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Soldiers Perspective on Key Afghan Mission

By Sgt. Kenneth Fahnestock
Unit Admin NCO
1462nd Trans Co.

AFGHANISTAN – Retrograde operations in Afghanistan have been covered by several media outlets, and received a lot of attention from key leaders in the U.S. military since they began earlier this year. The public has seen and heard the perspective of political leaders, media analysts, and senior Army leadership; what hasn't received a lot of attention however is what the Soldiers performing the mission think about it.

Specialist Alicia Smith, a member of the 1462nd Transportation Company based in Afghanistan who is acting as the Unit Public Affairs Representative for members of that unit, took some time to get the perspective, on this mission and the deployment as a whole, of two Soldiers in the unit with different backgrounds and opinions.

Smith spoke to Sergeant Elijah Cooley, from Caledonia, Mich, and Specialist Julia McLeod, from Howell, Mich. Cooley is currently the

noncommissioned officer in charge of shipping at the Bagram Airfield Retro Sort Yard, supervising Soldiers who package items to be returned to Army supply depots and reissued to Soldiers or disposed of because they are no longer usable, and is on his third deployment as a member of the Michigan Army National Guard.

McLeod works as a member of the shipping team at Camp Pratt, loading item descriptions into a computer database, printing shipping paperwork for each item, and arranging for full shipping containers to be sent to their next destination. This is her first deployment.

Despite different backgrounds and experience levels, both Soldiers had similar perspectives on the mission their unit has been performing since June of this year.

When asked what they thought about the retrograde mission in Afghanistan, both Sol-

(Continued on page 17)



BAGRAM AIRFIELD RETRO SORT YARD, Afghanistan — A promotion ceremony for Sgt. Michael Brunger during the evening of Sept. 2. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymonod Ruzzin, 1462nd Trans Co.)

191st CSSB BATTALION COMMANDER



Lt. Col. James Groark

As the Ghost Rider Command Team visits Soldiers across our operational footprint, the adage, “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference” comes to mind. Across the battalion, most Soldiers display great attitudes, while some not so much. Here are my thoughts.

As deployed Soldiers, we do not have a choice about our living conditions, work environment, food, absence of family, and so on. But, when we wake up every morning, we do choose our attitude; – our inner response, positively or negatively, towards any aspect of our environment. The moment you decide to turn on the negative or positive switch inside you, that mindset will determine the rest of your day, week... and deployment.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, an early-American essayist, once said, “He is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety.” Or as my old drill sergeant used to say, “Forget it, drive on.” No matter the vernacular eloquence you may choose to describe aspects of attitude, your attitude is your choice.

Our Master Resilience Trainer, 2nd Lt. Cole Landon, provides some excellent skills that we all can use in order to increase the frequency of positive attitudes amongst our ranks, as well as ways to cope with challenges for our families back at home.

Hunt the “Good Stuff!” To counter the negativity bias, create positive emotion by specifically pointing out the good things in our lives. Hunt as you would if it was your only means of survival.

Make a list of items that you hunt down. Attached below is a journal. I challenge each of you to write down just three significant good things that you appreciate throughout your day.

During a conversation with your friends, coworkers, or loved ones, begin with some quality moments that you found with each other. What may seem like an insignificant activity, I assure you is powerful when applied.

Put hunting the good stuff to the test. See how it affects your outlook on life, and watch as people notice the value in your presence. From the positive influence you evoke, you will notice, you will gain the good stuff.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Members of the ‘Ghost Riders’ lined up at the start line during the ‘Resiliency Day’ 5K run on Aug. 19. (U.S. Photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)



'Dirty Mondays'

By 2nd Lt. Aubree Shurtz
Intelligence Officer
191st CSSB

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- Second to serving our country, the best thing about living in Kuwait is the experience of the Arabian Desert. You have the blistering heat, fine sand in your ears, and the sun sets over endless miles of sand dunes. But perhaps the most surreal experience here is surviving a dust storm.

Within the four weeks that the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion has been here, there have been multiple dust storms.

