said something I knew in my heart, but I never thought about it before that moment.

She said that you need to prepare a statement of condolence to tell the spouse and practice it over and over, because in the moment when you walk up to the spouse you may forget everything except what you practiced.

Since then, I have stood in front of the mirror trying to picture what I would say to the spouse, even as I sit here writing, I search my mind for the words.

Maybe I am still naïve enough to believe if I don't come up with the right

words I will never have to say them. I do know that my heart is with every spouse of a Soldier that is deployed in harms way right now. I pray each night for their safe return. Like all spouses, I would rather attend millions of ‘Welcome Home’ ceremonies than a single memorial service.

I am so glad the brigade offered the Care team training along with the casualty scenario. It is a comfort to me to know that the brigade cares enough about its Soldiers and their Families to train volunteers and service members to care for their fellow Families. So often someone wants to help, but isn't sure how. The Care team is a wonderful way to contribute to the War on Terrorism, while our Soldiers are risking their lives to keep us safe and America free.

# 9th Finance Opens New Office At Camp Buehring

Article Courtesy of  
9th Financial Management Company



Soldiers of the 9th Financial Management Company took time out of their busy day to pose for a picture in front of the new finance office on Camp Buehring

Bravo Detachment, 9<sup>th</sup> Financial Management Company had the honor of opening a new finance office at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on 01 October 2008. The completion of the new building brought nearly two years of planning and construction to successful closure.

Since the Army established Finance operations at Camp Udari – later

renamed Camp Buehring - in early 2003, hundreds of thousands of Soldiers processed through a finance office that matured from a simple tent to a ramshackle trailer to a modern building. Evolving from a facility with plywood make-shift walls, holes in the floor, and a cramped trailer occupied by both Finance and Postal, the new facility is as modern as it gets in the Udari desert.

It contains a new cash vault, spacious cashier cages, ample customer service counters, central air conditioning, and fiber optic internet connectivity. The new office provides a much cleaner operating environment which enhances customer service through reliable automations, more space for proper document handling, and added security of government funds.

## 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 would like posted? Please send all submissions via email to Sgt. Myers at [angienne.l.myers@kuwait.swa.army.mil](mailto: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).

# More Than Planes, Air Force Gets The Job Done

Article and Photos by Staff Sgt. Stacy Stewart  
70th Medium Truck Detachment

Here at the 70th TD the job of the S6 is extremely busy. This wasn't the first deployment for Staff Sgt Kermit A. Rollins or I, but we both had to admit we were caught a little off guard. The pace and tempo keeps us both on the move constantly and we learned quickly we can't complete this mission without one another.

When Staff Sgt. Rollins takes a day off, it's a struggle to keep up and vice versa. I was a little concerned when we first arrived because we were both working over 12 hour shifts, 7 days-a-week for the first three weeks.

I knew we couldn't maintain that pace indefinitely and fortunately we learned, made adjustments, and now have a more predictable schedule that keeps us in a routine and keeps us from burning out too soon.

With over 500 accountable items, 72 trucks to keep road ready with communication, and just over five million dollars in communication equipment, this was certainly more than

either us were mentally ready for.

It's made a rewarding challenge we tackle head-on everyday. Knowing we've provided the absolute best communication for each truck and how each item aids in keeping our convoy crews safe makes the hard work worth it. It's also been a learning curve transitioning to Army rules and regulations.

Each branch is out to achieve the same mission, but having an Army supply system made the first few weeks a little more difficult. We've both adapted

and found a lot of help and resources from our Army brethren.

As soon as we both arrived, we immediately started taking mental notes on what could be done to improve the systems already in place. We both noted the cabling used in the trucks was sub-standard

and began the task of replacing the communication cables for the truck's radios.

As soon as we began, we immediately started receiving input from the operators that communication distance was increasing. With this proof, we addressed the issue with Capt. John



Staff Sgt. Kermit Rollins tightens the bolts on an antenna of a M915 while performing maintenance check in the units motorpool. Photos courtesy of 70th MTD.

Dickens and he happily signed off on ordering enough cable to outfit every truck. We also learned a few tricks from our Army counterparts and found satisfying results there as well.

Keeping the communication systems in these vehicles operating at their maximum potential does nothing less than enhanced the safety and security for each of our operators.

We realize this and do our job knowing that if our radios fail then we have failed our operators and put lives at risk. That's our motivation to come to work everyday.



Staff Sgt. Stacy Stewart does a commo check on a M915 prior to it departing on a mission. Photos courtesy of 70th MTD..

# 6th Transportation Battalion's Convoy Commanders Conference

## From the roads of Iraq to the waves of the Persian Gulf

Article by Capt. Russell T. Destremps  
6th Transportation Battalion

As the wind gusted over 25 mph and the waves crashed over the side of the *Melino Del Ray*, the Soldiers on board came to realize that life on a flat bottom vessel is not much smoother than riding inside of a Heavy Equipment Transporter on a pothole-laden road in Iraq. Luckily for the 43 passengers aboard the Landing Craft Utility 2029 it was only a two-hour tour.

