

KUWAIT

KYRGYZSTAN

JORDAN

IRAQ

AFGHANISTAN

QATAR

STEEL PRESS

Vol.1, Issue 6

August 2012

113TH SB

LIQUID STEEL
GENERAL
SUPPLY
DELIVERS
HIDE&SEEK

STEEL BRIGADE



MEDICAL OFFICER
EARNs TOP
LEADERSHIP AWARD
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

HOME SWEET HOME

NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

ASIA

SOUTH AMERICA

LETTER FROM THE

113TH SB PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

One Team!
Hello, Steel Brigade Soldiers, and a special hello to the friends and family members of the 113th Sustainment Brigade. Welcome back to the Steel Press. This will be our final issue during our deployment.

My staff and I would like to thank everyone here and back home for their support in making the Steel Press a great magazine and tool for telling our story "to the world."

Our two social media pages on the web ([facebook.com/113thsb](https://www.facebook.com/113thsb) and [flickr.com/photos/113thsb](https://www.flickr.com/photos/113thsb)) have been very popular. Please tell your family, friends and employers to checkout our social media sites.

Redeployment is coming soon. If you have questions regarding redeployment, the 113th SB family readiness coordinator is Ms. Sandra Tanner. She can be reached via email at sdptanner@aol.com. Our unit's State National Guard Family Support coordinator is Ms. Katy Jones, who can be reached at katy.m.jones@us.army.mil, or you can call her at (336) 691-7700, ext. 15649 or toll free at 1-800-621-4136, ext. 15649.

From the very beginning of our mobilization, our objective was to keep everyone back home connected and informed of our accomplishments and other exciting events that occurred during this deployment. With your feedback and support, we accomplished that objective.



STEEL PRESS

Col. David L. Jones
Commander

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Command Sergeant Major

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Do you have something you'd like to add to the magazine? Tell us! Contact your battalion UPAR for your story submissions, ideas, pictures, editorials, poems or art - become a published author/photographer/artist! Interested in becoming a UPAR? Contact your battalion UPAR for training information.

External Links:

113th Sustainment Brigade:

E-mail us at 113thsubdepao@gmail.com

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191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HHC191stCSSB

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LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER

Steel Brigade Soldiers and Families,

This is our final Steel Press while deployed in Kuwait. Although the 113th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters and Special Troops Battalion will soon be heading home, I want to wish the remainder of our subordinate units, who will be staying to complete their missions here, Godspeed and best wishes as you finish strong under the leadership of the 38th Sustainment Brigade from Kokomo, Ind.

Our mission here, beginning with the final weeks of Operation New Dawn to Operation Enduring Freedom, is truly historic. We all should be extremely proud of the 113th SB's accomplishments in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Iraq, Jordan and elsewhere across the region.

The brigade was prepared and READY for the multitude of missions we received, and we demonstrated the unit's quality leadership with its adaptability to be PROACTIVE in finding ways to improve our operation and anticipate future missions and events. The brigade was FLEXIBLE in the various assignments by assisting other sustainment units in Afghanistan with the Central Command's Material Retrograde Element strategy and numerous sustainment missions to countries across the region.

I want to thank all the Families for all their support, kind words, care packages, letters, long distance video chats and all that they've had to forgo so that their Soldier could serve his or her Nation. It's perhaps a fair statement to say that our Families probably had it harder than we did and we couldn't have accomplished our mission here without you.

Our mission and journey is not over once we leave Kuwait. The redeployment stage is generally one of intense anticipation. Like the deployment stage, there can be a surge of conflicting emotions. Redeployment and the transition back to our families IS the most important phase of our operation. We all need to plan ahead not only on what will happen the week we arrive back in N.C., but to plan six months past that first week and communicate ideas and expectations with loved ones so as to minimize surprises, stress and "false expectations." I sincerely ask that all Soldiers, Spouses, Family members and friends be patient and communicate to each other, and to take it slow the first few months back home.

I am beyond words to describe the honor and pride I have felt in being your commander during this deployment. I am humbled to be associated with such a fantastic and talented organization of Citizen Soldiers who individually and collectively have accomplished every mission and will no doubt set our replacement brigade up for success.



One Team! TWICE AS STRONG!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Col. David L. Jones". The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with overlapping loops and lines.

Col. David L. Jones

LETTER FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Steel Brigade Soldiers,

As we close in on our transfer of authority date, the feeling of anticipation continues to build both among leaders and Soldiers of the Steel Brigade. With the excitement that is felt, I challenge each and every one of you to not lose your focus on our sustainment mission. Remember; remain vigilant when it comes to safety and continue to be on your guard, maintain your professionalism and motivation, and let's finish strong.

We owe it to both ourselves and our replacements from the 38th Sustainment Brigade to execute a well-planned and smooth transfer of command. As we progress into our final weeks here in Kuwait, let's work on making it our best yet while also preparing ourselves for redeployment.

Our journey back home will have its challenges. No matter if this is your first or eighth deployment, there has been change over the past year in the lives of our families, friends, employers and community. **Communication now** with our loved ones back home will significantly help you and them during the first few months back on the home front.

The challenges of transition can be met by being proactive here; building resiliency, locating support resources back home, and reaching out for help when it is needed. The Army and the N.C. National Guard have many professional and free services for veterans and their families. I highly encourage you to use these programs. Never forget that your unit commanders, sergeants major, first sergeants, chaplains and your buddies are just a phone call or visit away.

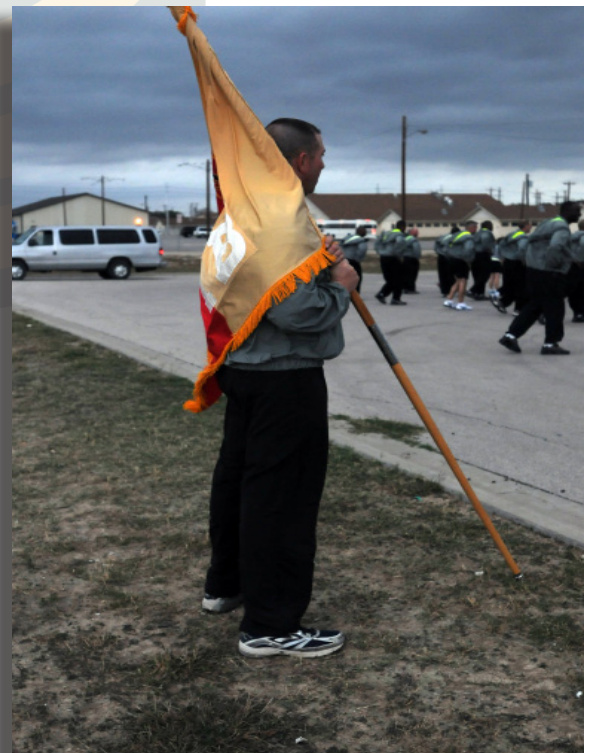
Although I've said it before, I'll say it again: I am extremely proud of our Steel Brigade noncommissioned officers and enlisted Soldiers. You have managed extremely well throughout our time here in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and other countries across the region. Your accomplishments are astounding. Thank you for improving the reputation of the 113th Sustainment Brigade and for contributing to its continued success.

I am proud and humbled to be a part of such an outstanding team of professional Citizen Soldiers. You are what make this Army, the N.C. National Guard and this brigade great. Keep it up as we start the redeployment and transition phase.

One Team! TWICE AS STRONG!



Command Sgt. Maj. William Gill



AROUND THE BRIGADE



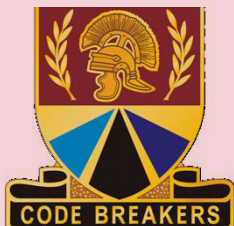
113th STB

The 633rd Theater Gateway conducted their combat patch ceremony Aug. 15 at the Logistics Support Area (LSA) in Kuwait. The 633rd, a National Guard unit based in Springfield, Ill., provides operational control over the LSA and is responsible for the initial reception, staging and onward movement of personnel deploying to the Central Command area of responsibility. This includes the reception, billeting, processing and movement of personnel in rest and recuperation leave status assigned to the region.



191st CSSB

The 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Task Force Ghost Riders, officially assumed control of the logistics mission in Kuwait from the 728th CSSB during a transfer of authority ceremony held Aug. 7 at Camp Arifjan. The 191st CSSB will also assume command of ten separate sustainment units covering Kuwait, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan to support CENTCOM requirements.



