



News From the Theater - Camp Buehring, Kuwait - April 2013 Final Edition





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COLONEL'S CORNER

Col. Mark W. McLemore

This week the first group of our replacements arrived. Our departure from theater is getting ever so close. Times are very exciting as we prepare for our departure and our return to family and friends.

For the past months, we have all worked so hard at our mission requirements. Each and every Soldier in the brigade started a journey almost a year ago with training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Ft. Hood, Texas and finally in Kuwait. Our perseverance and dedication has made for a tremendous mobilization. Everyone, Soldier, family and friends, should hold your head high as the accomplishments of each have been tremendous. Everyone has done an absolutely tremendous job in all aspects.

We are working on the details about our arrival home. As of yet we still do not have all the details and it may still be some time before we know. Once we have our flight information, we will be able to narrow the date down and our arrival in Texas will also help define the arrival dates. Soldiers and families, please be patient as the time goes by. I know everyone is dying to know the dates we will arrive, but we will pass on the information as soon as we have confirmation of our arrival date. I do not want to spread rumors, but prefer to provide factual information to families and friends as soon as we have that certainty.

I cannot thank everyone enough. Each and every Soldier has worked tremendously hard and done such amazing things. Family members have sacrificed so much...beyond explanation, yet our families have always been there and supported our efforts while deployed. If you have not already, please be thinking and communicating to your loved one what your expectations are when you get home. This works both ways...Soldier to family member...family member to Soldier. Such great things have been accomplished, yet coming home can be a stressful time if not planned for and communicated with your loved one. Chaplain Kennedy has been posting information on ideas for reintegration for Soldiers and Tiffany McLemore has posted similar information on Facebook for family members back home. Please take time to read each item each week and spend a few minutes talking to each other. It will help in the reintegration process as we come home.

Again, we are so close to coming home now and times are very exciting. We must stay focused on our final days in theater and ensure that we work until the last day and ensure that our standards are always met. We will continue to work hard, stay safe and come home safely.

Santa Fe!!!



CSM COLUMN

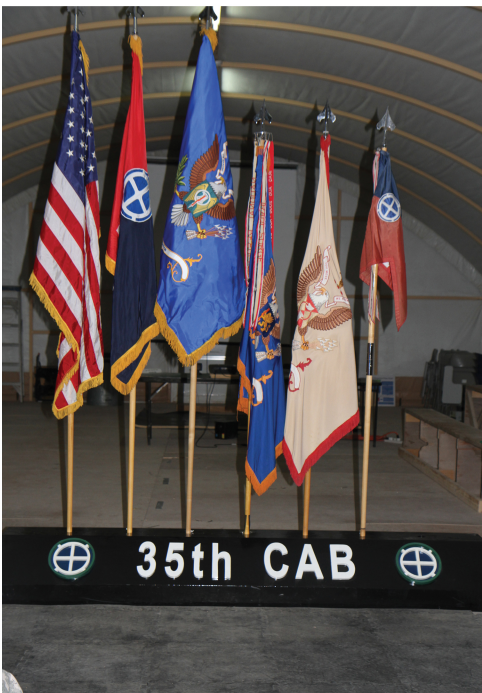
Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Vogel

Just a few days ago we met our replacements at the airport. When we greeted them it really started to sink in that we are nearing the end of this deployment. It seems like just yesterday when we were climbing off the airplane ourselves and feeling the initial blast of Kuwait heat. Right now the Brigade team is doing well. We are focused on finishing our duty strong. Each day we have a new task to complete in order to be ready for departure. Before the end of the month we should find ourselves back at Fort Hood conducting medical and administrative processing.

When we started this journey, I didn't quite know what to expect and our exact mission was unclear to me. We did not know what challenges we would face, nor did we know what opportunities we would have. The entirety of the deployment has been at times very exciting. We have sent Soldiers to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and out over the Arabian Gulf. Many of the opportunities that our Soldiers have experienced are once in a military lifetime types of opportunities. Those experiences I think have changed us for the better. As a Soldier, it is often hard to tell what long term impact your service has made. Hopefully the bonds that we have made with foreign military counterparts across the Arabian Peninsula will have long term impacts throughout the region.

Lastly, I want to thank the Soldiers and their families for the honor of serving with you. It truly has been a pleasure. As you return home, be safe and enjoy a well deserved rest.

Job Well Done!





TASK FORCE WORKHORSE

Hello Families and Friends of the 935th ASB. I write this article today for myself and CSM Acosta and we want to express our sincere gratitude to the hard-working Soldiers in the 935th ASB. By the time you read this, we have released the reigns of the mighty 935th Workhorse to the strong Spartans of the 449th. Over the last 9 months, the CSM and I have stressed "Support" is in our name and the 276 WORKHORSE Soldiers performed exceptionally well, supporting the 35th CAB and units outside the CAB including the Navy. The outstanding performance of course is accomplished by the hardworking Soldiers. The Soldiers also need good leadership and we had that from the junior to the senior NCOs, Company CDRs all the way to the BN XO.

