



143d Transportation Command (FORWARD)

Twists & Turns

Volume Two, Issue 2

October 2006

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Prayer Remembrance Marks 9/11

Story by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Pace, Photo by Chuck Sprague—AFSB-SWA PAO



Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood speaks during the Prayer Remembrance Breakfast.

Kuwait- Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood gave a moving and emotional speech on the fifth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001 during a prayer breakfast in memorial of all those lost on that day. The speech was also to commemorate all the service-members who have given their lives in support of the U.S. campaign against terrorism.

The breakfast was held to a packed room of service-members in solemn prayer and silence, broken with claps, cheers and the sound of two church praise groups singing songs in remembrance of the infamous day that changed America.

"Our nation endured a devastating and unprovoked attack that forever changed the lives of every American; Within two hours of the commencement of that attack, 3,274 of our countrymen had died," said Thurgood, "As we mark the tragic and historic events of September 11- we do so, not as apologetic Americans, but as citizens of a grateful Nation... humbled by our sacred call to

duty."

While images displayed concurrent with his speech, the events of the memorial day brought back a sense of purpose to many in attendance, having all become part of a history of Americans called to answer to the nation and defend freedom on foreign land.

"More than 1 million Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen have answered the call to duty and rotated into the combat zone since 9-11," said Thurgood, "While stressful, our military and our civilians, supported by our families have performed skillfully and proudly-Their courage and dedication in the face of extended deployments inspires us daily."

Appropriately put, BG Thurgood was able to close with a message heard by generations before that summarized what can be remembered by all who serve, have served, and have yet to join-in-arms.

See PRAYER, pg. 2

PRAYER,



Gospel Choir members sing during their presentation of a song called, "Jesus is a Rock," during the beginning of the 9/11 Prayer Breakfast on Monday, September 11th in Kuwait.

"On a monument to British soldiers who died in the Battle of Kohima in World War II, there is an inscription that I find fitting for our military who have suffered and died since September 11, 2001; 'When you go home,' it reads, 'tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today'."

*Photo by
Capt. Mike Wallace*

AT CAMP ARIFJAN ...DID YOU KNOW?

Camp Arifjan offers many different activities and opportunities for deployed soldiers to further their education through professional development classes, occupational training courses, and leadership development.

For more information, please see the following:
Army Education Center—
Your Unit NCOIC/OIC or Branch Career Counselor
Remember, Everyday is another opportunity to Excel!

NCO of the Month



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Wendy Joyce was recognized as NCO of the Month for September.

Staff Sgt. Joyce works in Air Operations and serves with the 143D Transcom from her home unit, the 3rd TCE of Anniston, Alabama back in the states.

She is also serving in her second deployment, as an exemplary member of the unit and a hard working NCO.

Her leadership and dedication to service reflects great credit upon herself, her unit and the U.S. Army, and for her efforts she is congratulated.

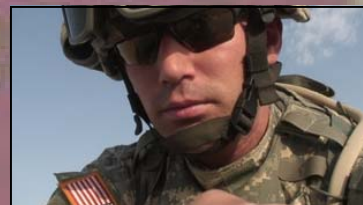
Commanding General.....Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood



143D Transcom CG, BG Thurgood speaks during the recent 9/11 Prayer Breakfast Remembrance.



143D Public Affairs Officer, 1st Lt. Ryan J Pace pauses for a photo during convoy training in Kuwait.



Editor.....1st. Lt. Ryan J. Pace

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Submit questions, comments, or newsletter submissions at: Ryan.Pace@swa.army.mil

Soldiers Train for Convoy Combat

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Pace



Soldiers prepare to move out on a convoy during training in Kuwait, preparing for missions with duty in Iraq. The training consisted of Soldiers mixed in from various units, exchanging roles and testing their skills.

Kuwait- Armed service-members train on Improvised Explosive Devices, Convoy Operations, and Combat Tactics, prepping for the ever-changing warfare environment and duties in Iraq.

The convoy course, taught by some of the Army's former elite leaders, was centered toward the current environment in Iraq that many soldiers face on a daily basis.