The LCU provides intra-theater movement of rolling and tracked vehicles, containers and general cargo along coastal main supply routes, but on this day it transported Soldiers from the 6th Transportation Battalion as part of a somewhat unorthodox convoy commander's conference.

The Soldiers spent the afternoon underway on the LCU and after disembarking, attempted to regain the ability to walk on dry land down the pier to the Logistical Support Vessel LSV IV, the *Lt. Gen. William B. Bunker*.

The crew of LSV IV served up one of the most well prepared meals these Soldiers have had since leaving their homes in the States. Dinner was followed by a conference on the stern portion of the massive deck.

The battalion's mission optempo seldom allows for battalion leadership and Soldiers to gather together in one place at one time. At any given time over half of the battalion's 1,000 Soldiers are spread across Iraq in support of U.S. and coalition forces' Heavy Equipment Transportation (HET) mission.

The HET convoy commanders and convoy protection commanders gathered together at Camp Patriot to spend a day away from the office and roads and highways of Iraq to exchange ideas, command philosophies, discuss past and future missions, exchange experiences and find out what works best on the road.

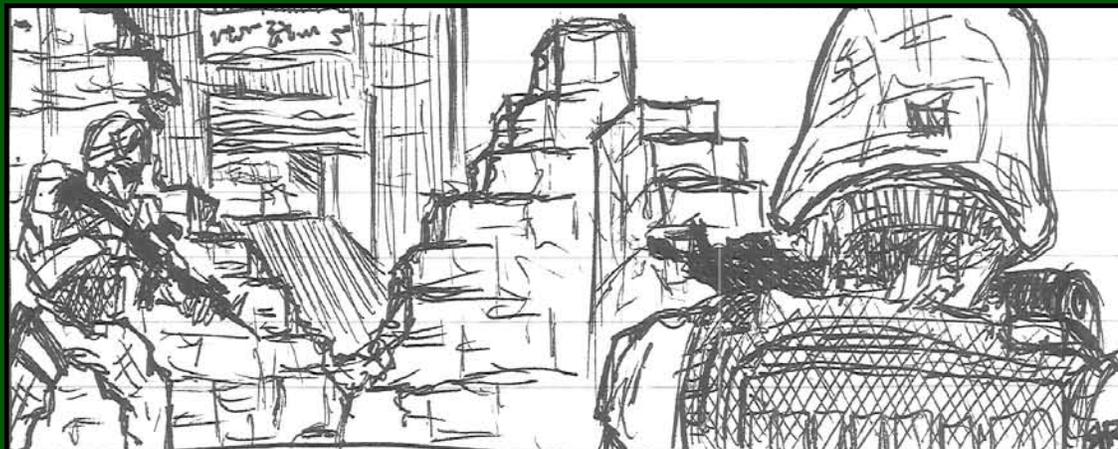
"The idea for the conference was to get as many of the convoy commanders and escort commanders together as possible and talk to them about upcoming initiatives and changes and get feedback from them. We also wanted them to get a chance to unwind and enjoy themselves," stated Capt Severt Anderson, the battalion's operations officer.

Convoy commanders were also recognized by Lt. Col. Kevin Powers, the 6th Transportation Battalion Commander for missions completed and highest number of miles commanded over the past two months.

Everyone walked away from the conference with a deepened understanding and appreciation for the mission. Soldiers were also able to see another side of the logistical support operation sustained by the vessel detachments under the command of the 6th Transportation Battalion.

## Wrangler Art

By Spc. Rommel Roldan



Spc. Rommel Roldan is a Supply Specialist from the 4th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Hood, TX. Roldan joined the Army Feb. 9, 2006. He went to Fort Jackson, SC., for Basic Training and Fort Lee, VA., for Advanced Individual Training.

# Joint Base Balad Convoy Support Team

Article Courtesy of  
Joint Logistics Task Force 28

The Joint Base Balad Convoy Support Team is one of seven Convoy Support Teams in Theater, providing first class support to convoys. Their mission at the JBB Convoy Support Team is simply to support the convoys. They do everything and anything in their power to make the 4th Sustainment Brigade convoy's stay at Joint Base Balad as smooth as possible.

Their job begins when convoys heading to JBB depart Camp Arifjan. The CST Team tracks convoys that have an upload or download at JBB throughout their entire expedition through Iraq. Spc. Araceli Robles makes phone calls, sends emails and uses movement slides to track convoys.

Spc. Juan Ruiz and Spc. Donald Hubel utilize computer systems connected to convoys so they always know exactly where convoys heading to JBB are located and when they can



Soldiers of the Joint Base Balad Convoy Support Team work together to take care of maintenance issues in support of a visiting convoy.

expect 4th SB convoys to arrive at JBB.

They coordinate with the Movement Control Team to ensure that equipment

is ready to be loaded by 4th SB convoys and taken back down to Kuwait.

Once the convoys hit the JBB gates, they escort them to the Theater Staging Lanes. The convoy commander then determines which of his vehicles go to which yard for the loading and unloading of equipment. Sgt. Wayne Roberts is the maintenance subject matter expert on night shift, and he acquires parts from all edges of JBB to make sure the convoys SP on time.