With the cool air from the Turkish and Iraqi mountains mixing with the hot air of the Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf, Kuwait is a prime location for high winds from any direction. With the amount of water in Kuwait almost negligible, the dry soil kicks up quickly in the mix of these winds, and you end up with a variety of dust storms.

Dust storms have quite an impact on the 191st and our day-to-day operations. Weather conditions are very unpredictable and cannot be tracked by radar. Often times, they kick up in just a matter of minutes. Some of the worst storms have left individuals stuck off-post due to low visibility. Loss of power and communication can also result.

Stepping outside in these sorts of conditions can take a toll on the individual soldiers too. The head scarves come on when 30 mph gust of wind at a temperature of 110 degrees whips sand across your face.

Watching these dust storms is one thing, but to experience them is completely different. The impact stretches far beyond the present moment and can create an operational mess that often takes days to recover from.

1st Lt. Jeremy Willson, a transportation coordinator officer for the 191st, nicknames these dust storms as, "Dirty Mondays." Quite the appropriate term for one of many experiences here in the Arabian Desert.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — The barracks area where deployed Soldiers stationed here rest on their down time. Some Soldiers, having experienced dust storms worse than this, continue on their day as though it is nothing. (U.S. Photo by Staff Sgt. Krisee Casey, SPO NCO, 191st CSSB)



It's not all work: Ghost Riders Take a Break from the Mission

By Capt. Berni Davis
HHC Commander
191st CSSB

KUWAIT -- Aug. 26 was 'Arabian Nights' at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, which presented Soldiers of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Ghost Riders, with an opportunity to learn about the local culture.

The evening kicked off with camel rides, where many Ghost Riders were able to ride and even feed the well behaved camel. Nobody was spit on.

Following the camel rides, there was a cultural presentation which taught Soldiers about the dressing customs of Kuwait. Food was brought in by local caters which was very good and offered something different from the dining facility menu.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Spc. Janessa Keeling, fleet manager for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, shows off a popular Kuwaiti soda during 'Arabian Nights' here Aug 26. (U.S. Photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Spc. Matthew Johnson, a human resource specialist with the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, rides a camel during 'Arabian Nights' Aug 26. (U.S. Photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Members of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion softball team, 'Ghost Riders.' (U.S. Photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)

The food featured was common Middle Eastern food similar to Lebanese with some hints of Greek inspiration. The evening closed with an Arabic disc jockey and belly dancer performance.

Ghost Riders have also been getting together to compete in a softball and soccer league a few nights a week.

On Sept. 2, the Ghost Riders had their first opportunity to go off post in an unofficial status.

The MWR Tours at Camp Arifjan offer trips into cultural, historical and shopping sites in Kuwait City. On a recent tour, several Ghost Riders visited the Kuwait City, the Grand Mosque and then the

Sharq Mall for lunch and shopping.

Future tours will enable our Soldiers to experience the local culture and historical sites such as the Kuwait Tours, the Scientific Center, Kuwait War Museum and the National Museum.

The company will also be gathering a group early each month as a chance to forget about the stresses of the job and have fun together as a group.



KUWAIT — Staff Sgt. Lucas Chapman, transportation coordinator NCO for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, sports sunglasses reflecting the sights of Kuwait Sept. 2. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Berni Davis, HHC Commander, 191st CSSB)



KUWAIT — Capt. Berni Davis, HHC Commander for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, gets a photo with a familiar face during the tour to a Kuwaiti shopping Mall Sept. 2. (Courtesy photo)



KUWAIT — Soldiers with the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, in good spirits during a tour of Kuwait Sept. 2. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Berni Davis, HHC Commander, 191st CSSB)



KUWAIT — Observing Kuwaiti cultural traditions, female Soldiers of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion wear garments during their visit of the Grand Mosque Sept. 2. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Berni Davis, HHC Commander, 191st CSSB)



Helping the Army 'Go Green'

By Staff Sgt. Krisee Casey
SPO W2N NCOIC
191st CSSB

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Soldiers of the Support Operations (SPO) section of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) working at the warehouses here provide an essential and money saving operation for tax payers at home.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Soldiers belonging to the special operations' 'W2N' section of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion will spend their deployment conducting retrograde operations in an effort to reuse military equipment; saving tax payer money. (Courtesy photo)

The warehouse that is commonly known as 'W2N' receives, sorts, classifies and brings to record retrograde equipment coming from CENTCOM areas of operation. 191st Soldiers specific responsibility in this mission is to conduct daily surveillance audits of the work being done by the civilian contractors to ensure the work at W2N is conducted within the scope of their contract and to standard.