"Great Basics, step-by-step methods and helpful techniques to conduct

convoys," said Maj. Charles Jacobs, Contracting Officer for the 143d Transportation Command, of Santa Clara, California, "The training gives you new tools and thoughts, for when you are up close and personal with enemy and IEDs in Iraq today."

While the class included much time behind the wheel or gun turret, depending on your position in the vehicles, focus was also turned toward IED's and roadside explosives.

For many soldiers new to deployment, little is known of IED's and how to react to them.

"This class gave me exposure to IEDs instead of preconceived notions; I know what to do and how to react to them, now that I have been through this training," says Sgt. Andrew McCullough, Chaplain's Assistant for 143d Transportation Command, of Palm Bay, Florida, "The training gave me a new-found respect for the difficult job gun-truck crewman do and hit home critical points like safety and positive identification of targets."

Currently, the most prominent cause of fatalities are due to IED's and much is being done to not only prevent these incidences but learn to react and overcome attacks on our soldiers on convoys and missions throughout Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our training today was well-organized, with knowledgeable instructors," said 1st Lt. Jamiah Edwards, of the 557th Transportation Command Detachment, from Springfield, Missouri, "and the instruction was mostly soldier-experience based, not textbook or old Army training, which made the training easy to understand and complete." **See Convoy, Pg. 8**

CSM Pieces

Its fall and football season is here! By football standards, OUR first quarter is over. WE have done many great things and have seen some deserving Soldiers get promoted. There are still three quarters left to play and now more than ever is a time to focus on both personal and professional goals. P.T., college courses, spiritual development, professional development which are the keys to success. WE must ensure we are following the STANDARDS and ENFORCING THE STANDARDS!

This past month, SSG Wendy Joyce one of our outstanding NCOs from DET 18 was selected as the 143d, 4th QTR FY 06 NCO of the Quarter! Congratulations JOB WELL DONE!!!!

BULL DOG COURAGE, NCOs LEAD THE WAY!

CSM Mike Schultz

Command Sergeant Major

143d TRANSCOM (FWD)



Army Sailors Repair Dry Dock Ship

Story and Photos by 1st. Lt. Ryan J. Pace



Aboard their dry-docked Landing Craft Unit (LCU), the Army Reserves' 481st Transportation Company - Heavy Boat Detachment 3, of Mare Island, Calif., are working to repair their vessel for return to combat support missions in the Persian Gulf.

The two 1250 horse-powered, 16-Cylinder Cummings engines in the LCU are generally very reliable, with little or no significant maintenance, however repairs and upkeep are crucial to keep the heart of the vessel and the mission going.

All of the work on the vessel is done locally by assigned soldiers over a 3 to 6 month period, with focus on completing One of the Warrant Officers overseeing the mission, Chief Warrant Officer Scott Jackson commented, "We don't begin our mission until we receive the last part; in essence, until we know we can complete the mission."

The unit consists of crews of 18 men per boat, state-side and overseas, running continuous 24-hour operations, to fully staff the crew required to run the flat-bottom, land-deployable watercraft.

The uniqueness of the mission is that many of the soldiers involved are deployed Reservists and Military Tech employees, who utilize their civilian skills to accomplish the mission. Soldiers that are part of the crew are generally watercraft engineers, operators, or deckhands.

"This mission has gone well, with help from the shipyard, and being out of water this has really been a success," said Sgt. John Wilkey, an engineer on the ship, from Paradise, California.

Staff Sgt. Michael Nikida, said "Our missions before and after we finish have been to support the mission in Iraq and Navy platforms with oil; This [mission] all used to be contract work but now we have gotten involved since the history is that they attempt to fix a problem and we end up fixing their mistakes- costing time, effort and money."

Nikida, just recently accepted for promotion to Warrant Officer, had a lot to explain in his new mission, along other soldiers working hard in the engine room on the ship awaiting duty.

"Our mission here is mostly maintenance- sometimes while the engine is running and we are under way- but, what makes this mission different is how rare it is to have a vessel in yard for a year, torn down, assessed and rebuilt," said Nikida, "As far as the mission itself, this has been a great learning process and platform for our junior mechanics to use their skills and apply what they know."

