

# HAMMER HEAT

3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

December, 2012



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Collage

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# Commander's Message

Col. Johnnie L. Johnson Jr.  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Commander  
Command Sgt. Maj. Brian D. Harrison  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID Command Sergeant Major

Families and friends of the Sledgehammer Brigade,

Greetings once again from Camp Buehring, Kuwait! A lot has happened since our last update. First, we held our National Election on Nov. 7. Exercising the right to vote is fundamental to our freedom and democracy. Protecting this right is one of the principal reasons many of us in uniform choose to serve. Regardless of the outcome, our Country remains a beacon of hope for other peoples and countries around the world because of the freedom we enjoy. We should never take this for granted. Second, on the Nov. 11, we celebrated Veterans Day. Like previous years, it is always humbling to remember and honor those who have gone before us in defense of our Nation. Their sacrifices and those of the many Veterans serving selflessly today cannot be overstated

and will never be forgotten. A warm and heartfelt "Thank You" is in order for those who have worn the uniform and for those who are proudly wearing it today! Third, we sincerely hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day! Despite the challenging times we live in, Americans still have a lot to be thankful for. In traditional Army fashion, Sledgehammer Soldiers and our Families enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner served with distinct pleasure by our Leaders! A hearty "Thank You" goes out to those who prepared the meals and decorated our Dining Facilities – job well done! Finally, November was Military Family Appreciation Month. We owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to our Families for the tremendous sacrifices they continue to endure. Although November is set aside to recognize your contributions to our Nation, those of us in uniform appreciate you every day of the year – you truly inspire us to do great things! It is definitely worth quoting our Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, when he eloquently states, "The strength of our Nation is our Army, the strength of our Army is our Families, together that makes us "Army Strong!" Thank you for supporting your Soldier, the Sledgehammer Brigade, and our Army!

Thanksgiving Dinner wasn't the only special meal we enjoyed last month! The Chaplains on Camp Buehring, led by Chaplain (Maj.) Geoff Bailey, hosted a Spiritual Fitness Dinner. Spiritual fitness is one of the five dimensions of the Army's Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Program intently designed to develop and maintain strong Soldiers and Families. We were honored to have Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen as our guest speaker for this momentous event. Lt. Gen. Caslen's thoughtful remarks reminded us of the many dangers we face in combat and in life that we have little or no control over – it is during these times that our spiritual fitness matters the most. His inspiring words were well received and undoubtedly taken to heart by those in attendance. We truly appreciated Lt. Gen. Caslen taking time out of his busy schedule to share his message with Soldiers and Civilians on the camp.

We reached the pinnacle of our collective training last

month during a combined arms live fire exercise aptly named Operation Hammer Strike. The exercise enabled us to employ every warfighting capability within the brigade including infantry, armor, field and rocket artillery, engineers, unmanned aerial system, medical and sustainment assets, and external enablers provided by our joint partners. It was an awesome demonstration of the brigade's ability to incorporate organic warfighting functions at echelon and to seamlessly synchronize them with other operational and strategic capabilities! We'll continue to hone our combat skills during upcoming collectively training internal to the brigade as well as joint and combined



exercises with our sister services and Kuwaiti counterparts.

As Christmas and New Year Holidays approach, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the happiest of holiday seasons and to thank you for supporting the Sledgehammer Brigade throughout the year. We all have so much to be grateful for! The spirit of giving is synonymous with this time of the year, but please only spend within your means. Though we'll be separated by distance, our hearts and happiness remain with our Families. So, please continue to communicate with your Soldier, especially during this holiday season.

Continue following the Sledgehammer Brigade at  
[www.facebook.com/3hbct3id](http://www.facebook.com/3hbct3id) and  
[www.youtube.com/3hbct3id](http://www.youtube.com/3hbct3id)

for the latest updates.

God bless and take care!  
Rock of the Marne! Sledgehammer!

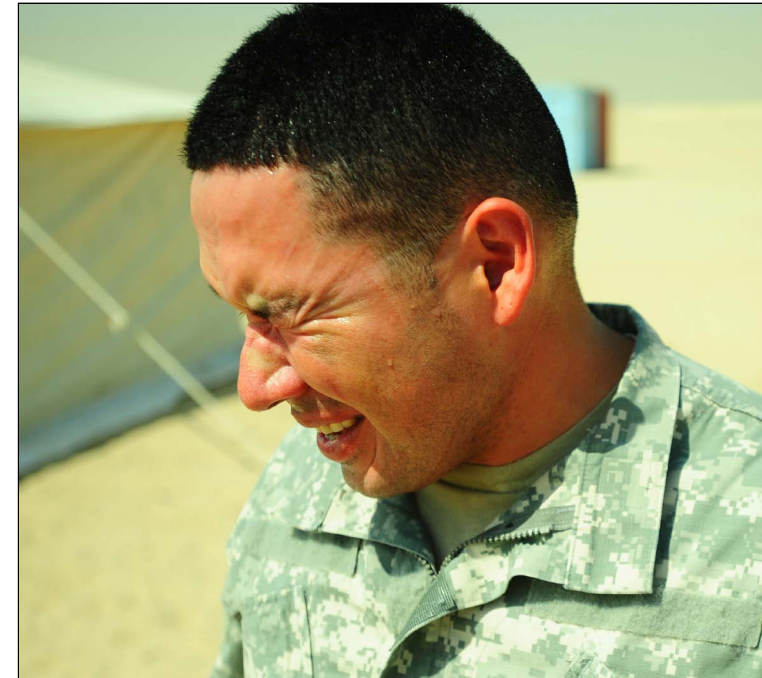
Hammer 6 and 7  
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“SLEDGEHAMMER”

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# “Can Do!”

Lt. Col. Nelson G. Kraft  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-15 Commander  
Command Sgt. Maj. Angel M. Ortiz Jr.  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-15 Command Sergeant Major

Greetings Can Do Families and friends;

Happy Thanksgiving to the CAN DO Family! November has come to a close and that means one more month closer to our Families being reunited. Similar to the previous five months, November was just as busy for the battalion here in Kuwait. The one difference, however, has been the weather. The temperatures are considerably cooler and we have received a significant amount of rain. The change in weather conditions has been a welcomed relief from the oppressive heat that we encountered throughout the summer.

November provided the battalion with several unique opportunities to train with our Kuwait counterparts as well as our Sister Services. Part of our mission here in Kuwait is to partner with our host nation's forces and we executed that to the fullest extent. Destroyer Company and Baker

Company both participated in live fire training events with two of the Kuwaiti Brigades we are partnered with. These training opportunities are unique to our mission here and provide Soldiers, regardless of rank, with an opportunity to learn valuable lessons on how we fight together. In one of the training exercises, the CAN DO Battalion partnered with a United States Marine Corps unit and a Kuwaiti Unit to enhance our capabilities. This training event provided us with a chance to learn varying tactics and techniques, ultimately increasing the overall capacity of the battalion. These partnerships also expose our Soldiers to differing cultures and build lasting relationships between our forces.

Our partnership has not been strictly training focused as a number of Soldiers have competed in various sporting events and cultural exchanges with our Kuwait friends. Crusader Company participated in a combined sports day that included soccer, volleyball, and tug of war. It is amazing to see the interaction between the Kuwaiti Army and our Soldiers. The common understanding and respect we have

for each other has only been solidified by our increased interaction away from the training environment. These are relationships our Soldiers will cherish and remember for a long time.

As many of you know, we celebrated Thanksgiving here on Camp Buehring. The day was complete with turkey and football as the battalion hosted a flag football tournament. A total of six teams competed in the annual Turkey Bowl throughout the day, with the noncommissioned officer team slipping by the Captain and above team in the championship game. The outcome of the game is still under protest and will likely be settled around the Christmas time-frame. The day provided our Soldiers with time to relax and enjoy some time away from the rigors of training.

The Holiday Season is upon us and we continued to be amazed at the incredible support our Soldiers have received. From countless boxes from Hugs for Our Soldiers

to the endless flow of care packages from our family and friends, our Soldiers are well taken care of. Across the battalion, every Soldier is working hard to ease our way through this potentially difficult time. Command Sgt. Maj. Ortiz and I cannot be more proud of our Soldiers and our Families. Without the strong foundation our Families provide, our time here would be more difficult. Continue to look out for each other and take care of each other. Know, you are constantly in our thoughts and we are forever grateful for your never ending support. Happy Holidays!

