



# NORMANDY NOW

29th Combat Aviation Brigade – Task Force Normandy

DESERT BLADES. CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT.

## 1-111th GSAB Participates in Kuwait Liberation Day



**CW5 Christopher Tenaro, 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative**

**F**ebruary 23, 2012, marked the 21st anniversary of Kuwait's liberation from Iraqi occupation. Kuwait Liberation Day is celebrated each year by the Kuwaiti people. This year, the 111th General Support Aviation Battalion represented the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Normandy, and the United States Army by providing a UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter for static display.

The aircrew consisted of Capt. Brian Cooper, Capt. Jose Deleon and Sgt. Ronald Spears. The event was open to the family members of the Kuwaiti military. These family members had the opportunity to see several different aircraft and equipment from U.S. and Kuwaiti armed forces. There was also an aerial demonstration,

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security forces capabilities demonstration and Explosive Ordinance Disposal demonstration. The Kuwaiti marching band performed throughout the day.

Kuwaiti armed forces personnel and their families, especially the children, were very curious and excited about having a photo opportunity with a Blackhawk and U.S. Army aviators.

Approximately 1,000 people attended this event, and the aircrews were well-received by the Kuwaitis.

Many of the Kuwaiti people present expressed their appreciation for the



contribution of the U.S. Armed Forces and their sacrifices in the Liberation of Kuwait. The aircrews considered it a great learning experience and felt they contributed to the goodwill and partnership of the Kuwaiti people.

### NORMANDY NOW

**Commander:**

~Col. David Carey

**Command Sergeant Major:**

~Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard

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~Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan

~Spc. Matthew Dornbusch

~Spc. Mandy Ebert

~Spc. Ashley L'Etoile

~Spc. Bradley Wancour

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# Commander's Corner



and rewarding; our new members have fit right in and already are valued members of the team.

Since February, our focus has been on training and qualifications including the semi-annual Army Physical Fitness Test, Individual Weapons Qualification and crew-served weapons familiarization. Our Soldiers are taking advantage of incredible opportunities including joint training with the Navy, landing helicopters on the decks of ships, working with active duty units to build our fires support skills, and establishing Task Force 3.1, our coordinating headquarters at Camp Buehring. Our expertise in communications, tactical operations and aviation planning is constantly sought by outside organizations and is a great tribute to the professionalism of our Soldiers.

Morale in the brigade has never been higher. Our leaders are engaged, and our Soldiers are taking advantage of all this deployment as to offer. We recently hosted a very successful prayer breakfast in celebration of diversity in our Army. In addition to the weekly MWR runs, many of our

March has arrived with typical desert style bringing warmer temperatures, which promise to turn much hotter soon. Many of us have crossed the halfway point of the deployment and are looking forward continued success in the remaining months. We do however have some new battalions that hit the ground running! Soon, we will welcome an active duty unit to replace the 1-151 ARB. Our time here has been challenging

Soldiers participated in the Bataan Memorial March, and others are competing on softball and dodgeball teams, ping pong and pool tournaments, as well as attending college classes during their off duty time.

Our Soldiers continue to be recognized for their outstanding achievements through promotions, awards and coin presentations. Sgt. Shropshire, Sgt. Lawson and Spc. Brooks from the brigade S6 section were recently recognized as U.S. Army Central Command's Heroes of the Week for setting up and managing communications for the Warrior Leader Course here at Camp Buehring. Without their expertise the course would not have been conducted. I am proud of all of you!

As always, I am extremely grateful for the support of our Families. The influx of hundreds of boxes of Girl Scout cookies the last few months is a seasonal reminder that we remain in our Families' thoughts. Once again, I thank all the Soldiers, Airmen, Seamen and their Families supporting the CAB. You are true professionals.

**"29, Let's Go!"**

*David Carey*  
"Normandy 6"

# Command Sgt. Maj.



operations, fire control and more. A senior leader noted recently that he was constantly impressed by the Soldiers of the 29th CAB. I agree with him wholeheartedly! The challenge now for our Soldiers is to continue individual improvement, as individual readiness is the foundation for collective training success.