While simultaneously monitoring the upload and download process, the team compiles a report of all the convoy's maintenance issues. They ensure the vehicles with maintenance issues are taken to the proper maintenance shop. The maintenance specialist, Spc. Benjamin Halleck, monitors the status of their



Soldiers of the Joint Base Balad Convoy Support team pose for a picture during their down time. This team is one of seven Convoy Support Teams in Theater.

See JBB Page 11

**JBB** Continued from page 10

maintenance issues and acquires parts throughout the day until all maintenance issues are resolved.

Upon completion of their mission, the CST team provides the Convoy Commander with ice, chemical lights, Rip-its, Gatorade, sodas, chips, chicken chunks, and other snacks for the road.

Spc. Daniel Preziosi gives the

Convoy Commander and Gun Truck Commander an intelligence brief which includes up to date significant action information on the route they are about to travel.

Spc. Jeremiah Maddox is the IMO and communications specialist who works diligently to ensure the convoys have updated radio fills to ensure effective radio communication on the

roads.

The JBB Convoy Support Teams are Wrangler ambassadors serving our fellow comrades proudly.

So next time you're at Joint Base Balad, make sure you stop by and say hello to the Convoy Support Team. They'll have fresh coffee and a cold Rip-it waiting for you.

## DOUBLE TAKE

Article by 1st Lt. Roger Garcia  
129th Transportation Company

For those walking through the 129th Motor pool and happen to cross the path of two Soldiers, it often times leads to a double-take and the question, were there two of them?

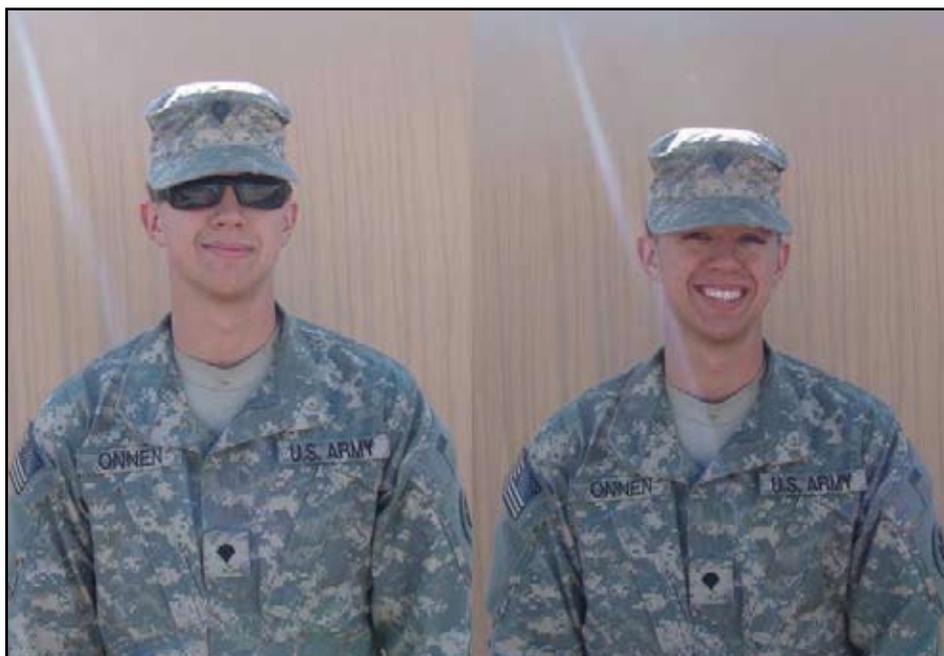
When it comes to Spc. Michael and Mitchell Onnen, that answer is correct. The Onnen brothers are identical twins deployed with the 129th Transportation Company.

The brothers were both born on Aug. 19, 1987, with Michael being the older one by a minute. The brothers come from large Family, with two younger siblings.

For most of their life, they have done everything together, to include enlisting in the Army, October 2004, and their reason was the same. Their father was in the Army, and they decided to continue in the Family tradition of serving the country.

Both went Basic Combat Training and Advance Individual Training together.

Being twins, and thinking alike, both shared the same interest in school subjects along with video games they played.



Identical twin brother Spc. Michael and Mitchell Onnen, deployed with the 129th Transportation Company pose for a picture during their down time.

Being not only twins, but identical ones at that, often times leads to people misjudging who they really are; for both close Family members and friends. Michael said sometimes, even their parents get them mixed up from one another.

Having Family members that can't tell the twin apart is a lose-lose situation for the unit, who concede by referring to both Michael and Mitchell as the 'Onnen' Twins.

However asking the twins if there are any subtle differences to be able to tell each apart, Michael said yes, with Mitchell being taller than him by an inch, and the best way to tell each apart when they are both standing side-by-side.

Sibling rivalry is also a good way to tell each apart, with Michael mentioning he was the better driver of the two, saying his brother received five flat tires on one mission, while he has yet to get one.