Dragon 6 and 7



# Soldiers' Gallery

*A canvas for short stories, poetry, drawing, and other visual arts*

Do you have a creative bone in your body?

Whether you write short stories on a regular basis or took a stab at poetry on a whim, if you want to share it, that's what this page is for. We are accepting submissions from Soldiers for any type of visually based art. So get out there and start exercising that creative muscle!

## Submission Examples:

- \* Short Stories
- \* Poetry
- \* Drawings
- \* Paintings
- \* Graphic Design Work
- \* Photographs

## Submission Guidelines:

Submissions are "clean" in nature. Content that is offensive, or contains generally harsh language will be rejected. Any derogatory works or direct attacks on individuals will be rejected. Posts will not advertise any for profit content, to include selling or looking to buy items. Submitting your work does not always guarantee placement do to space restrictions.

## Instructions:

Email the following to [pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com](mailto:pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com)

### Email Title:

Soldiers Gallery Submission (Your Name)

### Email Message:

Your Name (If you wish to submit your work anonymously, indicate after your name.)  
Title of Work  
The work of art  
(All work must be submitted digitally, either attached or included in the email. If submitting an image, submit the highest quality possible.)



# US, Kuwaiti soldiers bond in the gas chamber

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Story and photos by  
Sgt. Christopher Johnston  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID  
Public Affairs NCOIC

Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, alongside Kuwaiti soldiers from the 94th Brigade, Kuwaiti Land Forces, conducted chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training Oct. 3-4, near Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Partnership training is conducted regularly, building military ties and promoting security and stability in the region.

The training between the 94th Brigade and 3rd ABCT included proper wear of their chemical suits and protective gas masks, and a trip into a CS gas chamber to ensure their equipment worked effectively. CBRN training is standard training the Army conducts annually for familiarization and recertifica-



tion purposes.

Staff Sgt. Charles A. Marvel, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist assigned to 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, explained that CS gas, a common form of tear gas used for riot control, reacts with the moisture in the skin and eyes causing an instant and intense burning sensation, severe coughing, drastic nasal discharge, restricted breathing, dizziness and disorientation.

Some of the soldiers expressed nervous comments and shared “are they serious?” looks as Marvel described what they could expect in the chamber.

One Kuwaiti soldier jokingly asked if he could be excused from going into the chamber due to an alleged medical condition. Although the medical condition was not specified, he gestured toward his throat and breathing. His fellow soldier handed him a bottle of cough syrup and the classroom erupted in laughter. Even in the midst of training, soldiers displayed high morale and a sense of humor.

The morning of Oct. 4, U.S. and Kuwaiti

soldiers gathered near a tent at a training area in the vicinity of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

“There’s a little language barrier, but with hand signals and gestures we could understand each other enough to interact,” said Spc. Henry Rios, a fire support specialist assigned to 3rd BSTB, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, who participated in the gas chamber training.

Anticipation rose as soldiers from both nations put their chemical suits and gas masks on. The Kuwaiti commander and U.S. noncommissioned officer in charge ensured that all soldiers’ gas masks fit properly and that their suits were on correctly.

With gas masks donned, Marvel and several other U.S. Soldiers entered the tent and set off the CS gas tablets.



The soldiers awaiting instructions to enter the gas chamber got a pat on the shoulder, a thumbs up, and a come on in.

As the flap to the chamber opened and the first group of soldiers filed in, CS gas could be seen in the light spilling through

the cracks and seams of the tent.

Some of the soldiers bumped into each other as they scrambled through the entryway. They couldn’t see well with their masks on. The Kuwaiti and U.S. leaders in charge shouted muffled orders, “You go this way,”

while another soldier shouted, “You go that way.” Amidst the chaos, soldiers packed shoulder to shoulder and waited.

At the signal from their leaders, soldiers removed their masks, and took a deep breath of the CS gas.

“There was absolutely no difference, as soon as they break the seal on their pro mask reality hits them, as well as the gas,” said Sgt. James-Ryan Varner, an imagery analyst assigned to 3rd BSTB, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID. “Everyone was choking, drooling and coughing. We can’t ask them to do anything we won’t do so when we took our masks off, we couldn’t stand to be in there any longer than they could.”

“With all their gear they were fine, we showed them it works,” said 1st Lt. Jose Solis, assigned to 3rd BSTB, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID. “But once they took it off, just like us, they kind of freaked out. They said their names and they were out of there quick.”

After exiting the chamber, both U.S. and Kuwaiti soldiers walked around with their eyes shut and noses running waiting for the effects of the CS gas to wear off.



As quickly as the effects wore off, laughter and joking ensued.

“I hate CS gas, I hate it!” said Spc. Derrick Ramey, a public affairs broadcast specialist for the Sledgehammer Brigade. “You come running out, your skin on fire, and you squeeze open an eye to see another soldier no better off than you and the first thing you do is smile. It’s amazing how easily people turn to laughter and friendship in terrible circumstances.”

“The importance of this training is to show them that the equipment they have works,” said Solis. “This gets them comfortable with their equipment and if the need comes they know it works and they will be proficient with it.”

Soldiers assigned to Fort Benning’s sole brigade combat team will continue training, strengthening military ties and forming personal bonds with their Kuwaiti counterparts throughout the duration of their Kuwait deployment.



# Rock's Support

In the last 30 days the Rock's Support Battalion began this training cycle with fully qualified Paladin and HIMARS platoons. Each Battery completed recovery operations and implemented the lessons learned during the Artillery Table XII evaluations. The Battalion then focused on completing multiple combined operations to continue to strengthen the relationship between our maneuver counterparts within the Brigade.

The first major training event the Battalion participated in was the Brigade live fire event, Hammer Strike. The event combined maneuver, fixed wing and rotary wing air assets, mortars, dismounted infantry squads, and direct support artillery fires into one cohesive fighting force. This demonstration provided a venue to showcase, to our Kuwaiti counterparts, the tremendous capability an Armored Brigade Combat Team can bring to bear.



All multinational officers left the event with a deep respect and appreciation for the capabilities of the Brigade and the Rock's Support Battalion.

While Alpha Battery provided fires for Hammer Strike, Bravo (Bull) Battery began training to transition into an infantry company. Bull 6 created and executed a training plan with a heavy focus on maneuver tactics, techniques, and procedures. The Battery utilized all assets available on Camp Buehring and scheduled various training classes on small unit operations. The training plan was executed in three distinct phases: Individual Soldier skills, Team/Squad level training, and finally Platoon operations. All infantry training finished with a capstone event at a local training Forward Operating Base where platoons were tasked to execute a wide variety of tasks from room clearing battle drills to implementing troop leading procedures. Once completed, Soldiers and leaders alike were certified by their infantry peers, and at the conclusion of their training they were prepared for any maneuver specific tasking possible.

Having completed multiple training events and with the holiday season quickly approaching, the Battalion took an opportunity to conduct a little rest and relaxation. Thanksgiving celebrations for the Soldiers in 1-10 FA began



with the first annual Turkey bowl. All Officers and NCOs across the Battalion gathered to compete in two separate challenges: one game of flag football and one game of ultimate football. At the end of the Turkey bowl, NCO's won the flag football game and officers won the Ultimate football game. The Soldiers then received an additional treat from the dining facility as the staff and faculty contributed to making a full thanksgiving spread with Turkey, Ham, Roast beef, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, a variety of pies and cakes for dessert. Leaders also took the opportunity to serve food to their Soldiers in the DFAC in an effort to show Soldiers that they are a part of the Rock's Support Family. Even though Soldiers were not able to return home for the holidays, the first class event put on by the DFAC staff and the leadership of 1-10FA ensured that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

Following Thanksgiving, the training focus once again shifted to partnership live fire planning. Multiple key leader engagements were scheduled and executed to coordinate the first combined live fire exercise with the Kuwaitis. Staff leadership worked hand in hand with their Kuwaiti counterparts developing a realistic tactical scenario that synchronized all available assets into a combined attack. This training event allowed both staffs the opportunity

to learn and teach vital tactics, techniques, and procedures to one another. The joint planning effort ensured a smooth execution and the full integration of all 1-10FA assets into the Saw-eyan Shield Operation.

