



NORMANDY NOW

29th Combat Aviation Brigade – Task Force Normandy

DESERT BLADES. CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT.

THE LONG ROAD HOME

By Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington,
29th CAB Public Affairs

Photos by Master Sgt. Leon Carr III

On Thanksgiving Day, Members of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade successfully moved the last Longbow Crew Trainer from Iraq.

They used the “yard dog” to carefully load the two 40-foot trailers onto the C-5 Galaxy at Baghdad International Airport, in downtown Baghdad, Iraq.

Task Force Normandy soldiers completed this mission while other service members enjoyed the last holiday meal for the United States Military in Iraq.

“The need to move this thing was at the top echelons,” said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Smith, brigade mobility officer for the 29th CAB. “It was a no-fail situation because [the U.S. Military was] leaving, and they were not going to leave that piece of equipment in Iraq.”

The Longbow Crew Trainer functions as a deployable simulator. It replicates AH-64 Apache Longbow operations



and functions. The trainer disassembles and reassembles within seven days.

“It took about five hours to build a ramp and load the C-5. The maximum clearance from the top of the trailer to the top of the C-5 was only like three inches,” said Smith. “Plus, doing it at night just added an extra level of complexity because you just can’t see in there very well.”

“It was a three-day mission. The first day was assessing what needed to be done, the second day was the day of execution and the third day was travel,” said Master Sgt. Leon Carr III, brigade safety and retention noncommissioned officer in charge. “My role

was assistant to the driver. When you have that type of equipment and that type of mission you need everybody to be paying attention to

See Last LTC on Page 4

NORMANDY NOW

Commander:

~Col. David Carey

Command Sergeant Major:

~Command Sgt. Maj.
Thomas Beyard

Public Affairs Officer:

~1st Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner

Design/Editor:

~Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington

Contributors:

~Chaplain (Capt.) James Steelman

~Master Sgt. Leon Carr III

~Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan

~Spc. Matthew Dornbusch

~1204th Aviation Support
Battalion, Unit Public Affairs

Representatives

Commander's Corner



part of ARCENT. The unit is well-led and razor sharp, filled with experienced and professional Soldiers who always accomplish the mission. I wish Lt. Col. Ray Davis, Command Sgt. Maj. Lonnie Griffin and all of the members of the 1-151 ARB fair winds and following seas; see you on the high ground.

The 3-159th ARB replaced the 1-151. The 3-159th hails from Germany, part of the 12th CAB. They hit the ground running in mid-March and are already a valued member of the 29th CAB team. I am confident they are up to the challenges that lie ahead, and I look forward to working with them for the remainder of our deployment.

The 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion began an important mission in support of Jordan. This mission will take place over the next few months and will be our first in, what we hope

to be, a series of aviation partnerships throughout the theater. The 1-111th GSAB is an outstanding battalion, which I am sure will represent the CAB well in this endeavor.

The remainder of the CAB continues to accomplish new feats every day. We continue to plan and execute complex operations while taking care of one another. Our friends and Families back home continue to support us, and we are eternally grateful.

We could not do it without you. As we enter the final phase of the operation, it is important to remember: it is not how you start, it is how you finish that you will be remembered. Stay focused, continue to communicate and accomplish the mission.

"29, Let's Go!"

David Carey
"Normandy 6"

Command Sgt. Maj.



The success of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade is due in large part to the commitment and professionalism of our Soldiers, who worked long hours and endured many hardships to accomplish the mission.

Our Soldiers not only make the mission, but they keep making history. Our units are now engaged in exercises with our partners from various countries within the region. For example, our AH-64 Apache crews recently completed training missions alongside Kuwaiti aircraft. This was a first for a U.S. Army aviation unit. Our Soldiers are also postured to train with other militaries in the region. These exercises seek to increase interoperability with our partner nations and build positive relations that foster long-term peace.

Our Soldiers excelled in individual training. A number of Soldiers achieved placement on the Commandant's List during the Warrior Leader Course. Our Soldiers have improved their results on the Army Physical Fitness Test and individual weapons qualification, as well as completed Army correspondence and college-level classes. I am proud that Soldiers utilize the opportunities available here in Kuwait for

self-improvement.

As we continue toward the end of our deployment, it is especially important that we don't forget about standards and discipline. We must do the right thing always, even when no one is watching. We must also do our job safely, each and every day. I want every Soldier of the 29th CAB to return to their family and loved ones, having served with distinction. At the same time, we must also prepare for the next challenge that comes our way. That requires our Soldiers to remain focused and ready for the next mission.