1ST PLACE  
BTB HOLIDAY ORGANIZATION DAY  
ABIZAH, KUWAIT 2008

**Happy Holidays**

Holiday Organ  
It's all much



# 1498th Transportation Company: MAINTENANCE ALL THE WAY

Article Courtesy of  
1498th TCMT

It has been a long two weeks for the 1498th Transportation Company Maintenance Team. The Maintenance Team, along with very motivated drivers, came into the shops ready to learn and make vehicles run.

As with all new incoming units, we just could not leave what was in place alone. The leaders got together, looked around and asked Staff Sgt. David Vandeveld to create a shop layout on the computer.

After a couple of practice runs we were ready to go into action. The layout was ready, and Maj. Morales gave us her blessing and provided operators to assist us. We checked the maintenance in the shop and all was going well.

We scheduled the Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH) which lifts the mil-vans and moves them with ease.

The big day finally arrived and Pvt. Michael Giggy directed the RTCH to our location; anticipation was high. We had spent the day before moving stuff and preparing for this moment. Staff Sgt. Vandeveld talked to the RTCH operator with some last minute instructions and the operation was on.

Staff Sgt. Vandeveld was running from where the mil-vans were to where it was going. After about an hour, and 15 mil-vans later, all were moved for the day. We got all this done while getting convoys out and completing repairs on dead-lined equipment.



A member of the 1498th Transportation Company Maintenance Team performs repairs on a HET vehicle wheel bearing. Photo courtesy of 1498th Trans. Co.



Two Soldiers of the 1498th Transportation Company Maintenance Team work together on a HET vehicle replacing a tire, using a cross bar. Photo courtesy of 1498th Trans. Co.

We were not just settling in, we were making this place our home. Nothing in this motor pool will be the same when we are done. Great job Maintenance!

# A History Of The Famous Turkey

Article by 1st Lt. Jessica Stewart  
424th Medium Truck Detachment

Three cheers for the turkey at Thanksgiving and Christmas! It makes a delightful meal, and has become the centerpiece of most Family dinner tables during the holiday season.

The turkey has been an odd icon in our nation's history; from a feast centerpiece, a proposed national bird, and to being pardoned every year by the President of the United States. Who would have thought the turkey would be such a controversial figure in the shaping of our American history?

Could you imagine if the turkey had replaced the bald eagle on our military emblems? Ben Franklin thought it should have. He favored the wild turkey over the bald eagle to represent the courage and determination of the newly formed United States.

In a letter written to his daughter, Mr. Franklin described the wild turkey of the 1700s as a courageous and determined bird, willing to protect its territory from the vilest of trespassers.

Wild turkeys were very agile fliers and considered quite cunning, whereas the bald eagle was seen by Mr. Franklin to be a 'bully' and a coward, snatching hard-earned food

from other birds.

The domesticated turkey of today is considered to have lost most of its 'street smarts' once required in the wilderness. The domestic turkey that most of us imagine today is a far cry from the wild turkeys in Ben Franklin's day.

The turkey emerged into the public spotlight again in 1947. The National Turkey Federation and the Poultry and Egg National Board gave a turkey to the White House as a gift for Thanksgiving.

Since then, a turkey has been given to the White House each year for the Thanksgiving holiday. In 1963, President Kennedy spared the bird from finding its way to his dinner table. In 1990, George H. W. Bush officially "pardoned" the

soon-to-be-cooked bird, and the practice of "pardoning" the turkey from the Thanksgiving meal has carried on ever since.

After the "pardoning" ceremony, the "pardoned" turkey is flown to Disneyland to partake in the Disney Thanksgiving Day Parade. Afterwards, it spends the rest of its days in glamour and luxury in one of Disneyland's theme parks.

Though military members generally see turkey in the dining facilities on their deployments, let us not forget its place of prominence in our nation's history. Let us remember what the turkey provides to the war fighter each and every Thanksgiving and Christmas. Three cheers for the turkey and its importance in our American history!



President George W. Bush got a closer look at a turkey during the "pardoning" ceremony. The "pardoning" is a ceremony in which the president officially "pardons" the bird from being a Thanksgiving meal.

# SUSTAINING THE CONVOY SUPPORT TEAM

Article by 2nd Lt. Brian Flannery  
Camp Buehring Convoy Support Team



Sgt. Ernesto Rodriguez, a mechanic with the Scania CST prepares to check the oil on a Humvee at the staging lanes. Courtesy Photo.

While some bases serve many purposes, Scania's main function is to support the convoys with Soldiers from the 4th Sustainment Brigade's Brigade Troops Battalion managing the Convoy Support Team.

"Our office functions as a funnel for all convoys' concerns while they stop here. Instead of going to multiple offices with their concerns, they come to us and we handle the rest," said 1st Lt. Bart Gattrell, the CST officer-in-charge.

Sometimes called the "best little truck stop in Iraq," the description "little" is no exaggeration.

Unlike other convoy support teams and large bases, Scania is very small, maybe only one square mile. "I like the small size because walking anywhere doesn't take long," said Staff Sgt. Thomas McClain, the CST's Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge.

