

1st Theater Sustainment Command

Black Jack



EXPRESS

Sustainment/Redeployment/Retrograde

MAY 2014//ISSUE 004

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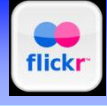
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1st Sustainment Command (Theater)



BLACK JACK EXPRESS

May 2014

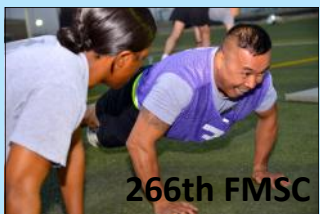
Issue 4



Best Warrior



82nd CMRE



266th FMSC

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj.
Nathaniel J. Bartee Sr.

Kuwait Deputy
Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Duane E. Gamble

Kuwait Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. James M. Lambert

Afghanistan Deputy
Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Donnie Walker Jr.

Afghanistan Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. Edward Bell

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3rd ESC



401st
AFSB



TF Sinai



1ST SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (THEATER) MISSION SUMMARY

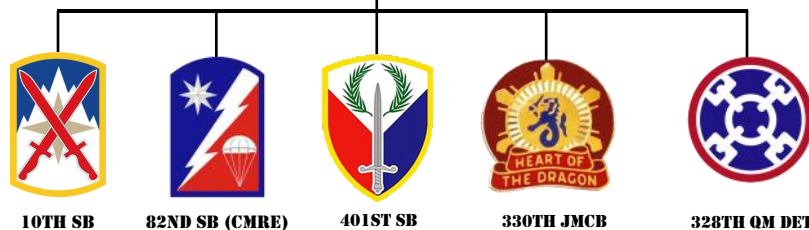
Mission Statement: The 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) provides Single Sustainment Mission Command to Army, Joint, and Multinational Forces in support of U.S. Central Command's area of operations in order to enable the Combatant Commander's ability to prevent, shape, and win our nation's wars.

The 1st TSC, is an Army two-star command based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina with two forward headquarters at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and Kabul, Afghanistan. Comprised of nearly 20,000 military, civilian and contractor personnel, the 1st TSC and its subordinate units ensure fighting men and women have the supplies and transportation capabilities they need to accomplish their missions. A global sustainment provider, the 1st TSC supplies food, fuel, water, transportation, ammunition, building materials and repair parts. Additionally, the 1st TSC manages the ports, flights and customs points needed to keep people and equipment moving 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The 1st TSC also provides adjunct support in the areas of financial management, human resources, humanitarian aid distribution, host-nation engagements, and medical care for troops and civilians within the command. Soldiers with the 1st TSC are in the fight every day, moving what is needed throughout 20 countries in U.S. Army Central Command's area of operations, spanning more than 6 million square miles.

First Team!

1ST TSC



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www.dvidshub.net/unit/1TSCPA

CG Corner

For mission success, take care of one another

COMMENTARY BY

MAJ. GEN. DARRELL K. WILLIAMS

First, I want to thank each and every one of our troops, civilians and family members for your sacrifices on behalf of our nation.

Since taking command, I have had the opportunity over the past 90 days to see what you do on a daily basis and it is absolutely incredible.

Many of you are currently deployed in harm's way, and still others are supporting those presently on the front lines of freedom.

From mission support, collaboration amongst the commands, and the relationship we have with our higher commands and strategic partners – I am very pleased with our progress and the job everyone is doing to accomplish the mission.

I want to highlight just a few of your successes over the last few months. Not long after the change of command, you supported the training exercise for the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) which was then followed by several battalions, brigade-level and higher transfer of authority ceremonies demonstrating the Army's ability to have trained and ready Soldiers in the National Guard, reserves and active component.

These Soldiers have accounted for, managed and moved tons of equipment



worth millions of dollars. In addition, they have managed transportation assets and personnel moves throughout U.S. Central Command area of operations and sustained the force in CJOA-Afghanistan all the while, conducting their day-to-day mission ... specifically the Train, Advise and Assist mission to the Afghan Army.

As I have said many times in the past and the Blackjack Standards indicate, if you take care of troops, civilians and families, we will continue to have mission success.