During the last month, our aviation crews completed underwater survival training that prepared them to achieve deck-landing qualification on naval ships. This intensive overwater training has made the 29th CAB the most capable aviation brigade in the entire Army, regardless of component, in executing full-spectrum aviation operations in support of both ground and overwater missions. Deck landing is not for the faint of heart, but our aviation crews have worked to safely execute the training so they can perform difficult deck landings and overwater missions on order. Safety is imperative,

According to legend, March comes in like a lion. For the Soldiers of Task Force Normandy, nothing could be closer to the truth. March ushered in a high volume of specialized training, centered on overwater aviation

and the responsibility of all of us. Our safety record since we mobilized in 2011 has been exemplary. While we are in a dangerous business, we must continue to mitigate risk and do our job as safely as possible.

One more month is behind us. It is hard to believe that we are now on a downward glide on our way home. The 29th CAB's replacement unit will soon arrive for their pre-deployment visit. We are again moving to the change mode – continuing our aviation mission while at the same time preparing to return to home station. Our units are ready for change, as we have been dealing with constant change since we mobilized. I again thank our Soldiers for your sacrifice, but urge you to stay focused, do your job safely and take care of your fellow Soldiers. You truly are special and your wartime service at the "tip of the spear" puts you in an elite class of Americans.

*Thomas Beyard*  
"Normandy 7"



# From the Chaplain

by Chaplain (Capt.) David Harvey



I recently finished a book by Andrew Farley titled “The Naked Gospel,” and one section which caught my attention was called “Cheating on Jesus” and deals with the subject of forgiveness.

So let me ask you this: If you’re a Christian, and you commit a sin, what is your standing before God? If you die before you confess that sin, where do you go? I don’t believe that my sin (as a believer) separates me from God or breaks my fellowship with Him. If the Spirit lives in me – if I am supernaturally fused with him in my soul – how can I be separated from what is now part of myself? This does not mean that I am free to sin – Paul makes that quite clear several times – but the struggle between my godly nature and my flesh has no bearing on my salvation.

According to Dr. Doug Moo, “genuine faith...always and inevitably produces evidence of its existence in a life of righteous living.” This is what James is talking about when he writes of the necessity of works as a natural result of one’s faith. Yet even though this is (or should be) the natural process of regeneration that follows true conversion, it is not in itself a necessity for salvation. Recall the criminal who was crucified on the cross next to Jesus – where were his “good works?” He had faith, and that was enough. To add works as a requirement for salvation is to return to the Law that governed the Israelites under Moses – and we have been set

free from that law through the shed blood of Christ.

Don’t get me wrong – I’m not saying that I don’t understand why people ask for forgiveness. I do; I did it for years. Confession is one thing; in confessing, we essentially agree with God that we are sinners and that we still do wrong things. But usually this is followed by asking for forgiveness, which makes sense in human relationships where a rift has been torn, fellowship has been broken, and forgiveness is necessary to repair/restore the relationship. With regards to us and God, I don’t believe that last step is necessary, at least from His point of view. Oh, we may still do it, and I don’t think it bothers him that we do – but I think it would be a mistake to think that our asking for forgiveness suddenly brings down this rain of grace, as though God were holding it back until we asked for it.

The danger is that over time, we get into this pattern of confession/asking for forgiveness, and think that it’s the only way that we can get our slate “wiped clean” with God. We take what may be an understandable (yet wholly unnecessary) practice and elevate it to a necessity – to the point where we feel as though we’re not forgiven unless we’ve asked God for forgiveness. Now that quaint little habit begins growing into a millstone around our necks, and we preach to others that they should keep “short accounts” with God – as though He’s up there tracking our every sin and tallying it up on a celestial scorecard.

What I’m proposing isn’t really all that radical – it’s what Paul & the writer of Hebrews preached nearly two millenia ago: Salvation by faith, forgiveness from God and freedom in Christ. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” -Ephesians 2:8-9



## 29th Infantry Division History Strip



Photo made Nov. 28, 1944.

One of the smaller elements of the 29th Infantry Division taking part in the fighting to capture Koslar in early December 1944 was the 29th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Primarily operating with jeeps and M-8 Greyhound armored cars with a single 37mm antitank gun, they were the scout element of the 29th. Some elements were in the first assault waves to land on Omaha Beach on D-Day.