Despite its small size and scant resources, the four Wranglers and three Soldiers from attached units do what they can to make the convoys visit and trip more comfortable.

Other BTB Soldiers include vehicle mechanic Sgt. Ernesto Rodriguez and signal support systems specialist

Pfc. Joel Caples. Attached Soldiers include drivers Sgt. Israel Marcano, Spc. Walter Fournier, and Spc. Samantha Antonsen.

Arriving in mid-March 2008, Wranglers hit the ground running and got to work for the convoys. When convoys arrive, CST personnel record their information, provide reports to higher, and help resolve any issues, such as maintenance, billeting and administrative.

Despite its small size, the Scania CST personnel get the job done.

When billeting was unavailable in August and certain convoys had to stop and sleep at Scania, the CST reached out to the chapel and MWR to open up comfortable rooms for the Soldiers to sleep.

CST personnel also write to support groups in the US, who send gift packages that provide the convoys with drinks, snacks, and small hygienic items. "Anything we can do to make their stay more comfortable is our job and it's a pleasure," said 1st Lt. Gattrell.



Spc. Samantha Antonsen writes inbound convoys who will arrive at Scania during the the night. Courtesy Photo.

# Transforming From Delivery To Protection

Article by Sgt. Amy Andrews  
1844th Transportation Company



Switching out flat bed 915's for up-armored 1151s, the 'Road Hogs' prepare to switch gears from delivery to protection. Photo. by Spc. Jack E. Stout.

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – The 1844th Transportation Company, an Illinois Army National Guard unit originating from Quincy, Illinois, was activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-09.

Arriving in theater early April 2008, the unit has encountered various conversions throughout the deployment but none as exciting and challenging as the recent change in mission from combat logistics patrols to convoy escort teams.

Six of the eight 1844th Trans. Co., Combat Logistic Patrol will sustain the new Convoy Escort Team missions. Each convoy escort team will consist of four convoy protection platforms in the form of up armored Humvees, the M1151. Equipped with high efficiency security and communication systems, the M1151 provides the proper necessities for Soldiers to complete the escort and protection mission.

Mid-September, the commander of

the 1844th Trans. Co., began the plan of action to prepare his Soldiers for the extreme change of delivering cargo and equipment to units to convoy security.

Creation of a new tactical standard operating procedure, personnel

arrangement along with training Soldiers to perform a security mission are a few of the many tasks needed to occur before the unit begins to roll down the road protecting convoys in gun trucks.

A recent week-long event at Camp Buehring provided the most updated training to include: driver's training simulator and course, battle-drill rehearsals, communication training, and squad-level training.

The troops moved out to Forward Operating Base Sword for three days to participate in tactical maneuver with counter improvised explosive device training. Soldiers were trained on convoy escort team tactics, techniques and procedures, weapon system familiarization, situational

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Members of the 1844th 'Road Hogs' lay out .50 Cal rounds prior to weapon familiarization at the firing range Complex. Photo by First Sgt. Steven Harris.

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training exercises, convoy live fire exercises, and endured the Humvee Egress Assistance Training rollover simulator.

“The motivation level is high,” said the company 1st Sgt. Steven Harris. “When talking with the troops, every Soldier I spoke with during the training was excited about the new mission. It was so thick you could step back and really feel it in the air.”

“All of them pulled together as a team, making the ranges and training procedures very effective. They are learning as much as they can to be the best that they can be,” he said. “We have a great group of Soldiers and I know that they were chosen for this mission because of their ability to execute with great success under any circumstance.”



Coaches work with new gunners from the ‘Road Hog’ company to learn new operating procedures for their new convoy escort mission. Photo by First Sgt. Steven Harris.

## 129TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY TEAM WORK

Article by 1st Lt. Roger Garcia  
129th Transportation Company

Maintenance Soldiers and Heavy Equipment Transport operators have teamed up to make the 129th Transportation Company’s mission a success. The job most of the time is back breaking and knuckle busting work. The maintenance Soldiers and operators of the 129th work long, hard hours to make sure that our Company has Combat HET vehicles ready to roll at a moment’s notice.

The company has implemented the Quality Assurance, Quality Control process into the final PMCS after coming off a mission to ensure each Combat Logistics patrol’s equipment is ready for the next allocation.

Our Motor Transport Operators realize the extreme importance maintenance personnel play in day to day operations. We are getting away from the old stigma of we break it, you fix it. It is now, we fail to maintain our truck and break it, and we will all help to fix it.

The drivers and maintenance personnel both work side by side to make all equipment mission capable. 129th Maintenance Leads The Way!



Members of the ‘Knight’s’ maintenance section prepare to switch out HET tires at the company’s motor pool. Courtesy Photo.

# Arctic 'Renegades' Make Gun Trucks A Way Of Life

Article and Photos by Capt. Toby Williford  
539th Transportation Company



You'll know if you ever run into a 539th Soldier in uniform, because we wear the United States Army Alaska 'Arctic Warriors' unit patch. The circular patch with the North Star over the polar bear represents who we are and where we come from.