Spc. Eric Dugdug, also a watercraft engineer, said when asked of the outcome of the mission on the

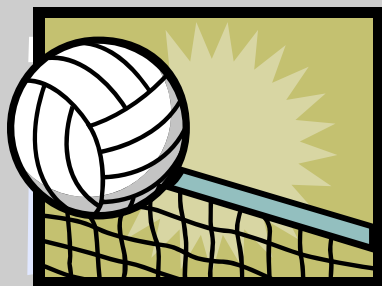


TOP: The 481st Transportation Company—Heavy Boat Detachment 3's Landing Craft Unit sits dry-docked on the shipyard in Kuwait, undergoing maintenance and repair as part of an ongoing project to restore and upgrade the vessel to perform missions in the Persian Gulf.

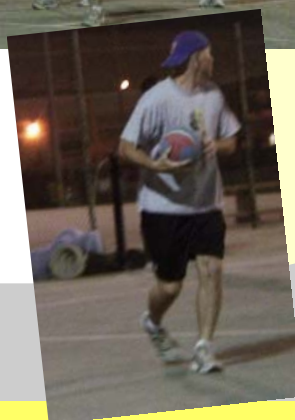
BOTTOM: Sgt. John Wilkey, a watercraft engineer from Paradise, California, kneels inside one of the engine rooms, next to one of the engines under work to get the ship back in the water to support vital missions and units along the Persian gulf.

unit, "The purpose of this mission is that we can't sail with just one engine, since one is currently dead-lined, and when we are underway on missions, we have to stop at night- which causes a halt and maintenance work such as this to keep us going."

A unique fact is that little is known about the Army's Sailors, but either way, the 481st continues to get the mission done and contribute in volume to the overseas joint effort and transportation as a whole, Army-wide.



143D MWR SPORTS



HET Company in Kuwait: Train to Sustain

Story and Photos by 1st. Lt. Ryan J. Pace



A Soldier pulls down a cable to hitch and tow a vehicle onto the flatbed of a Heavy Equipment Transporter truck, during a training exercise on convoy vehicles and operations. The 1st Battalion, 77th Heavy Equipment Transporter Company trained the 217th Transportation Company in Kuwait for future missions into Iraq.

Kuwait- Heavy equipment transporter, armor, maintenance and gun-truck training were the focus during a training exercise in Kuwait for the 1st Battalion, 77th Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) Company – Field Artillery, out of Fort Sill, Oklahoma and the 217th Transportation Company, Texas National Guard, of Houston, Texas.

The training was focused on sustaining the level of support and skill that one unit has provided with efforts of another unit, as the current element is relieved. Many soldiers participating in the training are preparing for missions that require most of their time in Iraq, so particular attention was paid on convoy operational qualification and battle proficiency.

One of the Non Commissioned Officers overseeing the training, Sgt. First Class Robert Coates, Platoon Sgt. for the 1/77th, said, “The training Course refreshes soldiers- especially on HET Training before they go up north instead of figuring it out on the side of the road in Iraq, where it mat-

ters most.”

“The training here also focuses on Egress and Maintenance which is critical,” said Sgt. Raymond Boze, also of the 1/77th, commenting with words of wisdom for new warrior-drivers in training, “I advise soldiers not to panic if put in a dangerous situation; ‘Stay calm, gather your stuff, and get out!’ is what I advise them to do, above all.”

Instructions from Sgt. Boze were not taken lightly, either, given he has escaped several damaged vehicles from IED attacks throughout his tour in Iraq- all without a scratch.

“The classes on Convoy Manifest and IED Reaction were fairly new to us,” said Staff Sgt. Esteban Garcia, of the 217th Transportation Company, “Upper armor is also a big concern for our soldiers; Some of our drivers were especially nervous, knowing how dangerous it is up north but were instructed well and put

at ease by experienced soldiers who gave comforting advice.”

Soldiers were both teaching and learning during the exercise, where training was broken down into several separate classes running simultaneously, between the two units involving more than 60 soldiers over a 72 hour time period, with some Classes running from early morning to afternoon or completion.