I thank our Soldiers for their service. You have served with pride and distinction. And I thank each Family for your ongoing support. The constant encouragement and expressions of kindness make it possible for your Soldiers to excel.

Thomas Beyard
"Normandy 7"

From the Chaplain

by Chaplain (Capt.) James Steelman



“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

In the service, we often speak of our units as a family. In the reserve components, this can be quite literal as there might be brothers, cousins, fathers, sons, mothers and daughters in the same unit. In most cases however, the idea that a unit is a family is a reference to the closeness of the unit and how we treat each other.

In the text from the Gospel of John, Jesus is teaching his disciples how they should treat each other. His command calls his disciples to show selfless love for each other. In our units, what standard do we use to create a family atmosphere? Are we caring for one another as a family should, or are we caring more for ourselves? As we head into the closing months of our deployment, we need to take extra care in how

we treat each other.

Months of living and working in close quarters may have strained relationships, or relationships that started out great have now become sour. I encourage everyone to reflect on how you are treating those you live and work with. Are you building up a sense of family in the unit, or are you tearing down the group? How we treat one another will affect how we are able to perform our duties and how others see us.

Jesus called on his disciples to love one another, and he told them that their love for one another makes them known to others. The way we treat our fellow Soldiers says a lot about us as individuals and a unit. Consider how you are treating others, and resolve to treat others in such a way that we make our units a family.

Chaplain James Steelman
1204th Aviation Support Battalion



29th Infantry Division Hits the Beach



The 116th Infantry, a regiment of the 29th ID, hit the beach in the first assault wave at Normandy on D-day, June 6, 1944.

Facing intense enemy fire, the Division soon secured the steep cliff-tops and occupied Isigny, June 9, 1944.



Popular media featured the 29th ID numerous times, for its role on D-Day showing the division's fight on Omaha Beach. The movie *Saving Private Ryan* and *X-Men Origins*, among others, featured the 29th ID. Video games such as *Close Combat*, *Company of Heroes*, *Medal of Honor: Allied Assault* and *Call of Duty 3* as well as *Lego* enthusiasts have also featured the division.



... CONTINUED THE LONG ROAD HOME



details. It was a sensitive mission.”

Master Sgt. Charles Horchner, brigade senior maintenance supervisor, trained on the yard dog on

the first day of the mission. This was the only time he has ever loaded cargo on a C-5, as it is not a normal part of his job.

“The only thing I was

concerned with was at the right times people had to raise or lower [the yard dog] so it didn’t damage the C-5,” said Horchner. “Once the front wheels of the tractor got on the ramp, you had very little room where you could manipulate the rear. You could still do it, but you have to have the right people on the ground watching you.”

29th CAB awarded Horchner was with the Army Commendation Medal on March 29, 2012, for his actions during this movement. The satisfaction of finishing the mission without incident was most important, he added.

SHARPENING MINDS AT CAMP BUEHRING

Courtesy of 1204th Aviation Support Battalion, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Many National Guard Soldiers will face unemployment when they return home. For this reason, college education continues to play a large role in career progression within the military.

Despite deployment, several of B Co. 1204th Aviation Support Battalion Soldiers continue their college education while stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait to maintain competitiveness in their careers. The thought of taking a class, in addition to fulfilling mission requirements, may overwhelm deployed Soldiers.

However, online classes

make it fairly simple. The drawback is finding the time to balance study with 12-hour shifts. After working half the day, most deployed service members want to kick off their boots, lie down and get some shut-eye. However, some highly motivated Soldiers in B Co. have found a way to manage the time.

Several utilize the Education Office on Camp Buehring to advance their education either through online courses, or those resident courses offered on post. Working for a maintenance company, most Soldiers contend with limited office space to work during their down time, so some utilize the United Service Organization or Morale Welfare and Recreation.



Spc. Armeshia Johnson works toward her Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing and currently takes math and science courses at Camp Buehring. Pfc. Todd Dolon currently reviews math and the sciences, to help him pursue a Bachelor’s of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alabama in Birmingham upon the unit’s arrival stateside.



Soldier of the Week

Sgt. Alexander Barada

E Co., 1-126th Aviation Regiment

Sgt. Barada seizes the initiative. He quickly submitted work orders to improve the living and work conditions for all E Co. Soldiers.