420 MCB

516th Movement Control Team continues to safely and efficiently roll on with their mission, having escorted and managed hundreds of convoys across Kuwait, totaling over 2,623 trucks and 3,035 buses. The 516th MCT drives approximately 400 kilometers (249 miles) daily and has totaled over 51,066 kilometers (31,731 miles) since their mission began in February.

Complacency

Merriam-Webster defines complacency as “marked by *self-satisfaction* especially when *accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.*”

As we prepare for our end of mission, this word is the most commonly used in the safety community. Soldiers become overconfident in their abilities, easily overlooking steps in some of the easiest tasks to perform.

Even the most disciplined unit is vulnerable to complacency. Historically, this time of the deployment is where we have a significant increase in accidents.

The military is not the only organization that is vulnerable to complacency; the civilian sector, as well as our own households, fall in its traps now and then. Repetition will cause us to forget certain steps, which could cause significant and dangerous consequences.

Here are some steps Leaders and Soldiers can take to mitigate complacency:

- Leaders must renew their commitment to safety in the workplace
- All leaders personally get involved in safety. Make it the first point of discussion
- Enable Soldiers to get involved in the safety process. Allow time for meetings, training and other activities

As always, lead by example!

Let's finish strong; do not become complacent !!

Master Sgt. Gregory Greene
Safety



COMPLACENCY

APATHY COMES BEFORE CALAMITY. LOOK IT UP.

S
A
F
E
T
Y

SOLDIERS LEADERS CIVILIANS FAMILIES

Take 5

for Sports and Fitness

- Know your limits for physical activity.
- Just because you're deployed doesn't mean you can ignore safe practices and take risks.
- Establish an emergency medical plan.
- Don't let indiscipline during sports or fitness activities take you out of the fight.

Take 5 ... then take action.



ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG





MEDICAL OFFICER EARNS TOP LEADERSHIP AWARD

Story By Maj. Matt DeVivo, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs Officer

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The U.S. Army Medical Command selected Capt. Jacqueline Brinson, a member of the North Carolina National Guard's 113th Sustainment Brigade, as this year's Army National Guard recipient of the Capt. John R. Teal Leadership Award.

The award is named in honor of Teal; the first medical officer killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Teal, a Medical Service Corps (MSC) Officer for the 4th Infantry Division, died from injuries he sustained on October 23, 2003, near Baqubah, Iraq after a roadside bomb detonated near his convoy. Upon his death, the Army Medical Command established the John R. Teal Award, which annually recognizes MSC officers and noncommissioned officers who have made significant contributions to the medical community and displayed exceptional soldiering skills.

"I was very excited and a bit emotional when I found out that I received the Capt. John R. Teal Leadership Award," said Brinson. "I've worked long and hard supporting the North Carolina National Guard units during their home-station mobilization


and redeployment events, and it's a wonderful feeling knowing your efforts have been acknowledged by leaders in your career field as having made a difference in an organization."

Brinson, from Fayetteville, N.C., has worked in medical operations at the state and brigade level and simultaneously managed roles as the NCARNG Assistant Deputy Surgeon and the State Medical Detachment commander.

"Brinson's receipt of this award is an acknowledgment by the surgeon general and the medical operations consultant to the surgeon general, of her many years of outstanding duty and performance," said Col. John

Grote, senior medical operations officer for the 113th Sustainment Brigade. "Capt. Brinson went above and beyond in her duties and succeeded. Her efforts ensured the medical readiness of the N.C. Army National Guard and the 113th Sustainment Brigade. Her actions while deployed, significantly contributed to the continued success of the 113th's readiness posture."

Brinson will receive a plaque, a surgeon general congratulatory note and an Army commendation medal to be presented by her home station commander.

Brinson's unit is currently on a year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and will redeploy home this winter. 



Camp Arifjan, Kuwait: Capt. Jacqueline Brinson (left) and 1st Lt. Sherise Johnson, both medical service operations officers, are deployed with the N.C. National Guard's 113th Sustainment Brigade in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brinson is this year's Army National Guard recipient of the Capt. John R. Teal Leadership Award which annually recognizes MSC officers and NCOs who have made significant contributions to the medical community and displayed exceptional soldiering skills.



Present to donate blood or platelets between July 1 and September 30, 2012 and be entered into a summer drawing for \$3,000.



North Carolina National Guard
Blood Drive
Wednesday, September 12, 2012
9:00 am-1:30 pm
On the American Red Cross Bus
Check-in - 1st floor Atrium – JFHQ

To schedule your appointment, please go to www.redcrossblood.org
and search by sponsor code: NCNG. Questions?
Contact Mrs. Jan Ellington at 919-664-6190 or x46190

Everyone receives a free gift

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

GENERAL G S O SUPPLY



“Over the past eight months, the Steel Brigade has been extremely effective in providing resources and equipment to US and NATO forces across Central Command’s area of responsibility,” said Lt. Col. Jim Yonally, officer-in-charge of the 113th Sustainment Brigade’s Supply and Services and General Supply sections.

The General Supply section, a part of the brigade’s support operations branch, is at the center of the brigade’s war-fighter sustainment operations. The GSO primarily sustains forces with resources

and equipment such as: food (perishable and non-perishable), health and comfort items, water, individual equipment, tentage, organizational equipment, construction materials, repair parts and components to include kits, assemblies and sub-assemblies.

“Our mission encompasses 20 countries and thousands of miles,” said Yonally, a native of Raleigh, N.C. “We’re not your standard supply room or warehouse that most of us in the National Guard are use to. GSO operates at the theater level of supply distribution and management. We coordi-

nate with and support many different levels of command and mission sets, which means that depending on what resource requests we receive from higher headquarters, our teams may work all hours of the day and night to deliver.”

Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Yannon, a member of the 113th’s GSO team and a native of Southport, N.C., and his team manage the operational rations or OPRAT mission to forces in the AOR.

“Just last week, we built 53 pallets for immediate shipment. That was our largest one day resource request and it was a



dusk to dawn nonstop mission to get the supplies to the airfield for shipment,” Yannonne said. “My team knows that what we are doing directly impacts our forces down-range in Afghanistan and other countries in the AOR. We’ll work as hard and long as it takes to support them.”

“We got this mission in June of this year to package and deliver OPRATs to forces in the region,” said Yannonne. “Higher headquarters originally said this was temporary, but we have been working OPRAT support missions two to four times a week, and this

mission is now modified to extend indefinitely. Which is good because it keeps me and the team busy and time does fly by when you’re working hard.”

To date, Yannonne’s team has processed and delivered 470 - 463L Air Force pallets to the Air Force for shipment totaling 3,487,500 pounds.

Another mission priority in the GSO section is managing four warehouses in Kuwait. These facilities are the Interceptor Body Armor (IBA) warehouse; the Central Issuing Facility (CIF); a warehouse annex located at the primary

military airfield in Kuwait; and the multi-class warehouse.

The IBA, CIF and airfield annex have issued and processed equipment for 50,000 Soldiers, civilian contractors, and Department of the Army civilians, since the 113th SB took over the sustainment mission here December 2011. The Manas warehouse has issued and processed equipment over 78,000 Soldiers, civilian contractors and Department of the Army civilians during the same time period.

The multi-class warehouse, however, has a different type of



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Soldiers from 113th Sustainment Brigade’s support operations – general supply section and civilian contractors, work long hours at the central receiving and shipping point yard from dusk to dawn to prepare operational rations (OPRATs) for delivery. (Photo by 113th SUS BDE Public Affairs)

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The Steel Brigade's general supply section has prepared and delivered well over 470 pallets of perishable and non-perishable goods since June to locations across the region. (Photo by 113th SUS BDE Public Affairs)



licopter parts requested by a unit in the region. "We had the item they needed," said Stoores. "There were only two available in the entire supply system."

The order was shipped and delivered in less than 2 days to the customer.

"When Operation Iraqi Freedom concluded and Operation New Dawn began in late 2011, an enormous undertaking of shipping began to warehouses in Kuwait. Thousands of pieces of non-authorized stockage, needed to be processed," explained Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Almond, a native of Hampton, Va., and the officer-in-charge of 113th SB's Routing Identifier Code – Geographic Management (RIC-GEO).