The section has completed 264 audits since taking control of the W2N yard Aug. 7.

Besides conducting daily audits of the W2N contracts, Soldiers of the 191st SPO have the opportunity

to provide "shopping days," where units, who have access to the yard, are able to come into the yard and pick through an assortment of retrograde equipment and take it back to their units for utilization.

Never knowing what equipment is in the containers when they receive them, and there can be anything from baseball bats and golf clubs to power tools and an assortment of office supplies, said 1st Lt. Aaron Hall, the W2N officer-in-charge.

The W2N section is also the proud parents of five plants.

Research has shown that plants help clean the air, and more recent research has suggested that the presence of plants, whether real or artificial, increase one's ability to maintain attention and therefore increase productivity; and Maj. Nicole Chilson, the SPO officer-in-charge, is counting on it. At the least, they make the W2N office an inviting place for their customers and visitors. Already, plants like these are popping up in the other sections of the 191st CSSB battalion.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — To bring in a little bit of home into the office where the SPO section works, Staff Sgt. Krisee Casey found a little shop in the PX that sells a small assortment of house plants. (U.S. Photo by Staff Sgt. Krisee Casey, SPO NCO, 191st CSSB)



THIS IS MY JOB: 25U—Signal Support System Specialist

By Spc. Conor O'Farrell
Signal Support System Specialist
191st CSSB

"Commo check, commo check ... Do you read me, over?"

The 25 Series is what makes up the Signal Corps. The "U" means "Uniform," which in Army terms means that everything must be same, or 'dress right dress.'

This is what is expected of me. I am to be able to configure and operate any and every system, from computers to radios and satellites. You might say that three fields isn't too much, but once you get into all the different hardware components alone for just computers you would say to yourself, "that's what this guy is for? I won't remember any of this." Even though configuring and operating are both in our spectrum, a third and even more important job for us is troubleshooting. Everything has their own set of problems that we encounter, with many of them big issues that we have never seen, and it's up to us to fix it.

Since we've arrived here, my section has received hundreds of helpdesk tickets from Soldiers to contractors that work within the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Tickets are our means of tracking what is needed and from whom when the problem arose. These tickets have ranged from simple requests such as resetting locked accounts to off base visits to install a movement tracking system for our watercraft vessels so they can communicate while at sea and have up-to-date GPS tracking of their locations at all times.

Just within this last week alone I have had to learn and operate a new tactical radio system that we will be using in the near future.

I am also our communications security custodian for the battalion, ensuring that all their radios and computers stay updated with the latest encrypted keys for each month. Without those fills, nobody would be

able to read any of their emails or even hear each other over the radios.

I am a 25U, a Signal Support System Specialist. This is Spc. Conor O'Farrell, over and out.



CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT — Spc. Conor O'Farrell, a Signal Support System Specialist for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, resident of Pocatello, Idaho, works in the S-6 section of battalion which handles the communication and computer aspect of the mission. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)



Chaplain (Capt.) John Marriott

“We have many chances, regularly, to make heart pictures.”

‘Heart Pictures’

Years ago, a book which later was adapted to a TV movie, “Go Toward the Light,” told the story of a young boy, Ben, who had accidentally contracted HIV after receiving contaminated blood. In the story, Ben’s mother gives birth to his youngest brother before Ben dies and as she watched her oldest son taking his turn to hold their youngest son, she said her heart took a picture.”

Despite the pain that life may bring us, there are opportunities to make special memories and moments all around us. We have many chances, regularly, to make “heart pictures.” We don’t need to wait until tragedy strikes to start. But these opportunities also have a short shelf life. Procrastinating the moments we have may someday cause us great pain.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, an American author, once wrote, “the bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone.” Too often, we wait until health challenges, pain, or crisis occurs to tell people we love how we really feel about them. We wait until after it’s too late to realize what we had, when we had it.