What is also impressive about him is his example-setting attitude and what he does outside of his daily duties. He is attentive to his Soldiers' issues and then acts accordingly.

Through his efforts, the lighting in the maintenance tent was improved, faulty electrical outlets repaired, as well as preventative maintenance performed on air conditioning and cooling units. This is why Barada has been identified as the E Co. safety noncommissioned officer. In this role he has been no less aggressive in improving the safety environment in the battalion motor pool.

Sgt. Joshua Pirman

C Co. 1-108th Assault Helicopter Battalion

Sgt. Pirman exemplifies selfless service. He constantly puts the mission before himself, being the first Soldier to work in the mornings and last Soldier to leave during the evenings.

Because of his hard work and endless hours of maintaining aircraft and serving on crews, C Co. has excelled without a single mission failure.

His example of putting C Co. 1-108th AHB, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, and the United States Army ahead of his own interests is one of the finest examples of what it means to be the Soldier of the week.

Spc. Xavier L'Herisse

Headquarters Support Co., 1204th Aviation Support Battalion

Spc. L'Herisse exceeded the standards. He ran all S2 (Intelligence) operations while the rest of his section was forward-deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq. His dedication and knowledge of the mission supported forward operations and were critical to the success of the section and battalion.

His superior research and analytical abilities produced accurate and professional intelligence products in support of Camp Taji operations. His abilities allowed him to bring attention to intelligence reports that had been overlooked. Some of the reports he brought forward illuminated several threats that friendly forces had been unaware of, allowing them to adopt countermeasures to reduce the risk associated with those threats.

L'Herisse constantly seeks out and accepts even greater responsibility. He is an outstanding Soldier and a credit to the intelligence community and the Army.

Spc. Kevin Hernan

F Co. Air Traffic Services Company, 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion

Spc. Hernan controls the air. He attended the Control Tower Operators Program at Fort Bragg, N.C. prior to this deployment. This program requires a minimum of 154 days of training. The knowledge and experience he gained from that training helped ensure safe and expeditious control of aircraft during the closing days of Operation New Dawn.

Hernan was one of the last air traffic controllers in Iraq. Recently, Hernan has been training on the ground controlled approach radar at Udairi Army Air Field. His hard work and extra hours resulted in the addition of a second rating to his qualifications. His efforts ensured that F Co. continued to provide the highest standard of air traffic services to the aviators in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and those who operate out of Udairi Army Air Field.

TOP ROCKERS VISIT CAMP BEUHRING

By Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington,
29th CAB Public Affairs

It was no April Fool's joke. The sergeant major of the Army and the command sergeant major for the Army National Guard visited troops at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on April 1, 2012.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch spoke with, and listened to feedback from, current and future noncommissioned officers from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and other units.

The sergeant major of the Army serves as the most senior enlisted member of the Army and as a spokesperson for matters pertaining to Soldiers. The Army appointed the first sergeant major of the Army, Sgt. Maj. William Wooldridge, a Vietnam veteran from the 1st Infantry Division, in July 1966.

Since Wooldridge, there have been 13 other Sergeants Major of the Army the most recent being Raymond Chandler, who also served in the 1st Infantry Division.

While having dinner with National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers in Camp



Buehring's dining facility, Burch presented coins to deserving individuals.

"Recent legislative changes have now made the Army Reserve available to the states," said Burch. "We need to make sure we meet the demands of our families, meet the demands of our employers and meet the demands of our nation, to answer the call."

Throughout the day Chandler visited many groups of Soldiers, from a Warrior Leader Course class to senior enlisted leadership at all levels of the brigade.

"I trust you. Even if I don't know you, because you wear the uniform of a United States Soldier," said Chandler. "That's why the American

people respect us, because they trust us to do what we say we're going to do."

Chandler spoke with NCOs about a few large issues including hazing, sexual assault and

the down-sizing of the Army.

"You have a creed, something you're supposed to know that defines you specifically as an NCO. No one is more professional than I," said Chandler. "Be the professional and have the courage to say that's not ok. The objective of the Army is to eliminate sexual assault. Our objective is to be the standard-bearer for America."

"All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership. I will provide that leadership."

- NCO Creed

"Are those words you shout, or are they something you believe in? If we accept that any Soldier in our Army isn't safe from other Soldiers, we failed," said Chandler. "Unless you are willing to be responsible for your Soldiers and to ensure that the culture inside your formation says that this is not ok, we're never going to change this thing."