We take pride in being 'Arctic Warriors' executing a wartime mission in the desert of Iraq. Our assigned mission here in Iraq is running convoy escort security for units within Joint Logistics Task Force 28.

We began the build up to deployment back in March, when we held our activation ceremony. At the time we were still receiving equipment and were waiting for our trucks.

In June, we went to the field at Fort Greely, Alaska; conducted Situational Training Exercise lanes and a convoy live fire exercise on our palletized load systems.

We found out shortly after returning from the exercise our mission would be changing from the line-haul mission that we had been training on, to convoy escort.

We went back to the field at Fort Richardson and ran STX lanes again, this time on up-armored Humvees. Our Soldiers trained hard on weapons, communications equipment and driving the new vehicles; they embraced the new mission and never looked back.

We hit the ground running in Kuwait in September and haven't slowed down. As we stepped off the plane in the desert heat, we all knew we weren't in Alaska anymore.

Our unit that we would be replacing, the 109th Transportation Company met us at the airport and made sure that we got the Gateway in-brief and moved over to Camp Buehring in an expeditious manner.

In less than 12 hours, our Soldiers were fully engaged in mandatory

training. Each of our convoy escort packages had the opportunity to run a validation mission with 109th before we took the reigns for ourselves. Since then, we have recorded over 100,000 command miles escorting JLTF 28 convoys throughout Iraq.

There is something to be said for the work that our vehicle operators and mechanics do on a daily basis. Maintenance on our Humvees is critical and challenging. All of our trucks must stay fully mission capable.

An escort package may have as little as 72 hours from the time they hit K-crossing moving south to Camp Arifjan until their next mission moving north. When they arrive on Camp Arifjan, the next two days are a whirlwind of

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Soldiers of 539th Transportation Company take a break from training before heading out on their next convoy escort mission.

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maintenance services, dispatching, after-action reviews, convoy preparation, and personal preparation. Our operators take pride in maintaining their vehicles and our mechanics take pride in keeping them ready to roll.

The 539th 'Renegades' are motivated, trained and professional Soldiers. We are ready to meet any challenge thrown our way. As always, we want to say hi to our friends and Families back home. As we adjust to these new temperatures in the mid-80s, our Families are shoveling snow and adjusting to sub-zero temperatures. As a company, we have come a long way and have no doubt accepted gun trucks as a way of life.



A Soldier from the 539th Transportation Company settles in his up-armored Humvee in preparation for his next escort mission.

## New 70<sup>th</sup> Vehicle Maintenance Crew Assumes Maintenance Operations

Article and Photos by Master Sgt. John Prather  
70th Medium Truck Detachment

Starting in October, Spiral VII with the 70th Medium Truck Detachment assumed vehicle maintenance operations for the next six months. After a rigorous six week combat convoy training course at Camp Bullis, Texas, Airmen from eight separate stateside and overseas locations came together to make up the maintenance team.

Our team has over 100-plus years experience in vehicle and equipment maintenance. We have three Allied Trades, one Fire Truck, one 463L and sixteen Special Purpose mechanics; members also hold a total of 10 Automotive Service Excellence certifications in various disciplines and several are well versed in air conditioning repairs.

Since our arrival, we completed the transfer of authority with Spiral VI, which initiated the learning process of the Army's daily maintenance procedures. We have completed 24 quality assurance checks, opened and closed 124 work orders and assumed accountability for assigned theater

equipment within the short time frame.

In addition, we took a hard look at the previous detachment's quality assurance processes; streamlined operations

to better serve our customer; and reduced repair times by 28 percent. Our diligent maintenance actions and solid work ethics have kept our fleet mission ready, thus enabling our convoy teams to travel nearly 65 thousand miles and to deliver 12 thousand-plus tons of cargo.

During our tour here, we will welcome five children to our extended Family



Members of the 70th Medium Truck Detachment Vehicle Maintenance Team pose for a picture in their unit Motorpool.

and celebrate several birthdays. The holidays may be especially tough as this is several of our younger team members' first deployment, however the Family of the Scorpions will push through and support our Airmen, easing the transition to deployed warriors. We look forward to working with the rest of the Griffins and hope for a good tour, ripe with welcomed challenges.

# HEADQUARTERS SOLDIERS ON THE MOVE

Article Courtesy of  
JLTF 28

Since Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Joint Logistics Task Force 28 hit the ground early last spring, they have sent 20 of their 52 personnel on Combat Logistical Patrols.

The Task Force Commanders' intent is for all headquarter Soldiers to go out on a CLP prior to their redeployment next summer, with the purpose of giving headquarter Soldiers a feel for and better understanding of what the JLTF 28 'Road Warriors' do and see everyday.

The Detachment Commander,

Capt. Adrian Bryan, and 1st Sgt. Jerryn McCarroll, are following the Commander's intent and have been successful in sending over 40 percent of the company's personnel on mission to date.

Sgt. Tonya Bennett, the orderly room NCO for HHD recently returned from a mission to Joint Base Balad. Although she is no stranger to convoys due to her previous deployment in 2006 where she participated in ten CLPs, she still felt "some anxiety not knowing if anything would happen along the way."

