



NORMANDY NOW

29th Combat Aviation Brigade – Task Force Normandy

CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT

LOOK OUT BELOW!



**By Spc. Matthew Magreta,
1-111th GSAB
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

The U.S. Air Force dropped 10 tons of supplies and equipment into the Kuwaiti desert recently, during a multi-unit proof-of-concept exercise.

After months of planning, the Army and Air Force put their Joint Precision Airdrop Systems operations on display, dropping four bundles from a C-17.

The event took place on the north side of Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and consisted of approximately 60 troops from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and the Air Force.

Although JPADS are commonly used in Afghanistan, this was the first time Kuwait-based units coordinated as a combined arms team to demonstrate their ability to resupply ground combat units.

“Mission success was contingent upon the positive relationships between U.S. units and our Kuwaiti partners to ensure that airspace was available and clear during the operation,” said Lt. Col. Todd Coulson, deputy chief of staff for operations, Task Force 3.1.

The operation was previously delayed due to administrative issues, but on this occasion the exercise was conducted flawlessly with JPADS performing exactly as advertised.

Flying in at almost 10,000 feet, two pilots and a full crew guided the drops using a Global Positioning System, meteorology data kit and mission planner laptop.

See JPADS on Page 3

NORMANDY NOW

Commander:

~Col. David Carey

Command Sergeant Major:

~Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard

Public Affairs Officer:

~1st Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner

Design:

~Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington

Contributors:

~Chaplain (Maj.) William Butler

~Capt. Gary Cover

~1st. Lt. Carley Salmon

~CW5 Christopher R. Tenaro

~Staff Sgt. Megan Grauer

~Spc. Matthew Magreta

Spc. Thomas Johnson

DCO's Corner



We're now in the last two months of this historic deployment, but we have to remember that our work is not complete. We are still training hard, and doing amazing things with our partner nations. We are breaking new ground here and setting the stage for years to come.

The change in months and hotter temperatures are reminders that, for many of us, our time here is winding down. The units that mobilized with the brigade headquarters in August 2011 can start counting down the days until they are home with their loved ones. Those units that arrived later are building great continuity as we prepare to transition our operations here to the 35th CAB in August.

In the meantime, our units in Kuwait and Afghanistan continue to rise to the challenges through joint training with the Navy and Air Force and combined arms live fire exercises with our sister brigades and regional partners. The incredible array of missions our brigade has accomplished so far on this deployment shows that we are one of the most capable and adaptable brigades in this theater of operations.

While we are constantly training, we

Command Sgt. Maj.



weapons qualification, land navigation, Warrior Tasks performance testing, a more than six-mile road march with a 35-pound ruck sack, plus a final board.

When the final scores were tallied, Sgt. Delvon Anderson, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th CAB, was named "NCO of the Year." Spc. Jonathan Foster, of B Co. 1204th Aviation Support Battalion, was named "Soldier of the Year". I am extremely proud of these two winners, but I am also proud of all the competitors, sponsors and supporting staff who made the event possible. The highly successful event was entirely planned and executed by NCOs.

May was a great month for the 29th CAB's outstanding Soldiers. In the midst of weather that often exceeded 110 degrees, six noncommissioned officers and five Soldiers competed in the 29th CAB NCO/Soldier of the Year Best Warrior Competition for 2012. Over a period of three days, the 11 competitors participated in a variety of events, including the Army Physical Fitness Test, individual

The brigade also conducted an NCO induction ceremony for our new NCOs, another first for our brigade while deployed. Since we mobilized last August, more than 60 29th CAB Soldiers were promoted and became NCOs. The induction ceremony formally welcomed these new leaders into the ranks of the NCO Corps. Becoming an NCO is a huge step in a Soldier's career

also have to remember safety. Our safety stand down day activities were excellent reminders for making sure we return home healthy to our loved ones. Always keep the "five deadly words" in mind while you perform your daily duties. We know that many accidents are due to Soldiers being untrained, unsupervised, undisciplined, overconfident or complacent. I challenge all of our leaders to mitigate their effects by staying vigilant and caring for your Soldiers.

I continue to be impressed by the great work all of our Soldiers are doing on a regular basis. We only have a short time to make our mark on history and ensure we finish this deployment as strongly as we started it.

Thank you all.

"29, Let's Go!"

Steve Fritz
"Normandy 66"

when they move from being a Soldier to that of being a leader of Soldiers. Each new NCO accepted their charge to faithfully perform their new duties. I congratulate and commend our newest NCOs, and urge each to always do what is right, even when no one is watching.

Our Soldiers also continue to perform exercises and missions with our regional partners, as well as training with our sister units here at Camp Buehring. No doubt, when we leave Kuwait we will be one of the best-trained aviation brigades in the U.S. Army. We are training on individual tasks, but we are also doing important collective training. Training is the lifeblood of a unit, a constant that leads to increased readiness.