The troop, numbered about 100 men, was not expected to stand and fight, rather it was tasked to move ahead of the division. They were to identify enemy strong points so that artillery could fire before the infantry was engaged. Once the troop made contact and gathered its information, it withdrew back to the security of the division until its next assignment.

Following eight days of fierce combat, not only against the enemy but also against the cold rain and mud, the German city of Koslar fell to the 29th Infantry Division.

# KANSAS ARMY GUARD COUPLE DEPLOYS TOGETHER

**By Spc. Bradley Wancour,  
13th Public Affairs Detachment**

**F**or military marriages, deployment normally means a year-long separation. This is not the case for two members of the Kansas Army National Guard, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Dale, a Black Hawk helicopter maintenance platoon sergeant, D Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, and Army Staff Sgt. Danielle Burke, a human resource specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-108th Aviation.

“We get to see each other every day, which is the main benefit,” said Dale. Burke agreed and went on to explain how having her husband nearby allowed her to unwind after a difficult day.

The Topeka, Kansas, natives have been married for roughly nine months, said Burke. Soon after they were married, the unit deployed, and has been in theater for more than four months. Burke and Dale have already experienced some of the advantages of being deployed together.

“He’s my support system, so it’s good to have him here so I can talk to him if I get frustrated at work or if I just had a bad day,” Burke stated. While they are hesitant to

admit it, there are certain challenges to being in a deployed environment with one’s spouse that many people may not realize, Dale explained.

“We’re always in uniform, so we have to maintain our professionalism all the time, which means we can’t even do simple things like hold hands,” Burke said.

While they do get to see each other in a professional setting, the deployed environment makes spending quality time together difficult, Burke stated.

“We know we have it better than most married soldiers,” said Dale. “So I feel bad saying there are disadvantages because at least we get to see each other.”

Other difficulties arise from the workload each spouse has to shoulder while in a deployed environment,



Dale stated.

“We still have our mission, so our hours may not be the same,” said Dale. “It can be hard knowing she is so close but the job won’t allow us to see each other.”

Both Burke and Dale understand the difficulties and accept them, just like the traditional military couple deals with the challenges of spending a year apart. Overall, they are optimistic about their deployment and are happy to be able to spend time with each other.





## Soldier of the Week

### **Pfc. Patricia A. Holmes**

**Headquarters and Headquarters Co.,  
1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion**

Pfc. Patricia Holmes, an aviation operations specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion, was selected for Soldier of the Week due to her high spirit and dedication to improving the overall morale of the Soldiers in her unit.

During the recent holiday season, Holmes organized the company Christmas party. As her battalion transitioned from Iraq to Kuwait, Holmes decided a boost in unit morale was necessary. She planned a highly successful battalion morale, welfare and recreation day for the Soldiers in her unit.

She went above and beyond her assigned duties and worked countless hours on her personal time to plan and coordinate events for Soldiers to relax and take a break. Holmes' ongoing efforts greatly improved unit morale and enhanced esprit de corps for the Soldiers of the 1-111th.

### **Spc. Trent Harding**

**Headquarters and Headquarters Co.,  
1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion**

Spc. Trent Harding is a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion. Initially, Harding began treating Soldiers within the battalion using tailgate medicine while preparations were made for a permanent medical facility. Once the Battalion Aid Station opened, Harding committed himself to the health and welfare of his fellow Soldiers. He took time out of his schedule to check with flight crews, mechanics and companies within the battalion, ensuring Soldiers were taken care of, medically.

He also freely volunteered to help others complete details they had. During down time, Harding has been working toward his associate's degree and completing Army correspondence courses in an effort to be an even better Soldier and uphold a higher standard. He spent countless hours learning pharmaceutical procedures and proper patient care in an effort to make the BAS run more efficiently.

### **Pfc. Caleb Hunt** **D Co. Company, 1-108th Assault Helicopter Battalion**

Pfc. Caleb Hunt, an aircraft pneudraulics repairer, with D Co., 1-108th Assault Helicopter Battalion, has distinguished himself as an outstanding young Soldier. He arrived last August as a young Soldier to a unit lacking experienced Soldiers to train him in his military occupational specialty.