In one play, a woman who dies is given the chance to relive her 12th birthday, but the day has no excitement because she already knows everything that is going to happen. She is hurt by the realization that she didn’t realize how wonderful life was while she had it. She agonizes over wondering if people ever realize life while they live it.

I once heard about a man who had started to learn this lesson had promised his sons he would take them to the circus. His son later recounted, “But at lunchtime there was a phone call; some urgent business required his attention downtown. We braced ourselves for disappointment. Then we heard him say [into the phone], ‘No, I won’t be down. It’ll have to wait.’ When he came back to the table, Mother smiled. ‘The circus keeps coming back, you know,’ [she said.] “‘I know,’ said Father. ‘But childhood doesn’t.’” If we are determined, even with the separation that comes from deployments we will find ways to make meaningful heart pictures. In fact, one of the lessons that should come from deployments is how valuable our time with our loved ones is to us.

Don’t delay—make heart pictures today.



SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — A scenic winter photo of the parade field at Fort Douglas with the Wasatch Front Mountains in the background. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dave Sivewright, 191st CSSB)



Assuming a New Role

By Master Sgt. Michael Coffey
Operations NCOIC
191st CSSB

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait --

The noncommissioned officers (NCOs) of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion have stepped up to the plate once again. After assuming the mission from the 728th CSSB here, we have found ourselves very busy in several training and operations areas.

The 191st Operations (S-3) NCO Corps consists of four other NCOs. Sgt. 1st Class John Haag is our battle and training NCO, and Sgt. Joshua Maher is the assistant training NCO. Our night shift is headed by Sgt. 1st Class Mathew Pickering in the battle captain position, and Staff Sgt. Preston Prieto as the assistant battle captain. The S3 section is the only section running twenty-four hour operations.

Since we have been here, we have trained and received our Kuwaiti driver's license, received fire marshal training, and total ammunition management information system training as well as several other mandatory classes. The S-3 training section is responsible for tracking mandatory training of 495 Soldiers. This includes all yearly mandatory training and briefings, non-commissioned officer education courses, Combatives levels I & II, combat life saver and various other training op-



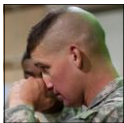
CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Working at their desks coordinating all the daily operations of the 191st CSSB and it's downtrace units, Sgt. 1st Class John Haag and Sgt. Joshua Maher are just two of the non commissioned officers in the S-3 section for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. (U.S. Photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)

portunities that arise here at Camp Arifjan.

In just one month, the training section has already pushed out and accounted for 595 Soldiers to attend some type of training. In addition to

the training piece, we have conducted two staff assistance visits to help our down trace units understand all aspects of conducting the Army physical fitness test.

(Continued on page 12)



421st Soldiers Attend Army Combatives Training

By Sgt. Michael J. Boatwright
421st QM Riggers

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- Two Soldiers from the 421st Quartermaster (QM) company, parachute Riggers detachment, attended Basic Army Combatives Course Level I hosted by the 5th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Regiment here Aug. 4-6.

"It was an excellent opportunity," said Spc. Zachary



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Aug. 5, while practicing for the "Clinch Drill" where Soldiers are required obtain a dominant position or "Clinch" instructors who have 14 oz gloves on and are simulating an opponent who is actually fighting back, Spc. Jason McDaniel and Spc. Ryan Madole listen to instructions intently. (Courtesy photo)

Stannard, "to learn the techniques that could save you or your battle buddies life."

Soldiers from the all over Kuwait rallied at Camp Arifjan that Monday afternoon to begin their training. This course was unique in that the instructors and assistant instructors are comprised of an all-volunteer faculty.

The Riggers were given this opportunity to have Soldiers trained to level 1, and they ran with it. The riggers since have been able to have 12 soldiers certified in level 1 and have set themselves up for future endeavors in the Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP).

"Not only is it physically demanding for the students but these instructors volunteered their time after the completion of their duty day," Staff Sgt. Justin Day, a Level III instructor.