I ask that you stay focused on SHARP and suicidal ideations, leader development and supporting the mission and transition for the future. We must take care of each

other. Do not become complacent and let your guard down. At every level, we need to stay aware and protect one another.

As we work toward a healthier and safer Army, I also want to stress the importance of the "Blackjack Standards". We must know, meet and uphold them for this command to be successful.

Lastly, as we approach the Memorial Day weekend, I remind everyone that this also marks the beginning of the summer season and safety needs to be a top priority.

Many of our personnel and family members will celebrate with barbecues, picnics, and extended travel. We also must not forget safety for our deployed personnel; we must focus our efforts in on-duty and workplace injury reductions.

No matter our location, heat injury prevention must be incorporated into all plans, activities and operations during this holiday. Weekend. Leadership involvement at all levels, self discipline, risk management, as well as compliance with traffic laws, and basic common sense, will ensure our chances of success this holiday weekend, and through the remaining summer months.

Stay Safe and stay healthy!

First Team! Army Strong!

1st TSC Blackjack Standards



1. Lead by example
2. Take care of Soldiers and families
3. Always accomplish the mission
4. Treat all with dignity and respect
5. Be deployable at all times
6. Stay in compliance with AR 670-1

- and AR 600-9
7. Look like a Soldier and be able to pass an APFT anytime
8. Be a team player, selfless service
9. Qualify on your assigned weapon
10. Train everyday for success



CSM Corner

Take pride in being a member of 1st TSC

COMMENTARY BY
COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
NATHANIEL J. BARTEE



The overwhelming majority of you are getting it done every day, and I want to thank you for being a positive influence in our team. However, I want to take this opportunity to offer some observations on standards.

We still have Soldiers stationed throughout the world and in operational theaters, but we are transitioning from an Army at war to an Army at home.

As we transition, it's important that Soldiers and Leaders don't forget our Army's core principles and values and what it means to be a Soldier. It is our duty as noncommissioned officers to train and lead Soldiers and we do that by leading by example, living by the Army values and instilling those same values in our Soldiers.

We, do what's right not because someone

is watching us or because we might get in trouble or to get a pat on the back.

We do what's right simply because it's right, and that means not just looking out for ourselves and making sure we're doing the right thing, but looking out for the buddy to our left and right, as well. That's what it means to be a team player.

Everyday I'm honored to work with the Soldiers and leaders in the 1st TSC. I expect all of you to treat each other with the same dignity and respect I have for all of you.

I encourage everyone to read and review the newly published Blackjack Standards in this issue, to use them as a guideline and to lead by example. Take pride in yourself as a Soldier, pride in our Army and pride in being a member of the First Team. And remember, we are all professionals.

First Team!

Army Values

Loyalty – Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Army, your unit, and other Soldiers.

Duty – Fulfill your obligations.

Respect – Treat people as they should be treated.

Selfless Service – Put the welfare of the nation, the U.S. Army, and your subordinates before your own.

Honor – Live up to U.S. Army values.

Integrity – Do what's right, legally and morally

Personal Courage – Face fear, danger, or adversity (physical or moral)

1st TSC Blackjack Standards

It's All About:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Trust | 6. Enforcing standards and discipline |
| 2. Soldiers and Families | 7. Doing what's right |
| 3. Leadership | 8. Building strong teams |
| 4. Leader development | 9. Professionalism |
| 5. Living the Army Values | |



Sustainers take lead in Afghanistan

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. JUSTIN A. SILVERS

3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

KABUL, Afghanistan — The 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), held an uncasing ceremony April 22 at the New Kabul Compound, Afghanistan.

The 3d ESC assumed responsibility from the 1st Theater Sustainment Command (Forward), and is tasked with the increasingly complex mission of providing logistical support throughout Afghanistan's rugged terrain, in addition to assisting with the transition to Afghan forces.

Reviewing the ceremony was Maj. Gen. Darrell Williams,



commanding general of the 1st TSC. Williams said the ceremony marked a significant step in the mission in Afghanistan.

"Today marks an important milestone in the history of the 1st TSC, the 3d ESC, the Army and Operation Enduring Freedom," said Williams. "This is another significant step in the transition of the mission in Afghanistan."