"At the brigade level,

I verify items are in stock and notify various sections in the brigade and 191st Combat Sustainment and Support Battalion (CSSB) to begin the process from the warehouse to the Central Receiving and Shipping Point," explained Almond. "Our goal is that within 24 hours from receipt of a requested item, it is delivered to the airfield or port for shipment."

"The 191st CSSB, an Army Reserve unit from Utah, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the multi-class warehouse here," Almond said. "This

supply mission. The warehouse receives, stores, safeguards, issues and ships items not assigned to a unit's property book (non-authorized stockage). It is a large facility and receives up to 1,000 material release orders a day. It has its own small fleet of trucks to ensure a daily delivery of supplies to designated points of departure occur as efficiently as possible.

"This warehouse is like a river. A flowing river of supplies," said multi-class warehouse manager, the 191st Combat Sustainment and Support Battalion's Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Stoores, a native of San Antonio, Texas, "There are over 21,000 items here and rarely are they on our shelves for longer than 6 months." Recently Stoores's team shipped Apache he-



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The 113th SB's multi-class warehouse has over 21,000 items of non-authorized stockage available to units in Kuwait and beyond. Recently the warehouse packaged and shipped parts and materials worth over \$10 million. (Photo courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Stoores, 191st CSSB)

warehouse holds non-stockage items that are available, on a first-come-first-serve basis, to any unit in the region or elsewhere.”

Almond and Stoore’s teams are part of a theater-wide redistribution process, which is an effective tool in the Department of Defense’s cost savings initiative.

“We live in a constrained budget environment,” said Almond, “and since all the equipment in the multi-class warehouse has already been purchased by the government and is still operational and available for service, there is minimal cost to deliver it back to a unit.”

“Since September 2011, Kuwait’s theater redistribution process has saved the US taxpayers approximately \$1 billion in recoverable items that are recycled back into the Army supply system,” added Yonally.

One final achievement of the GSO section was performed by the RIC team, Almond and Sgt. First Class Ingrid Williamson. Wil-

liamson, who resides in Winston-Salem, N.C., and is on her second overseas deployment discovered that there were over 7,000 items with missed catalog builds that had not been fully completed in the supply management database. Many of the “open” items dated back to 2002. The reason for this, she found, was that if an item came to the sort yard and could not be identified because a person inspecting the item did not know what it was or the item lacked an identification code, then the catalog or record for that item was not entirely completed and bypassed.

“If the bypassed items could be corrected and brought to record, it would provide the Army and Department of Defense a more accurate accounting in actual dollars saved,” said Williamson.

Williamson and Almond, with help from other subject matter experts across Kuwait and the Army, began researching thousands of docu-

ments and spreadsheets and have been able to bring to record over \$3 billion of supplies.

The general supply operations section of the 113th SB will continue to be proactive and flexible in accepting new missions, like the OPRAT mission, and they are capable of working long, hard hours to effectively support and sustain U.S. and NATO forces across the region, while at the same time saving US taxpayers billions of dollars.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The General Supply section (below) a part of the brigade’s support operations branch, is at the center of the brigade’s war-fighter sustainment operations. The GSO primarily sustains forces with resources and equipment such as: food (perishable and non-perishable), health and comfort items, water, individual equipment, tentage, organizational equipment, construction materials, repair parts and components to include kits, assemblies and sub-assemblies. Their mission encompasses 20 countries and thousands of miles.





EO UPDATE

"ONE TEAM, TWICE AS STRONG"

After nine months of serving in the active duty capacity as an Equal Opportunity Advisor, Maj. Michael A. Boykin agreed to share some of his lessons learned. Boykin was interviewed by Army Sgt. Tifani Hightower, the USARCENT EO Administrative noncommissioned officer.

SGT: Maj. Boykin, can you tell me how your assignment has been over the last year?

MAJ: In the grand scheme of things, this year has gone by relatively quickly. Some days were much busier than others. It was very busy for the first six months of my tour. The sheer volume of units and Soldiers in the brigade and having only one Equal Opportunity Advisor translates into a very busy schedule.

SGT: As the only EO Advisor in the brigade, what kind of challenges have you faced with the EO program during your deployment here?

MAJ: I'm part of the brigade commander's special staff and I have oversight of the entire EO program for the brigade. However, each company and battalion should have at least two Equal Opportunity leaders who can assist servicemembers and conduct EO training at the unit level. That way, if those situations that cannot be resolved at the unit level, Soldiers can contact the brigade EO advisor for assistance with any matters related to race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

SGT: What type of EO trends have you noticed during this deployment?

MAJ: One of the biggest issues I have encountered revolves around communication. Sometimes, there could be a lack of communication, miscommunication, and last-minute communication. In each of these situations, Soldiers may feel that information is not being shared or not being shared in great detail. Often, there are legitimate reasons as to why all information is not readily available.

In this age of social media, texting, and other instant updates, Soldiers have also become less patient in waiting on details.

SGT: Are there any other noticeable areas you have experienced?

MAJ: I'm not sure how many people have considered this, or even studied it at a larger level, but we are a multi-generational organization. In other words, we have about five generations of Soldiers throughout our ranks: we've got Soldiers in their teens (18-19), 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s. Naturally, when you have this many age groups working close together, day-in and -out, there are bound to be some notice-

able differences that may cause conflict.

The military is continually evolving, and we have Soldiers who have been around for 20 years or more. As individual Soldiers, we need to evolve with the Army as a whole, too. Just because we did things a certain way ten, 15, 20 or more years ago, that doesn't mean that it's the correct, healthy way or even the authorized way we do things today.

We must be cognizant of the EO policies and customs so that we do not violate or offend our Soldiers or any other servicemember. What we do and say to each other really does matter. That's why there is such an emphasis on treating each other with dignity and respect.

SGT: What have been some of the highlights of being the EO Advisor during this deployment for you?

MAJ: Working with and helping people resolve issues is what I like to do. Not every situation that comes my way ends up being "fixed" the way that a Soldier may want, but I will research a topic and present the Soldier with all the options available to him or her to

address the situation. I would say that about 75 percent of the situations that come to me do not involve EO, but I still take time to educate and connect Soldiers with the resources they need to address their situation. Sometimes, they simply need someone to listen to them without pre-judging or dismissing their concerns.

I also enjoy training new EO Leaders from the units. EOLs are on the front lines, working and living with the Soldiers, and if they are known throughout their unit and serve as good champions for the EO program, they have the ability to resolve matters at the lowest level.

By sharing my EO experiences and providing scenario-based learning methods, we can prepare EOLs to have confidence in dealing with various situations at the unit level.

Since I've been in Kuwait, we have trained over 125 EOLs throughout Kuwait, Qatar, Afghanistan and Egypt.

Overall, I appreciate all the experience I've gained over the past nine months and working with Soldiers from different parts of the world. It has been an amazing!





The 113th Sustainment Brigade's command team strongly encourages all Soldiers of the Steel Brigade and subordinate units to participate and cast your vote in the 2012 Presidential Primaries and Election.

Voting is one of our most important Constitutional rights. You can exercise your right to vote by completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) [<http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf>] or by complying with the ballot request procedures enacted by the state in which you vote.

See your Unit Voting Assistance Officer (UVAO) for your state requirements. The FPCA Standard Form 76, or other request, should be mailed or sent electronically as soon as possible. You should then receive your absentee ballot as requested.

If you are an OCONUS voter and have not received your regular absentee ballot 30-45 days prior to your state's deadline, you should complete a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) [<http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf>] and send it to your local election official. If you receive your absentee ballot late, I encourage you to complete the FWAB and mail it in. Mailing guidelines differ from state to state; I recommend you check your state's guidelines by contacting your UVAO.

It's a Freedom you defend -- Vote!

Staff Sgt. Tyler Isenhour (right), from Concord, N.C., and Spc. Jeffrey Brewer, both North Carolina National Guard Soldiers, from the 1452nd Transportation Company, served on Mobile Container Assessment Teams in Afghanistan. Their hard work resulted in the identification of 82 commercial containers that were previously unaccounted for and worth over \$1,245,000 in government property and detention fees.