Overall she "was excited about seeing how things had changed since... [her]... last deployment in 2006," riding in an up-armored Humvee with the 539th Transportation Company, an active duty unit from Alaska.

She now feels she has "a better understanding of what [motor transport operators] experience everyday on the road," and "a lot of respect for what [they] do, especially since my husband is doing the same thing."

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Staff Sgt. Sampson's GT crew from 109th saying a prayer prior to leaving AJ. Picture taken by CPT Nazarali-Bradford.

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Capt. Adam Bradford pose for a picture in front of one of Saddam's palaces at VBC. Photos by Capt. Lindsay March.

Bennett's husband, Staff Sgt. Darrin Bennett, is currently serving with the 69th Transportation Company in Al Asad, Iraq.

Capt. Adam Bradford, the day shift Battle Captain for the task force, went on the validation mission for a convoy commander with 846th Transportation Company to Camp Speicher, Iraq.

He felt great about his experience on the road, saying, "It gave me a chance to meet the movement control team and convoy support team personnel that support our convoys. It also gives me a first hand view of the issues our convoys face every day." Bradford believes, "the number one benefit [of sending headquarter Soldiers on the road] is the

ability to see what really affects convoys and to use that knowledge to redirect priorities to help us accomplish our mission."

Bradford said he felt very relaxed while out on the road, having "lots of conversations about nothing and a whole lot of Rip-Its," with the gun truck crew.

Private 1st Class. Christopher Davis, a Movement Tracking System operator for the Tactical Operations Center received his 'road' experience early on in the deployment.

He went in June with the 1844th Transportation Company, an Illinois National Guard unit. His experience was

slightly different than that of Sgt. Bennett's and Capt. Bradford's; instead of riding in the convoy, he got to drive in the convoy.

That's right; Davis was one of the first headquarter Soldiers to be licensed on a M915 truck and M872 trailer. He said he was "nervous driving a big vehicle," but overall had a good experience.

There are a few Griffin Soldiers on the road and it plans to send the other twenty or so within the next few months. Needless to say, it has been a motivating experience for everyone that has been on a mission, and it will continue to be motivating as the Soldiers of HHD, JLTF 28 stay "On the Move!"

# Ghost Riders Tough Through The Holiday Season

Article and Photo By 1st Lt. Paul Amis, Ghost Writer  
10th Transportation Company

During the Holiday season, the 10th Transportation Company looks back on the last nine months, recalling all of the hard work, good times, and life experiences of 2008.

The first months of '08 were pure hysteria as the unit prepared to deploy. Many Soldiers can recall the late night formations, early morning and weekend work calls, and battalion maintenance days.

Upon leaving Savannah, Ga., the Ghost Riders were thrust headfirst into the blazing heat of Kuwait. As the operational tempo increased, Soldiers began to busy themselves with tasks both in Kuwait and throughout the Iraqi theater.

The operational climate of this deployment has required many Soldiers to step up and assume roles above those that are required by their rank. The entire Ghost Rider team has executed each task with the fervor and zeal that you would expect from a well-trained, disciplined unit.

As a simple measure of discipline, the 10th Transportation Company still performs physical training six-days a week in order to maintain their physical readiness and stamina.



Cpt. Charles Fyffe congratulates Sgt. Christopher Smith during his promotion ceremony.



Capt. Charles Fyffe and 1st Lt. Jamie Lemon pose for a picture after her promotion ceremony.

Their weapons skills are kept sharp by performing monthly M16 ranges. As we look ahead to the next few months, we draw on those experiences from the last 10 months and approach the downhill side of this deployment.

We continue to sharpen our skills through Soldier led classes and refresher courses. These courses pertain to various deployment oriented tasks and skills. The courses are conducted in order to keep the Soldier's skills sharp and fight complacency.

The company continues to exceed the standard both on and off mission with Soldiers completing each task as directed, often times bringing great credit upon themselves and the unit.

This holiday season, the Ghost Riders celebrate with

company barbecues and award ceremonies. At the company barbecue for the month of December, awards were distributed to Soldiers for their outstanding participation in the Combined Federal Campaign.

The CFC drive was an opportunity for the Soldiers to donate to many great charities worldwide. The maintenance platoon was presented with the award for the highest-per-Soldier donation total in the company, and was presented with a plaque denoting their accomplishments and rewarded with an entire week of no pt. December's promotion ceremony celebrated the promotions of the following Soldiers, effective December 1st:

PV2 Gifford, Tyler  
PV2 Chouinard, Samuel  
PFC Stewart, Mitchell  
SPC Klotz, Christopher  
SPC Rucker, Samantha

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SGT Mercer, Euree  
SGT Smith, Christopher  
1LT Lemon, Jamie

Morale remains high and our outlook remains strong as we approach our last months here in the desert. To date, the 10th Transportation Company has completed 90 missions, totaling over 3.45 million command miles. Maintenance and headquarters platoons stay busy keeping the trucks and trailers in working order and ensuring that each convoy team has all the necessary equipment to accomplish each assigned mission. Our company continues to be among the top units in the battalion and the 4th Sustainment Brigade in total miles and missions completed.