As the month of November concludes the Battalion is leaning forward preparing to re-qualify sections through artillery table VI, celebrate the upcoming holidays, and begin the planning process for re-deployment.

Rock's Support!!!

DECEMBER 1, 1955

THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OCCURRED AS ROSA PARKS WAS ARRESTED IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, FOR REFUSING TO GIVE UP HER SEAT TO A WHITE MAN AND MOVE TO THE BACK SECTION OF A MUNICIPAL BUS. HER ARREST RESULTED IN A YEAR-LONG BOYCOTT OF THE CITY BUS SYSTEM BY AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LED TO LEGAL ACTIONS ENDING RACIAL SEGREGATION ON MUNICIPAL BUSES THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH.

# Cold Weather Checklist

# Sports & Safety

- \* Dress in thin, wicking layers.
- \* Protect your hands and feet with warm, water resistant gloves and shoes.
- \* Find out the temperature and wind chill before you go out.
- \* Don't overdress; the more you sweat the colder you will get in the long run.
- \* Make sure you wear something warm on your head.
- \* Know the warning signs of frostbite and be able to recognize what it looks like in early stages.
- \* Run into the wind when you start, so it can be at your back when you finish.
- \* Stay hydrated.
- \* Don't stay in your wet clothes after you have finished.



# Vigilance & Honor

Lt. Col. Steven M. George  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, BSTB Commander  
Command Sgt. Maj. Scott E. Guillory  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, BSTB Command Sergeant Major

Family Members and Friends of the Buffalo Battalion,

“Vigilance and Honor!”

Brigade Special Troops Battalion Soldiers eagerly closed out the fifth month of our deployment. Although we surpassed the half way point of our deployment, we maintain a combat focused mindset. We are fully engaged with our partnership effort, mission support, and internal training events. We remain poised and ready to execute whatever mission we are tasked to execute anywhere in the region. We continue to make a conscience effort to give our Soldiers time to relax, communicate with loved ones, and participate in Morale Welfare and Recreations events to maintain a high level of morale.

Partnership continues to remain our main effort. Our partnership with our Kuwaiti Brigades has expanded beyond our ini-

tial expectations. We are fully engaged with two Kuwaiti brigades as we execute training exchanges focused on security operations. Although we are focused on training with our Kuwaiti hosts, the exchange of local customs, traditions, and history is a side benefit of the partnership. At the conclusion of the duty day, Soldiers from the Buffalo Battalion and the Kuwaiti Brigades enjoy the sharing of foods, tea, and resiliency activities as they unwind and recap the day's events. Our partnerships with our Kuwaiti Brigades continue to reach new heights as we learn from each other and create new lifelong friendships.

Beyond our partnership efforts, we continued to train and integrate our unique capabilities into the Brigade's operation. Our training efforts this month focused on the Brigade level exercise called Hammer Strike which integrated every capability within the Brigade into one major exercise. The Buffalo Battalion was an integral part to the success of this exercise that drew worldwide media coverage. The Raptors provided aerial coverage which allows the commander to view the entire battlefield from above. Beast Company ensured all units participating could communicate via FM radio. Chaos provided mobility support by using explosives to breach a

lane through an obstacle to pass the assault force onto the objective. The Wardogs were just in time with continuous logistic support to all of our elements participating in the exercise. The Hellraisers provided the planning, synchronization, and resources to make the exercise possible. Although this was a show of lethal force we are proud to know that our unique skills are responsible for allowing the operation to take place flawlessly.

Morale of our BSTB Soldiers remains extremely high. The high level of morale is due to MWR programs, unit activities, and support we receive here in Kuwait and from home. We participated in the Brigades Organizational day which allowed Buffalo Soldiers to showcase their talents through sporting events, a bench press competition, and artistic talents. Soldiers enjoyed a day filled with activities and great food.

Besides the Brigade Organization day and the recreational activities offered on Camp Buehring, the Battalion continue to conduct trips to other camps that provide different amenities. Our Soldiers take advantage of the MWR spon-

sored trips off Camp Buehring to malls, art galleries, museums, and restaurants in Kuwait City. These trips allow our Soldiers to experience the Kuwaiti culture first hand.

The continued success and high morale of the Buffalo Battalion is a reflection of the support we receive from the families, friends, and charity organizations at Fort Benning and across the United States. Your love and support allows us to continue to reach great heights. We extend our thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for the amazing support you provide to us both deployed and at Fort Benning. We wish everyone a belated Happy Thanksgiving as well as a safe and happy holiday season.

Buffalo 6 and 7



# Hammer Strike showcases Sledgehammer Brigade's lethal firepower

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Christopher Johnston  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID  
Public Affairs NCOIC



Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division conducted a brigade live fire exercise at the Udairi Range Complex, Nov. 7, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The exercise, named Hammer Strike, showcased the brigade's firepower and capabilities.

The unit's Kuwaiti counterparts attended the event to witness the Sledgehammer Brigade's combat power and coordination of multiple combat systems conducting simultaneous missions to across the battlefield.

Among those missions was the complex task of breaching an obstacle.

"Breaching is one of the most dangerous operations an Army unit can do," said Capt. Stephen Harmon, commander of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID. "Historically we've used many different vehicles to conduct a breach. Here we were able to utilize the Assault Breaching Vehicle and it can fill several key roles for us."

Breaching an obstacle such as barbed wire or a minefield in the past was a time consuming and extremely dangerous task. Soldiers were required to dismount from their vehicle, and either manually probe for mines, or toss a grappling hook out into the minefield and try to detonate mines as they reel in the hook.

The ABV, the Sledgehammer Brigade's newest vehicle, puts an end to these practices. The ABV has an Abrams Main Battle Tank chassis, a 15-foot wide plow attached to the front, and is equipped with M58 MICLIC (Mine Clearing Line Charges). The MICLIC can shoot up to 150 meters, and is armed with C-4 explosives that are then detonated from within the ABV, keeping all personnel protected inside their vehicles.

Hammer Strike displayed the 3rd ABCT's overall lethal firepower starting with High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems launching rockets onto the battlefield combined with close air support provided by AH-64 Apache helicopters from the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade. Immediately after, an Abrams Main Battle Tank platoon maneuvered to a position to provide supporting fire, engaging and destroying enemy targets located near a minefield surrounded by concertina razor wire. With continuous suppressive fire bombarding the enemy, an engineer platoon, comprised of five Bradleys and an ABV, traversed the sandy landscape toward the minefield.

When the brigade command post confirmed that air space was clear, the ABV fired its missile, armed with C-4, across the minefield. The engineers then detonated the MICLIC, clearing a path wide enough for vehicles to safely pass through the minefield.



Once the engineer platoon breached the obstacle and clearly marked the lane for advancing forces, a second tank platoon followed while artillery and Apache helicopters continuously destroyed targets. A third platoon, consisting of Bradleys, raced across the desert toward two houses on the battlefield.

The back ramps lowered on two of the vehicles and infantrymen inside dismounted, cleared and secured the two houses. During the assault, the scenario called for two Soldiers to sustain combat related injuries which required medical evacuations to occur.

Combat medics drove to the sight of the injured Soldiers and provided immediate treatment before evacuating them to a nearby medical facility. Medical teams then loaded the patients onto a Blackhawk helicopter, escorted by two Apache helicopters, to be flown away from the battlefield.

Meanwhile, still being protected by continuous suppressive fire from ground forces and artillery, combined with support from two Air Force F-15 Eagles, the infantry squad continued to obtain their target and secure the two houses. With the target detained, the Sledgehammer

Soldiers left the site, ending the Hammer Strike exercise.

During the exercise the brigade fired more than 1,300 25 mm rounds and nearly 150 high explosive anti-tank, and armor piercing sabot rounds at enemy targets.

Sledgehammer Soldiers have been training throughout the past four months for this event. They started with individual and squad training, and then conducted platoon and company level missions, followed by battalion sized exercises.