AMMO SECTION SWEATING BULLETS

**Courtesy of 1204th Aviation
Support Battalion, Unit Public
Affairs Representative**

The 29th Combat Aviation Brigade has an Ammo Section?

Yes! Buried deep within the Supply Platoon in A Co., 1204th Aviation Support Battalion, lies a small squad of hard-working and dedicated Ammunition Specialists. They ensure things run like clockwork when a unit within the 29th CAB needs ammunition issued or turned in.

Since November 2011, the members of the Ammo Section work with the 261st Ordnance Company at the Ammunition Supply Point/Ammunition Holding Area and at the “Surveillance Tent”, where the ammo turn-ins happen. They transport ordnance that requires demilitarization by Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

Now, you may think that they occasionally hand out ammo when a unit needs it, but much goes on behind the scenes. That ammo comes from somewhere, and arrives at the ASP, then requires an inventory, sorting and organization in the various locations within the ASP. Since November, the processed more than 5 million rounds with a value

of over \$64 million.

When a unit needs ammo, someone has to get their order ready, and some of those orders contain as many as 75 different pulls, if not more. That size order can take numerous days to fill even with a full-strength crew, which is why units have to get their requests in ahead of time. Issues handled so far? More than \$53 million or well over 11 million rounds issued.



Have you ever wondered what happens to the ammo left over after your individual weapon qualification weekend? Probably not. Out of sight, out of mind, and since it's usually just a few boxes, it's not too bad. But here, when a unit leaves at the end of their tour, they have to turn in all of their ammo, and that can mean multiple full shipping containers, and many different types of munitions.

Personnel must check and inventory the condition of all that ammo when it gets

turned in and again when it gets put away at the ASP. So far, more than \$23 million has been turned-in at the surveillance tent.

With the withdrawal from Iraq, most of the surplus munitions came here to Camp Buehring. Most of the surplus was still usable, but much of it was not, for multiple reasons. This unserviceable ordnance had to be destroyed, and that job fell to EOD. This ordnance was transported to

the demolition range by Ammo Section personnel 3 or 4 times a week since December, 2011. You may not think that there was much to be destroyed, since the military takes such care in packaging, but in just three months, 5,063,483

different items have been blown up or burned, for a grand total of more than \$95 million in ordnance. However, not all of it was U.S. ordnance.

So next time someone hands you rounds, remember Soldiers will “sweat bullets” to make sure that the United States military remains the best-stocked fighting force in the world.

MARAUDERS BID FAREWELL

**By Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan,
1-151st ARB Public Affairs**

The 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion is mission complete. The final conexes are loaded, Apaches cleaned and prepared for shipping, and the replacement unit has methodically stepped into place. The members of the 1-151st are heading home and move on to the next step in their lives.

Many noteworthy accomplishments came from this deployment; the 1-151st is going home with their heads held high.

According to Col. David Carey, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade Commander, it's not how you start; it's how you finish. Well, the 1-151st ARB has been strong the entire deployment. They were the last AH-64 Apache Longbow unit to leave the theater of Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, and they have done many missions in Kuwait that will leave their mark in history.

Chief Warrant Officer Kent Puffenbarger, 1-151st ARB operations security officer said, "We were in Iraq during the historic drawdown of troops. We covered tactical missions in the northern mountains of Iraq, securing the area for the government officials during meetings, and we flew



security missions around Baghdad for Vice President Joe Biden and for the Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta during their visits in December. I'm very proud of what we have accomplished as a unit."

The 1-151st was a major contributing factor to the overall success of the drawdown operation in Iraq. They flew hundreds of hours performing reconnaissance missions for units moving in and out of Iraq and searched for suspicious activities happening in and around Baghdad.

After the drawdown, the 1-151st ARB moved into Kuwait where they flew over-water missions, landed on the decks of Navy ships and offered reconnaissance for the coastline of Kuwait. The 1-151st participated in exercises with the Kuwaiti Air Force.

Puffenbarger said, "We have had the opportunity to work closely with the Navy, Air Force [joint surveillance and target attack radar system], Army Special Forces and the Kuwaiti Air Force pilots. We have accomplished a lot."

The support staff within the battalion provided around-the-clock services to the pilots and Apaches. Maintenance personnel, fuelers and ammunition specialists ensured the aircraft readiness to fly.

1st Lt. Adam Sarver, 1-151st ARB D Co. Commander, said, "Throughout this deployment, D Co. maintained the aircraft, all mission requirements and supported the battalion's fluctuating needs."