During the ceremony Williams thanked the Soldiers of the 1st TSC team for their hard work and dedication during their deployment.

"What you have done here is nothing short of extraordinary," said Williams. "Afghanistan is an austere and unforgiving environment, but that didn't stop you from developing innovative means for overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles."

Williams also said a special thanks to Brig. Gen. Duane Gamble, deputy commanding general of the 1st TSC, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Lambert, senior enlisted advisor with the 1st TSC in Afghanistan.

"You have led the team at our forward command post extremely well, commanding a diverse team with a multitude of skill sets, and synchronizing our tactical effort; and you made it look easy," said Williams. "Thank you for taking care of these great Americans and for providing caring and concerned leadership."

Brig. Gen. Donnie Walker, commanding general of the 3d ESC, said the 3d ESC was proud to be a part of the 1st TSC team, and was ready for the mission ahead.

"We are prepared to manage the remainder of the retrograde mission; sustaining the train, advise and assist mission and the transition to the Resolute Support Mission as we prepare Afghanistan for the post-2014



Brig. Gen. Donnie Walker Jr., 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Bell, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) senior enlisted advisor, uncased the 3d ESC colors during a ceremony April 22 at the New Kabul Compound in Afghanistan. The 3d ESC assumed responsibility from the 1st Theater Sustainment Command (Forward) and is charged with providing logistical and transitional support.

www.dvidshub.net/unit/3SCE
www.facebook.com/#!/3dESC





Col. Maxine Girard, chief of staff of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prepares the unit for Brig. Gen. Donnie Walker Jr., commanding general of the 3d ESC, and Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Bell, senior enlisted advisor with the 3d ESC, during the 3d ESC's uncasing ceremony April 22 at the New Kabul Compound in Afghanistan. The 3d ESC assumed responsibility from the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and is charged with providing logistical and transitional support during their deployment.

mission,” said Walker.

Earlier, Walker also thanked the Fort Knox community for their support to the Soldiers and Families of the 3d ESC, saying he’s proud to be a member of such a great community.

In addition to the 3d ESC Soldiers deployed in Afghanistan, a significant portion of the 3d ESC has been deployed to Kuwait to assist in sustaining contingency operations as part of the 1st TSC team.

For more news and information visit the 3d ESC, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/3dESC.



Brig. Gen. Flem B. "Donnie" Walker Jr., 3d ESC Commander (Forward)



Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Bell, 3d ESC Senior Enlisted Advisor (Forward)

“Sustaining the Line”



1st TSC, Mission Command Training Program train sustainment brigade during Warfighter

STORY BY

STAFF SGT. JOSEPHINE AMPLEY

1st Sustainment Command (Theater)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The Mission Command Training Program out of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, sent several operations groups to include Operations Group Sierra to Fort Bragg, North Carolina in support of Warfighter 14-04, April 7 through 17.

The purpose of this exercise was to test the 82nd Airborne Division's ability to perform as the nucleus of a combined, joint task force headquarters.

Among the units trained during the exercise was the 90th Sustainment Brigade, an Army Reserve unit out of Little Rock, Arkansas.

The 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and 43rd Sustainment Brigade both played higher and subordinate roles throughout the exercise. The training consisted of digital battle tracking to create a realistic training environment for the 90th SB staff.

"This was really good training for our Soldiers. They did pretty well training on their individual tasks and this gives them the opportunity to bring it all together," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lorne Quebodeaux, 90th Sustainment Brigade senior enlisted advisor. "We learned a lot of new techniques accomplishing our mission."

The training event began about a year ago as a combination of planning and training between the MCTP's Operations Group Sierra, 90th SB, 43rd SB, and 1st TSC. Ops Group Sierra deployed about 25 observers and coaches in support of the exercise.

"We collaborated with all of our operations groups out of the MCTP to help replicate the entire environment of Combined Joint Task Force – 82," said Lt. Col. Michael Essary, Operations Group Sierra observer coach trainer team lead. "The purpose overall is to allow them to train on mission command



Col. David Hammons, 90th Sustainment Brigade commander, (right) talks to members of the exercise media, GNN, during a mock interview at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Courtesy Photo)

and staff functions so if they are called to deploy it will not be their first time being put into that situation."

