



News From the Theater - Camp Buehring, Kuwait - February 2013





Contents

- 4 - Colonel's Corner
- 5 - Preparing for Return
- 6 - Task Force WorkHorse
- 7 - Best Warrior Competition
- 10 - Task Force BlackJack
- 11 - Task Force Pistoleros





COLONEL'S CORNER

Col. Mark W. McLemore

Greetings from the sands of Kuwait. We are getting ever so close to completing our mission and coming home. In less than three months we will be home with our family and friends, enjoying their company, love and friendship. We will reflect on this past year, tell stories and adjust back to our lives post deployment. I continue to be so very proud of each and every Soldier within the brigade. Each Soldier has come so far, working through professional and personal trials and triumphs!

As we near the end of our mobilization, please take the time to reflect on what has happened and the experiences that each have had, but most importantly, look to the

future and the return to your loved ones and remember the challenges that face us as we return. Think about how that return will occur, what has changed, what remains the same and how you have changed, grown stronger, become more resilient.

“ We are getting ever so close to completing our mission and coming home. ”

As I said before, I continue to be highly impressed with each and every Soldier and I am so thankful for the love and support of our families and friends.



PREPARING FOR RETURN

Helpful Resources for REFRAD

National Guard Soldiers returning from deployment may have additional stressors during time of transition and uncertainties. Here is a list of additional resources to help reduce such stresses.

Employment

[http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Library/Federal_Benefits_Page/Transition_Assistance_Program_\(TAP\).html?serv=149](http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Library/Federal_Benefits_Page/Transition_Assistance_Program_(TAP).html?serv=149)

<http://www.turbotap.org/register.tpp>

<http://www.acap.army.mil/>

<http://www.cpol.army.mil/>

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>

<http://www.mo.gov/work/job-seekers/>

<http://www.moguard.com/human-resources.html>

Continuing Education

<https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/Benefits/Unsecured/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fbenefits>

<http://www.nationalguard.com/life/education-benefits>

Other:

Vacation:

<http://www.afvclub.com/>

<http://disneyland.disney.go.com/offers-discounts/military-tickets/>

Counseling:

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/non-medical-counseling>



TASK FORCE WORKHORSE



HELLO MARCH and GOODBYE FEBRUARY! Hello Family and Friends of the 935th ASB!

February is redeployment and partnership planning month. The Staff and Company leadership has been busy planning with 35th CAB and Sister Battalion's missions that get the 935th home and also missions for February and March that support partnerships in JSA Georgia. The partnerships are outstanding training events and a busy Soldier is a happy Soldier.

Congratulations are in order to Maj. Casey Steiner, Maj. Suzanne Rodriguez and Capt. Chris Johnson! These great Officers were promoted at a ceremony on 8 February. Maj. Steiner is the Headquarters Support Company Commander and upon REFRAD will be moving on to 35th ID. Maj. Rodriguez is the Battalion Logistics Officer and upon REFRAD will transfer to the Hawaii National Guard as her husband transfers for the Army. Capt. Johnson is the Transportation Officer in the Support Operations Section and will remain in that same position upon REFRAD. They are absolutely deserving of this promotion because they have worked very hard in their careers to make the next rank. Thank you for your service to the U. S. Army and Congratulations one more time!!

Another great event in the 935th was the Battalion Best Warrior Competi-

tion, for Best NCO and the Best Soldier on 5 February. The competitors for NCO were Sgt. Ryan Joy, Staff Sgt. Robert Cross, and Staff Sgt. Thomas Luca. For Best Soldier the competitors were Spc. Jessica Smith, Spc. Brandon Cahill and Spc. Travis Fields. The competition for both groups included; 4 mile combat gear and weapon road march; teardown and assemble of the M4 rifle and M9 Pistol; SINGARS radio assembly, load frequencies and send a nine-line MEDEVAC request; complete an essay on Discipline and Accountability; and appear before a board made up of the Command Sgts. Maj. and Battalion 1st. Sgts. to answer 60-questions to over 25 subjects. The NCO's had an additional task of completing a NCOER screen (find errors in a Non-Commissioned Officer Evaluation Report). The lower enlisted Soldiers had the additional task of completing a complex thought resolution. The winning NCO was Staff Sgt. Luca (Bravo Company) and the winning Soldier was Spc. Jessica Smith (Charlie Company). A very nice 935th WORKHORSE plaque went to winners This was a very challenging competition and a GREAT job by all the competitors. It is an outstanding example of the hard working NCO's and Soldier's we have in the 935th ASB! WORKHORSE!!