“There is one big plan, but it all comes down to the platoon level,” said Cpl. Logan Steinbach, assigned to Destroyer Company, 1-15 Infantry, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID. “Everyone knows what’s going on and everyone has their part, and it’s all lower level that gets this done.”

“What we saw today was a synchronization of Soldiers, a synchronization of war fighters,”



said Harmon. “Whether we are on this equipment or whether they are in the sky, we can synchronize and we came together to deliver a tremendous amount of combat power on the battlefield.”

The Hammer Strike exercise demonstrated the armored brigade’s abilities to its Kuwaiti counterparts. One of the goals of conducting this event for the Kuwaiti military was to build upon the strong alliance between the U.S. and Kuwaiti forces which promotes peace and stability within the region.

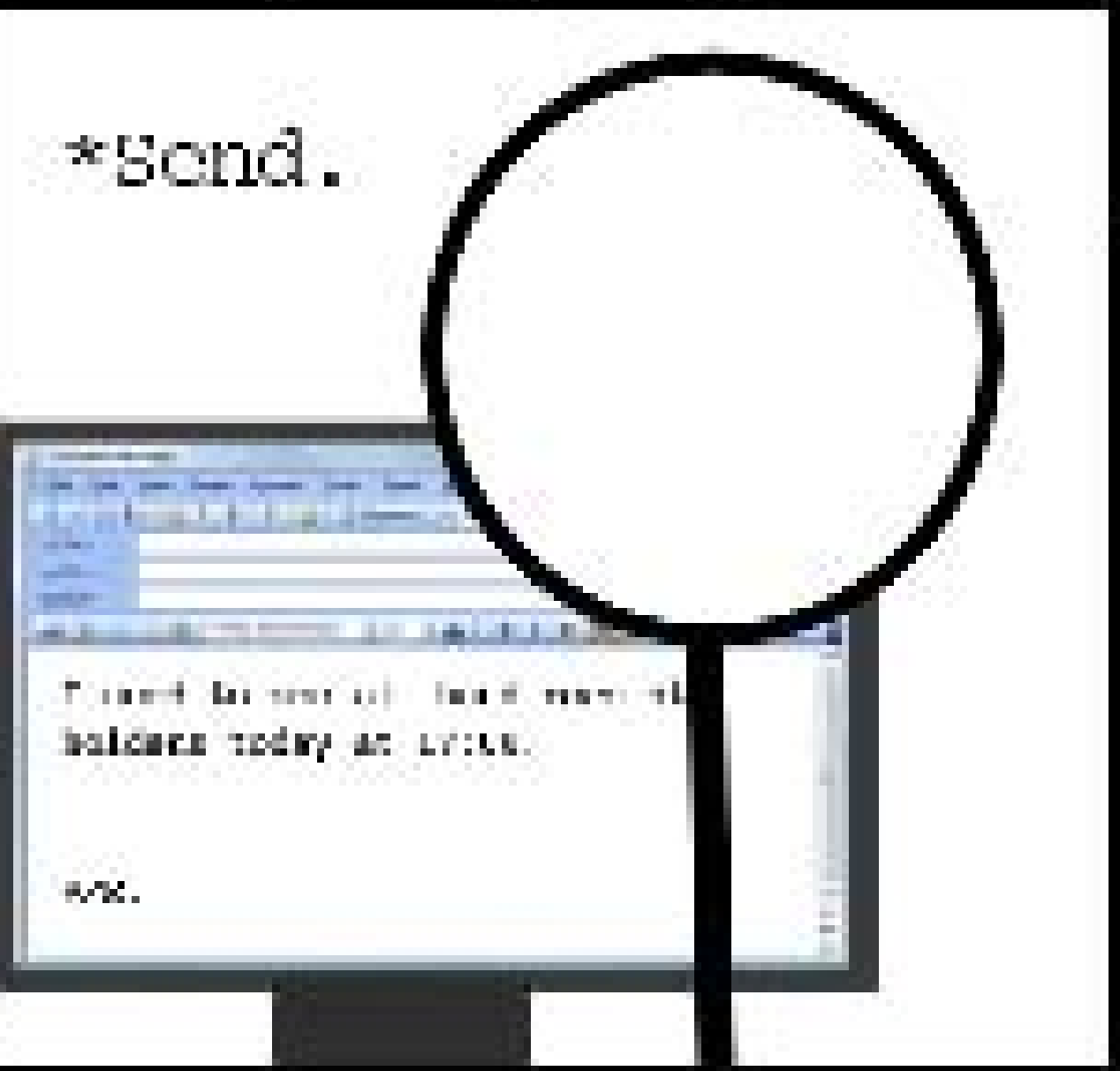
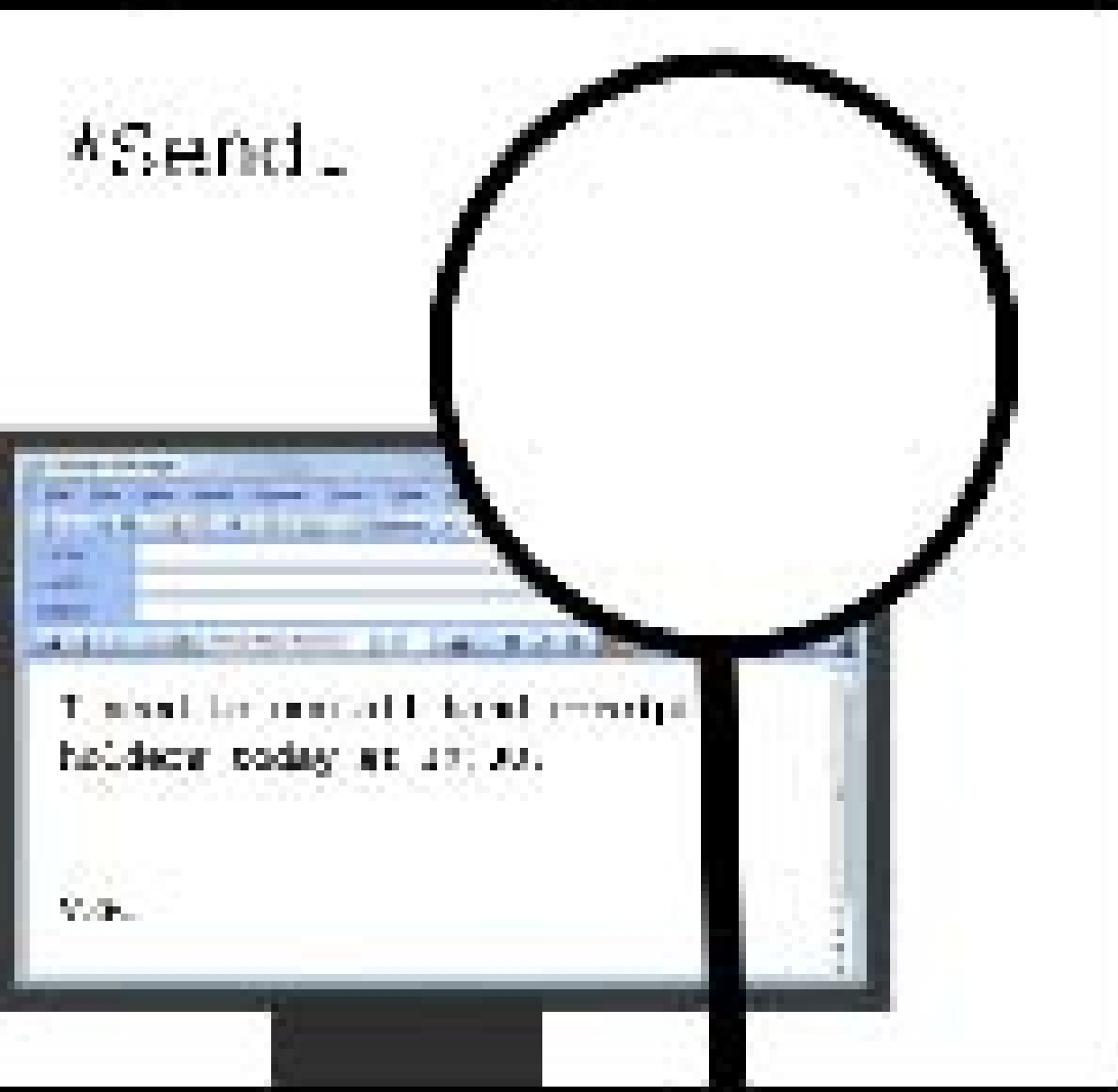
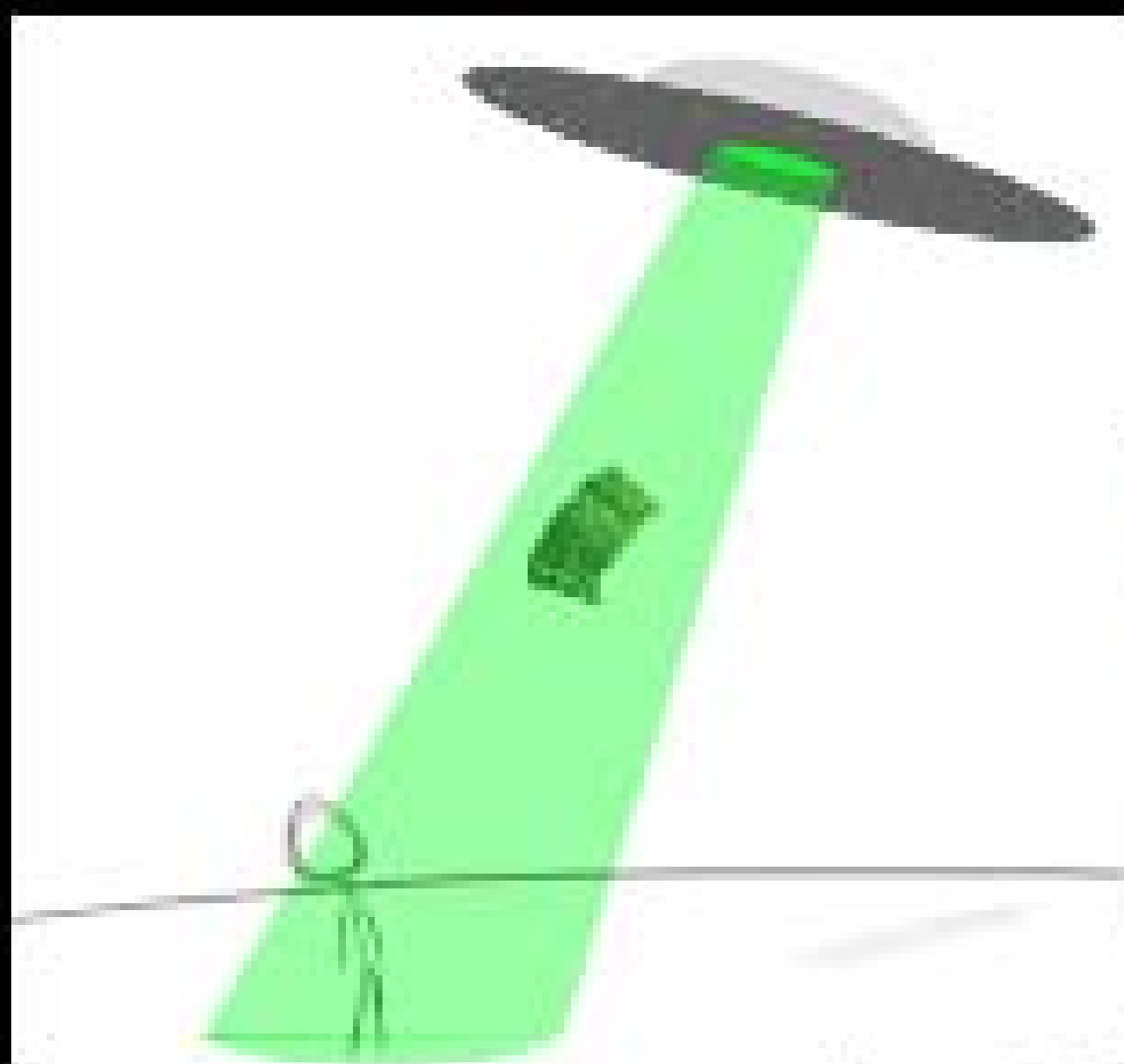
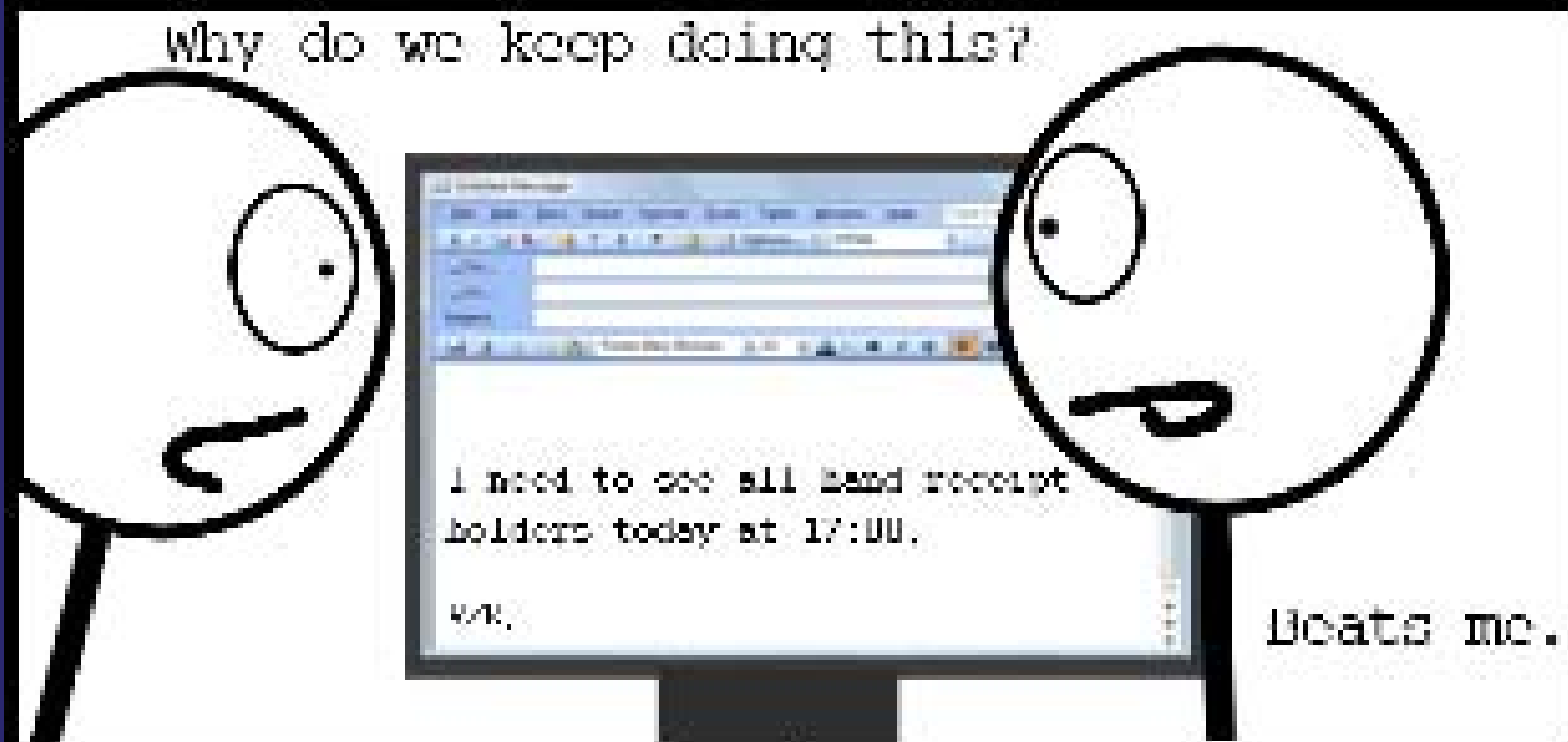
“I would do whatever I could to keep that from coming my way if I were the enemy,” said Staff Sgt. John Bittig, an infantryman assigned to 1-15 IN, 3rd ABCD, 3rd ID. “I said to my guys, ‘anyone on the receiving end of this isn’t gonna make it out alive.’”