Photo courtesy of 113th SB Public Affairs



"In Search of Shipping Containers in Afghanistan"

By Maj. Matt DeVivo, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - One of the 113th Sustainment Brigade's command messages is that Soldiers need to be "ready, proactive and flexible."

And two Soldiers from the 1452nd Transportation Company were ready to test that message as soon as they arrived in Kuwait.

For Staff Sgt. Tyler Isenhour and Spc. Jeffrey Brewer, both North Carolina National Guard Soldiers on their first deployment, their new mission was nothing they had trained for or expected. The mission was to deploy to Afghanistan and support Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan's Mobile Container Assessment Team (MCAT) program. MCAT consists of dozens of Soldiers in locations throughout Afghanistan. The MCAT mission is to locate lost shipping containers (commercial and government) and reduce unnecessary spending and detention fees paid by the U.S. government to commercial carriers.

Since 2001, thousands of commercial shipping containers have been delivered to Afghanistan in support of U.S. and allied forces. Unfortunately, hundreds have lost and/or not returned to their commercial owners and thus the U.S. government pays "detention fees" on those shipping containers.

"A detention fee for a shipping container is like a late fee on a movie you rented. Every day or month that passes without returning the movie, you are charged a fee," explained Isenhour.

Brewer was tasked to work closely with the Massachusetts National Guard, 26th Maneuver Enhanced Brigade, in Kabul, Afghani-

stan and Isenhour was tasked with Regional Command – North for eight months to track down and account for missing commercial shipping containers.

"We have seen some interesting uses for these containers," said Brewer. "They have become small shops, bridging material and bridges themselves, showers, latrines, offices, perimeter barriers, living quarters and the list goes on."

Once they locate a commercial container and determine if it is returnable, meaning not damaged or modified to the point that it cannot be shipped safely back to its owner, the team empties its contents into a government-owned container and processes the carrier-owned container for shipment in a timely manner. In some instances the containers, having been detained for many years, is now property of the U.S. government (due to years of paying detention fees) in which case it is put back into service.

"Our priority was to find missing containers and to reduce the government's container detention fees of non-government containers, and we accomplished that during our tour here," Brewer said. The two Soldiers recovered 82 commercial containers that were previously unaccounted for and worth over \$1,245,000 in government property and detention fees.

With ready, proactive and flexible Soldiers like Isenhour and Brewer, it won't be long until all commercial containers in Afghanistan are accounted for and on their way back to their owners.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - "We have seen some interesting uses for these containers," said Spc. Jeffrey Brewer of the 1452nd Transportation Company, North Carolina National Guard. "They have become small shops, bridging material and bridges themselves, showers, latrines, offices, perimeter barriers, living quarters and the list goes on." Brewer is assigned to the Afghanistan Mobile Container Assessment Team program. The MCAT is tasked with locating lost shipping containers. (Photo courtesy of Spc. Jeffrey Brewer)

HOME *Sweet* HOME

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ben Hodge sends some thoughts for good days ahead



Excited? Well, we should be. Soon we can embrace the many good things we have had to leave behind for awhile.

As I listen to many of our brigade Soldiers, talking about reunions with spouses, children, friends, the comforts of home, pets, time for rest and recreation, and maybe even getting back to civilian occupations, I am very excited for them.

But first, we have to keep our minds focused on completing our mission here. Let's make it known that in the Steel Brigade --- "We Finish!"

Even if you've been through a mobilization/deployment before, reintegrating into life in America can be difficult. Regardless of your experience, you will have a natural period of adjustment.

Here are some helpful tips for our reunions:

COMMUNICATE! COMMUNICATE! COMMUNICATE!

Plan your homecoming with your spouse and/or loved one - Talk about the schedule for the month you get home and beyond if needed.

Go slowly - don't try to make up for lost time.

Accept that there has been some change - your partner, loved ones, and friends may be different.

Take time to get reacquainted - with your home, family, friends, employer, co-workers

Seek help, if needed - Military OneSource (1-800-342-9647, www.militaryonesource.com), unit chaplain, or your family doctor.



Reuniting with your spouse or significant other:

-It's normal to feel nervous about homecoming - We may wonder whether our spouse will still "be proud of me, love me and need me, and expect things from me."

-COMMUNICATE! - The best way is to tell your spouse how you feel is to tell them how you feel. Communication goes both ways so listening to your spouse is key to a successful integration.

- You've both been used to doing what you wanted during personal time - Feeling like you need some space is normal.

-Your expectations about how life will be upon return may be fantasies - Be flexible.

-Resist the temptation to celebrate by going on a spending spree. Money saved may be needed for unexpected expenses.

-Don't be surprised if your spouse is a bit resentful. Others can think of the deployment as more fun and exciting than staying at home.

-Take time to get used to each other. Reestablishing sexual intimacy takes time; some people need to be romanced again.

Reuniting with Your Children:

-Children may be feeling the same confusing things you feel. Depending on their age, they may not understand how you could leave them if you really loved them.

-They may be unsure of what to expect from their returning parent. They may feel uncomfortable around you or think of you as a stranger.

A 24/7 Resource for Military Members, Spouses & Families

1-800-342-9647



-It's hard for children to control their excitement. Let them give and get the attention they need from you before you try to have quiet time alone with your spouse.

Children's reactions according to ages:

Infants: Cry, fuss, pull away from you, cling to your spouse or the caregiver they know. Talk to them while holding, hugging, bathing, changing, feeding, and playing with them.

Toddlers: Shy, clingy, may not recognize you, cry, have tantrums, return to behaviors they had outgrown. Give them time. Be gentle and fun. Sit at their level and play with them.

Preschoolers: Feel guilty for making you go away, need time to warm-up to you, intense anger, act out to get attention. Reinforce that they are loved, listen, accept their feelings, find out new things they are interested in, play with them, control attention-getting behavior.

School Age: Excitement, joy, talk constantly to bring you up to date, boast about you, guilt about not doing enough or being good enough. Review pictures, school work, scrapbook, praise for what they did during your deployment. Do not criticize.

Teenagers: Excitement, guilt about not living up to standards, concern

about rules and responsibilities, feel too old or unwilling to change plans to meet you or spend extended time with you upon your return. Share what's happened during deployment, encourage them to share, do chores together, listen, respect privacy and friends, don't be judgmental.

Reuniting with Parents, Family, and Friends:

- You have missed your family and friends and they have missed you. Let them be a part of the reunion but **balance your needs with those you love and care about.**

- If you are single or live with your parent(s), family, or a friend, many of the tips for reuniting with spouses and children may apply.

- Changes in the house or routine may be stressful. **Go slowly with trying to make the adjustment to being home again.**

- People you've lived and worked with prior to leaving may have changed.

- Married friends will be involved with their families. Others may return to their old friends and **you may feel left out.**

- **Your parents and family have been very worried about you. Give them time and attention.**

- You may be facing a change in job assignment or a move, or trying to meet new people, looking for a new relation-

ship. All these things cause stress.

Take Time for Yourself:

- You may have seen or experienced some things that may cause you to have nervousness, irritability, fatigue, sleep disturbances, moodiness, and trouble concentrating.

- **Talking with others who were there and/or counselors is very important.**

- Manage your stress - diet, exercise, recreation – **take care of yourself!**

- Make time to rest. Negotiate the number of social events to attend.

- **Limit your use of alcohol. Your tolerance is low.**

- **Depend on family, your unit, and friends for support.**

You can always ask for help.

Soldiers occasionally need help and that is very normal.

Contact a counseling agency, your local minister, a Military Family Center, Military Chaplain, or the VA.



Military OneSource (1-800-342-9647, www.militaryonesource.com)

Military OneSource gives access to six free counseling sessions with a provider in your local area for issues such as coping with deployment, reintegration, and marital and family problems.