January opened up college courses and those classes continue thru February. We have other great classroom training going on, like Information Technology courses, motorcycle simulator courses, defensive driving courses and Microsoft Office training, just to name a few. One more month and Warrior Leader Course will start up again. The WLC is on hold until March as they rotate

new instructors in to conduct the great training. GREAT training that is a GREAT benefit!

With February completed we are down to 65ish days. Missing Family and Friends is an understatement, but one thing is clear, your Soldier is better trained and better equipped from being on this deployment and that is what it is all about when you are a Soldier! Mark Mothers Day, it will be extra special this year!!

Thank you for the letters and packages from home, they bring smiles EVERY-DAY! Don't forget we are on Facebook at 935th Aviation Support Battalion and our LIKES section includes our Company pages. On our page you can see pictures and comments of all the great work the Soldiers in the WORKHORSE Battalion are doing!

WORKHORSE!

Lt. Col. Roger Bodenschatz
Command Sgt. Maj. Javier Acosta



Photo to (R): All competitors with their sponsor before the ruck march. Left to right: 1SG Joseph Dorsey sponsored SSG Robert Cross; SSG Jesus Centeno sponsored SSG Thomas Luca; SPC Jessica Smith was sponsored by SGT Daniel Thomason; SPC Brandon Cahill was sponsored by SGT Kenneth Rahm; SPC Travis Fields and SGT Ryan Joy were sponsored by 1SG Gregory Lowe.



Best Warrior Competition

The 935th ASB conducted a Best Warrior Competition on 5 February 2013 to assess the skills and stamina of Soldiers throughout the BN. Each company nominated Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO's) and Soldiers in their ranks to compete in this all day grueling competition. SGT Ryan Joy and SPC Travis Fields represented Alpha Company, SSG Thomas Luca and SPC Brandon Cahill represented Bravo Company, SPC Jessica Smith represented Charlie Company and SSG Robert Cross represented HSC. The competitors began the day at 0700 with a pre-road march inspection and began a 4 mile road march wearing their IOTV, Chemical Protective Mask, Kevlar and carrying their individual weapon. SPC Jessica Smith blew away the competition with an astonishing 41 minute finish in the ruck march! She has also performed well above Army standards on her APFT tests, scoring over 300 on every record test this deployment.



Following the ruck march, Soldiers were given 30 minutes to write an essay on discipline and accountability. Upon completion of this task, the NCO's were given an NCOER (non-commissioned officer evaluation report) and instructed to find the errors in the report. NCOER's are used in the military to assess a Soldier's accomplishments throughout a given period of time and rate them against their peers. During this, the E-4's were given instructions to complete a complex thought resolution. They were given a situation that any Soldier can easily find themselves in and asked to explain how they would respond

to the given situation. Immediately after the written portion of the competition was completed, Soldiers went into being graded on the disassembly and assembly of the M4 rifle and M9 pistol. For this portion, the weapons were taken apart prior to the Soldier approaching the table and they had to find the correct pieces to assemble the weapons. Upon finishing this task, Soldiers were graded on the assembly of the SINGARS radio, loading a frequency correctly into the radio and compiling and sending a proper 9 line MEDEVAC. A 9 line MEDEVAC is extremely important to know on the battlefield as it is used to call in additional medical assistance for serious life-threatening injuries.

The final portion of the competition consisted of the Soldiers and NCO's appearing before a board that was made up of the Battalion Command Sergeant Major, CSM Javier Acosta, and the company 1SG's, 1SG Gregory Lowe, 1SG Brian Boyer, 1SG Charles

Holt and 1SG Joseph Dorsey. The Soldiers were accompanied by their sponsor (a fellow Soldier in the battalion that helped them train for this competition) and individually appeared before the board to answer 60 questions from the members that covered over 25 different Army topics.