The Transportation mission of these soldiers likely requires a lot of attention and skill when training, operating, and maintaining

“I advise soldiers not to panic...stay together, gather your stuff, and get out!”

**Sgt. Raymond Boze
1/77th HET Co., 24th Trans. Bn.**

HETs-which carry heavy loads of tanks at times- and brings a challenge for new sol-

diers, but missions are accomplished because of training and that was the focus for the day—Train soldiers to maintain.



The 217th Transportation Company negotiates a tight turn in one of their Heavy Equipment Transporter trucks, during the class on performance and operation of the vehicle with the 1st Battalion, 77th HET Co, in preparation for missions into convoy missions delivering equipment and supplies throughout Iraq.

143D TRANSCOM SAFETY OFFICE:

The Safety FOCUS for October:

Negligent Discharges

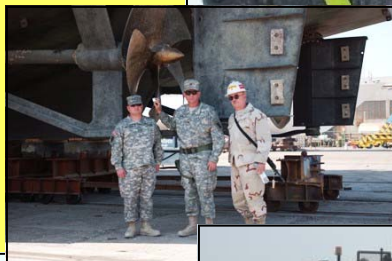
For more information on Neg. Discharges:

See CFLCC Policy Memo 05-88
Carry Safe Weapon Pull-Out Card

Classes are being held to ensure Soldiers are consciously aware and handling weapons safely and appropriately.

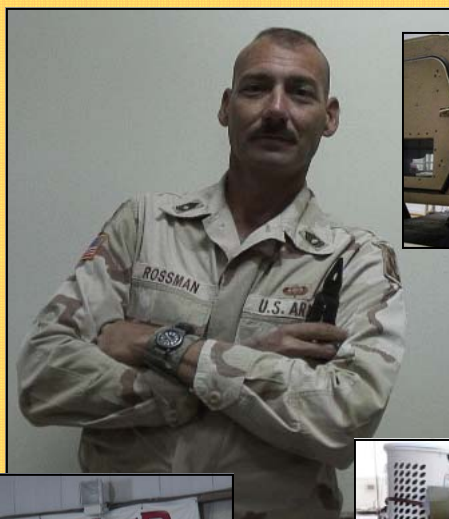
- Use the Buddy System
- Drop the Magazine FIRST!!
- Aim into the Clearing Barrel
- When NOT Clearing, Keep the Weapon on SAFE!
- Train to Maintain Safety

For upcoming events/classes, see LTC Winston or LTC Harden, 143D Transcom Safety Officers
DSN: 430-5487/6396



Clockwise from Top: Photos of 143D Safety Officer—Lt. Col. Peter Winston; Inspecting and meeting with soldiers at Port As Shwaiba and Port Shuwaikh, as well as overseeing vehicle training at Camp Arifjan throughout the month. Lt. Col. Winston has been actively engaged in multiple safety missions, in coordination with other 143D officials, such as 143D Chief of Staff—Col. Larry Smith, to ensure operations and training are conducted safely and effectively.

143D G6 Salutes Farewell to: Master Sgt. David Rossman



Master Sgt. David Rossman, NCOIC of the 143D G6, is completing his 3rd tour of duty in Kuwait, having served in previous capacities at other locations as well, and prepares to leave theater once again, back to the Orlando, Florida Reserve Center to continue work as an AGR in the G6 section and prepare for future deployments and missions within the Transportation Command.

His efforts, mostly single-handedly, have consolidated, re-organized, and repaired/replaced thousands of dollars worth of equipment and assisted several other units on the installation, working tirelessly to better equip his section, unit, command and fellow soldiers.

In addition, his wealth of knowledge and experience in communications have improved technical skills and approaches the many who surround him.

**Thanks for all your hard work and
Good Luck in the future!**



Sgt. Andrew McCullough pops out of the gunner hatch of his vehicle during convoy training in Kuwait, before moving out on another exercise on IED reaction and enemy contact procedures.

Convoy,

Completing convoy missions were the message of training and missions as it is the focus of our soldiers and leaders, who continue to support the war and effort, but the difference is by education and familiarization, soldiers can get to their final destinations safely and successfully.