Each Company had their own unique mission and the Company leadership teams were absolutely key. HSC leadership of MAJ Steiner and 1SG Dorsey were mission focused on Ground Maintenance managing the workflow of 122 pieces of rolling stock. With hard work from dedicated Soldiers, HSC took a 46% Operational Readiness Rate in August to an average Operational Readiness rate of 94% for the last 6 months. Other contributions from HSC were Medical, PSD, and UPAR duties. Great job by the Mustangs!

Alpha Company's mission focus was refuel operations at Patton Army Airfield on Camp Arifjan. LT Holmes and 1SG Lowe's leadership was key to the success at Patton. The refueling operation pumped over 300,000 gallons of JP8 aviation grade fuel into more than 1200 Army, Navy and Marine Helicopters. This refuel operation insured all joint and partnership missions in and out of Patton Army Heliport were a success for 35th CAB. Other key support by Alpha Company was

LOGPAC's and LNO's. Outstanding work by Pillar and Pillar Fox!

The Blacksmiths of Bravo Company, led by MAJ Noppenberger and 1SG Boyer, were the aviation maintenance operations for the 935th. As the largest Company, they had the critical task of leading the aviation maintenance for the 935th and managing the workflow of the Component Repair Platoon (CRP) and the Aviation Maintenance Platoon (ARP). These Platoons completed over 1,600 work orders and over 18,000 man hours of maintenance. Their leadership helped maintain the 35TH CAB aircraft during the 9 month deployment. Great job by the Soldiers in Bravo Company!

Charlie Company was led by LT Maidment and 1SG Holt and they were responsible for the tactical communications of 935th and 35th CAB using the Joint Network Node and Satellite Terminal Transportable. Communication is essential in any operation and Charlie Company did an excellent job supporting 35th CAB partnerships in Kuwait and JSA Georgia. Great Job by the Lightning Soldiers of Charlie Company. As you can see, the performance of the Companies was outstanding and the CSM and I thank them for all the hard work and outstanding support of the 35th CAB.

A few more thank you's and I will wrap this up. I want to recognize the hard work of the XO and Staff and the many hours they put in to processing awards, gathering intelligence, planning operations, providing logistic estimates, tracking property, fixing computers, fixing satellite terminals, making safety checks, and listening to Soldiers spiritual needs. The Battalion

does not run smooth without a great XO and staff, and the CSM and I thank you!

To COL McLemore and CSM Vogel: thank you for your guidance and mentorship to CSM Acosta and me, it was very critical during this deployment. To the leadership teams of the 135th Blackjacks and 501st Pistoleros: it has been an enjoyment to work with you all and we wish you a continued safe deployment and return home.

Over the last 10 days, we have completed the hand off to the 449th and they are ready to go. With the outstanding leadership team of LTC Hughes and CSM Cazeres, the 449th will move forward with excellent support to the 36th CAB, 135th GSAB and the 501stARB! CSM Acosta and I wish them only the best for a safe deployment and redeployment back to Texas.

Operation Enduring Freedom – Kuwait for the 935th ASB is complete and the 449th has the lead. The Soldiers of the 935th ASB did an outstanding job representing Missouri, Illinois and South Dakota. Without the fine Soldiers of the Workhorse Battalion, this deployment would not have been a success. It is now time for the 935th to travel home and link back up with Family and Friends. There are times in your life when you experience events you will never forget.....when you first meet your spouse, birth of a child, graduation of a child and the birth of grandchildren. CSM and I will never, ever forget this deployment with the best Soldiers in the best Army, from the best Country in the World. **WORKHORSE!**

LTC Roger Bodenschatz
CSM Javier Acosta







1,000 miles....Too easy.

By: Capt. Kerri Brantley

While on deployment Sgt. 1st. Class Shawn Hoehns a Battle NCO has accomplished a great feat and a wonderful physical fitness goal. He has ran over 1,000 miles since we got here in Kuwait back in August.

“My total running miles as of Sunday Apr 7th is 1,113.50 miles. All of those miles were ran on the treadmills at the Buehring Gym, except for the Camp Buehring Army 10 miler on Oct 21st, the Camp Virginia ½ Marathon on Nov. 18th & the Camp Buehring Marathon on March 3rd,” said Hoehns.

He first heard about the Cardio Club at the Camp Buehring Gym from the 29th CAB during the first week here in Kuwait. HE decided to do it because it seemed like a good way to keep track of my running progress throughout the deployment. He also thought 1,000 miles would be a good-realistic & safe challenge to accomplish by the end of the deployment.

He is an avid runner back home and has participated in the Bataan Death March for numerous years.

“I do run a lot back home also. Over the years I have run lots of local 5K and 10Ks races. I have also been a member on the Missouri National Guard’s team which ran the Bataan Death March/Marathon in 2010, 2011 & 2012, at White Sands Missile Base in New Mexico. If you have never heard of it... that is a very tough race, because you are running across a desert & up a mountain (all in your ACUs & boots). So yes, I do plan to keep on running various local races again and I plan on making the MONG Bataan Death March team again in 2014 and do it for several more years after that,” said Hoehns.

He ran the last marathon in a very respectable time of four hours and two minutes.

As an NCO he leads by example on how fitness is important for his Soldiers.

Congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment. Now all the running left to be done, is him running home to see his family, as the deployment is almost over!