SPC Jessica Borgstadt kept the Soldiers scores throughout the competition and on Friday morning 09 February 2013, the Battalion Commander called together a formation to announce the winners of the competition. In front of the entire Battalion, SSG Thomas Luca of Bravo Company was presented with the winning NCO plaque and SPC Jessica Smith of Charlie Company was presented with the winning Soldier plaque.

By: 1st. Lt. Brittany Adair, UPAR

Winners of the Best Warrior Competition presented plaques in formations:
SPC Jessica Smith and SSG Thomas Luca.







TASK FORCE BLACKJACK



Hitting a Stride

1LT Terry A. Specyial
C Co. 2-238 MEDEVAC



The Soldiers of Charlie Company 2-238th MEDEVAC from Shelbyville, Indiana seem to have found their place here at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. It has been just over a month now and it is apparent in the day-to-day operations that the unit has hit their stride and is beginning to refine the processes that were implemented by the outgoing unit. Among some of the key events of the units RIP, setting a maintenance schedule, establishing company work areas, and implementing the daily battle rhythm were paramount in ensuring adequate air ambulance coverage is provided for the assigned area of operations.



In addition to the operations side of the unit, the individual soldiers have been settling into their personal interests, activities, and habits. Several Soldiers are taking the opportunity to utilize the gym facilities on post to improve their physical fitness and overall health. Many soldiers have been taking part in the wide array of MWR activities offered both on and off post too. On a more studious note, many of the younger, and a few older, Soldiers have begun pursuing educational goals both online and in classrooms here on Buehring. The common thread seems to be that the majority of the troops are finding ways to improve, express, and entertain themselves while on the deployment.



The overall attitude of the company though, is mission first. The Soldiers of C Co. proudly bear the responsibility of the mission to provide dedicated medical evacuation assets to our civilians and soldiers in the country. It is apparent in every maintainer's attitude of dedication to perfection, every medic's attention to detail, and every pilot's devotion to training to exceed the standard in the unit. Whether there is a 9-line call every day or once a month, each crew assumes duty with the expectation of rapid precise response to the needs of the patient. Complacency is not an option in an aviation unit, especially MEDEVAC.



So as you walk around the camp, sit in the chow hall, or work out in the gym, if you see a soldier with a red medical star patch on their right shoulder, encourage them to continue to exceed the standard and remember that they stand ready 24 hours a day 7 days a week to ensure our sick or wounded are given the professional care they deserve in a timely manner.



TASK FORCE PISTOLEROS

Soldiers in Action

The Mighty Pistoleros

The Pistoleros have had another exciting month here in Kuwait. Soldiers in the unit have continued to maintain their high levels of morale and motivation to complete their mission. From preparing for extended missions in local regions to possibly one of very few ever Apache landings on an Aircraft Carrier, they continue to make their mark on this area of operation. Through their hard work and dedication, they have drawn the attention of the leaders at higher command. Vice Admiral Harward of the U.S. Navy made a special visit to the Pistoleros in both Camp Buehring and Ali Al Salem to see just how things are done in a strong Army Attack Battalion.

With everyone getting settled in and routines being established, new ways of connecting with family members back home are becoming more active. The most prominent method has caused quite a stir in the battalion, and has many members of the unit and the families back home getting very active. The goal set is to collectively walk, run, and bike the 7,864 miles that separates our families in Ft. Bliss, to all the soldiers on Camp Buehring. The families in the rear are logging their miles in their own ways, from families walking around the park together, going for a bike ride with friends, or even large groups of family members going to the gym to run on the track together; the miles are truly counting down. The Soldiers are tackling miles on their ends with large formation runs, weekly 5Ks, and some even signed up for a half-marathon that as a group got several hundred miles accomplished in only a few hours! The Pistolero Soldiers and families together in only two months have already covered a jaw-dropping 3,852.15 miles. With everyone's continued effort the goal to run the distance that separates us from our loved ones will be accomplished in no time. This leaves room for question though, when we have finished our trek what happens then? "Maybe we we'll start the trek back.." says one of the Pistolero FRG leaders. "Folks are really fired up about this." Fired up indeed, the families alone have covered an incredible 1,567.65 miles!

The Pistoleros are making amazing progress through their deployment. With the winter months behind us, and the temperature slowly rising, the pace is sure to pick up and there is no doubt, the Mighty Pistoleros, are up to the challenge.



By: Spc. Sean Howard, UPAR