DECEMBER 7, 1941

THE U.S. NAVAL BASE AT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, WAS ATTACKED BY NEARLY 200 JAPANESE AIRCRAFT IN A RAID THAT LASTED JUST OVER ONE HOUR AND LEFT NEARLY 3,000 AMERICANS DEAD.



# Sledgehammer Comic: Where have the hand receipts gone?



# Support & Defend

Lt. Col. Monica L. Burnhauser  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 203rd BSB Commander  
Command Sgt. Maj. Kent A. Galvin  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 203rd BSB Command Sergeant Major

Dear Family and Friends of the Eagle Battalion, hello again from Camp Buehring!

On behalf of the exceptional team of Soldiers and leaders here at Camp Buehring, Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and I extend our heart-felt greeting and a tremendous “thank you” to our supporters back home in the great United States of America. There is no doubt in our minds that your continued support of the Soldiers here is vital to our success as a battalion. Thank you for the multitude of letters, care packages, emails, Skype sessions, Facebook comments and phone calls over the past five months!

This is the time each year, when families get together and celebrate the various winter holidays. Since we are not able to be with immediate families this year, we look to our brothers and sisters in arms for support during the holiday season, while keeping all of you in our thoughts.

Even with the holiday season upon us, the operational tempo has not slowed. November has been an eventful month which seems to have passed by in a flash. Eagle Soldiers continue to train hard to maintain their physical and mental toughness to accomplish any mission. Soldiers trained on small arms weapons, crew-served weapons, convoy academy classes, and combat life saver procedures to include en-route medical care inside a moving evacuation vehicle. The highlight of the month was our Eagle Strike Operation in which we established a Brigade Support Area (BSA) minus and successfully provided sustainment operations in order to support the Brigade’s Operation Hammer Strike. Charlie Company conducted a casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) exercise during the field exercise to display the function of an Ambulance Exchange Point (AXP). Casualties were transported from the battlefield via medical ambulance to a Role II medical facility, treated by health care providers and evacuated via aircraft. In conclusion, we conducted a safe and successful training exercise and refined our logistics systems for future operations.

From the reports we receive from the rear detachment commanders, we know that back at Kelley Hill the operational tempo is high and that the rear detachments are successfully supporting the Brigade rear elements. Your continued hard work and achievements are appre-

ciated.

Eagle Soldiers showed their physical prowess and competitiveness by engaging in flag football and participating in a fitness challenge and local half marathons and full marathons. Flag football teams from HHC, Alpha Company and Bravo Company continue their quest to be the best on Camp Buehring with strenuous practices and games almost daily. Congratulations to Charlie Company’s Sgt. Gunter as she placed 1st in her age group for the STREND fitness challenge which consisted of bench presses, pull-ups, shoulder presses, chin-ups, and a 3-mile run on the treadmill. Finally, Eagle Soldiers participated and completed the grueling marathon and half marathon at Camp Buehring and nearby Camp Virginia. Capt. Griffin, Charlie Company commander, organized the Soldier Marathon and Half Marathon at Camp Buehring. It was a great turnout of more than 80 participants marking the event the largest satellite service member race to date.

Fifteen of our Soldiers earned promotions this month. Congratulations to HHC’s Capt. Kamga as well as A Co’s 1LT Martin, Spc. Fenwick, Spc. Parsons, Spc. Washington, and Spc

Cole. B Co celebrates the promotion of CW2 Brown and Staff Sgt. Crawford’s hard-earned battlefield promotion. Last but not least, we congratulate C Co’s Spc. Canas, Spc. Gardner, Spc. Reeder, Spc. Hentges, Spc. Smith, Spc. Wing, and Pfc. Clairmont for advancing to the next higher level of rank. Congratulations to all - well deserved promotions.

Thanks again to all for the thoughts and gifts of love from home. It is hard to express the gratitude of something as simple as a quickly written letter which can lift the spirits of a Soldier who is feeling worn down from the grind of deployment. Please keep it up and get ready, because we’ll be home before you know it.

Support & Defend!

Eagle 6 & 7





# WANT TO PLACE AN AD?

## HERE'S WHAT YOUR AD WILL LOOK LIKE

# Soldier's VOICE

**Title:** Keep it short and to the point. Try to stay around five words.

### Wanting to Start a Dodgeball League

SPC Chuck Finley:

**Message:** Include as much relevant information as you can but be brief. Anything over 7 sentences will be trimmed down.

We've got six guys right now from HHT who are ready to play and we know 3 people from 203rd who are interested too. It doesn't have to be based on company, but we want to get some teams together and start playing. If you want to play, have suggestions for forming teams, or have a team already, contact us. Let's get this going!

**Contact:** If you are wanting feedback, include some contact information. We will not include this unless you ask.

Contact: [Chuck.Finley@gmail.com](mailto:Chuck.Finley@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/beuhringdodgeball](https://facebook.com/beuhringdodgeball)

This space is for you to ask questions, post concerns, or to find other Soldiers to set up an event. A submission does not guarantee placement due to space restrictions.

#### Rules:

Posted content is "clean" in nature. Content that is offensive, or contains generally harsh language will be rejected.

Posts which are derogatory or a direct attack on an individual will be rejected.

Posts will not advertise any for profit content, to include selling or looking to buy items.

#### Instructions:

Email the Following to [pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com](mailto:pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com)

#### Email Title:

Soldiers Voice Submission (Your Name)

#### Email Message:

Your Name  
Title  
Message

Contact Information (Optional)

# Rock's Support

Lt. Col. James E. Willard  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-10 FA Commander  
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Aaron  
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-10 FA Command Sergeant Major

As another month ends here in Kuwait, I hope this note finds all of our families and friends well in the states. The Rock's Support Battalion has been tremendously busy training on our core competencies over the past three months. All of our efforts to maintain and refine our Artillery gunnery skills continue to pay dividends, as each and every Paladin Section, FDC Section, maintenance team and logistic support element continues to perform at an incredibly high level. It is truly a pleasure to watch a group of professional Soldiers continue to learn, and some cases perfect their skills in the Military Occupational Specialties.

With 90 days of hard training under our belts, the battalion will take about a week to provide some well deserved down time to re-charge the batteries. This week includes a variety of opportunities for Soldiers to get away from Camp Buehring and enjoy some of the simple pleasures such as eating off of real plates, seeing a movie in a theater setting and a chance to take a dip in a pool. In addition to the reduced training schedule, the battalion took the opportunity to present a variety of Awards, Certificates of Achievements and Brigade and Battalion Coins over the last week. These presentations span outstanding performances from Table VI gunnery to tireless dedication by our maintainers and supporters to the Top Gun/Top FDC competition.

Following this downtime, the Battalion begins a month of intensive training as we conduct our Platoons level qualifications and provide fires

in support of 1-15 Infantry's platoon level training exercises. During this training cycle, at least one Platoon of Artillery, with their support elements, will be in the field each week of October. With several terrific training events upcoming, the time here in Kuwait continues to pass at a rapid rate, as we have already completed one-third of our deployment.

If you haven't taken a look at the Battalion's Facebook Page, I encourage you to do so, as we routinely update the page with new photos, videos and information. If there are any issues you would like for us to address or photos you would like to see, please let 1LT Watkins or Stacy Gray know and we will do everything we can to accommodate your request. Additionally, many of the articles videos and news stories for the Battalion can be found on the

Brigade YouTube page at 3HBCT3ID; stories such as the citizenship story on Spc. Desengano and the coverage of the TOP Gun presentation.

In closing, all is going well here in Kuwait, and I want to thank everyone for your continuing support for the Battalion and our Soldiers. Please continue to send letters, packages and the like, as these are always terrific morale boosters. Keep us in your thoughts, as you are all in ours each and every day. "Rock's Support"!

Hard Rock 6 & 7



# 3 Tips For Staying Healthy

## Exercise:

Don't let the cold weather or long days of holi-



day shopping become an excuse to skip your exercise routine. Exercise keeps your body active and actually increases your bodies ability to fight off disease. You can take the opportunity to visit the gym for some weight lifting or try one of those classes you have always wanted to try. If you do decide to workout outside, remember to dress appropriately and beware of hazards such as snow and ice.

day shopping become an excuse to skip your exercise routine. Exercise keeps your body active and actually increases your bodies ability to fight off disease.