CALLING ALL AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS!

We are assembling a massive project for historical purposes on the history of the 143D in theater.



If you have photos of our soldiers in theater that might belong in a historical book, please contact:
1LT Ryan J. Pace, PAO, at
ryan.pace@swa.army.mil

143D Unit Ministry Team:

Prayer of the Month

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law of the Prophets." -Matthew 7:12

Upcoming Events:

Prayer Luncheon 29SEP: Seasons Focus

Holy Days: Ramadan 23SEP-22OCT

"Muslim Month of Fast and Prayer"

Yom Kippur (Jewish Faith) 01-02OCT

"Jewish Day of Atonement"

Sukkot (Jewish Faith) 06-13OCT

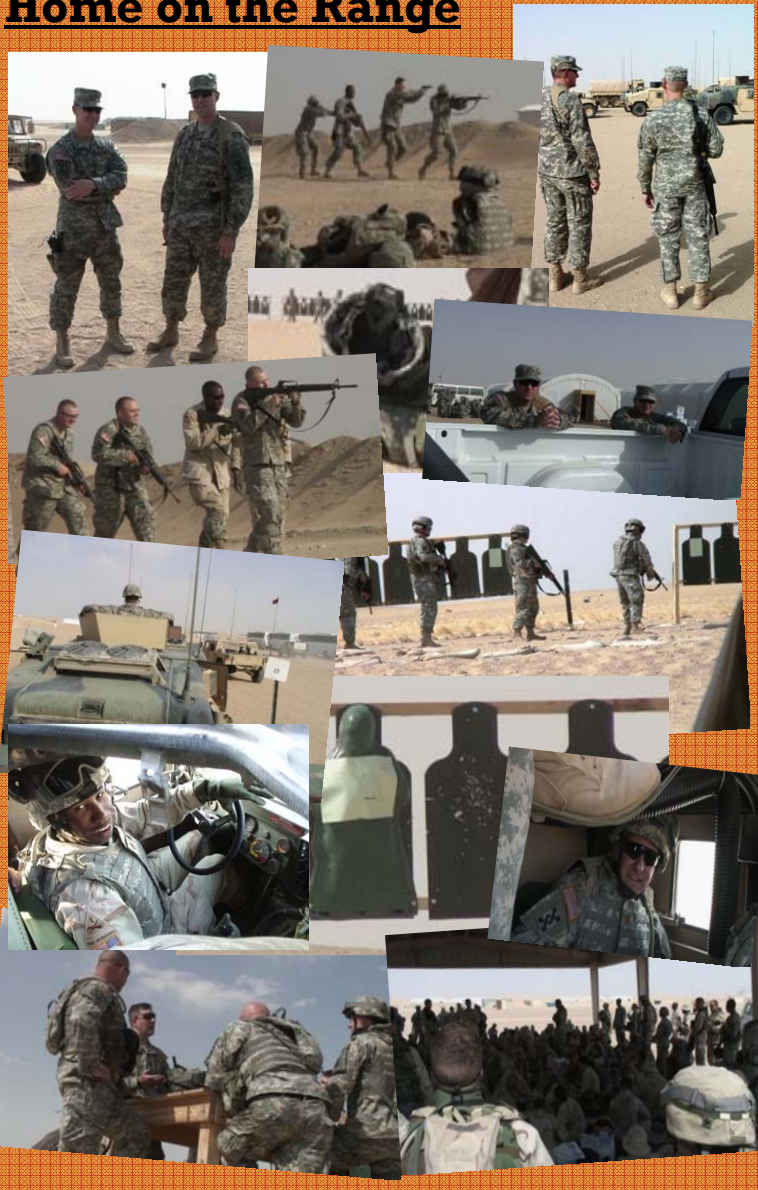
"Feast of Tabernacles"

MWR Trips: Grand Mosque & Towers



143d Soldiers joined the 377th TSC on a few MWR trips in Kuwait to places like, "The Grand Mosque," and "Kuwaiti Towers," in Sept

Home on the Range



Troops Train on HEAT, Rollover Procedures

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Pace



Maj. Patrick Leduc (left) sits in the driver's seat while soldiers enter into the HEAT trainer for simulated rollover training during the safety training exercise.