Sarver added, "I'm very

. . . CONTINUED MARAUDERS
proud of my Soldiers. As a new commander, they all have made my job easier and set me up for success.”

Sgt. 1st Class Jay Ihrig, D Co. component repair platoon sergeant said, “What we have done best is, despite all challenges with multiple movements, we have accomplished a lot of scheduled and unscheduled maintenance tasks with limited resources.”

Administrative personnel, medical staff, operations personnel, communication personnel and many others ensured all members of the 1-151st ARB prepared for the missions. The chaplain and his assistant were always around to offer uplifting encouragement to ensure each Soldier is emotional and spiritual preparedness for their missions.

Maj. John McElveen, 1-151st ARB S-3 Operations Officer, said, “The unit has done more new things in the last year than the unit has ever done, and I don’t think everyone has realized that yet. When we look back at this deployment one year from now, we will see this past year as some of the greatest times of the unit.” He added, “To accomplish all that we have in this short amount of time is amazing. It took everyone pulling together to make it happen.”

“I’m proud to speak on behalf of the unit at meetings while giving a brief to general officers. They are amazed at what we have accomplished,” said McElveen.

Individually, there have been many noteworthy accomplishments. Many Soldiers used this time of deployment to improve themselves in one way or another. Dozens continued their education by attending on-line classes in order to obtain a certificate, associate’s degree, bachelor’s degree, or master’s degree. One Soldier completed her bachelor’s degree and graduated from the University of Phoenix and another has earned a certificate in her masters program.

Others have used this time to get in better physical shape. Some trained for and ran the Camp Buehring marathon and half-marathon. Others trained for Ironman and triathlon events they will complete upon their return home. Overall, the battalion lost 2,428 lbs.

Lt. Col. Ray Davis, 1-151st ARB commander said, “I’m proud of all the unit’s accomplishments, as well as the accomplishments of the individual Soldiers. All these accomplishments have been the highlights of the deployment.” He continued, “We have broken

new ground in the execution of full-spectrum aviation operation.”

Special PAO Thanks



Staff Sgt. Dorgan has been a tremendous asset not only to her battalion, but especially to the 29th CAB Public Affairs Office. We essentially “inherited” Staff Sgt. Dorgan from our preceding brigade, and I cannot overstate the value of her knowledge of operations and procedures at Camp Taji. Her volunteering to remain in a combat zone until the last aircraft departed, in order to capture that historic event, speaks volumes about the kind of Soldier Staff Sgt. Dorgan was and continues to be. We wish her luck in her future assignments.



WHO SAYS FUEL AND FIRE DON'T MIX?



Courtesy of 1204th Aviation Support Battalion, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Why would you want to start a fire with a truck full of diesel fuel nearby? Well, that's exactly what the situation required, and the fuel section of A Co., 1204th Aviation Support Battalion was able to deliver.

The 788th Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, on a regular basis, performs what is commonly referred to as a "burn." Unserviceable small-arms ammunition is put into a pit in the desert, doused with fuel, and ignited. Normally, there is a small enough quantity that the fuel is delivered in five-gallon "Gerry" cans. On this day, the 788th EOD team needed enough fuel to cover 3 full containers of scrap wood along with the unserviceable small arms ammunition.

It was going to take more fuel than a standard pickup truck could carry. That's where A Co., 1204th's Fuel Platoon came in.

One of the fuel trucks assigned to the 1204th ASB needed to be switched from diesel fuel to JP8, a type of fuel many U.S. military vehicles use in place of diesel. In order to do that,

the filters on the tanker needed to be flushed with JP8. Until that was done, all fuel pumped from this truck was considered "dirty fuel." This dirty fuel cannot be used for refueling aircraft, the Fuel Platoon's primary mission. The 1204th had the fuel, and the 788th needed it. A match made in heaven!

With some quick (by Army standards, anyway) arrangements between the two units the mission was set to kick off. Sgt. John Walters and Pvt. Charles Coffey loaded into the fuel truck, and made their way to Entry Control Point 2 to meet up with the 788th and the Ammunition Specialists (or Ammo Dogs as they like to be called) supplied by the 261st Ordnance Company. From there, they began the trek to Demolition Range 2.