Preparation for the role of the 90th SB in the Warfighter exercise started with a mission command training week in November 2013 provided by Operations Group Sierra. The training, which took place in Arkansas, consisted of a four-day classroom style interactive discussion based on the aspects of mission command.

"The 90th SB commander established several training objectives so we modeled the exercise based on that," said Essary.

MCTP's mission is to support the collective training of Army units as directed by the Chief of Staff of the Army and scheduled by U.S. Army Forces Command in accordance with the Army Force Generation process at worldwide locations in order to train leaders and provide commanders the opportunity to train on mission command in unified land operations.

Looking for a photo from a recent First Team event?



Click on the Flickr buttons to see and download photos from
www.flickr.com/photos/1sttsc/





Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams, commanding general, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), thanks the Soldiers of the 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) for their efforts and accomplishments during a colors casing ceremony May 10, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

(Photos by 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs)

1st TSC charges forward in Kuwait

STORY BY

1ST SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (THEATER)

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Soldiers of the 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Orlando, Florida held a ceremony May 10 casing their colors and signifying the end of their mission as a subordinate command for 1st Sustainment Command (Theater).

For the past nine months the 143rd ESC planned, prepared and executed operational sustainment support throughout Central Command's area of responsibility in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 143rd ESC, an operational Army Reserve command, redeploys back to the United States to provide mission command to more than 10,000 sustainment Soldiers across seven states in the southeast.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams, commanding general, 1st TSC, thanked Brig. Gen. Francisco A. Espallat for taking care of the team and for providing caring and concerned leadership. He went on to address the Soldiers of the 143rd ESC.

"To the officers, NCOs, Soldiers and civilians that make up this great team – thank you. Thank you for your sacrifices and the sacrifices of your family in service to our nation. Please know that your efforts have made a significant difference," said Williams.



Brig. Gen. Francisco A. Espallat (right), commanding general, 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Sgt. Maj. Ferdinand Collazo (left), command sergeant major, 143rd ESC, case their unit's colors May 10, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



On the run: Fort Bragg leader, wife embrace 'new normal' in fight against cancer

STORY BY

STEPHENIE TATUM

1st Sustainment
Command (Theater)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Col. Lenny Kness, chief of staff, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), is an avid runner.

So, it was no surprise in October 2011 that he would stay the course, as planned many months before, and run the Army Ten Miler. Just days earlier, he had arrived at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., after receiving the devastating news that no one wants to hear – he had brain cancer.

With his doctor's permission and the unexpected company of his wife, Heather, Lenny stayed on track and they ran side-by-side through the streets of the Nation's capital. For the first time that they could remember, the couple slowed down to enjoy the scenery, wave to people and slap hands along the way.

"It was a nice way to feel normal," said Heather, an Army lieutenant colonel and native of Troy, New York.

After watching her husband of more than 20 years suffer a seizure in Afghanistan where she was deployed as the 44th Medical Brigade's executive officer, she accompanied him home to the United States, by way of Germany, for further testing and treatment.

The couple said one of the hardest moments for them was when the doctor in Germany broke the news and hearing his best survival



Col. Lenny J. Kness, and his wife, Lt. Col. Heather A. Kness, run their first Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 25, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The Fort Bragg, North Carolina-based leaders finished the race just under 3:45, beating the race average finish time of 4:41:28. (Courtesy Photo)

prognosis — 18 to 36 months.

A biopsy and extensive testing confirmed that Lenny had Stage 2 cancer in the left lobe of his brain called astrocytoma. As one doctor explained, 'It's sprinkled throughout the brain like pepper in mashed potatoes.'

According to the American Brain Tumor Association, "Astrocytomas are tumors that arise from astrocytes — star-shaped cells that make up the 'glue-like' or supportive tissue of

the brain."

Lenny was referred to the National Institute of Health, and in April 2012, with the help of Cape Fear Valley Cancer Center's Medical Oncology Department, he began radiation and chemotherapy.