Speaking of re-deployment, I ask that you please keep your focus and dedication to duty, while at the same time preparing to return to home station. We are all in this together and history will show that you were part of something very special. Thanks to you, your Families and loved ones for what you do.

"29, Let's Go!"

Thomas Beyard
"Normandy 7"

... JPADS From Front

Each bundle varied in size and weight, but each one resembled a giant cube with netting to hold the cargo in place.

Pushed out by the crew at 130 knots, each bundle traveled roughly eight meters per second with the parachute fully open.

“Each bundle consisted of water, MREs, and (the energy drink) Rip-Its which would simulate a realistic resupply drop to ground combat personnel, located anywhere,” said Coulson.

Soldiers from the 1204th Aviation Support Battalion and 1-7 CAV were responsible for transportation, security, recovery and safety of the bundles as they immediately touched down in the 360-degree perimeter.

“Before the drop, we do a reconnaissance and a visual sweep of the drop zone to ensure the area is clear of debris, camels and Bedouin Camps,” said Capt. Michael Kiser, A Co., 1-7 CAV.

According to Staff Sgt. David Davis, of the 1204th ASB, there was a one-minute response time to each bundle. It took the recovery team less than 30 minutes to collect the equipment, parachute, and Modular Autonomous Guidance Units and load them for transport to a more secure location



where a unit could then conduct resupply operations.

The drop zone was an open area situated in low ground with clear visibility for miles. Despite having a DZ of 1,000 meters in radius, a “high accurate” designated point of impact is 300 meters or closer.

“From my perspective, a high altitude precise drop assists in keeping any bundles away from enemy combatants,” said Sgt. Sean Huynh, F Co., 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment.

Used in combat operations in Afghanistan, the main benefit of JPADS is that it increases the availability of cargo. With troops stationed in remote forward operating bases, JPADS allows those units to be resupplied by air quickly and regularly where ground transport often is not practical.

JPADS offers all armed forces a way to stay well-equipped regardless of

location or situation.

“I have worked with JPADS for seven years as an infantryman on the ground and experienced the benefits first-hand,” said Coulson. “The recovery might be difficult in four feet of snow in the Afghan mountains making the precision of the delivery invaluable for those Soldiers who may have to conduct recovery in a hostile environment.”

There are four weight increments that are authorized for use with JPADS. This operation was classified as an “extra light” category of 2,200 pounds or less. However, a bundle can hold as much 60,000 pounds of weight if a mission dictates.

“Pray for good weather, talk to the pilots constantly, and over-communicate with one another throughout the planning. That is the secret of a successful operation,” remarked Coulson.

TF MAKOS KNOWS TERRAIN, READY FOR NEXT STEP



Task Force Makos Soldiers spent their second week in Jordan. Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Tenaro describes the unit's historic experience:

**Chief Warrant Officer
Christopher Tenaro, 1-111th GSAB
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

We started with Local Area Orientation briefings and flights. Our biggest challenge was working through the language barrier. Although many of the Jordanians speak English very well, the heavy accents are sometimes challenging.

We became well-versed in the tradition of tea and coffee, the latter of which is much stronger than what we are used to in the United States.

Our first order of business was to acquaint the Jordanian pilots with our methods of operations and conduct academic classes. The typical subject matter covered air crew

coordination, differences in aircraft, heads up displays and mission planning training.

We compared our methods of performing aviation operations with theirs and found we shared many similar techniques. They were trained, for the most part, by U.S. Army instructors and former U.S. Army aviators. Their unit is modeled after certain U.S. aviation units, and they have adopted many of our methods. Their aircraft is a similar version of our UH-60 Blackhawk. The biggest difference being that the Jordanian helicopters are equipped with a glass cockpit, where ours is not.

The 1-111th refocused its attention from training with the Jordanian pilots

to preparing to support Operation Eager Lion during the second week of May. This operation involved units from several U.S. Military services and multiple Middle Eastern countries.

A Co., 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment provided air movement support to the joint commanders and staff from United States Central Command. C Co., 1-126th provided medical evacuation coverage for the ground maneuver units participating in the exercise.

The 1-111th has flown more than 135 hours since arriving in Jordan in support of Eager Lion and Jordanian cooperation.



TF PEGASUS DOES THE HEAVY LIFTING



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

The 29th Combat Aviation Brigade's aircraft recovery team is keeping its wartime skills sharp.

The team recently completed the first lifting of an aircraft by a Unit Maintenance Aerial Recovery Kit since the CAB came together last summer.

The 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment requested the Brigade's support, in late May, to lift an aircraft onto a flatbed truck so they could transport

the end of their mission in Kuwait.

"The successful completion of this lift using our UMARK and a crane demonstrates that we have the knowledge and capability and are ready to use it if called upon to do so," said Capt. David G. Goodall, production control officer for B Co., 1204th Aviation Support Battalion.