Once there, the fuel crews



... CONTINUED FUEL & FIRE

watched as the Ammo Dogs unloaded everything into the burn pit. After the EOD team and the crew from the 261st cleared the area, it was time to put the fuel on the fire, so to speak. The fire hadn't actually been lit yet, and wouldn't be until all non-EOD personnel were well out of the danger zone. With Coffey on the hose and Walters manning the pump, almost 550 gallons of fuel was put on the pile. The team would have used more, but that was all the dirty fuel they had in the tank. It goes quickly, when there is no nozzle on the hose. In a matter of minutes, the fuel mission was over. All that was left was to drive to the safe observation site and watch it burn.



This particular day, there was also a propellant burn, which was prepped simultaneously with the pit burn, to make the show even more spectacular, with a huge fireball to go along with the multiple flares flying out of the pit. After waiting for the pit to stop "popping", which indicates

that the munitions have all been destroyed, it was time for the long trip home after a job well-done. "I'd like to do it again," said Coffey, and they just might get the chance. Only time will tell.

EVERY ROUND COUNTS



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Normandy, conducted individual weapons qualifications March 20, 2012, at ranges near Camp Buehring Kuwait.

NEW WARRIORS



The Warrior Leader Course held its graduation ceremony on April 9, 2012, here at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Of the 128 Soldiers who in-processed all 128 Soldiers graduated.

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

A Multipart Miniseries 2 of 3

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

The 1204th issued the last round of ammunition and the drop of fuel in the Iraq war. The support operations section, under Maj. Steve Engels, planned the logistics sustainment and support for the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade.

The section ensured uninterrupted support over the final 45 days of aviation operations in the Iraq Joint Operations Area. The two most critical elements that required support was the Forward Arming and Refueling Point operations at Camp Echo and Camp Taji, and the movement of aviation repair parts.

1st Lt. Tim Bedinghaus commanded the Headquarter Support Company. In just five weeks at Camp Taji his medical platoon treated 1,135 patients. Patients included Soldiers, Department of Defense employees, Department of State employees, and Third Country Nationals. In addition to treating patients the medical platoon trained 117 civilians on basic medical care.

“The 1204th medical section upon arriving at COS Taji was a relatively inexperienced group of

medics, that in time were able to come together while working with other medical elements to provide above standard care to all personnel,” said Sgt. Jerrod Dean.

Two ground maintenance teams from HSC were sent to Iraq, one to Camp Taji and one to Camp Echo. Ground maintenance completed over 28 work orders with approximately 1,056 man-hours performed. Both Ground Maintenance teams were critical for FARP operations by keeping refueling equipment running around the clock.

“The Taji FARP reminded me of a speedway you see off the side of a highway. At times there would be aircraft in a line to get fuel. At one point we had 14 aircraft waiting on fuel,” said Sgt. John Amburgey.

Commanded by Capt. La'Shawna Waller, A Co. operated both Camp Taji and Camp Echo FARPs. Camp Taji's FARP broke records by refueling 96 aircraft in a 24-hour period. During the 45 days, the fuelers at Camp Taji pumped 366,440 gallons of fuel into 2,647 rotary wing aircraft, both American and Iraqi. The Camp Echo FARP refueled over 642 aircraft and pumped over 148,319 gallons of fuel.

A Co.'s Transportation Control Team manifested and oversaw the movement of 3,401 personnel and loaded over 580 pallets of equipment.

“It was a smooth process from beginning to end. Of course you're going to have a learning curve not knowing the job, but we quickly learned,” said Spc. Greg Woodring, who worked with the team said.

Chief Warrant Officer Tony Dorris, A Co. Supply Support Activity Accountable Officer, oversaw the shut down and retrograde movement of the Camp Taji supply parts, consisting of approximately 2,670 separate types of parts with a value of \$26 million, requiring 100 flatbed trailers to move. The mission was five days ahead of schedule.

With aviation repair parts no longer locally available, the Support Operations Aviation Maintenance Material Management section, led by Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Bowling, developed procedures to use intra-theater aviation transportation assets to move repair parts from Kuwait to Camp Taji. During this high operational tempo period, they processed over 405 high-priority and Aircraft on Ground requisitions valued at over \$5 million.

TWO STARS FOR CAMP BUEHRING

By 1st Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner,
29th CAB Public Affairs Officer

Kentucky and Florida “TAGged” Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The adjutant general of Kentucky, Air Force Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, state command sergeant major for Kentucky, Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Armstrong, the assistant adjutant general for the Florida National Guard, Maj. Gen. James D. Tyre and command sergeant major for ground forces of the Florida National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert M. Hosford, traveled to Buehring on March 25.