After hearing the news, the Kness' made a decision to continue living what they describe as their "new normal."

Throughout his treatments, the Chadwick, Illinois native,



planned his race schedule to keep the two in step. In 2012, Lenny timed his chemotherapy treatment cycle start date so that he could run the Marine Corps Marathon. Two days after his last radiation and chemotherapy cycle, he won his age group at the 2013 Fort Bragg Ten Miler and was selected for the Men's Masters team.

Every day for 30 days, starting the last week in April until the first week in June 2012, he took a low-dose chemo pill. During the week at 3 p.m., following his regular duties as the 1st TSC Support Operations officer, he would receive radiation treatments at Cape Fear.

He completed 12 months of treatment finishing in May 2013. Since then, doctors have done quarterly checks and have not found any new cancer activity.

"For me, I count this as a thankful event. We found out early, have been able to adjust, treat and go after it. It is something that will be with us for the rest of our lives," he said.

Lenny considers himself fortunate. Other than being a little tired and losing his left eyebrow, part of his right eyebrow, and having to keep his hair short to hide the patches, he has been able to continue working, exercising and living life to the fullest.

"I continue to live on and live a great life. For me, the quality of life is everything over the quantity. What a waste to live to be 99 [and] miserable ...," Lenny said.

Lenny and Heather feel this experience has taught them a great deal and helped them to put life into perspective.

"I had to stop looking things up on the Internet and researching," Heather said. "As a caregiver I had a desire to be empowered and control things, but I learned that I could not

control the tumor. Slowly I learned I could control diet, exercise and a good state of mind."

Although they were already considered healthy by most standards, following the diagnosis the Knesses cut meat and dairy from their diets, only eating fish on rare occasions. The couple is doing all they can to live a better life and control what they can, Lenny said.

"I've really become more aware of the impact of cancer on Soldiers and their families, realizing how many people it affects, especially in the military," said Heather, noting that cancer not only affects the patient, but so many families and friends of those with cancer.

Lenny and Heather enjoy running as couple and logging countless miles competing in races ranging from 5Ks to marathons.

They started out competing in local races, such as Fayetteville's Cinco De Mayo and Dogwood Festival runs, and now do their best to participate in two national marathons a year. Often you will

find them training on the Cape Fear River Trail or the familiar roads of Fort Bragg and Pope Field.

Since 1997, they have called Fort Bragg home, only leaving for a couple of years in between.

On May 4, Lenny and Heather laced up their running shoes once again and ran 26.2 miles in the All American Marathon.

The race began in downtown Fayetteville and proceeded through the city streets and up the All American Freeway until reaching the gates of the Home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces on Fort Bragg.

Heather said that after a decade-plus of serving here, she feels running local races are a great way to see Fayetteville and the community.

She said their support and encouragement gives her the motivation to keep going and stay strong through the miles.



Chadwick, Illinois native Col. Lenny J. Kness, chief of staff, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), leads First Team Soldiers during the unit's change of command ceremony Jan. 31 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Photo by 1st TSC Public Affairs)

HETS ARRIVE IN QATAR

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS BRENT YATES

AFSBn Qatar Maintenance QA/QC

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar - A few years ago, while the U.S. Army was engaged in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, most of the warehouses in Qatar were empty.

Camp As Sayliyah was home to the Rest and Recuperation program. Now that operations have ended in Iraq, and the war is drawing down in Afghanistan and the R&R program has ended, AFSBn-Qatar's warehouses are filling up again.

One of AFSBn-Qatar's Sustainment Brigade's shortages was recently filled when 74 M1070A1 Heavy Equipment



Transporters were shipped to Camp As Sayliyah. With an additional 24 due to arrive in the near future, AFSBn-Qatar's HET companies within the Sustainment Brigade will be at full strength.

Receiving the HETs in Qatar was no small feat for the Exelis contractors. They worked with the Transportation Logistics Management Specialists and Military Surface Deployment

and Distribution Command to move all 74 HETs on flatbed trucks from Port Messaid to Camp As Sayliyah.

All movement occurred at night, with all trucks escorted by Exelis contractors. Contractors from all sections contributed to this mission, allowing for all trucks to be moved over a four night period.