You can take the opportunity to visit the gym for some weight lifting or try one of those classes

## Wash your hands; a lot:

Remember that you use your hands throughout the vast majority of the day and so does most everyone. Since you cannot be sure everyone else is washing their hands everytime they cough or blow their nose, be dilligent about cleaning your hands at every opportunity. The Flu virus can survive on open surfaces for two to eight hours, so keep those hand squeaky clean!



The Flu virus can survive on open surfaces for two to eight hours, so keep those hand squeaky clean!

## Sleep:

You can exercise and wash your hands all you want, but if you are not getting enough sleep it wont do you much good. Sleep is your bodies chance to recover from the day and get ready for the next. Depriving yourself of sleep is a great way to leave the door open for whatever disease is trying to get into your body.



# Soldier Marathon / Half Marathon at Camp Buehring

Story by Capt. Garrick I Guicko  
203rd, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID  
Battalion Communications OIC  
Public Affairs Representative

203rd Brigade Support Battalion hosted a Soldier Marathon/Half Marathon at Camp Buehring to prepare

for the upcoming marathons in Kuwait and to encourage running as a whole. The full marathon consisted of four complete laps around the perimeter and the half marathon was

two perimeter laps. There were five water points throughout the route where Eagle Soldiers provided water, Gatorade, and fruit to the runners. Capt. Aaron Griffin, Charlie Company Commander organized the event and was very pleased with the attendance.



“It was a great turnout of more than 80 participants from Camp Buehring marking the event the largest satellite SM race to date”.

# 1-15 Mudder

Story and photos by  
1st Lt. Joseph Bush  
1-15 IN, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

For all service members Veteran's Day holds a special place in their hearts, and the Soldiers of the Can Do Battalion didn't let this holiday go by without a fight. The Can Do team put together a week-end full of activities and games aimed at helping us celebrate not just who we are as Soldiers in 1-15IN, but with fellow Can Do veterans past and present. Even Audie Murphy made a showing.

Day one started on November 9th with a formation followed by the Can Do Mudder. Teams of 6 Soldiers from each company participated in a 6.5 mile race around Camp Buehring. The Tough Mudder was filled with obstacles, and events designed to physically drain the participants like the litter carry, sand bag toss, tire flip and a variety of other exercise. Less than a half

mile from the end the contestants had to low crawl through 100 meters of watery mud completely covering them from head to toe in a layer of mud. The Soldiers continued to finish line drained and broken. The Crusader Company even had to carry one member over the line. Despite being dirty and tired, the contestants had big smiles and a great sense of accomplishment at the end. Coming in at about 1 hour 20 minutes the winners were the BN Staff team which included: CPT James Canady, CPT John Cross, CPT Allen Byrne, 1LT(P) Brent Bond, 1LT Frank Curry, 1LT Brandon Aird.

Day two, November 10th, we had a special exhibition in the theater as Soldiers went head to head in a combative tournament. For the better part of the day Soldiers from their respective weight classes demonstrated their fighting skills as they tried to tap each other out. A few soldiers walked away with a few scrapes and bruises others with just sore egos. CPL Brett Larned, who placed second in the All Army Combatives Tournament, strategically pounced on his opponent, liken to a blitzkrieg, before the ref or wrestler knew

it. Larned pointed to his adversary's collar to say he is going to pass out, and within 30 sec of the match beginning his opponent submitted with a tap. Regardless of bumps or bruises participant and onlookers had a great time as a unit. The winners for their respective weight classes are as follows: at 155lbs SPC William Dalton (Destroyer), at 170lbs CPL Brett Larned (Hellraiser), at 185lbs SSG JaMarcus Wilson (Destroyer), at 205lbs SPC Joshua Schwenke (Hardrock), at 220lbs PFC Devin Foster (Hardrock), and at 221lbs PFC Shawn Orso (Baker).

Day 3 was Veteran's Day and the Soldiers had a day to relax and sleep in, But Day 4, on the 12 had some special guests. A video teleconference was held in the BN conference room with members of the 1-15 IN Regimental Association who were back home at Fort Benning. Veterans of the Can Do Battalion both old and new had a chance to come together despite the



distance and share stories and memories about 1-15. The Vets shared funny anecdotes, and serious observations of combat experiences. It was a great way to keep the oral history of Can Do Battalion alive.

Throughout the weekend the Soldiers

were able to the most famous hero of the Can Do Battalion, Audie Murphy, in the movie "To Hell and Back". Each Company had a chance to go down to the base theater, and watch the movie, starring Audie Murphy, to learn about. The movie was a great way to show Battalion's history and

see how some things 1-15 has changed and others have not. Our veterans could do it then and Can Do it now.

Overall the Soldiers had a great time and enjoyed the Camaraderie. It's not too often when we can celebrate Veteran's day with the people we serve with. Regardless of the hardships we face there is nothing we cannot do together.

## DECEMBER 7, 1941

DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG OCCURRED IN VIRGINIA AS THE UNION ARMY OF THE POTOMAC UNDER GENERAL BURNSIDE SUFFERED A COSTLY DEFEAT, LOSING 12,653 MEN AFTER 14 FRONTAL ASSAULTS ON WELL ENTRENCHED REBELS ON MARYE'S HEIGHTS. "WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE TRIED TO TAKE HELL," A UNION SOLDIER REMARKED. CONFEDERATE LOSSES WERE 5,309. "IT IS WELL THAT WAR IS SO TERRIBLE - WE SHOULD GROW TOO FOND OF IT," STATED CONFEDERATE GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE DURING THE FIGHTING.



# Buffalo Soldiers Charge Ahead With Training

As November comes to a close and the Kuwaiti air cooled considerably, the Buffalo Battalion charged ahead with our partnership efforts, collective training, and resiliency activities. We remained focused and steadfast on the goal to build a lasting partnership with our Kuwaiti partners and remain tactically and technically proficient in all of our unique skill sets.

Tactical and staff exchanges with our partnered units, the 26th and 94th Kuwaiti Brigades, remains our primary focus. We integrated every Company into the partnership exchange cycle. We train daily Sunday through Thursday with our Kuwaiti partners. Our Soldiers excel at the partnership events as they not only provide great training to our Kuwaiti hosts, but they have also built strong and lasting friendships. Due to these new found friendships, our Soldiers created the opportunity to eat tra-





ditional Kuwaiti foods and share resiliency activities such as board games, traditional dance, and stories of home and probably some exaggerated adventures. The interactions after the training day serve as a true testament to the strong partnership and lifelong friendships we have developed between the Kuwaiti and U.S. Soldiers.

The Battalion continued to execute an aggressive training regimen that culminated as we integrated all of our unique

capabilities into the Brigade level exercise called Hammer Strike. This live fire exercise included every capability within the Brigade. The A Company Raptors provided critical visual support to the exercise with the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle while the B Company Beasts ensured everyone could communicate throughout the training event. Chaos Company Sappers conducted the breaching support for the exercise also creating the largest bang with the Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC) fired from

their Assault Breaching Vehicle (ABV). The HHT Hell Raisers ensured the exercise was orchestrated as they provided the critical command and control while the HHC Wardawgs provided logistical support to the Battalion's companies throughout the exercise.

Besides partnership and supporting Hammer Strike, each company had several key highlights throughout the month. A

Company continued to provide intelligence support to the Brigade while also conducting multiple day and night qualification and familiarization ranges. B Company executed a change of command ceremony on Nov. 15 bidding farewell to Capt. Kevin Winfrey and welcoming Capt. Keith Breland to the team. The company did not waiver as they also provided continuous communications support to the Brigade throughout the month. Chaos Company

welcomed their third platoon this month quickly integrating them into our mission and training plan while also executing multiple live fire, demolitions, and situational training exercises and ranges. HHC remained engaged providing security assistance throughout the entire region while also logistically supporting

every training event throughout the Battalion. HHT remained focused on planning, synchronizing, and resourcing every major event the Brigade is involved in from training to partnership.