These senior leaders met with Soldiers from their respective states in the 1st Battalion 111th Aviation Regiment and the 1204th Aviation Support Battalion, in order to gauge morale and preparedness.

“It’s an honor to be able to come over and see first-hand the work that they’re doing,” said Tyre. “It really sinks in and drives it home when you can come see it with your own eyes.”

The 1-111th and the 1204th, headquartered in Florida and Kentucky respectively, deployed with the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Normandy, in August 2011. The battalions are responsible for almost 1,100 Soldiers between them and also include units from Maryland, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Montana, South Dakota,

Puerto Rico, Alabama and South Carolina. As part of the 29th CAB, the battalions were among the last U.S. units to leave Iraq in December.

As a general support aviation battalion, the 111th flies both the UH-60 Blackhawk and the CH-47 Chinook helicopters and is trained for full-spectrum aviation operations. “We are the general support for the brigade. We take on the heavy lift, the [medical evacuation] and the command and control aspects for the brigade,” said Lt. Col. Pat Mignon, commander of the 1-111th.

“The aviation support battalion provides all the ground maintenance support for the brigade headquarters, aviation maintenance, medical support, logistics support and planning for the entire aviation brigade,” said Lt. Col. Tom Roach, commander of the 1204th ASB.

The Joint Monthly Access to Reserve Components program is a U.S. Central Command-sponsored program. It serves as the primary mechanism for the Reserve Components, both Reserve and National Guard, General/Flag Officers and their senior enlisted to visit Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines serving in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

The JMARC’s primary goal is to enable leaders to see, first hand, the contributions of their brave men and women,

who are serving on the cutting edge of freedom. This allows a general/flag officer perspective of the challenges and progress of not only their warriors serving in uniform, but also the progress of the coalition effort.

“Of all the things under the umbrella of what an adjutant general does, I don’t think any of them are as important as visiting deployed troops in the field,” said Tonini. “The trips are very short, very intense, the model for sleep deprivation, but they’re extraordinarily important and very gratifying.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert M. Hosford



Maj. Gen. James D. Tyre



Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini and Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Armstrong.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

1. Staff Sgt. Lori Wilson, the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade's legal non-commissioned officer-in-charge, was promoted to sergeant first class during a ceremony on April 5, 2012.

2. Spc. Phu Pham, a fire support specialist in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was promoted to sergeant during a ceremony on April 5, 2012.

3. 1st Lt. Thomas Butts, command liaison, was promoted to captain during a ceremony on March 29, 2012.

4. 2nd Lt. Joseph Zeek, a member of 1-151 ARB, was promoted to first lieutenant on March 15, 2012.

5. Pfc. Ronnie Leapard, a member of 1-151 ARB, was promoted to specialist on March 26, 2012.

6. PV1 Clarissa Westbrook, a food service specialist for E Co. 1-151 ARB, was promoted to PV2 on Feb. 24, 2012.

7. Pvt. Charles Everett, a vehicle mechanic for E Co. 1-151 ARB, was promoted to private first class on Feb. 24, 2012.

8. Pfc. Tristan Wilson, an ammunition specialist for E Co. 1-151 ARB, was promoted to specialist on Feb. 24, 2012.



9. Chief Warrant Officer Joel Gooch, a member of 1-151 ARB, was promoted to chief warrant officer three (CW3) on March 25, 2012.



10. Sgt. Ray Torres, a member of 1-151 ARB, re-enlisted into the South Carolina Army National Guard for six years on March 16, 2012.



11. 2nd Lt. Matt Miller, a member of 1-151 ARB, was promoted to first lieutenant on March 25, 2012.

12. Sgt. William Zimmerman, an information systems operator-analyst, was awarded an army achievement medal on March 29, 2012.



13. Sgt. Raymond Fleming, an air defense C41 tactical operations center enhanced operator maintainer, was awarded an army achievement medal on March 29, 2012.



14. Sgt. Shelby Robles, an intelligence analyst in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, was awarded an army achievement medal on March 29, 2012.