The HET and its predecessors have played a crucial role in all major conflicts. The M25 tank transporter proved its worth in 1944-45, during World War II. It was used in Europe to quickly move tanks to the front line without causing wear and damage to the tank. This allowed more tanks to be fully mission capable when they arrived to the front line.

In the 1970's, the Army added to its inventory the Commercial Heavy Equipment or C-HET, produced by Oshkosh Corporation. This truck experienced heavy use in Desert Shield / Desert Storm, moving M1 Abrams to the front line. It was found that the C-HET's were lacking in durability when moving the heavier M1 Abrams.

In 1993, the Army fielded the M1070 HET, produced by Oshkosh, along with the M1000 HET semi-trailer, produced by DRS Sustainment Systems in order to transport the M1 Abrams family of vehicles, along with several others.

The M1070 HET saw heavy use in Iraq, moving M1 Abrams, M2/M3 Bradley fighting vehicles and other combat vehicles to the front line. This allowed the vehicles to arrive as fully mission capable, along with the crew, feeling less fatigued than if they would have moved the vehicles themselves.



Exelis contractors prepare a crane to remove a HET from the trailer at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.



AFSBn-Qatar is receiving an M1070A1 HET, a vehicle that was improved from lessons learned during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The 500 horsepower Detroit Diesel 8V92 was replaced with a 700 horsepower Caterpillar C18 engine; and the 5-speed Allison transmission, with two speed transfer case was replaced with a 7-speed Allison transmission with a single speed transfer case.



Exelis contractors prepare a crane to remove a HET from the trailer at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

The HET system is capable of hauling a 70 ton payload, with a two Soldier crew and four passengers.

AFSBn-Qatar's mission will be to de-process

the HETs and place them into Care of Supplies in Storage.

The vehicles are stored in humidity-controlled warehouses, where they will be fully mission capable for deployment to any location the Army deems necessary. AFSBn-Qatar will ensure the

vehicles are properly maintained and all mandatory work orders, maintenance advice messages, and safety of use messages are applied to the vehicles allowing this fleet to remain the most up to date, deployable HET fleet in the Army.



Above: This 5KW Generator along with many other Generators, Environmental Control Units (ECU) and wheeled vehicles on display at the Kuwait Maintenance Facility are examples of equipment which the Kuwait Maintenance Facility can perform a variety of maintenance repairs / services; fault diagnosis, technical inspection, overhauls, refurbishment, calibration, and alignment to assist the Warfighter to achieve and succeed in their mission.

Below - Clint Russell, for Tobyhanna Army Depot TYAD, native of Honesdale PA, performs maintenance on a camera. TYAD's mission is total sustainment, including design, manufacture, repair and overhaul of hundreds of electronic systems.



The doorway to Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Sustainment

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Michael Brandly, Counter Remote Controlled Electronic Warfare (CREW) Site Lead, briefs attendees of the Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Open House on the CREW systems. Displayed on the table is a THOR III, which is used by dismounted patrols to jam Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices (RCIED).

Below center: Base Expeditionary Targeting and Surveillance Sensors-Command (BETSS-C) / Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) - Provides surveillance and force protection missions including the capability of cross-cueing of sensors, and sensor control to allow tracking and location of targets.

Below right: Paul Russell, Power Generation & Environmental Control Equipment Logistics Assistance Representative (P&ELARs) explains how he provides technical assistance on maintenance standards, policies, & procedures to field customers & Commanders for all assigned



ARMY FIELD SUPPORT BATTALION—KUWAIT INDUCTED INTO MILLION DOLLAR BOARD

STORY BY

SGT. 1ST CLASS ANNETTE SIMON

402nd AFSB Public Affairs

A rmy Field Support Battalion - Kuwait was recognized for their efforts and initiative in fiscal stewardship.

In Fiscal Year 2013, AFSBn-KU made it possible for other organizations to reutilize excess equipment worth more than \$1 million of taxpayers' money.

A cost avoidance of \$6,164,718 resulted from their submission of seven Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedures requisitions. Due to this achievement, their results are being recognized on Defense Logistics Agency's website at www.dispositionservices.dla.mil on the "Million Dollar Board."