The unit had little experience with the UMARK upon arrival at North Fort Hood, Texas, in September 2011. In spite of a lack of adequate instruction on the kit, B Co.'s noncommissioned officers in charge, Sgt. 1st

Class Rowell Macadangdang and Staff Sgt. Omar Maldonado, took it upon themselves to figure it out, according to Goodall.

The NCOs found videos pertaining to the kit and thoroughly read the manual to become subject matter experts. They spent days in the hot Texas sun repeatedly hooking the kit to aircraft until they were confident they could do it effectively.

"Yesterday, they proved our confidence was well-placed," said Goodall. "We were all excited to be able to help and glad the mission went so smoothly. The recovery team did an outstanding job, and they stand ready to do it again."

B Co. may get other chances to use the UMARK before they redeploy later this summer. Goodall says the unit is excited for the opportunity to improve and showcase the skills of the CAB's recovery team once again.



YOU CALL, WE HAUL

**By 1st Lt. Carley Salmon,
1-126th GSAB
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

“Fearles” Soldiers recently put their sling loading skills on display with Soldiers from the 139th Brigade Support Battalion during an exercise at Ali al Salem, Kuwait.

Chief Warrant Officers Justin Mack and Joshua Behrens, along with Spc. Daniel Brandt, Staff Sgt. Duane Gendreau, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gunderson, all from A Co. 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment (call sign: Fearless), showed the skill and precision necessary to successfully conduct this difficult mission.

While attaching cargo to the aircraft, the pilots had no visual on the people or cargo on ground, so they took all directions from the three crew chiefs who were hanging out of the aircraft and lining up the aircraft to the cargo.

Sling load operations are very complex and require a lot of coordination. In Kuwait’s dusty environment, leaders assess the mission as “moderate risk.” They complete ground risk assessments to mitigate risks.

The aircraft landed, and Gunderson gave an

extensive briefing to the Soldiers of 139th BSB prior to performing the six sling loads. He covered a wide variety of topics including emergency procedures, the “left/left rule” and the proper way to hook the pendant to the aircraft.

Crews filled out a Performance Planning Card to determine how much cargo the aircraft could lift, how fast it could fly while carrying the cargo, the angle at which it could turn while carrying the cargo, and other potential limitations for the operations.

With the 139th BSB, the Task Force Liberty crew was able to carry a 4,000-lb. load. They carried six connexes, many weighing close to 4,000 lbs. The aircraft could only fly at 40 knots to minimize swinging while in flight.

Hovering was the hardest and most important skill for successfully executing sling load operations. The aircraft descended from a 50-100-foot hover down to six feet over the load in order to hook up the cargo. They also had to maintain altitude while the ground crew hooked up and cleared the area.

Ground crews had to count on a pilot with a steady hand, as the 15,000-lb. Blackhawk descended

directly on top of them for the crucial moment of “hook up.” From there, the pilots had to steadily increase altitude without sliding left, right, forward or backward until the cargo was off the ground.

The training was successful and safe. The crews moved six connexes from one side of Ali al Salem to the other.



TOP TWENTY-NINER VISITS CAB



Brig. Gen. Charles Whittington, 29th Infantry Division's deputy commanding general, visited the units of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on June 4, 2012. Photo By Staff Sgt. David Wiggins.

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

The only National Guard general officer currently serving in Afghanistan, toured the extensive 29th Combat Aviation Brigade operations at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, during a recent battlefield circulation.

Brig. Gen. Charles W. Whittington, Jr., the 29th Infantry Division's deputy commanding general and a Maryland Army National Guard member, visited all of the CAB's Kuwait-based subordinate battalions during his June 4th visit.

Whittington was eager to see the CAB's successes firsthand.

"It is important to be out talking to Soldiers at the lowest possible level—determining whether information that is disseminated at the top is moving all the way down

the chain," said Whittington. "These things help leaders understand whether or not the units are meeting expectations."

Whittington explained there are some inherent challenges for mobilized National Guard and Reserve troops in the dynamic deployment environment.

He maintained that the constant changes in a deployment cycle highlight the reserve component's greatest strengths—adaptability and flexibility.

As he finished his tour of the flight line, Whittington had some advice for the CAB's Soldiers.

"Focus on the fundamentals, rely on one another and take care of one another," he said. "You will see that even though you are moving through a very rapidly changing environment, the fundamental principles of good

leadership, communication, standards-based training and appropriate execution of tactics, techniques and procedures will get you through this mission."

Whittington currently leads a team of 29th Infantry Division Soldiers in the Security Year Partnering mission in Afghanistan.

Replacing another National Guard unit when the team took over the mission late last year, Whittington became the only National Guard general serving in Afghanistan.

"The good news is that there is no separation between what a National Guard general does and what an active duty general does. I'm responsible for a mission set, and I have to be able to deliver that mission set on time and to appropriate results," said Whittington.