"These drills are a good learning experience in that it simulates an actual attacker or enemy," said Stannard, a airdrop specialist with the 421st QM, native of Canton, Ga. "We are taught how to gain and maintain positive control during close combat situations."

The ability to send Riggers to this course however did not come without a price. That price being the sending of the two personnel during the course dates. The loss of manpower by even two people for a small unit can bear heavily on impact of their mission in many ways.

"Security against defeat implies defensive tactics; ability to defeat the enemy means taking the offensive."

— Sun Tzu, Art of War.

It is a testament of character to the unit who pulled together to accomplish the mission. The Riggers did exactly that, without missing a beat, by picking up where the last man left off.

This course has left those qualified ready for the next level and once there, instructors will yet again see what Riggers are made of.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Sgt. Michael Boatwright and his combatives partner receive training from Staff Sgt. Justin Day during the Modern Army Combatives Program Level I Aug. 5. (Courtesy photo)

MESSAGES FROM HOME



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Sgt. John Baker, a human resource noncommissioned officer for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and resident of Spanish Fork, Utah, also serves as one of the mailroom clerks for the battalion. (U.S. Photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)

Dear John,

We would like you to know how proud we are of you for serving your country. We pray for your safety every day and want you to know how much we miss you.

Ian turned to me just today and said, "Aunt Candy! Uncle John is a hero, just like Captain America!" he then goes on to say how much he missed you.

John, you are part of all of our lives back home even when your gone. We cant wait for you to come home! We love you!

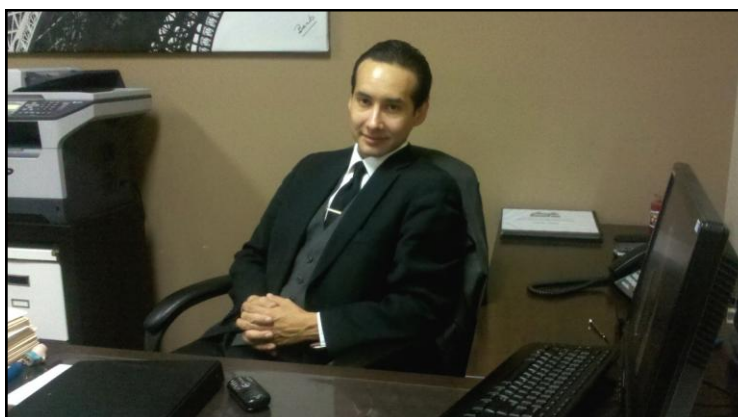
With all our Love,
Your Family.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Spc. Michael Gault, a public affairs specialist for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and resident of Tooele, Utah, only just recently discovered his passion for photojournalism and produces the battalion's newsletter, "Ghost Rider Post."

Spc. Mike Gault is and has been a long time friend of mine. I pray to God for him and those he works with; may you all be safe in these trying times. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit to the 191st Ghost Riders. I really enjoy the monthly Ghost Riders Post magazine with its illustrations, articles and bright vivid pictures of the men and women who serve in the military.

-Antonio



(Continued from page 9)

The night crew holds down the fort and is the down trace units' life-line to the 191st CSSB after duty hours. They receive all incoming messages or communication via phone and movement tracking system. In addition to the communications piece, they assemble the common operating picture for the battalion command team and staff which provides them with a snap shot of several key areas of significance. They are a vital asset to the day shift by assisting them with the completion of any unfinished administrative duties.

They have already successfully handled several Red Cross messages and ensured

that those assigned to the Dining Facility (DFAC) head-count duty are present in order for the DFAC to open and serve our Soldiers breakfast.

I have to give kudos to the S-3 NCO Corps for all they have accomplished so far. We arrived here having somewhat of an idea what we would be doing, but did not know the scope of all the work it would encompass. These guys have started by learning a whole new process of doing business. The first two weeks we were here, we learned the in-country processes for getting Soldiers into the schools and courses; now they are refining the processes, making it easier for our down-trace units to get their Soldiers the

training need.

The 191st CSSB S-3 has achieved great things so far. It is amazing we are able to get as much done as we can with the random power outages we have. We are lucky if the power is only off for an hour or so. Losing power does give us a break from all the computer generated headaches; however that also means that the air conditioners quit running, too.