This forced him to quickly adapt and learn his MOS. His efforts and initiative have been critical in the 1-108th ability to maintain flyable aircraft for the Kuwait Theater of Operation.

Hunt sets a high physical fitness example for other Soldiers to emulate. He places the unit's needs above his own and is a constant team player. For his relentless pursuit of aviation maintenance knowledge and to advance himself as a professional Soldier, Hunt was recognized as the 1-108th AHB's Soldier of the Week.

### **Staff Sgt. John Lane**

**Headquarters and Headquarters Co.,  
29th Combat Aviation Brigade**

Staff Sgt. John Lane, brigade chaplain's assistant, distinguished himself in the planning and execution of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade's prayer breakfast Feb. 29, 2012, in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and works.

Under the guidance of the brigade chaplain, Lane worked extensively with the chaplain assistants from each battalion in the brigade to plan, organize and implement a successful event that drew more than 200 Soldiers. He made certain that each detail was handled in a professional fashion, by coordinating with the dining facility staff, working with permanent party at Camp Buehring and coordinating the efforts of all volunteers.

In keeping with the event's theme of "diversity", Lane tirelessly worked to invite and ensure that Soldiers of all colors, creeds and nationalities participated in the breakfast. Lane's dedication to duty contributed to the mission success for the 29th CAB.



# Soldier of the Week

Continued From Page 5



**Sgt. Keitrick D. Clark**  
1-107th Airfield Operation Battalion

Sgt. Keitrick Clark, flight operations specialist with the 1-107th Airfield Operation Battalion, assumed the role of airfield management element supervisor for Multi-National Base-Tarin Kot while Staff Sgt. Tammy Moser was on leave. During this time, the airfield experienced unprecedented bad weather that almost rendered it unusable.

Clark led the AME section efforts to get the runway and ramps cleared of snow and kept the airfield open the entire time resulting in continued resupply of the 14 outlying operations bases and the movement of hundreds of passengers.

The AME section along with Soldiers from other sections managed to clear the concrete by hand. It should also be noted that Clark only joined the 1-107th just prior to deployment and completed flight operations specialist training to fill a need in the unit.

It is citizen-Soldiers like Clark who have the “mission first” attitude that keeps the mission going at all cost. This ensures that the warfighters of Combined Team Uruzgan are able to complete their missions without fear of running out of beans and bullets. Clark’s leadership and ability to think outside the box made him the prime candidate for Soldier of the Week.

## From The 1-126th

By Spc. Ashley L’Etoile, 1-126 General Support Aviation Battalion, Unit Public Affairs Representative

The 1-126th General Support Aviation Battalion, Task Force Liberty, conducted a patching ceremony Feb. 27, 2012, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The ceremony is the formal event, signifying the authorization to wear the 29th CAB’s wartime service insignia. After a few words about the illustrious history of the 29th Infantry Division and its patch, 1-126th had the honor of being able to proudly wear the “Blue and Grey.”

February 2012 also proved to be a month full of rigorous activities in warrior development and recreation for the 1-126th General Support Aviation Battalion, Task Force Liberty. Soldiers participated in many of Camp Buehring’s events, which included the Humvee pull, the Buehring Marathon, battalion dodgeball and the Bataan Memorial March.

1-126th’s Humvee team dominated the competition in the Camp Buehring Humvee pull event, taking first place in the two and six man, or woman, pull.

The Bataan Memorial March proved more than a walk in the park, but the 1-126th’s participants rose to meet the challenge. In the 13.1-mile march Spc. Ryan Petit took 5th place, finishing in 2:30 in the heavy load ruck event. Spirits were high and legs sore at the eight-plus-hour completion time of the 26.2-mile march.

# BATAAN MEMORIAL MARCH

By: 1st Lt. Carley Salmon, 1-126 General Support Aviation Battalion, Unit Public Affairs Representative

On April 9, 1942, 76,000 American and Filipino Soldiers, low on supplies and morale, surrendered to the Japanese who were unable to transport the prisoners of war to a POW camp. The Soldiers marched 70 miles through the Bataan Peninsula on West Luzon Island in the Philippines en route to the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp. Many of these Soldiers were dehydrated and starving. Some were injured or ill. Some 5,400 Soldiers were killed along this six-day march for moving too slow or trying to drink water.