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Asheville Military Family Resource Center (MFRC)

7 Yorkshire St. Suite 101, 28803

Fax:(828)274-8572

Debra Collington, FAC Network Coordinator,
debra.a.collington.ctr@us.army.mil,(828)274-7209

Charlotte Unit Family Contact Center (UFCC)

4240 West Blvd., 28208

Keneitha Delaney, FAC Specialist,
keneitha.delaney1@us.army.mil,(704)344-2352 Ext.14547

Fayetteville Unit Family Contact Center (UFCC)

3555 Owen Drive, 28306

Amy Wallace, FAC Specialist,
amy.wallace3@us.army.mil, (910) 321-1001 Ext.14920

Greensboro State Family Assistance Center (SFAC)

110 Franklin Blvd., 27401

Katy Jones, FAC Network Coordinator
katy.m.jones@us.army.mil
(336)691-7700 Ext. 15649
Sandy Harrison, FAC Specialist
sandy.harrison1@us.army.mil (336)691-7700 Ext 15651

Greenville State Family Assistance Center (SFAC)

1401 N. Memorial Dr., 27834

Dawn White, FAC Network Coordinator
dawn.white@us.army.mil, (800) 621-4136 Ext. 11150

Kannapolis Military Family Resource Center (MFRC)

6001 Gateway Center Dr., Suite 109, 28081

Fax:(704)788-0550

Lynn White, FAC Specialist, lynn.white2@us.army.mil,
(704) 788-4554

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Kinston Unit Family Contact Center (UFCC)

2875 Dobbs Farm Rd., 28504

Fax:(252)526-2772

Gabrielle H. O'Flanagan, FAC Specialist

gabrielle.h.oflanagan.ctr@us.army.mil

252) 208-0255 Ext. 15817

Lenoir State Family Assistance Center (SFAC)

1535 Beecher Anderson Road, 28645

Frances Johnson, FAC Specialist

frances.johnson3@us.army.mil

(828)757-4365 Ext. 4 line 1

Morganton Unit Family Contact Center (UFCC)

411 Kirksey Drive, 28655, Fax:(828)437-2068

Nancy Davis, FAC Network Coordinator

nancy.davis3@us.army.mil, (828)437-0746 Ext. 2

Raleigh Military Family Resource Center

MFRC), 130 Penmarc Drive Suite 110, 27603

Fax: (919) 334-9971

Earlene Capps, FAC Specialist

earlene.capps@us.army.mil, (919)334-0195

Lisa Faison, FAC Specialist

lisa.faison@us.army.mil, (919)334-0196

Mark Woolbright, FAC Network Coordinator

mark.woolbright@us.army.mil, (919)334-9966

Smithfield Unit Family Contact Center (UFCC)

406 Hospital Road, 27577

Fax:(919)934-2901

Abby Millsap, FAC Specialist,

abby.e.millsap@us.army.mil

(919)934-2013 Ext.16

Southern Pines Unit Family Contact Center

(UFCC), 500 Morganton Road, PO Box 1317,

28387, Fax:(910)692-3659

David Butler, FAC Specialist

david.earl.butler@us.army.mil

(910)692-8747 Ext. 6

Wilmington Unit Family Contact Center (UFCC)