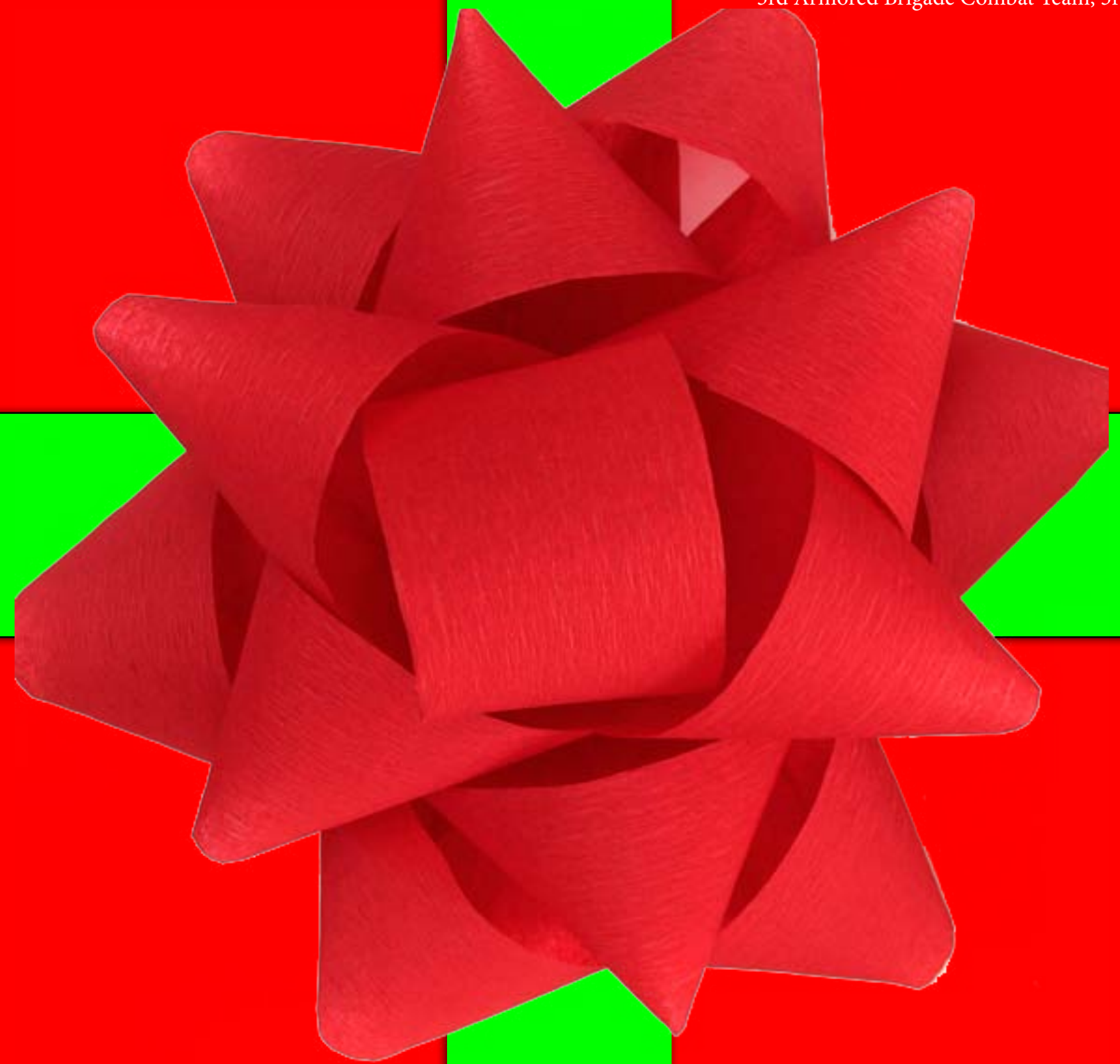
As a morale builder, we conducted multiple MWR events this month. Some companies took advantage of Camp Buehring's MWR sponsored trips to Kuwait City. They were able to experience the culture,



dining, and historical experiences of Kuwait. Many of our Soldiers participated in one of the many half marathons offered on the U.S. camps. On Nov. 2 we held a promotion ceremony for three of our fellow Soldiers. The Soldiers were awarded battlefield promotions to the rank of sergeant due to their excellent leadership potential and the outstanding performance in their current jobs.

Finally, we all took a small breather as we enjoyed Thanksgiving where we enjoyed a traditional feast in the dining facility served by the Brigade's leadership and had a lighter than usual duty day that allowed us the opportunity to talk to our loved ones back home. As this holiday season begins, we not only reminisce about our homes and families, but spend time reflecting on the new memories that have been created. We realize that none of our great accomplishments here would be possible without the love and support we receive from our families and friends at Ft Benning and around the world. We appreciate the letters, care packages, and support you all provide. As always, we will remain vigilant and honorable.





*Happy Holidays*

# WHAT IS YOUR FAMILY'S "MISSION" ?

Written By: Chaplain (Capt.) William Beaver

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST. It's the first line of the Warrior's Ethos. Soldiers know it. They live it. And whose mission is it? The Commander's mission. The Commander's intent. It's what makes the world go 'round in the Soldier's unit. The mission is planned, discussed, and dispersed to the Soldiers. The Soldiers then train on the mission. They rehearse the mission. They prepare to execute the mission. They execute the mission. They complete the mission. They evaluate the mission. They make suggestions to the Commander for changes to the mission. And then the Commander sets forth the updated mission. It's a clear cut process. But it is necessary for us to accomplish the work of the Army.

The Commander tells the Soldiers each week at the closeout safety brief to "have a plan" and execute that plan. To have a safe plan for fun with the family and then execute. So just what is YOUR family's plan? More specifically, what is YOUR family's mission? It must be more than the Commander's mission. Why? Because the entire family is not in uniform. The Army is the largest part of the Soldier's life but it isn't all of the Soldier's life. As a Chaplain I would add that it isn't the most important part of a Soldier's life. Want proof? What happens when a Soldier is deployed and something serious happens to an immediate family member that jeopardizes the health and safety of that family member? Watch how fast the Red Cross responds with a message to that Soldier, and

see how fast that Soldier is headed back on emergency leave to family. The Army places an EXTREMELY HIGH importance on the family. What importance does the Soldier place on his or her family?

Importance placed on the family is a start in forming the family mission, but there is much more. In the Army, a Commander's mission means a course of action. And that action generally is to protect and serve. It is two-fold. How does your family protect and serve? The Soldier should always be sure official documents and records are in order and that family needs are met, utilizing all the resources the Army has to offer. But don't forget to utilize other resources, such as civilian agencies, relatives, and worship places. That covers the protection. But what about an action plan for your family to serve? My challenge to you and your family is to have a clear discussion with your spouse about what your family's values are. What do you believe? What is most important to your family? What do you want to teach your children? What activities do you want them to engage in? I also challenge you to think about how your family can be of service to others in need. How does service to others in need fit your family's mission? Who is your family's "Commander?" The Soldier? The spouse? Both of you together? A Higher Power such as God? How are your family's decisions made? And how can your protected family use its strength and resources to serve and assist others?

Today I had a Soldier come to me to ask how his family can help another Soldier's family in need. Seems they decided to

upgrade their Christmas decorations this year. Rather than selling their old ones or simply tossing them out, they want to give them to a Soldier's family who could use them. THAT is what I mean! How does your family's mission include service to others? This holiday season is more about giving than receiving. Teaching our children to be grateful for what they have is easier when they are actively engaged in helping others less fortunate. Teach the family members by example, to serve others as described in your mission.

And just as the Commander writes out his or her mission in the form of operational orders, families should write their mission down. At least a clear mission statement. I have seen some mission statements that were very brief and others that were longer. Some families embroidered them and hung them on the wall, or printed them up on nice certificate paper and had everyone sign it, and hang it in a frame. Some mission statements were original and others borrowed from other sources. One family mission statement I particularly like is from the Bible. Joshua announced that "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." What is your family's mission? What is your family's mission statement? I challenge you to formulate one this holiday season. I challenge you to train your family members on it. To rehearse it. To implement it. And to discuss it afterwards to see what changes need to be made. Because one day, the Soldier will remove the uniform for the final time and then focus solely on the family mission. Why not get an early start?