The S3 NCOs remain highly motivated and ready to accomplish any mission handed to them. We are anticipating upcoming changes and trying to create a plan to assist the down trace units with any needs as Operation Enduring Freedom draws down. If I had to pick a crew to deploy with, I do not think I could have done a better job than the current S3 NCOs.

"NCOs Lead the Way!"



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Master Sgt. Michael Coffey and 1st Lt. Timothy Washburn are presented Army Commendation Medals in a ceremony here Aug. 25 for their hard work while getting the battalion ready to deploy. (U.S. Photo Army by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)





Over Coming Challenges

By Sgt. Zachary A. Corya
221st Ordnance Co

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait –

When it comes to running an ammo supply point, there are a few pieces of equipment that not only make the job easier, they make it possible. Computers track the ammo and generate the paperwork. Forklifts and other material handling equipment (MHE) move the ammo from point to point.

Many Soldier don't deal with ammunition on a daily basis, and therefore are unfamiliar with day-to-day operations. From a 5.56mm ball round all the way up to 155mm projectiles and rockets that are nearly 16-feet long, the ammo requires the use of machines to assist in movement to either issue, receive or ensure proper storage. Without forklifts and palletized loading systems (PLS) the ammo handler's job would almost come to a screeching halt.

When the 221st Ordnance Company landed in Kuwait, much was already known about the mission at hand. Soldiers in Kuwait need to



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait -- The maintenance tent just outside of the 221st ammo supply point holds forklifts and palletized loading system (PLS) vehicles which are awaiting maintenance or parts. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Zachary A Corya, 221st OC)

train and be ready for anything and part of that training requires ammo. The 221st would provide that ammo.

"Many of these vehicles have been here for at least four years and some as many as eight or even more," said Warrant Officer Shawn Waldron, the 221st Accountable Officer at Camp Buehring. "There

comes a point where regular maintenance cannot keep pace with the number of parts that inevitably wear down and need replaced over time."

"We fix a flat tire and in a couple of days the starter goes out," said Sgt. Lyle Call, maintenance NCOIC. "We fix the starter and then a hydraulic cylinder springs a leak."

"It would be nice to get some newer vehicles that last more than a week without breaking," said Staff Sgt. Saul Meraz, the 221st ammo supply point noncommissioned officer-in-charge during a meeting about the MHE problem. Currently Meraz and Call are trying to figure out ways to make the workload a bit easier for the overworked MHEs.

But where there is will, there is a way. The 221st has the will to do everything they can to accomplish their mission and that has pushed to succeed in the overall mission when obstacles arise.



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Sgt. Josh Kimberlin, assistant ammo supply point non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Sgt. Lyle Call, maintenance noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Staff Sgt. Saul Meraz, ammo supply point noncommissioned officer-in-charge, discuss Material Handling Equipment assignments and workloads. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Zachary A. Corya, 221st OC)

PROMOTIONS



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – John P. Smith, a contract auditor noncommissioned officer with the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and resident of Ogden, Utah, is promoted to the rank of staff sergeant during a ceremony here Aug 25. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Darryl J. Villamor, an information technology specialist with the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and resident of West Valley, Utah, is promoted to the rank of specialist by Capt. Berni J. Davis, HHC Commander, during a ceremony here Aug 25. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Gault, Public Affairs Specialist, 191st CSSB)

BOOTS ON GROUND: Around Kuwait



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Spc. Patrick Claybaugh, a resident of Belle Vernon, Pa., and member of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) support operations section, and other soldiers practice the proper technique to load and unload casualties from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter while attending Warrior Leader Course here Aug 24. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Berardi, 354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



CAMP ARIFJAN — Army Sgt. Steven J. Schaefer, an ammunition noncommissioned officer for the 24th Ordnance Company, resident of Middletown, Ga., re-enlisted Aug 25 for four years. Schaefer oversees the exporting and importing ammunition from the ammunition supply point here. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Robert Luurtsema, 24th O.C.)