Since 1989, New Mexico State University and the surrounding military units have held a memorial marathon in memory of those who lost their lives during this death march and those who were strong enough and fortunate enough to survive the march and years of imprisonment that followed. On March 3, 2012, the 15th-annual Bataan Memorial Marathon, for service members stationed in Kuwait, took place at Camp Virginia. Hundreds of Soldiers from surrounding camps in Kuwait gathered at Camp Virginia, early Saturday morning, either to run, ruck or walk in memory of those who marched in April 1942.

I have always wanted to go White Sands, N.M., to participate in the 26.2-mile ruck march but have yet to have the opportunity. The marathon at Camp Virginia was the perfect occasion to participate in the Bataan Memorial March.

My team, Team Liberty, was

geared up and ready for the 26.2 miles—a projected eight hours or so of “fun.” It was truly a sight to see the parade of Soldiers trucking along the route with company and battalion guidons flying high and strong through the intense wind.

Needless to say, our training did not mirror what we endured during the event. Strong headwinds made the second half of the marathon seemed like torture.

The final two of the five laps of the Camp Virginia perimeter proved to be the worst. These laps were a test of mental and physical endurance. Pain echoed through my feet, ankles, knees, hips and shoulders. There were numerous times when I thought I could not continue, and my body screamed for me to stop. I would stop thinking of myself and think of the reason I was marching. My situation could be worse—I could be sick, injured or beaten to push forward. The thought of the Bataan prisoners helped motivate me forward.

The orange cones, signifying the final leg during the last mile, were boosts of adrenaline I did not think I had left. All the pain and exhaustion was overridden by the thought of finishing. I can only imagine the elation felt by the prisoners of Cabanatuan when the Alamo Raiders came to their rescue Jan. 30, 1945.

In the end, the pain and soreness was worth its representation. The Battling Bastards of Bataan, “never forgotten.”

## Team Night Stalkers



Team Night Stalkers, five Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, of various ruck marching experience participated in the Bataan Memorial March, March 3, 2012, at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. Team Night Stalkers completed the five lap 26.2-mile march in seven and a half hours.



A couple of the Soldiers from Team Night Stalkers required medical attention for foot injuries. Although slowed by injuries, the team's determination to complete the march together was unaffected.



“The adverse weather, strong winds and dusty conditions made it harder than it was already going to be,” said Sgt. James Wright, Jr., a geospatial analyst for the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and member of Team Night Stalkers. “It was a challenge. A few of us had no idea how challenging it was going to be.”



# WARRIOR LEADER COURSE GRADUATES

**By Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 1-151st  
Attack Reconnaissance Battalion,  
Public Affairs**

**S**gt. Tiffany Geddis has been in the Guard for 11 years. Before coming to the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, she had been a truck driver and a logistics specialist. As a Soldier in the 1-151, Geddis is a human resources sergeant in the administrative section.

Geddis was the first 1-151st Soldier to attend the Warrior Leader Course offered on Camp Buehring during the unit's deployment to Kuwait. She was class 12-701, which ran from Feb. 12-27, 2012.

Geddis graduated on the Commandant's List, meaning she scored a 90 percent or above on all tests and evaluations. It also means she passed each test the first time.

"I was very happy to be on the Commandant's List. I didn't know what other students' grades were, so I didn't know how I was comparing to the others," said Geddis.

"The first student from 151st has set the bar of graduating on the Commandant's List for all following 151st Soldiers," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Uswa, Operations non-commissioned officer-in-charge. He said he was proud of Sgt. Geddis.



"That my girl, I'm very proud of her," said Staff Sgt. Shannon Houge, NCOIC for the battalion administrative section. "Like a mother proud of her own child's success."

"We conducted the new Army physical training, so that took some getting used to. When you conduct it, the commands and exercises are different, so it was difficult at first," Geddis admitted. "I was very nervous because I don't like talking in front of people, and I had to give presentations from the Common Task Training manual."