Kuwait- Army Reserve troops trained on the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer on August 21, 2006 with trainers from other camps and soldiers in attendance, to get another look at the training equipment that the Army has been fielding to prevent casualties caused by vehicle rollovers in theater.

The egress trainer consists of a 25 degree critical angle, a full rollover without egress and a full rollover with egress, in which soldiers practice tactics and techniques to work as a team and quickly evacuate a flipped over HMMWV.

Troops were reluctant at first, about the experience – especially when asked if they had experienced a rollover before.



A soldier stumbles through while suspended upside-down in the HEAT Trainer. The soldiers worked as a team to guide each other out of the vehicle.

“Although I’ve been in car accidents before, I’ve never been in a rollover, and can’t imagine one like this at full speed,” said Maj. Daniel Leavitt, Staff General Secretary for the 143D Transcom in Kuwait.

Safety Officer and Co-Instructor, Lt. Col. Peter Winston- 143D Transcom, also was on hand to speak on preventive safety measures and a brief history of the HEAT and Army transition to safeguard troops from unnecessary accidents. “The best way to prevent injury is to avoid it,” said

Winston, supervising the event.

Trainers generally run these systems as much as possible – in order to get 100 soldiers a day through the trainer, six days a week. The focus of the training is to simulate not only how to react to a similar event, but the safety procedures and how the HMMWV-M1114s locks and handle can be negotiated as well.

“This training doesn’t give you the full experience, but it was fun overall and the closest thing to real without getting hurt,” said 1st Lt. Christopher Ficquette, General’s Aide-de-camp to 143D Transcom Commander, after getting out of the vehicle and completing the training.

Finishing the training display, the instruction was concluded with a short demonstration of the HEAT trainer and comments by participant troops with top Army Officials.

“My pre-conceived notions are blown away- when your upside down on your head, you rely on your ears and buddies to get out safe,” said Maj. Patrick Leduc, Staff Judge Advocate for the 143D Transcom, in speaking to a crowd including several high ranking Army officials.



Sgt. First Class Kelly Comstock, head instructor of the HEAT Trainer, checks the equipment prior to soldiers loading into the vehicle cast, for the Hands-On portion of the training to better prepare soldiers for potentially dangerous situations inside a flipped HMMWV during convoy missions.

Straight from the IG: Using the Chain of Command

“So You Are a Lawyer?”

It is not uncommon for soldiers to come up to me and say, “You are an IG. So how do you like being a lawyer?” I then explain that I am an IG; not a lawyer. The Army's lawyers are known as a Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) or Judge Advocate General (JAG).

IGs are comprised of senior officers and NCOs who serve a general-officer command for three-year assignments outside their normal branch/MOS. To be an IG, we submit what is paramount to a ‘promotion packet’ that goes to the Inspector General of the Army for approval. Upon approval, selectees attend a three-week course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Here is a matrix to help clarify the differences / similarities between an IG and a SJA.



SJA	Vs.	IG	Decision?
Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)	Doctrine	Army Regulations, SOPs, etc.	SJA: No one really understands UCMJ other than lawyers.
A sword crossing a pen	Military Insignia	A sword crossing an axe	IG: In a tough situation, I want an axe.
Judge Advocate General (JAG). That is their branch.	Branch	IGs serve a three-year tour outside of their normal branch.	Your Decision.
“JAG” / They even have a TV show.	Nick-name	“IG”	IG: It kind of sounds like a rapper.
Graduate law school & attend the JAG course	Education Rqmts	Attend the U.S. Army IG school.	SJA: Law school grads get to put “J.D.” behind their name.
UCMJ, criminal, military assistance, claims, and anything else with military law.	Job Functions	Soldier Assistance, Inspections, Investigations, Teach & Train	Depends. It matters if you are the subject or the suspect.
<u>HUGE.</u> Enough said.	Civilian Income Potential	None. (Some consolation in thinking it's a resume builder.)	\$JA: No contest.
No one talks to the SJA for fear they might incriminate themselves.	Intangibles	No one talks to the IG for fear they might incriminate themselves.	Tie.