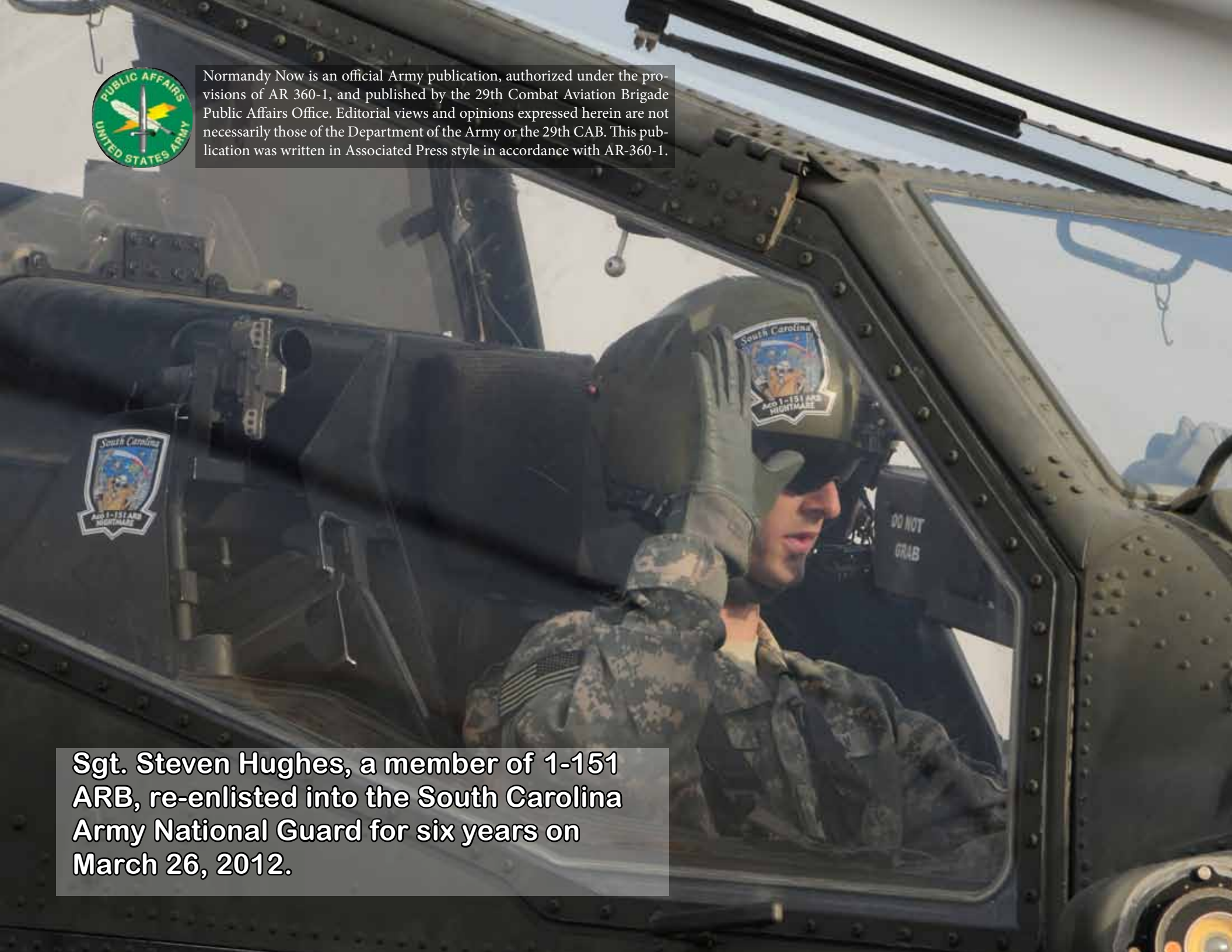
15. Master Sgt. Charles Horchner, brigade senior maintenance supervisor, was awarded an army achievement medal on March 29, 2012.

16. Master Sgt. Amahl Foster, the brigade's fires and effects coordination center operations noncommissioned officer, extended his enlistment for a year on April 12, 2012.





Normandy Now is an official Army publication, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1, and published by the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office. Editorial views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the 29th CAB. This publication was written in Associated Press style in accordance with AR-360-1.

A photograph of Sgt. Steven Hughes, a member of the 1-151 ARB, sitting in the cockpit of a helicopter. He is wearing a camouflage uniform, a helmet with a "South Carolina" patch, and goggles. He is looking out the window. The helicopter's interior and exterior are visible, including a "DO NOT GRAB" warning sign. A "South Carolina" patch is also visible on the side of the helicopter.

Sgt. Steven Hughes, a member of 1-151 ARB, re-enlisted into the South Carolina Army National Guard for six years on March 26, 2012.