"I was worried it was going to be like basic [combat training], but it wasn't. It wasn't laid back either; It was more instructive training than learning by intimidation like in basic," said Geddis.

For Geddis, meeting different people was the best part. People came from

Afghanistan and other camps to take the WLC course.

"We had field training at the end where we got to play different roles in the field. We used simulation rounds that were like paint balls, so if you got shot, you knew you got shot. People got to play squad leaders and team leaders, leading their Soldiers through the training village while other students played insurgents and opposition forces. We used smoke and pyrotechnics to make the exercise more real," said Geddis.

"Overall, it was a good experience. We learned a lot about leadership. It was refreshing because sometimes as a lower enlisted Soldier you get discouraged about the way things are going, but this class gives you hope. You, as a non-commissioned officer, a leader, can make a difference," said Geddis.



## CAB WLC GRAD SINGS ANTHEM



*Sgt. Shelby Robles, an intelligence analyst in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was asked to sing the National Anthem during the warrior leader course graduation on Feb. 27, 2012, here at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Robles graduated WLC on the Commandant's List, meaning she scored a 90 percent or above on all tests and evaluations.*

## WAR AND PEACE QUILTERS ADOPT DEPLOYED UNIT

**By Spc. Mandy Ebert, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment Unit Public Affairs Representative**

**W**hen it comes to preparing for deployment, there is a long list of things a Soldier brings with them. Now that list includes a handmade quilt from the ladies of the War and Peace Quilters.

Connie Lamascus, who answers to the loving nickname of Grandma Hugs, had been quilting regularly with a group of women when a fellow quilter, Beverly Alstatt, commented that she'd heard of other groups making quilts for Soldiers.

That was enough of a spark for Grandma Hugs. Lamascus and others from a group formerly called the Brethen came together under the name War and Peace Quilters. When these women of faith began, they were making quilts with



no designated recipients.

"When we started, two ladies were concerned that we would make quilts and have no one to give them to," recalled Lamascus.

Then a conversation with retired 1st Sgt. John Degand, a former member of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, changed that. Degand and Lamascus worked together and she knew he had

been deployed, so she presented him with the gift of a quilt.

Little did she know that one thing would lead to another and one day, Degand asked her if the War and Peace Quilters would make quilts for all the Soldiers in his unit.

"He asked and I answered yes. 'We will make them one at a time!'," she recalled.

That's what they did.

Through the help of Staff Sgt. Patrick Crawford, a member of 1-108th's, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, a list of names was compiled and quilts were handmade and sent one at a time to the Soldier they were specifically designed for.

Many of the quilts are rich with sentimental value and include aspects of that Soldier's life, such as their civilian jobs, favorite sports teams as well as hobbies or interests. The crafty quilters have stitched everything from an intense green Ferrari, to a proud Puerto Rican flag and heartfelt memorial quilts just to make sure that each Soldier feels that he or she is personally cared about.

Thus far, 83 quilts have been made and shipped to members of Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment.

Deploying Soldiers aren't the only ones receiving this kind of special attention. Lamascus listed many other groups to which they have provided quilts.

"We have made quilts for veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Servicemembers who are now serving, children of Servicemembers, Gold Star Mothers [mothers of Soldiers killed in action], Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm."

The group has made and are giving quilts to the Veterans Affairs hospice at Robert J. Dole Medical Center, Wichita, Kan. They make red,

white and blue ones specifically for them. They also gave 32 quilts to the VA nursing home.

Two homes have been built in Emporia, Kan., for returning veterans that need a place to live. One houses 14 women and the group has seen that the house received quilts. They have also made quilts for homeless veterans in Wichita. All of the quilt recipients come to them solely by word of mouth.

Their work is funded entirely through donations. Items such as cotton or polyester material, single-double knit material, sewing thread, special patriotic material, batting, crochet thread for tying, straight pins and sewing machine needles are necessary to keep the operation in order, not to mention the cost of shipping each quilt.

In light of all this, when asked what the quilters needed most, Grandma Hugs said, "Prayers that we continue to have the strength and health to keep on making the quilts, would be nice. We are 'gently aged' ladies. We will continue making them as long as we can."