The SYP team expects to redeploy shortly after the 29th CAB returns home later

BEST OF BATTALIONS, BEST IN BRIGADE



**By Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington,
29th CAB Public Affairs**

The 29th Combat Aviation Brigade recently named Sgt. Delvon Anderson the brigade's noncommissioned officer of the year and Spc. Jonathan Foster the Soldier of the year.

The two were among 11 Soldiers from the several units under the 29th CAB to participate in the Best Warrior Competition May

20-22 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

"I was really pleased that we could do this because it gave our Soldiers and NCOs an opportunity to be the best," said Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard, brigade command sergeant major. "Having a competition like this builds a lot of esprit de corps. It brings people together, and that's really an important thing."

To enter the competition, participants had to qualify sharpshooter or expert on their individual weapon and score a minimum of 270 points on their last Army Physical Fitness Test. They also had to be combatives level I certified, combat lifesaver certified, meet height and weight standards and not be flagged for any reason.

"It was a really big challenge, but I enjoyed it. The competition was put together well," said Spc. Shayla Baxter, Soldier of

the Year runner-up and member of the 2nd Airfield Operations Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment. "My favorite event was the board and also the weapons challenge, taking apart the .50 caliber [machine gun]"

The first day of competition consisted of an APFT, and individual weapons qualifications. The second day tested land navigation and warrior task skills.

The third day began at 5 a.m. It consisted of a six-mile ruck march and a personal appearance before a board of senior NCOs.

The competition ended with an awards ceremony and photo opportunities.

"My competition was very tough this time," said Anderson. "Sgt. [Kamil] Maclin is an amazing person and a strong Soldier. She gave me a run for my money. She earned everything that she achieved here."



Anderson, an intelligence analyst in Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 29th CAB, won the Maryland National Guard's Soldier of the Year Competition in 2011.

The battalions played an important role supporting each event in the competition. The 1st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, conducted the APFT event. The 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, conducted the ruck march event, and HHC 29th CAB provided support for the warrior task event.

The 1204th ASB created three lanes for the land navigation course. The lanes were about 3,000 meters apart and marked by painted 29th Infantry Division logos. This course will be a useful training aid for future units at Camp Buehring.

"As a senior NCO, one of the most important things

we do is train Soldiers. Seeing these Soldiers do basic Soldier skills was really inspiring," said Master Sgt. Amahl Foster, who coordinated the support from the subordinate battalions. "Although [the competition] has a winner, I don't think any of them are losers. They came forth willing to give their time and effort to show they are a cut above everyone else."

Anderson and Foster earned Army Commendation Medals for winning the competition.



NEW NCOs EARN STRIPES

**By Spc. Matthew Magreta,
1-111th GSAB
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

The 29th Combat Aviation Brigade inducted 66 Soldiers into the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps during a recent ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Senior enlisted personnel and commissioned officers welcomed the new NCOs from six battalions within the brigade on May 25.

“We wanted to welcome them into the NCO Corps and show them how much their achievement is appreciated,” said 1st Sgt. Alonzo Amison, 1204th Aviation Support Battalion.

Planned since March, this was the first NCO induction



ceremony held overseas by the brigade.

“Everyone played a part in the induction,” said Master of Ceremonies Staff Sgt. Simona Mathews, 1st General Support Aviation

Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment. “This was my first time, and I was anxious as they put me on the spot. However, I have no problem in front of groups.”

The ceremony started with the entrance of the color guard, the



official party, invocation and the singing of the National Anthem. A short introduction by Mathews centered on the theme of “change” in regard to the inductees. She emphasized how the new NCOs were changing from ordinary Soldiers into leaders. She spoke of upholding the traditions and high standards of the NCO Corps.

Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard was the guest speaker of the ceremony. He commended each inductee for their hard work and dedication.

“This is not rocket science. The principles of leadership are to teach,

coach and mentor your Soldiers,” said Beyard. “Set an example as a new NCO—especially when no one is watching.”

After Beyard’s comments, Spc. Shayla Baxter of the 2nd Airfield Operations Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment read a “Soldiers’ Request”. The speech was a plea for guidance from the new NCOs in the crowd. Each new NCO then received a certificate inscribed with their name and newly acquired rank.

The NCO Creed, NCO Charge and a benediction



immediately followed. The ceremony ended with singing of the Army Song and the departures of the official party and color guard.

“The best part of the ceremony was when the senior NCOs recited the Creed. It showed the new inductees that the NCO Corps is a brotherhood,” said Amison.

Senior NCOs in the crowd were proud to see the Soldiers take in their new roles.

“These are the future leaders of our unit. As recent graduates of the Warrior Leader Course, they have exceeded all expectations and have a head start for higher positions and responsibilities,” said 1st Sgt. Peter Ward, F Co., 1-111th.

All the inductees enjoyed the ceremony and were looking forward to their duties as NCOs.

“I want to lead and be in front. I want to take more of a role in the company,” said Sgt. Andrew Shropshire, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Combat Aviation

Brigade. “The hardest part of being a new NCO is having the lower enlisted see me as such.”