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Larue manning the grill at 10th TC monthly company BBQ.

## R5 Teams Take Lead To Ensure Smooth R&R.

Article and Photos Courtesy of  
Taskforce Gateway

Three teams from the 461st Human Resource Company recently arrived at Ali Al Salem to relieve Task Force Gateway Soldiers preparing to redeploy after 15-months overseas. The 461st HRCO is an Army Reserve unit located in Decatur, Ga.

The company is made up of nine R5 and postal platoons located throughout the southeastern United States. Coming on board are the 7th Platoon Headquarters from Myrtle Beach, S.C., and R5 Teams 11 and 12 from Decatur, Ga.

They come from Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina; and even a husband and wife team from Tennessee. Most of the Soldiers first met each other at Reserve Training Center (RTC) Fort Hunter-Liggett in late summer.

They continued to develop as a team while at Mobilization Station at Fort McCoy, Wisc. The three teams are joining a fourth 461st R5 Team already in place.



From Left to Right: Spc. Brittney Stanley, Sgt. Watasha Shelton, Sgt. George Vansteenburgh, Staff Sgt. Teresa Ellis, Staff Sgt. Tara Agnew, Private 1st Class Logan Warren, Spc. Deonna Hollis; Sgt. 1st Class Christine Reed, Spc. Erieol Nottingham, Spc. Jason Slayton, Spc. Quintin Fenderson; Staff Sgt. Aresha Allen, Spc. Princesse Prince, and Sgt. Christopher Napper. Not pictured are: Staff. Sgt. Ronnie Ellis, Sgt. Renata Harris, Private 1st Class Darlene Taylor, Spc. Antonina Jones, 1st Lt Reginald Meadows, and Spc. Micheal Pearson.

A few of the team members have been dispersed throughout the task force, but for the most part, the 461st teams have taken on the crucial task of keeping R&R Inbound operations running efficiently and smoothly. Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. Reginald Meadows and his teams are motivated and ready for the challenge.

# Road Dawgs Keep Rolling

Article and Photos Courtesy of  
846th Transportation Company



Soldiers of the 846th Transportation Company work on an up-armored Humvee during a recent mission. Soldiers enjoy being on the road because it offers new experiences and helps the time speed by.

December 26th marked the eight month point in our deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Seeing that we are scheduled to be in country for ten months total, those eight months mean we are eight tenths of the way complete, or you could call it 80 percent complete, but who's counting, right?

These eight months have been packed with missions and events that have made the time go by quickly for most of us. Besides the missions that are conducted in Kuwait and Iraq, we've had the privilege to be active in physical training, promotions, reenlistments, and

rest and relaxation.

When we got here eight months ago, our primary focus was to learn the jobs that our mission would require, with the help of the unit we were replacing. We were able to hit the ground running and have since become proficient in our mission of delivering equipment and supplies throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

The Soldiers look forward to going on the road because it gives them the opportunity to see Iraq first hand and view how other people live their lives. It also gives them a sense of pride knowing

that they are directly supporting the operations that are being conducted here.

When we are not on the road, you will find us doing Physical Training at least five days a week. At 5:00 a.m. we form up as a company to put out the day's information and then begin our PT workouts.

During the beginning of the deployment, when the temperature was in the 120's, most of the PT time was spent in the gym. But now with the "cooler"

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weather, more time can be spent on the half-mile track near the barracks.

Soldiers that need extra work outs before their next PT test also meet at 5 p.m. to train. The work out routine and the additional training have been very successful in helping the Soldiers score well their PT tests.

Besides showing our level of physical fitness, an important reason for scoring high on the PT test is that

it is a factor in promotions. We have been lucky to have so many Soldiers get promoted while in-country. To this point, more than 30 Soldiers in the company have been promoted as a reflection of their outstanding performance. We look forward to seeing even more promotions as our deployment rolls on.

Reenlistments have been another highlight of our tour. We are proud of the Soldiers that have reenlisted in the Army Reserves in order to extend their time of

service. The reenlistments have offered very nice cash bonuses that are sweetened by the fact the money is tax-free.

With all of the missions and activities, it's great the Rest and Relaxation trips have been started and pushed down. So far more than a majority of Soldiers have flow back to the States since early September to visit Family members, go on vacations, or just relax for two weeks.

It allows our Soldiers time to get

away from the day-to-day life here and to remember what they will be returning home to in two months. The breaks keep the motivation up and make the remainder of the deployment that much easier.

We look forward to the rest of our deployment and are anxious to see what other missions, activities, and events take place while we are overseas. While we all miss home, we know that as we continue to push on with our work here, the days will continue to move and soon enough, the next two months will be winding down.

Our Commander, Capt. Emilio Rodriguez, and our First Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Marvin Brooks, are extremely satisfied with the way the 'Road Dawgs' have performed. They are eager to watch the unit stay engaged and continue to improve as a team as we keep rolling through the next half.



Sgt. 1st Class Brian Holloway, a 846th convoy commander and squad leader, is "pinned" during his promotion ceremony.