For information about War and Peace Quilters or to donate, go to [www.warandpeacequilters.blogspot.com](http://www.warandpeacequilters.blogspot.com)



[blogspot.com](http://www.warandpeacequilters.blogspot.com)

## CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

On Feb. 29, 2012, the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade hosted a Prayer Breakfast to celebrate diversity. The event took place in the dining facility at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. It included scripture readings in the multiple languages, participation from different chaplains and different branches of service.





## 1204TH: THE LAST ASB & KENTUCKY GUARD UNIT IN IRAQ

### A Multipart Miniseries

By Spc. Matthew Dornbusch,  
1204th Aviation Support Battalion,  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

**K**entucky National Guard Soldiers have continuously served in Iraq, beginning with the 223rd Military Police Company almost nine years ago until December 2011, when Soldiers from the 1204th Aviation Support Battalion departed Camp Taji, Iraq, bound for Kuwait. The 1204th ASB's departure from Camp Taji signified the end of operations in Iraq for Kentucky National Guard Soldiers. In all, 4,119 Soldiers from all across the state have been deployed to Iraq, some multiple times.

On August 24, 2011, the 1204th ASB, under the command of Lt. Col. G. Tom Roach Jr., mobilized in support of Operation New Dawn. On August 27th, Headquarters and Support Company and Alpha Co. 1204th ASB left their home station in Independence, Ky., heading to the mobilization site at Fort Hood, Texas. The Soldiers of the 1204th ASB from five states, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, and South Carolina, met in Fort Hood, Texas, to conduct required mobilization training. The 1204th, over the span of 53 days, completed validation accreditation and deployed to execute operations at Camp Taji, Iraq, and Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

On October 12, the 1204th ASB's advanced party, led by Maj. Shelly Beasley, battalion executive officer, landed at Camp Taji, Iraq. Beasley spearheaded the integration between the 1204th ASB and the 640th ASB from the California National Guard. Her task was to finalize the two battalions' relief-in-place and transfer of authority process. On Nov. 3, 2011, Lt. Col. Roach and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy D. Walton uncased the battalion colors during the transfer of authority ceremony, officially symbolizing the transition of mission responsibility to the 1204th ASB from the 640th ASB.

After the transfer of authority, the 1204th assumed the extraordinary responsibility of aviation logistics sustainment and support operations for the Iraq Joint Operations Area from Camp Taji, while simultaneously planning for the withdrawal of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade. The withdrawal of United States forces from Camp Taji and the IJOA was



the biggest such operation since the World War II. The 1204th accomplished this with just 30 percent of the battalion's strength forward in Iraq. The remainder of the battalion worked to establish operations in Kuwait to further support the 29th CAB's mission.







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**Spc. Delvon Anderson**, an intelligence analyst in HHC 29th CAB, was promoted to sergeant on March 5, 2012.



**Pfc. Ashley Stokes**, a human resource specialist in HHC 29th CAB, was promoted to specialist on Feb. 24, 2012.



**1st Lt. Tomas DeJesus**, strength manager for the 29 CAB, was promoted to captain on March 15, 2012.



**Warrant Officer Derek Hailey**, network manager for the 29th CAB, was promoted to chief warrant officer on March 8, 2012.



**1st Lt. Michael Jenkins**, assistant S4 for the 29th CAB, was promoted to captain on Feb. 9, 2012.



**Pvt. Wannetta Wilson**, a signal support specialist in HHC 29th CAB, was promoted to private first class on Feb. 24, 2012.



**Pfc. Kevin Fields**, an aviation operations specialist in HHC 29th CAB, was promoted to specialist on Feb. 24, 2012.



**1st Lt. Cori Uscilowicz**, medical operations officer for the 29th CAB, was promoted to captain on Feb. 21, 2012.



**Staff Sgt. Daniel Campbell**, an information system operator in HHC 29th CAB, was awarded an army achievement medal on Feb. 27, 2012.



**Staff Sgt. Charles Dockery**, a transportation management coordinator in HHC 29th CAB, was awarded an army achievement medal on Feb. 27, 2012.



**1st Lt. Andrew Arconti**, operations planner for the 29 CAB, was promoted to captain on March 15, 2012.