The induction of two new NCOs, who happened to be brother and sister, was perhaps the most interesting coincidence of the afternoon. Sgt. Ashley Howell and Sgt. Charles Crawford, both from the 1-111th, earned the rank of sergeant at the same time.

“I thought I would outrank her for life. She will always be a private to me,” remarked Crawford jokingly. “When we get back to the states and she transfers to her new unit, I will sorely miss her.”

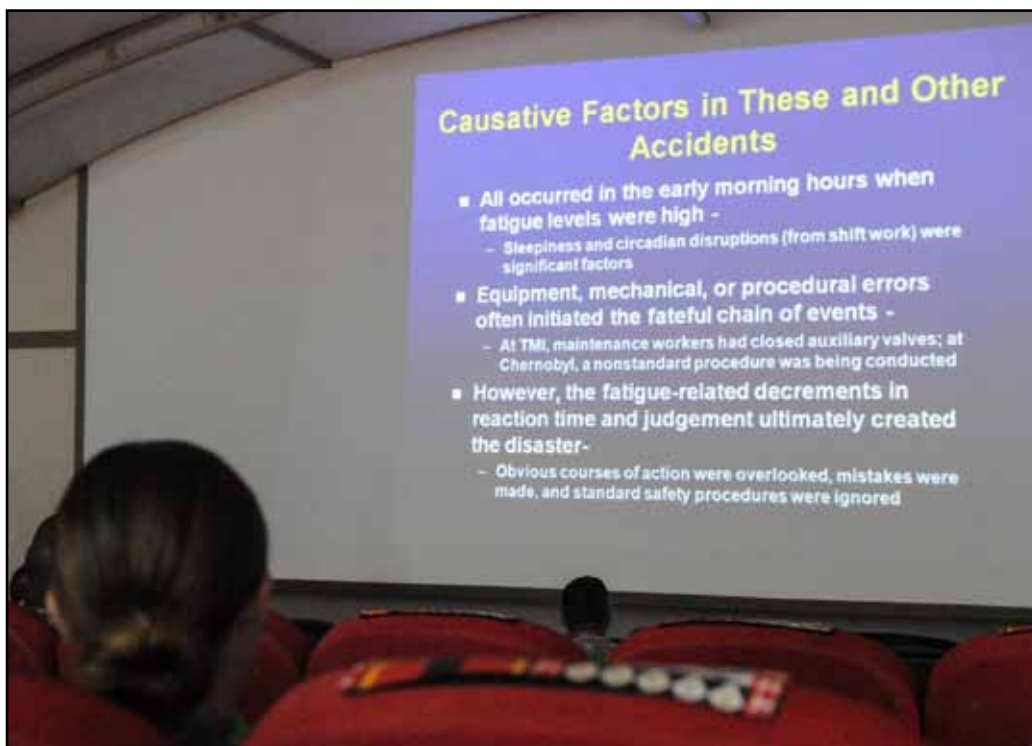
Most of the inductees were National Guard members coming from such states as Kentucky,

Maryland, Florida, Rhode Island, Hawaii, and Kansas.

“These Soldiers are responsible for others now. I hope they take this pride back to their home states with them,” said Beyard.



BRINGING SAFETY BACK



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

Soldiers of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade participated in a safety stand down recently to reassess their daily activities and think of ways to improve their health and safety.

Experts briefed Soldiers, May 24 and 25, about common health and safety hazards in this deployed environment. Topics ranged from fire safety to the dangers of wild animals to bicycle and military vehicle safety precautions.

Col. David Carey, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade commander, spoke to Soldiers about the five most common words Brig. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield found in Army accident reports during his time as the senior aviation trainer at the National Training Center.

Crutchfield found that many accidents were due to Soldiers being untrained, unsupervised, undisciplined, overconfident or complacent. Carey explained the causes

of these “Five Deadly Words” and challenged leaders to mitigate their effects by staying vigilant and caring for their Soldiers.

The brigade set aside Saturday, May 26 as a day when most Soldiers could relax and enjoy a cookout on the flight line at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Leaders from across the brigade cooked and served hamburgers, chicken and hot dogs to their Soldiers



SCREEN SHOT

**By Staff Sgt. Megan Grauer,
1-108th AHB
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

The annual weapons qualification sometimes is not enough to stay proficient in personal weapons handling.

The Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 provides the opportunity to do some brushing up on those skills.

“The EST will help someone who’s struggling with just the annual qualifications,” said Sgt 1st Class James Peeler.

Soldiers in the 1st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment already qualified during the day with their personally assigned weapons while deployed in Kuwait over the past couple of months. Night qualification and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (using



the protective mask) qualification had to wait.

With the temperatures rising every day, the desire to hang out in the desert fades.

“Being able to use the EST is a lot quicker,” said Capt. Nicole Ward, who qualified night and CBRN on May 7 and got back into the swing of work shortly thereafter.