Camp Buehring, Kuwait — Soldiers here take a moment to meditate or pray during a Spiritual Fitness Breakfast, here Sept. 1. The Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program encourages Soldiers to increase their spiritual fitness by accepting all faiths and beliefs to make well-rounded Soldiers in today's Army. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs)



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Army Spc. Valencia Theodore, an ammunition specialist with the 24th Ordnance Company, and resident of Savannah, Ga., reenlisted for four years Aug 31. Theodore plans to make a career in the U.S. Army and is proud to defend for the freedom of his family, friends, and country. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Robert Luurtsema, 24th O.C.)

THE XO FILES

From the Desk of Major O'Leary

PAGE 16

Marriott, John
Code Name: **The Motivator**

191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Salt Lake City, UT 84113
Made & Printed in U.S.A.

CLIP & SAVE
PROOF OF PURCHASE
FOR SPECIAL
GHOST RIDER
PREMIUMS
1 PT. VALUE

Primary Military Speciality: **Battalion Chaplain**
Hometown: **Salt Lake City, Utah**

Don't let the mild-mannered demeanor and often canted glasses fool you. "The Motivator" as he is known within a close circle of very influential friends, is a personal consultant/trainer to motivational speakers like Floyd Wickman, Tony Robbins and Zig Ziglar. These motivational speakers tap into his Zen-like qualities and unconventional ways of getting into their heads to bring out their best. CH Marriott can often be found using these unconventional motivational techniques in staff meetings where he uses voice impersonations like Yoda and Scooby Doo to deliver his staff updates to the Professor (a.k.a. LTC Groark).

Years in Service: 6
Rank: CPT (O-3)

CLIP & SAVE
PROOF OF PURCHASE
FOR SPECIAL
GHOST RIDER
PREMIUMS
1 PT. VALUE

Coffey, Michael
Code Name: **Ole Hickory**

191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Salt Lake City, UT 84113
Made & Printed in U.S.A.

CLIP & SAVE
PROOF OF PURCHASE
FOR SPECIAL
GHOST RIDER
PREMIUMS
1 PT. VALUE

Primary Military Speciality: **Operations NCOIC**
Hometown: **Ogden, Utah**

Ole Hickory is about as country as country can get. Growing up, while other kids were memorizing all 50 states and their respective capitals in school, Ole Hickory was memorizing names of NASCAR drivers and the names of the ring girls at the local wrestling venue. Often coming across as a hard-nose NCO, MSG Coffey is a teddy bear at heart finding his "happy place" by reading romance novels and writing poetry. Also a trend-setter in his high school days, a recent photo from his high school year book has surfaced and gone viral with him sporting his Izod shirt, feathered hair and windshield-size glasses.

Years in Service: -Classified-
Rank: MSG (E-8)

CLIP & SAVE
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FOR SPECIAL
GHOST RIDER
PREMIUMS
1 PT. VALUE

Washburn, Timothy
Code Name: **Bama**

191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Salt Lake City, UT 84113
Made & Printed in U.S.A.

CLIP & SAVE
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FOR SPECIAL
GHOST RIDER
PREMIUMS
1 PT. VALUE

Primary Military Speciality: **Operations NCOIC**
Hometown: **His Office Desk**

1LT Washburn, although a devout Auburn football fan, has affectionately embraced the code name "Bama" after losing a bet with his wife who is an equally devout Alabama football fan...yes, a house divided! Bama can often be found burning the midnight oil as the BN S3 and keeping tabs on the likes of Ole Hickory (MSG Coffey), SPAMSaLottaEmails (1LT Lundberg) and The Joker (2LT Landon). He runs a tight ship but also likes to have a little fun and can often be found singing a little Toby Keith. With his Tigers not expected to repeat their dominance of a few years ago, he is secretly planning to cheer on MAJ O'Leary's Texas Longhorns and has even been heard singing the Texas Fight Song. Hook em' Horns!

Years in Service: -Classified-
Rank: 1LT (O-2)

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(Continued from page 1)

diers confirmed the importance of what they were doing.

"I think it's a big deal," said McLeod. "It's the beginning of the drawdown, and a vital part (of that). Retro Sort yards are saving the government millions of dollars."