2412 Infantry Rd., 28405, Fax: (910) 251-7130

Jim Marley, FAC Specialist

james.marley@us.army.mil

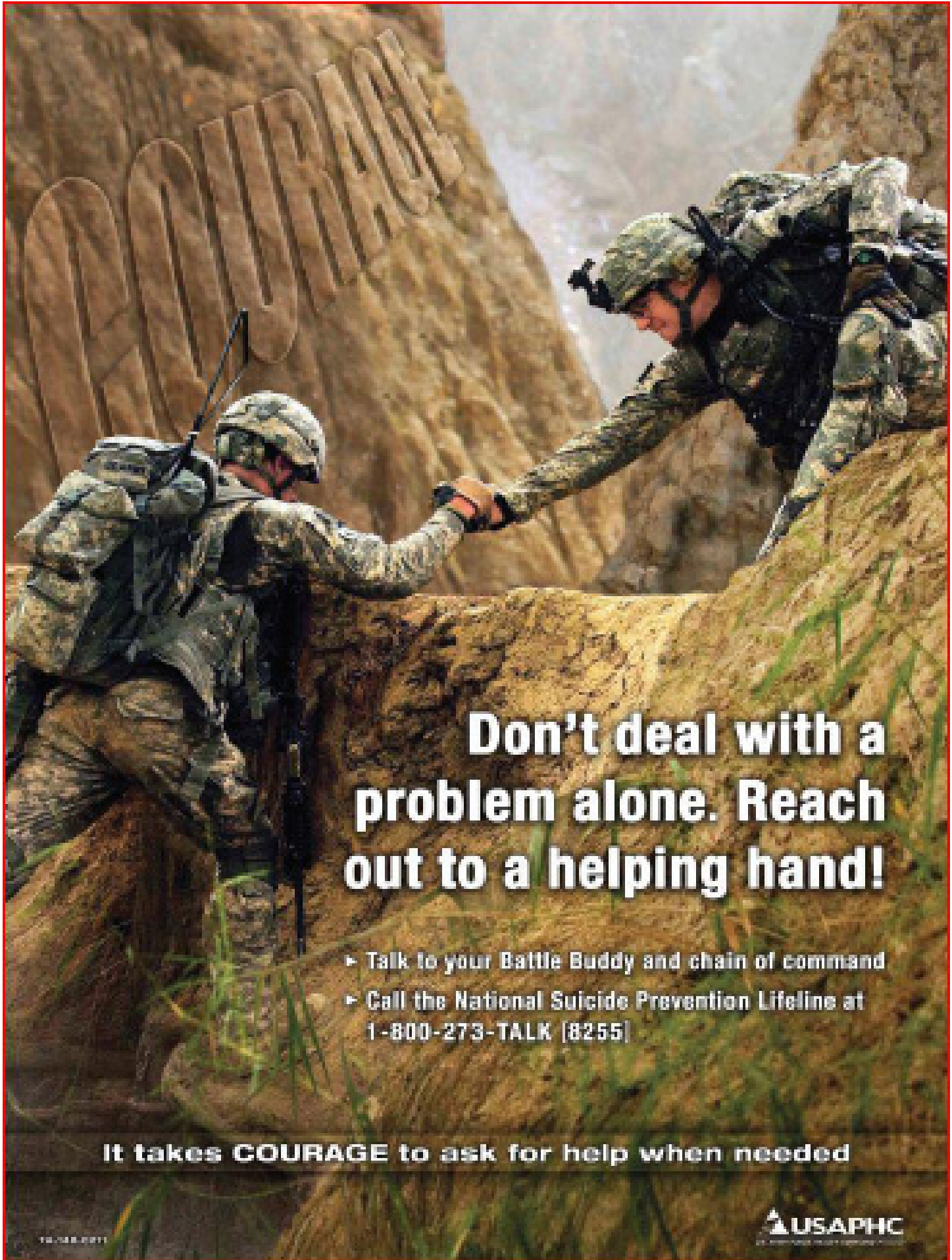
(910)251-7100 Ext. 16918

Judy Howard, FAC Network Coordinator

judy.m.howard@us.army.mil

(910)251-7100 Ext. 16925

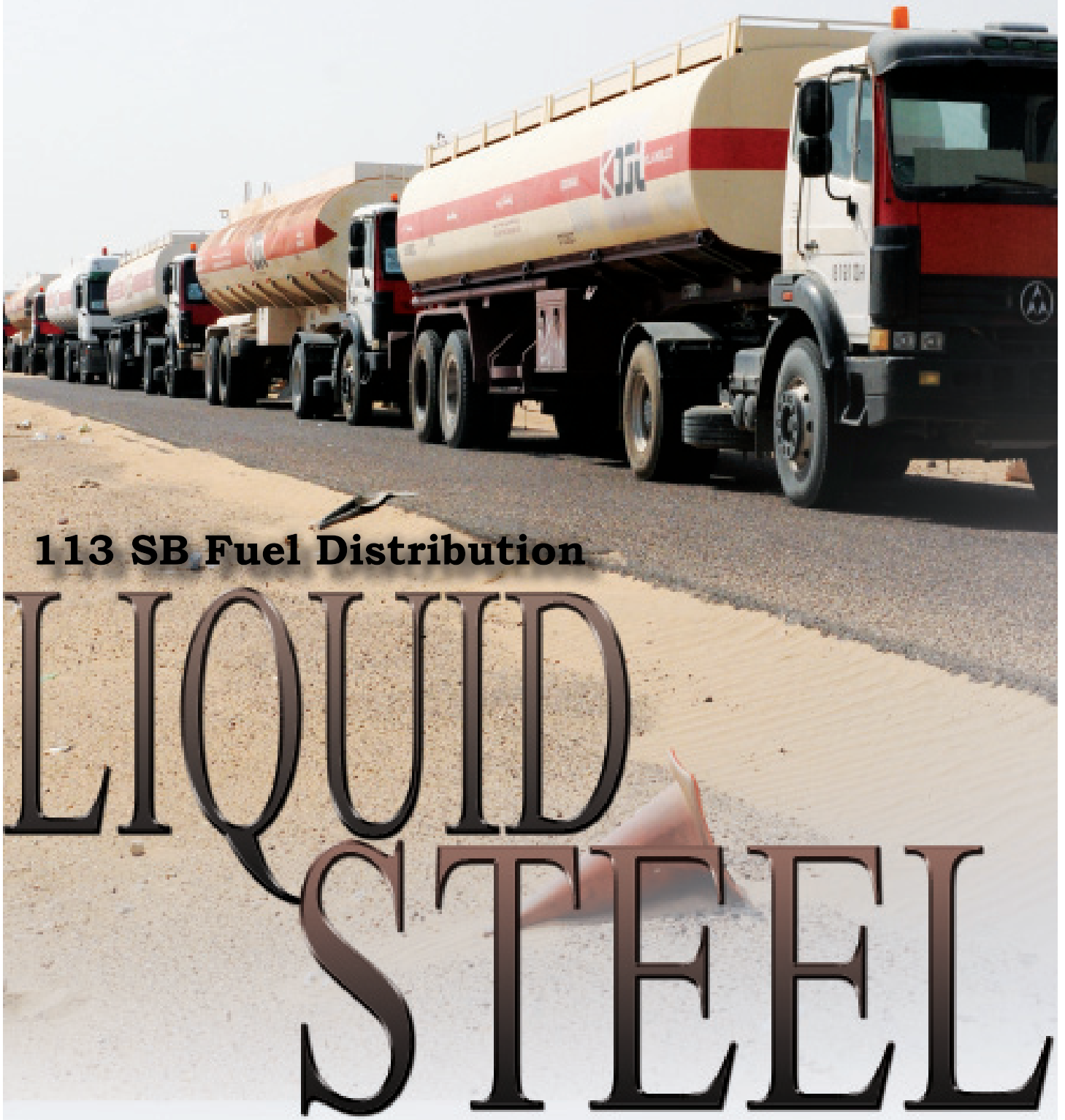
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Don't deal with a problem alone. Reach out to a helping hand!

- ▶ Talk to your Battle Buddy and chain of command
- ▶ Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK [8255]

It takes COURAGE to ask for help when needed



113 SB Fuel Distribution

LIQUID STEEL

By Sgt. 1st Class Keith Warzon, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The 113th Sustainment Brigade’s support operations section, by its very nature, works day and night managing and executing sustainment activities throughout Kuwait and across Central Command’s area of responsibility. One of its busier sections is the fuel distribution branch (known as Class III). The 113th SB Class III fuel distribution is responsible for the fuel management and distribution in Kuwait. The section includes Sgt. 1st Class Douglas

Scholz, Staff Sgt. Sean Miller, Sgts. Jason Jester and Gina Vianez, and is supervised by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jared N. Caldwell.

Fuel storage facilities are located throughout Kuwait and support air and ground operations.

“We run and manage fuel distribution for Kuwait, said Caldwell a native of Smithfield, N.C. “Our section analyzes and informs lower and higher headquarters units of the daily fuel situation but more importantly, my teams are on the road every day inspecting fuel yard operations, managing convoy requests, and approving fuel orders.

“In an effort to reduce costs across the Army, fuel contracts with civilian trucking companies are being modified that may reduce cost by as much as \$25 million,” said Caldwell.

With fewer civilian tanker-trucks hauling fuel in Kuwait, and the demand for fuel remaining the same, the 113th SB took the initiative and developed a plan to partner with the 3rd Infantry Division also stationed here. The 3rd ID is continuing to provide additional Army fuel tankers to support distribution in Kuwait until the right civilian contract package is determined. The 3rd ID’s fuel tanker support mission will continue for the next few weeks.

The Steel Brigade is working

closely with the Air Force’s 386th Expeditionary Logistical Readiness Squadron, which is stationed at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. The 386th ELRS manages and provides fuel to all military aircraft at Ali, to include coalition forces.

The 113th SB and the 386th ELRS frequently conduct joint fuel training on Army and Air Force equipment and fuel procedures.

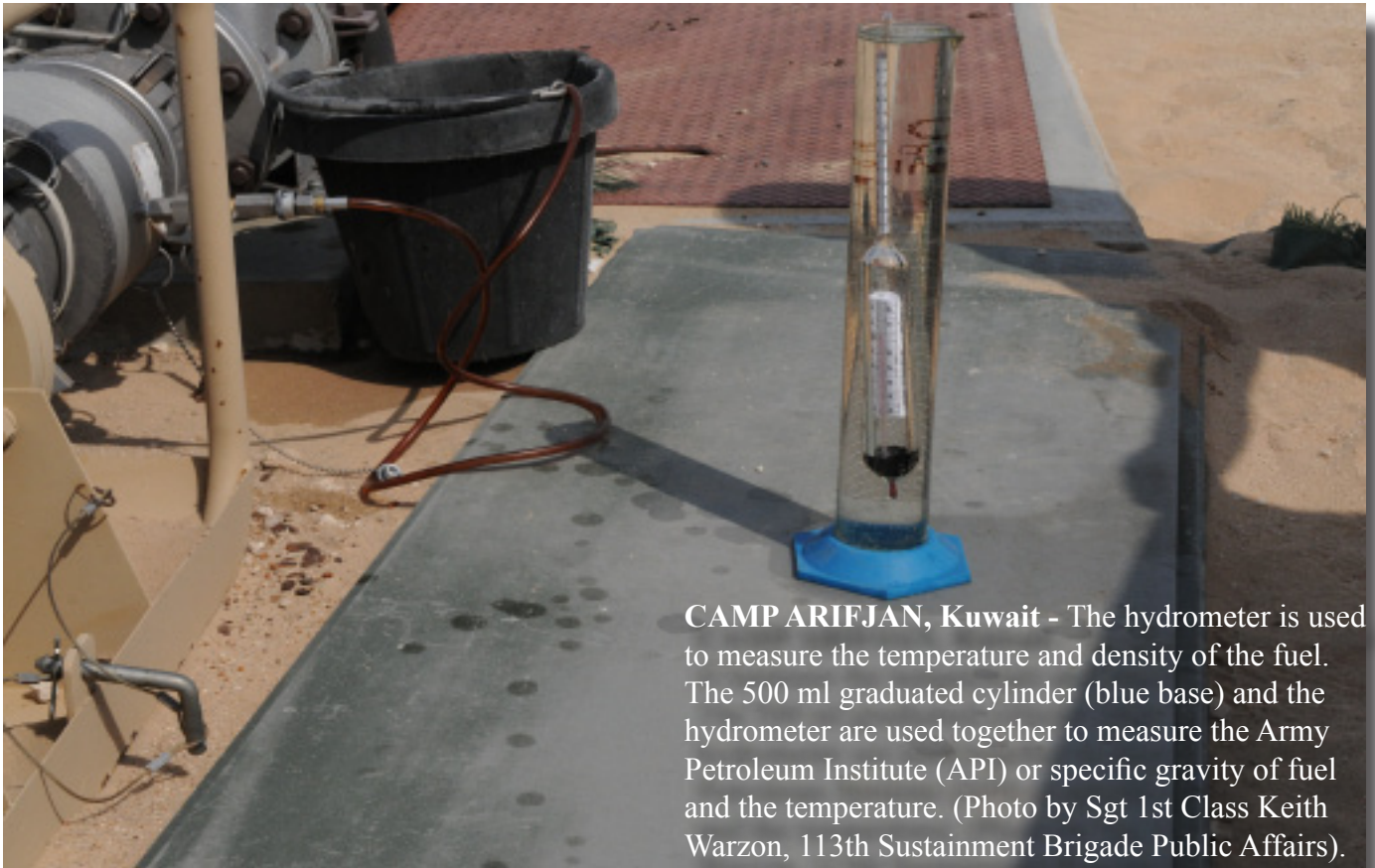
“The more joint training that a Soldier can receive will make them more efficient when planning future missions,” stated Caldwell, who is also a former Army fuel handler instructor.