RECOGNIZING SOLDIERS



Staff Sgt. Jason Smith (left) and Sgt. James Whitbeck (right), both of 1204th ASB, receive 29th CAB Commander Col. David Carey's coin for their extraordinary efforts designing and building 29th CAB clocks (center). The Soldiers received the coins during a ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 29, 2012.



Lt. Col. Robert Powers, 29th CAB flight surgeon, receives the Army Achievement Medal during a ceremony on May 24, 2012.



Staff Sgt. Chante Harris HHC 29th CAB extends her enlistment by one year on May 15, 2012.



Capt. Kirk Black, 29th CAB chemical defense officer, is promoted to major in front of a Headquarters and Headquarters Co. formation on May 28, 2012.



(From left) Spc. John Timmermans, Spc. Zachariah Tuggle, 1st Lt. Dominique Allen, Spc. Neal Maholland and Spc. Samantha Carpenter, all of E Co. 1-108th AHB, receive Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Beyard's coin for their hard work in setting up a Forward Arming and Refueling Point during a recent partnership exercise.



Sgt. Mitch Kress, D Co. 3-159th ARB, receives the Army Achievement Medal in recognition of his outstanding work with the battalion's advanced party.



Pfc. Timothy Mayfield, an information technology specialist with HHC, 3-159 ARB, is promoted to specialist effective June 1, 2012.



Pfc. Jacob Morse, an information technology specialist with HHC, 3-159 ARB, is promoted to specialist effective June 1, 2012.



Staff Sgt. Jacob Zimmerman, D Co. 3-159th ARB, receives the Army Commendation Medal in recognition for his outstanding performance as the battalion movement officer.



Pfc. Ensor Sierra, a flight operations specialist with 3-159 ARB, is promoted to specialist effective June 1, 2012.



Spc. Russell Meadows, a fire support specialist with HHC, 29th CAB, is promoted to sergeant in front of a Headquarters and Headquarters Co. formation on June 2, 2012.



Spc. Bao Khang Lo, a medic with HHC, 29th CAB, is promoted to sergeant in front of a Headquarters and Headquarters Co. formation on June 2, 2012.



Col. David Carey, commander, 29th CAB presents members of the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment with Army Commendation Medals and Army Achievement Medals during an awards ceremony on May 23, 2012.



The 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment officially transfers authority of its mission to C Co. 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment. The transfer of authority ceremony took place May 22, 2012, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Service Member of the Week

Spc. Scott Aldridge

D Co., 1-126th GSAB

Spc. Aldridge has shown, through hard work and accomplishment, he can manage other enlisted Soldiers of lower rank. He is the third shift supervisor for all Blackhawk repair matters. Although he does not hold the rank of a sergeant, he has shown what a noncommissioned officer does. He has served as a team leader in this aviation unit. As a specialist, he has been mentored for the responsibility of individual training, personal appearance and cleanliness of Soldiers.

Pfc. Kayla Demarest

HHC, 1-126th GSAB

Pfc. Demarest works as the fixed-wing tracker in the Tactical Operations Center. She is responsible for coordination with the C-12 and UC-35 Detachments within the Task Force for distinguished visitor travel. She provides helps with rotary wing missions as necessary and is always prepared for additional tasks. She also volunteered as a flight operations specialist to assist the Liaison Office at the Command Operations and Information Center at ARCENT.

Pfc. Demarest showed exceptional skill at the M-16 range by finishing in the top 5 in the battalion's annual Top Shot competition. She always challenges herself to meet her personal fitness goals. She participated in the Camp Virginia Bataan Memorial Death March while carrying a 50-pound ruck sack.

Pfc. Demarest aspires to be an Aviator and is preparing for the upcoming flight board. She is eager to learn and is sure to have continued success.

Spc. Monique Howard

HHC 1-111th GSAB

Spc. Howard assumed the duties of a company-level supply sergeant—a position two levels above her current grade. She completed a property book split of three property books totaling over \$3 million in preparation of joint based operations between Kuwait and Jordan. She also was responsible for requesting, receiving, inventorying and ensuring serviceability of supplies and equipment. Her tireless efforts and dedication to the mission ensured the unit was able to successfully deploy with the required equipment to conduct daily operations. She ensured the deploying Soldiers were properly fielded and fitted with the required ammunition and Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment.

Even in a high stress environment, where changes occur daily, Spc. Howard remained a professional and executed her mission flawlessly, while providing logistical support to the entire battalion.

Spc. Brian Baugus

HHC 29th CAB

Spc. Baugus has displayed initiative, increased professionalism, and exceptional analytical capability as a brigade intelligence analyst.

As subject matter expert in several areas, he demonstrates a remarkable ability to take a new subject, work through it, and develop thoughtful analysis. He regularly poses important questions that get to the heart of complicated issues, routinely prompts thoughtful analytic discussions, and spear-heads new intelligence products.