MAJ John Mathson

Principal Inspector General

143rd TRANSCOM (FWD)

COMMANDER & 1SG CORNER

Soldiers of the 143D TRANSCOM (FWD)

Congratulations to SSG Joyce (Brownlow) on her selection as the HHC, 143D TRANSCOM Soldier of the Quarter. Soldiers are highly encouraged to participate as it is a great developmental tool for every current enlisted Soldier and it benefits the Army by making each Soldier who participates better.



The next Unit MWR Fun Day will be on 1 OCT 06, softball, horse shoes, food, and refreshments. Softball equipment is being provided by the unit MWR team. Come out and enjoy the fun!!!!

OCT 19-22 is the Unit Semi-Annual APFT. There are sign up rosters posted on the HHC bulletin board, limit is 20 personnel per day so get signed up now. This is less than a month away; so finish preparing for it!

UNIT SAFETY PROGRAM

As we move into cooler weather over the next few months ensure you continue to take care of yourselves. Often times with a change in the weather colds are more prevalent.

Additionally we have been here for 3 months now and many of you have been working long hours. Be mindful of taking care of your body with rest, exercise, proper diet, good hygiene and try to include some fun.

Hands-on Training

100% ASDT (Army Safety Drivers Training) trained personnel, currently 65% complete

If you are scheduled in the future be sure you attend.

Online

<https://safetylms.army.mil>

Accident Avoidance Course (100% completion prior to taking R and R Leave)

Composite Risk Management Course (All Officers and NCOs)

Commanders Safety Course (CDR, 1SG, CSM and all OICs and NCOICs)

MWR Events for Next Month:

01 OCT- Softball Game/Dinner/Awards

14 OCT- FRG Morale VTC

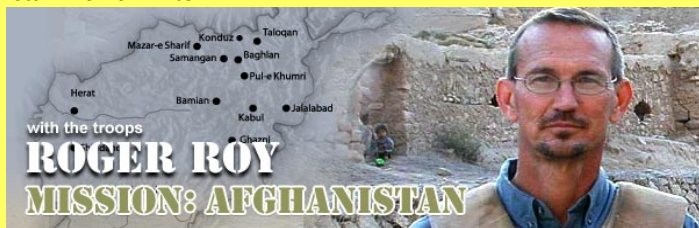
30 OCT- MWR Trip: See MWR Officer/HHC for More Information

TBD - Halloween Event

“It does not require many words to speak the truth.”
Chief Joseph; Nez Pierce

Stories from the Home Front: Orlando Sentinel

Story and Photos by Roger Roy
Staff News Writer



AKABUL, Afghanistan -- The Afghan soldiers rested in their cool, dark barracks at an old Soviet base. When the America soldiers walked in, they jumped up from their bunk beds and floor cushions, shaking hands warmly all around.

But when they got to the American lieutenant, the Afghans simply stared open-mouthed:

A woman. In a U.S. Army uniform. With a cross on her chest.

The interpreter tried to explain, but the Afghans seemed at a loss until Lt. Rebekah Montgomery told them, "I'm like a mullah" -- an Islamic religious leader.

At that the Afghan soldiers smiled and nodded. But their glances to one another showed that the idea of a female mullah army officer was about as realistic as a flying cow. The encounter was novel for the Afghans, but it's the stuff of everyday life here for Montgomery, 31, of St. Augustine.

She's the only woman among the three Army chaplains assigned to minister to the 4,000 or so American troops of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, who are here to train the Afghan National Army.

In a conservative Muslim nation where most women still cover their faces in public and are absent from the military and much of public life -- let alone religious leadership -- Montgomery is an oddity practically beyond the comprehension of many of the Afghans she meets.

Whether soldiers or civilians, on Army bases or city streets, her presence guarantees a large crowd of curious Afghans who aren't shy about staring.

"It bothered me a little at first," said Montgomery, who arrived in Afghanistan for her yearlong tour last summer. "But after a while I realized it was just curiosity, so I don't let it get to me.