Cooley echoed her comments, observing that, "It's a huge deal. We've been in Afghanistan for 10-plus years and now they're having (Retro Sort) yards put up. Here (in Bagram) the yard is very visible, so everyone wants a piece of it, some of the credit (for work being done) here."

Commenting on their specific jobs and how they felt about them, Cooley talked about how the novelty of the job kept it interesting. Both Soldiers have found interesting items in loads of materials to be sorted and shipped, including a home-



CAMP PRATT, Afghanistan — Spc McLeod, along with her supervisor, Sgt Saccento, in the retrograde yard.

made tattooing machine (Cooley), and robots used by Explosive Ordnance Disposal units to safely detonate explosives.

Although their jobs in Afghanistan were not part of the original mission of the 1462nd, both Soldiers said they felt prepared for the mission they've been tasked with. Both Soldiers confirmed there is no shortage of work to be done with their mission. "We're very busy here at the Camp Pratt Retro Sort Yard," McLeod said.

Cooley, comparing it to his other two deployments, commented that he was, "busy here on a different level. There's more things I have to think about when it comes to shipping, (like) paperwork. The other deployments, you just had to worry about 'alright, this is your shift, and this is the process, and no one's going to bother you'."

The support of their fellow Soldiers and of family back home are key for both Soldiers in staying focused and working toward mission success. "We take care of each other," Cooley said about his fellow Soldiers. "And that's what it's about, taking care of your troops. That's why I like being in the leadership role...I like being able to mold the troops, and see that take effect."

McLeod said her family was "very supportive" of her, and that she has, "met a lot of great people in Afghanistan, and I plan on keeping in contact with them even back stateside."

Differences notwithstanding, one key similarity showed, and that was a belief in the mission they are part of, and the common goal of mission success. As their time in Afghanistan winds down, Sgt. Cooley, Spc. McLeod, and the other members of the 1462nd Transportation Company are well on their way to reaching that goal.



MR. MOVIE JUNKIE

By Spc. Matthew Johnson

The Dark Knight Rises — **Rated "R"**

This movie really followed in the footsteps of the prior two movies in the trilogy, *The Dark Knight* and *The Dark Knight Returns*. This movie was filled with twists, action, and a suspense that really kept the audience at the edge of their seats.

Although the movie was very entertaining, some of the scenes ran on longer then they should have, earning from me 4 out of 5 stars.

The Expendables 2 — **Rated "R"**

This movie was made for the action fan that enjoys explosions, shoot'em up scenes and doesn't mind extremely cheesy dialog. Just as in the first film there was a half hearted attempt to include a romance interest that seemed to be added as an afterthought for plot filler. The all star cast of classic action hero's is the shining accomplishment of this movie, which barely earned from me 3 out of 5 stars.

Total Recall — **Rated "PG-13"**

This movie was a remake of the original film of the same name back in 1990, which starred Arnold Schwarzenegger. Unlike the original film, this entire movie took place on Earth, not Mars, and had a few other plot changes that gave this film the ability to still keep the audience entertained. There were several jokes and scenes that had been tailored for the fans of the original film, which I appreciated.

The straying from the original plot line and going with a new twist, though bold, and at times entertaining, I feel went too far with the inclusion of a robot army. Over all, I would give this film 3 out of 5 stars.



191st Soldiers Coined

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Holdorf, an ammo operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and resident of Colorado Springs, Colo., receives a coin from Chief Warrant Officer 5 (ret.) Joe Wurm of the Ordnance Corps for his exceptional work here Aug 20. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Staff Sgt. Aaron Arriola, an ammo operations noncommissioned officer for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and resident of Wellington, Utah, receives a coin from Chief Warrant Officer 5 (ret.) Joe Wurm of the Ordnance Corps for his exceptional work here Aug 20. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault, 191st CSSB)



Help us make the Ghost Rider Post even better!

What type of things is your unit doing? We want to know!
Send us your stories, photographs, comments, or suggestions to:
sarah.n.snow@kuwait.swa.army.mil

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders



**191st COMBAT SUSTAINMENT
SUPPORT BATTALION**
'GHOST RIDERS'
APO, AE
09366

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"Ghost Riders, Out Front!"