Fuel trucks (civilian contracted or Army) upload fuel and transport it to units and other fuel sites in Kuwait when requested. During this process, Caldwell’s team takes samples of the fuel. Samples are then placed into a 500ml graduated cylinder and a hydrometer to verify its temperature and density. An accurate measurement is critical to verify the amount and type of fuel in the truck.

The method for measuring the volume of fuel in a military fuel bladder is to use a measuring stick from the ground and a line level to the highest point of the bag. The extreme day-time heat and the fuel bladder sitting on dirt and sand may produce incor-



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - During joint training with the Air Force, Sgt. Jason Jester fuels a Canadian C-17 with fuel from the Ali Al Salem Air Base fuel storage facility. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt 1st Class Keith Warzon, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs).




CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The hydrometer is used to measure the temperature and density of the fuel. The 500 ml graduated cylinder (blue base) and the hydrometer are used together to measure the Army Petroleum Institute (API) or specific gravity of fuel and the temperature. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Keith Warzon, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs).

rect readings.

The 113th SB's Class III fuel section is meeting with higher headquarters and contractors to develop a more efficient and accurate method for gauging the amount of fuel in different types of storage containers. The team would like to incorporate more technology into the process such as using handheld temperature guns and density meters.

"These devices would provide an accurate representation of fuel on hand," said Caldwell, "and these devices would also reduce the time to

measure tankers and thus speed up the time it takes to move trucks in and out of a fuel station."

By partnering with the 3rd ID to ensure there is no interruption of fuel in Kuwait and researching new methods and technologies to make their jobs more efficient and save government money, the 113th SB's fuel distribution section is another shining example of the Steel Brigade's ready, proactive and flexible sustainment operations. 



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - When full, this fuel bladder, nestled in a berm of earth, will provide fuel for military and civilian contacted vehicles conducting logistic and sustainment operations throughout Kuwait. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt 1st Class Keith Warzon, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs).

Steel Brigade in Jordan

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The 50th Financial Management Company a National Guard unit from Flemington, N.J., assigned to the 113th Special Troops Battalion deployed a financial management support team to Jordan in late August. The team will service members at the U.S. and Jordanian Training Center for a limited duration.

Financial services include Eagle Cash Card (ECC) issuance and support, savings deposit information, planning and deposits and disbursing local currency. 🇺🇸



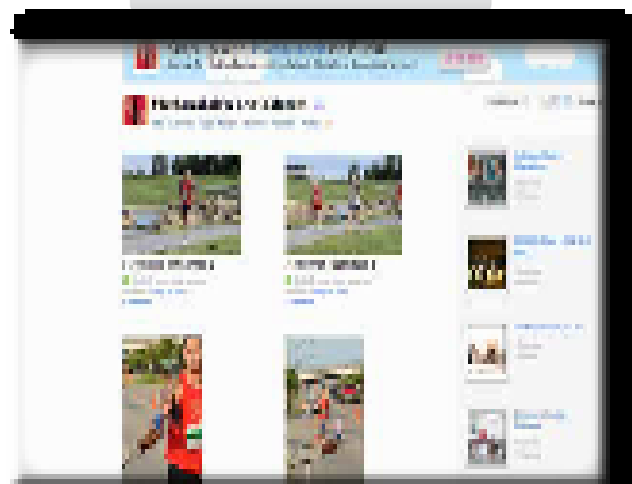
(From left) Spc. Anthony Walkingstick, Sgt. 1st Class Bryan White and Sgt. Maj. Thomas Slowinski. Walkingstick and White are Soldiers from the 368th Financial Detachment, an Army Reserve unit from Wichita, Kansas.

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Simply Giving Back

By Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – For most Soldiers who are deployed, the Red Cross is always there with baked goodies, small reminders of home and a way of communication in case of an emergency. For Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Siler, his relationship with the organization begins well before his Army career.

“When I was about seven years old, my siblings and I were pulled out of class and told that there was a fire at our house,” said Siler, who is currently deployed with the 113th Sustainment Brigade here. “Our house burned down because of a gas explosion somewhere in the house.”

Siler, a native of Greensboro, N.C., was one of six children that his mother raised on her own. Despite his young age, Siler knew that things were about to change, and possibly for the worst.

“As a kid, you think that nothing like this could ever happen to you,” he said, “and my mother had to take care of us and the house by herself. That’s a lot to handle!”

Luckily, the local Red Cross stepped in and assisted the family through the transition period. The family was provided with a hotel room and boxes of donated clothes. Once the family was able to get back on their feet, the public housing authority accepted Siler’s family and placed them into an actual house.

“Without all of that help, I don’t know how we could have recovered and gone on with our lives,” said Siler.

Currently on his third deployment, Siler is assigned in the property book section of the 113th SB’s S4, or supply, group. He is also the brigade’s master resilience trainer, which consists of training Soldiers on ways to be flexible and how to adapt to the deployed lifestyle. This training is required quarterly by the Army, said Siler.


Despite his many roles with the brigade, this non-commissioned officer still finds the time to volunteer at the Red Cross here.

“I’ve wanted to give back to the Red Cross for helping my family when we needed it the most,” said Siler. “I thought, what better time to start than now?”

With a family of his own now, Siler said that volunteering for the Red Cross is not only a way for him to give back for the help that was provide to him, but to also set an example for his own children.

“When I return home to Greensboro [N.C.], I plan on continuing my service with my local Red Cross chapter,” said Siler.

According to the Red Cross’ website, the organization exists to provide care to those in need. It was chartered by the United States Congress to “carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.” With this mission in mind, the Red Cross focuses on five key service areas: disaster relief, health and safety services, lifesaving blood, military families, and international services. Every year, the American Red Cross responds to approximately 70,000 disasters, to include home fires that affect single families to natural disasters that can affect thousands of people.

The 113th Sustainment Brigade, based out of Greensboro, N.C., is currently deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. For more information on the unit, please visit www.Facebook.com/113thSB or www.Flickr.com/113thSB. 



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Michael Jowers, the station manager here at the Camp Arifjan Red Cross, discusses an outline of the day’s activities with Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Siler. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs)

191st CSSB Assumes Mission

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), Task Force Ghost Riders, officially assumed control of the logistics mission in Kuwait from the 728th CSSB during a transfer of authority ceremony here Aug 7.

In the time honor military tradition, Lt. Col. Lawrence Dugan, battalion commander of the 728th and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mainiero carefully wrapped and cased their battalion colors for its trip back to their home station in Lock Haven, Pa., symbolizing the completion of their command.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to turn over our mission to our new best friends the Ghost Riders,” said Lt. Col. Lawrence Dugan, battalion commander for the 728th CSSB. “The 191st is a first class organization that is more than capable of handling the mission and I have no doubt that they will be as successful as we have.”

With the unfurling of their colors by Lt. Col. James Groark, commander of the 191st CSSB and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher A. Beyer, the 191st CSSB assumes responsibility of managing one of the largest military equipment and supply redistribution operations in recent military history.

During the ceremony, Groark recognized the outstanding accomplishments of the 728th CSSB highlighting on the battalion’s ability to adapt to a multitude of new missions thrown at them.

“The 191st will also be required to be as flexible, adaptive, and proactive,” said Groark. “As our motto says, we will stay ‘Out Front.’”

The 191st CSSB will also assume command of ten separate sustainment units covering Kuwait, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan to support USCENTCOM requirements.



SAVING MONEY

Thanks to many months of hard work and determination 113th SB's fuel distribution section is writing the final chapter in a project that's been in financial and workforce limbo for 3 years.

A long overdue fuel berm project was approved by higher headquarters and ARCENT and will be accomplished by using Army assets which saves over \$400,000 of US taxpayer money vs. a civilian contract. The project will establish an environmentally safe storage system and provide for better accountability of fuel at the fuel station.

Photo: Army engineers with the 497th Engineers, stationed in Kuwait, make final surveys in preparation for berm construction.

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SOME THOUGHTS ON THE DEPLOYMENT...

Is this your first deployment? If so, how did it differ from your expectations?



Yes, this is my first deployment. It differed from my expectations as I have had a lot of fun here. There are more activities than I had anticipated. The heat wasn't too bad at first, but now it's like walking in a blow dryer. I have actually sat outside for the sole purpose of drying my hair! I enjoy the runs, salsa nights, karaoke, going to the pool, and am currently practicing for Arifjan's Dancing with the Stars.