In the absence of the team officer- and noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Spc. Baugus completed more than eight airfield threat assessment revisions with threat information updates and developed operating procedures for intelligence analysis. Spc. Baugus also developed a brief to enhance the technical and tactical capabilities of his peers.

Spc. Baugus consistently gives his best to whatever task or requirement comes his way. He is an outstanding soldier and continually exceeds expectations.

HAVE A CIGAR!

**By Capt. Gary Cover,
29th CAB
Information Operations Officer**

Soldiers from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and other units stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait meet every Saturday evening at 6 p.m. to smoke cigars.

They crowd around the picnic tables located at the stage and light up. Usually they smoke cigars donated by various tobacco shops or companies.

Chief Warrant Officer Derek Hailey and Mr. Steve Otamura, a U.S. contractor at Camp Buehring, created the Combat Cigar Lounge. Both cigar enthusiasts saw an opportunity for Soldiers to escape the rigors of deployment life, sit back, relax and indulge in what they believe to be one of the finer things in life.

Capt. Gary Cover, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade Information Operations Officer, interviewed Hailey recently about his experiences with the Combat



Cigar Lounge.

GC: How did the Combat Cigar Lounge come about? How did you get in contact with Steve?

DH: I started the Combat Cigar Lounge, in August 2011, as a way to provide cigars to our deployed Soldiers. It started with me, then I brought in Sgt. Steven Burch, C Co. 1204th Aviation Support Battalion, Master Sgt. Carl McKlveen and Staff Sgt. Jonathan McKlveen (both from Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 29th CAB) when we arrived in Camp Taji, Iraq.

I am a member and one



of the moderators of socialcigar.com. I met Steve a few years ago on the site, and we have been friends since then.



GC: What companies have donated to the lounge?

DH: We have been fortunate. Oliva Cigar Company, Ortega Cigars, Deadwood Tobacco and the Dead Camel Club have donated. We have also received smaller donations from various people.

GC: What does the Cigar Lounge offer Soldiers?

DH: The cigar lounge offers Soldiers a place to unwind and share a moment with other cigar smokers. The cigars are free due to donation.

GC: How have you benefitted from the group?

DH: Honestly, starting the group was done to keep me sane. Smoking a cigar is about more than just smoking; it's a mini-reset. When you get a group of cigar smokers together, it takes you away from where you are. You feel like you're home for a while.

GC: What will happen when the 29th CAB redeploys? Will the “Lounge” continue?

DH: I have been in contact with another Soldier with 1-169th MEDEVAC in Afghanistan, and Steve will be here for awhile longer. My goal is to establish groups in deployed areas and provide cigars to them from the states. The Combat Cigar

Lounge is the people, not the place. Wherever they can light up and relax is where the group is.



GC: The “big smoke”: When is it?

DH: The Combat Cigar Lounge Big Smoke will be the biggest cigar event yet. It tentatively is scheduled for July 14.

From the Chaplain by Chaplain (Maj.) William Butler



At times, all could be going well until the storms of life disrupt our working relationships, or difficulties prevent us from completing the projects we’re working on. There are times when our marriages or family relationships have taken a turn for the worse or we’re dealing with prospects of unemployment as we anticipate reintegrating back into civilian life.

How does one face the challenges of life and still stay focused without becoming bitter and angry at the world and those who care

about you the most?

We face difficulties by using the power of our spirituality. Don’t let the word “spirituality” confuse you with religion. While spirituality can be part of religion, it can also be independent of religion. In a human sense, spirituality is connected to one’s inner self. It provides one with the ability to be resilient. Therefore, spiritual resiliency is having the ability to cope with, and bounce back from, stressful trials, trouble and hardship.

The late Bruce Lee, martial artist and actor, shared with his students these words: “Notice that the stiffest tree is most easily cracked, while the bamboo or willow survives by bending with the winds.”

When facing difficulties in life, we have a tendency to stiffen up; that is to say, to

become stressed out, angry and hard to deal with.