"I mean, here I am, a woman in pants and a uniform and my face uncovered, and I think it just blows their minds." If it's tough to explain her role to Afghans, it's not much easier to explain how she ended up here.

The daughter of an Air Force veteran who served in Korea,

Montgomery grew up in Washington, D.C., attended college in Minnesota and seminary in Manhattan.

She never considered a career in the military until after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when she had finished a stint as a chaplain at a Miami hospital and was working as a counselor.

"I just realized I didn't have enough to do, and I started calling recruiters," she said.

In February, she married another Army lieutenant. There was no time for a honeymoon before they began training for the deployment to Afghanistan.

A finance officer, he's stationed at a another base in Afghanistan a few miles from hers at Camp Phoenix outside Kabul.

Montgomery spends about half her time traveling to see soldiers who are spread out across a country the size of Texas, but she and her husband still cross paths when business brings him to Camp Phoenix.

Photos by Capt. Mike Wallace, 377th TSC PAO



Canon White, a preacher and hostage negotiator in Iraq, came and gave a speech to troops and Unit Ministry Teams, as well as offering time to speak individually with troops and sign copies of his book in the Chapel in Kuwait. Public Affairs has created a two-hour movie that details his discussion and spotlights his memories of dealing with terrorists during his duties. For a copy of the movie, contact Chap. (Lt. Col.) Frank Wismer, 377th TSC.

57th JLTF Trains for Long-Haul Missions

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Pace

Kuwait- The Army Reserves' 57th Joint Logistics Task Force members train as newcomers to Kuwait in preparation for long-haul missions across Kuwait and Iraq. Soldiers from the 222nd Transportation Company and 57th JLTF trained together to prepare the units to transfer authority and ensure a smooth transition of duty in a rigorous but vital mission.

The 57th JLTF is currently fine polishing its skills with an 8-hour, week-long course in battle drills, convoy operation and different common driving tasks on the Army's M915 Heavy Motor Transport Trucks to refresh soldiers in their specialty skill for a long and demanding tour.

Spc. Jesse Frantz, of the 57th JLTF, commented, "The Hazmat and Defensive Driving classed helped a lot; I Learned from others' convoy experiences on what to expect and how to react," following his 3 days of classroom instruction, before stepping behind the wheel for applied drivers training.

The 57th will be faced with the arduous task of replacing another unit, traveling as much as 800 miles per mission for up to 30 missions per week-split up among its 25 soldiers.

594th Trans convoy vet, Spc. Bruce Bendler, summarized the course in saying, "The training this week was a slight progression from my last tour, but because this was done by active duty instructors- I believe the approach was different and more beneficial."

While most of the soldiers are motor transport operators, boat crewman and maintenance repairmen, many find themselves serving as convoy vehicle drivers and gunners, providing vital logistic and security force support to an essential mission.

"Our driver's training on the 915 was a refresher course from mobilization training," said Sgt. Jimmy Jimenez, 222nd TC, "It was at the platoon level, and gave us the standard to watch out for and tools to get our mission done."



A soldier training as a Gunner enters an up-armored M1114-HMMWV during lanes training with the 57th JLTF, for duty into Iraq.

The actual course lanes consisted of straight-line backing, serpentine training, controlled stopping and



HMMWVs and M915 Tractor-Trailer Trucks stage before entering a lane during training in Kuwait to refresh soldiers on necessary skills and maneuvers while on support convoys into dangerous parts of Iraq.

blind-side docking.

For familiarization in normal day-to-day tasks of a motor transport operator, units continue to include various forms of logistics training to give soldiers a full understanding of the road that lay ahead, regardless of their job, as the ability to keep soldiers combat ready and flexible to missions becomes ever more relevant.

"The training here is much more in-depth to enemy reaction vs. before, there was really no threat on the roads; Regardless of if you are combat service support or anything else, you will definitely see action," said Bendler.



Sgt. Jimmy Jimenez buckles into his seat inside one of the M915 Tractor-Trailer Trucks, practicing with another soldier on straight-line backing and controlled stopping with fellow members of the 57th Joint Logistics Task Force—Transportation Battalion in Kuwait.