"I'm pleased other organizations could use the items we turn-in, either through our retrograde process or through identification of excess. Our Soldiers and contract partners are diligent in ensuring we treat excess material correctly. This is a great recognition from DLA," said Lt. Col. Marc D. Staats, commander, AFSBn-KU.

DLA's Million Dollar Board was created to recognize the fiscal stewardship of commands taking advantage of government excess property. Each command listed on the Million Dollar Board has reutilized in excess of \$1 million in the corresponding fiscal year. Every command identified deserves the appreciation and recognition of the Department of Defense and taxpaying communities for leading by example in fiscal stewardship.

The mission of DLA Disposition

Services is to support the responsible reutilization of military excess property and correct disposition of surplus property. The goal is to continually improve communication and collaboration with Warfighters.

The Million Dollar Board tracks overall reuse by each of the Armed services and lists organizations that reused more than \$1 million worth of equipment in the past year. The rankings are based on reused equipment tracked by Department of Defense Activity Address Codes. The dollar amounts are based on the original acquisition value of the items of property. (Reserve and National Guard statistics are rolled in with the parent services.)

For the results of the FY13 Million Dollar Board, visit www.dispositionservices.dla.mil/gov/MillionDollarBoard.pdf.



A taste of home

Lt. Col. Denise McCleary receives care packages April 12 from the Ladies Auxiliary Post 6393 in Yardley, Pennsylvania. McCleary shared them with the Soldiers of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade. The 402nd AFSB Power Team is thankful to McCleary and the Ladies Auxiliary Post 6393.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Annette Simon, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs)





Sgt. 1st Class Shaun C. Harper, along with Staff Sgt. John G. Lake, Quality Assurance (QA) Inspectors for the Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Army Sustainment Command, inspect a hub seal which was replaced on an M977A2 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) cargo vehicle for the Army Prepositioned Stock 5 (APS-5) fleet at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Inspecting APS-5 equipment is one of the Contracting Officer Representative's (COR) duties for all Maintenance NCOs in the battalion. This ensures the fleet is ready to be issued to the Warfighters.

Personal commitment: QA inspectors committed to the readiness of APS-5 fleet

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Staff Sgt. John G. Lake III, Quality Assurance (QA) Inspector, Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait, inspects a control valve which was replaced on the crane control of an M977A2 HEMTT cargo vehicle and the scavenger pump for the massive hydraulic system on an M9 Armored Combat Earthmover (ACE), prior to giving the two vehicles a clean bill of health. Once a member of the Government QA team approves the vehicles, they are processed for long term storage. Inspections such as these, are conducted daily to ensure combat power is ready to be issued to the Warfighters.

Below - Staff Sgt. Lake observes the services being conducted on an M977A2 HEMTT cargo vehicle. The consistent observations by the QA team ensure our government is getting the exact quality of work expected from the mechanics who service the vehicles.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

**Sgt. 1st Class
Monique R. Anderson**
402nd Army Field Support Brigade
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait



S3 / Operations NCOIC



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Annette Simon, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs



For the many Distinguished Visitors (DV) who visit the 402nd AFSB, Sgt. 1st Class Monique Anderson is responsible for planning and coordinating transportation and lodging accommodations for the DVs. On a daily basis, Sgt. 1st Class Anderson is also responsible for taskers, reports and orders coming to and leaving the brigade. She also operates the Emergency Operations Center, which tracks personnel movements and the accompanying reports, and oversees Reset and Theater Retrograde operations.

NINE NATIONS, ONE BADGE: THE NORWEGIAN ROAD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. THOMAS DUVAL

Task Force Sinai

EL GORAH, Egypt - Measuring less than an inch and engraved with an infantryman, the Norwegian Road March Badge doesn't hold much monetary value. But that didn't stop service members from all over the world from paying for it with their blood, sweat and tears.

More than 70 participants from nine different nations, operating under the Multinational Force and Observers came together April 9, on North Camp, Sinai, Egypt striving to earn the coveted badge



by pushing their bodies to the limit across the Sinai's unforgiving terrain during a 30-kilometer ruck march.