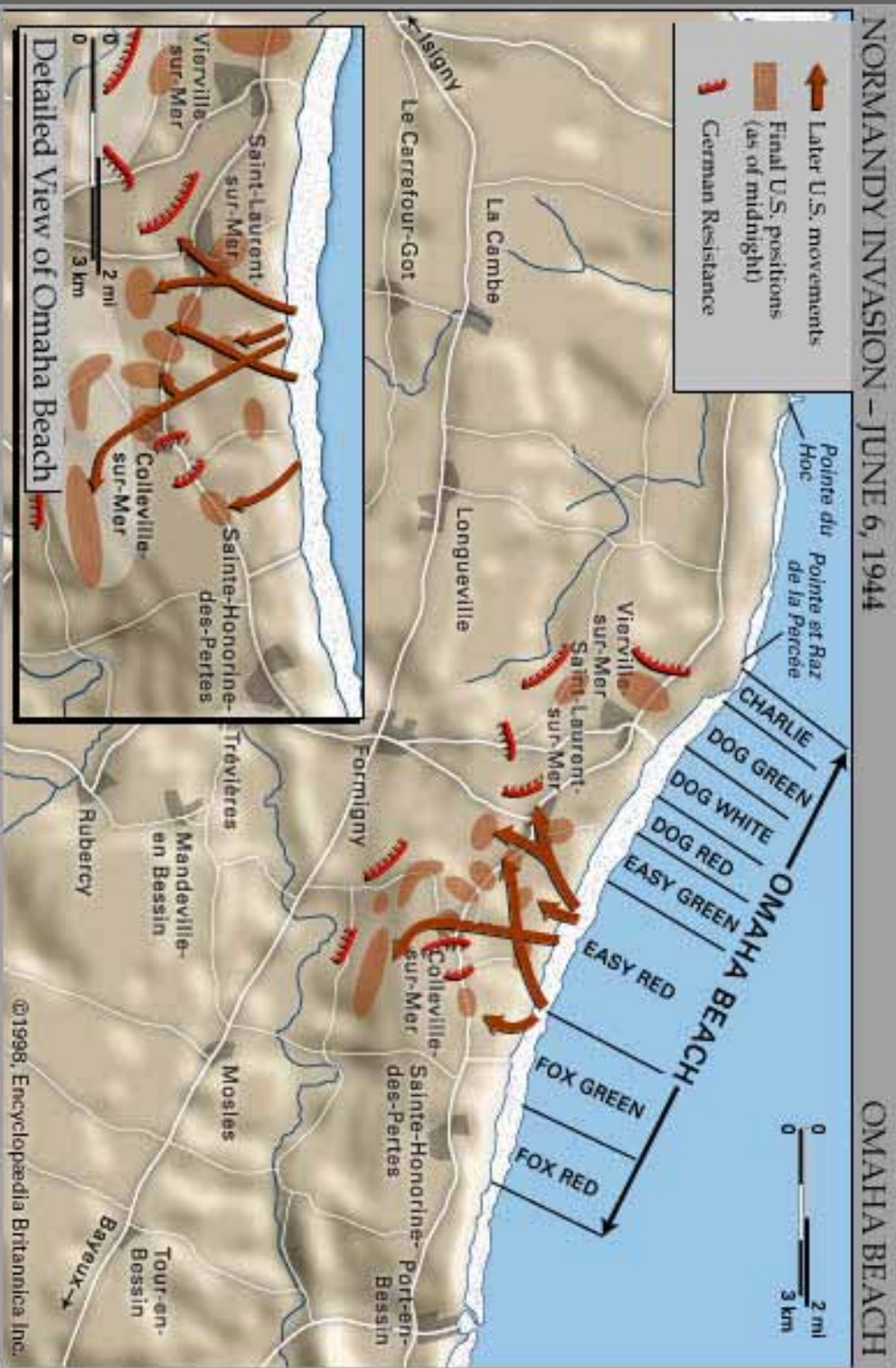
A few of the most effective ways of strengthening our spirituality is when we take the time to connect with our “higher power,” meditate on sacred scripture, get alone to pray, listen to music that gives us peace of mind, read books that relate to character-building, or learn a new subject or skill that makes us feel good about ourselves.

As we face life’s trials our spiritual resiliency enables us to cope and bend with the winds of adversity without breaking. Therefore, as we’re nearing the end of this deployment, now is certainly not the time to stiffen up. Let’s get limber and bend a little by developing our spiritual resiliency. It will make you a better person, and your family will love you for it.

OPERATION VERLORD:

THE INVASION OF NORMANDY

NORMANDY INVASION – JUNE 6, 1944



The cross-channel invasion of France finally came on June 6, 1944. The 29th Infantry Division sent the 116th Infantry Regiment to support the western flank of the 1st Infantry Division's 16th Infantry Regiment at Omaha Beach. Omaha was known to be the most difficult of the five landing beaches, due to its rough terrain and bluffs overlooking the beach, which had

been well-fortified by its German defenders. The 116th Infantry Regiment was assigned four sectors of the beach; Easy Green, Dog Red, Dog White, and Dog Green.

The 29th hit the beach at 0630, coming under heavy fire from German fortifications and suffering massive casualties. By 0830, the landings were called off for lack of space on the beach, as the Americans on Omaha Beach were unable to overcome German fortifications guarding the beach exits. However, by noon, elements of the American forces had been able to organize and advance off the beach, and the landings resumed.

By nightfall, the division headquarters landed on the beach with about 60 percent of the division's total strength and began organizing the push inland. On June 7, a second wave of 20,000 reinforcements from the 1st and 29th divisions was sent ashore. By the end of D-Day, 2,400 men from the two divisions had become casualties on Omaha Beach.



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The entire division had landed in Normandy by June 7. By June 9, Omaha Beach was secure, and the division occupied Isigny. On July 14, the division was reassigned to XIX Corps, First United States Army, Twelfth United States Army Group.