1st Lt. Jessica Lofton

Did you take advantage of the R&R leave? If so, what did you do and what was the best experience while on leave?



R&R was outstanding! I didn't wear a watch, I didn't dwell with the calendar, and I stayed with the family 100% of the time. The best part was seeing my family waiting to welcome me home at the airport. I started to cry because I missed them so much.

Capt. Douglas Windley

CAMP ARIEFJAN

What will you tell your family and friends about your time in Kuwait?

I was able to contribute to one of the largest retrograde operations in our history.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Terry Hicks



Do you feel as though you've developed as a leader?

“My experience here has allowed growth within my leadership traits and given me a broader perspective of theater operations. But most importantly, my experiences here have helped me develop better questions as a leader when answers are required.”

Maj. Zaire Mcrae



CAMP ARIFJAN

What were some things that you looked forward to throughout your time deployed?



Easy question! Skype/Face Time/Nimbuzz/Yahoo! Messenger/Facebook Messenger/etc. with my Family and Friends back home - duh! From the day that we arrived, I think that the majority of us were looking forward to our R&R leave. Here on Camp Arifjan? Without a doubt, the STEEL BUB! Mexican and Italian days in the DFAC, and Zumba and step aerobics. We are all looking forward to the safe return of all of our Soldiers from Afghanistan. And, finally, the countdown to us all touching down at the "Great Place" [The demobilization site, Fort Hood, Texas].

Lt. Col. Miriam Gray

What was the hardest part about being deployed?



For me the hardest part about this deployment was been being away from family and friends. I also miss some of the freedoms that I used to, like being able to move about as I please. Being confined to post can be a little difficult when you are accustomed to move about as you please. Lt. Col. Darryl Godwin

CAMP ARIEFJAN

What did you think of the heat?

It sure was different from anything I've experienced in my past.

Spc. Rachel Laughlin



If you could change one thing about the deployment, what would it would be ?



I would have to say more opportunities to do things specific to my MOS.

Spc. Ronnie Adams

113th Sustainment Brigade Remains Flexible in Afghanistan

By Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – “Think of a seven year-old child’s room, after they have gone through and played with every toy they have,” said Sgt. Christopher Tyrer. “This is what that looks like.

“Only, we have about ten acres of it,” he said.

Tyrer, along with Soldiers from Alpha, Bravo, and Headquarters Company of the 113th Sustainment Brigade, has received a new mission; to begin the retrograde of equipment from Afghanistan at the Kandahar retrograde yards.

Working in the Overflow yard, Tyrer is a part of a night crew that has the task of going through boxes, huge metal containers called “connexes,” or just piles of equipment or pieces of equipment here, to figure out what the Army can reuse, what they can fix and then reuse, or to dispose of unsalvageable items.

Not wanting to leave his battle buddies with all of the work, Spc. John Dunn, originally tasked as a sorter, showed up to help out with the overflow yard.

“Usually, I’m at the sort tent, going through the boxes with the smaller pieces of equipment, looking at them closely to see if they are damaged or can be placed back into the supply system,” said Dunn. “But before we do that, the Overflow yard has to find the boxes to send us, and I wanted to come and help our guys out.”

Dunn, a native of Mount Holly, N.C., said that several Soldiers of Bravo Company were the perfect ones to send out for this mission. During the beginning of this deployment, the Soldiers did something similar to this at Camp



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Soldiers of the 113th Sustainment Brigade go through boxes here at the Overflow Yard June 16. The Soldiers are here to organize and retrograde battlefield equipment back into the Army supply system. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs)

Arifjan, Kuwait, where they sorted and moved over 170 connex in just two months, he said.

Tonight is the team’s second night on the job; last night, they met with a couple of Soldiers who were previously running the yard to receive instructions on how the yard works.

“The team that was running the yard before us was only made up of two Soldiers,” said Sgt. Chris Casar, a Soldier of the 113th SB’s Bravo Company. “But we have more Soldiers selected to run this yard, so slowly but surely we’re figuring out the best way to organize and place this stuff back into the Army supply system.”

Beyond the Overflow Yard are three tents and an additional yard. These tents house the sorting, processing and customs teams here.

“In the processing tent, you can find Soldiers inputting the serial numbers for each part into a program that will let the Soldier know where the item can be shipped for use,” said 1st Lt. Sherise Johnson, the officer in charge of the customs team for the day crew here. “Once the equipment goes through the process tent, we receive them and ensure that they are clean and ready for shipment.”

The three companies working together may not drill at the same armories back in North Carolina, and while they may not

have the same jobs, the Soldiers are definitely coming together as one team, twice as strong. On June 17, Soldiers from each company came together to celebrate Spc. Anthony Fultz's 24th birthday.

"Thank you so much," Fultz told each Soldier of the group who surprised him that night. "This really means a lot to me."



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Sgt. Christopher Tyrer instructs the forklift operator, Spc. Gracie Sanchez, on which direction she needs to go to pick up a box here in the Overflow Yard June 16. Both Soldiers are a part of the brigade's Bravo company. The two were selected as part of a special team to deploy here to begin the responsible drawdown of Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs)



WARRANT OFFICERS

400+ years of service – Steel Warrant Officers of the 113th SB

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait

- With 19 warrant officers assigned to the 113th Sustainment Brigade, the Greensboro, N.C., -based unit has over 400 combined years of expertise in various fields. "This is unusual for a brigade," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Roberta Toshumba, one of the 113th SB's warrant officers. "Usually, you only find a handful of warrant officers in a brigade." The 113th SB warrant officers, respectfully nicknamed the "warrant officer mafia," offer experience and their subject matter expertise

in: maintenance, munitions, general supply, supply and services, food service, personnel and human resources, mobility, contracting, electronics, information technology and communications and force management. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs)



STEEL WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Soldiers assigned to the 113th Sustainment Brigade and its subordinate units have a chance each week to be recognized for something special. Battalions submit names of nominated Soldiers to the brigade and the commander selects the winner. Prior to the brigade update brief, Col. David L. Jones presents the Steel Warrior with a certificate of achievement in front of leaders from across the brigade.

By Sgt. 1st Class Keith Warzon, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Specialist David Frady has displayed exceptional service while assisting in the rigging of 319 bundles weighing more than 198,000 pounds to be airdropped to the forward operating bases in Operation Enduring Freedom. He continues mentoring junior Soldiers on the constant changing demand of the shop and airdrop missions. He contributed to the building and rigging of 168 low cost low velocity parachutes for shipment on 14 platform skids to help replenish and assist another rigger facility in fulfilling their wartime mission.

Sergeant Kareem Thomas took charge of a Soldier's situation at Kuwait City International Airport and delegated his on-scene duties to a Soldier on his team and drove an Air Force General Officer to the entrance of The Rock where he was then transferred to the custody of EFSS personnel enabling the Officer to make a flight show-time for return travel to Afghanistan as originally scheduled. Sergeant Thomas was an outstanding ambassador of the United States Army and demonstrated "Mission First – People Always" which is a motto the Air Force General Officer strongly believes.

Specialist Rashad Stone is commended for being responsible for the management of the emergency leave and R&R leave program for nine companies. He provides and helped revise the DCS brief that all Soldiers are required to have prior to going on leave. He also handles any pay issues that may arise, by establishing a healthy working relationship with the contacts at the subordinate finance company. While deployed, Specialist Stone has worked on his college degree and military education.

Specialist Andrew Harbison participated in 10 transportation missions with two types of vehicles, totaling almost 1,500 accident-free miles driven within two weeks. He was a key member of the team detailed to reorganize the unit's motor pool, in advance of the Mayor Cell transitioning into the unit's area of operations. Specialist Harbison performed his duties flawlessly and without complaint, despite still undergoing physical therapy to recover from an injury.



(From left to right: CW2 Harris, SPC Frady, CSM Mainiero)



(From left to right: LTC Peele, Maj Merino, Sgt Thomas, 1SG Hampton, CSM Scott)



(From left to right: CSM Scott, SPC Stone, LTC Peele)



(From left to right: SFC Linfield, LTC Groark, Spc. Harbison, Capt. Hall, 1SG Spreeman)