"It's the worst ruck march. I have done in my life ... just horrible," Spc. Daniel Antwi, patient administration specialist with Medical Company, 1st Support

Battalion, Task Force Sinai, said. "I started to tell myself I'm not going to make it, but then I told myself I can't give up I have to make it."

In order to earn the foreign badge, each participant had to ruck the 30 kilometers carrying 11 kilograms on their backs and cross the finish line within the allotted time. To meet this time standard, the Soldiers sprinted from the starting line, eager to make their mark, but it wasn't long before the strides shortened and paces slowed as the environment and sheer distance took its toll on the ruck marchers.

"All the Soldiers are motivated at the start, but no one is really motivated after about 20 kilometers," Capt. Justin Bramblett, commander, explosive ordnance disposal, said. "Around lap three you start questioning, why did I wake up, why did I choose to do this, and then lap four you're numb, basically just falling forward."

The Norwegian Road March began in 1915 as a way for Norway's infantrymen to move from one point to another as part of a tactical advancement. There are three types of badges awarded, based on age and number of times successfully completed - bronze, silver and gold, said Norwegian Col. Olav Njos.

Bramblett, a Montana native, brought this concept and standard to North Camp.

Over the past two years the event has gained popularity and become one of the favorites



Spc. Travis Bulerski, a crew chief assigned to Aviation Company, 1st Support Battalion, Task Force Sinai, sprints to the finish line of a Norwegian Road March April 9 on North Camp, Sinai, Egypt. More than 70 service members from nine nations participated.





Spc. Ramon Urena-Martinez, an avionics mechanic assigned to Aviation Company, 1st Support Battalion, Task Force Sinai crosses 18.6 miles of Sinai terrain to compete in Norwegian Road March, April 9 on North Camp, Sinai, Egypt. More than 70 service members from nine different nations came together for the event.

among the different nations.

Most of the participants began preparing at least a month out and dedicated most of their free time training, Bramblett said.

Out of the 74 participants, 67 service members finished the blistering challenge, but only 65 accomplished the feat in the allotted time.

Antwi, a native of Africa, was one of the 65 to accomplish the challenge and received the bronze badge.

"I love to challenge myself ... I felt a little scared but I love ruck marching so I told myself, I'm going to get it," Antwi said. "It felt

great when I finally crossed the finish line."

In addition to being a personal accomplishment, the badge is one of the few that can be worn on the Army Service Uniform and is a unique military accomplishment.

Although he said he would recommend every Soldier try it at least once, Antwi admits that one time is enough and has no plans on 'putting his body through the pain' again.

Aaron Van Horn, a civilian observer with the MFO, crossed the finish line first with a time of 2 hours, 59 minutes. The current record in the Sinai is 2 hours, 46

minutes, set by Canadian Capt. Mike Mueller.

The Multinational Force & Observers is an independent peacekeeping organization which is headquartered in Rome and based in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Created by agreement between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Israel it is comprised of military members and from 13 nations. Australia, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Republic of the Fiji Islands, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United States and Uruguay contribute contingents to make up the MFO's force.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/TFS>
www.facebook.com/pages/Task-Force-Sinai-Best-in-the-Desert/



1ST TSC SHARP TEAM

In support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month 1st TSC Victim Advocates conducted a VA Field Trip around Fort Bragg area to educate themselves on services available for victims. They received briefings from the Womack SARC and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Both provided a detailed overview of what victims undergo when visiting the facility. The team gained a better understanding of how to provide sensitive care to victims.



The team also visited the Criminal Investigation Department and received a briefing about Forensic Examine Trauma Interviews. The team learned that the interviews are delicate situations to deal with and that this process can take many hours.

Speak Up! **A VOICE UNHEARD
IS AN ARMY DEFEATED**



SHARP

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

ARMY STRONG



Sexual Assault Awareness Month



I. A.M. STRONG



595th Transportation Brigade Team Colonel David Banian and Command Sergeant Major Kevin McKeller kicks off Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a cake cutting ceremony. The brigade has multiple events scheduled throughout the month of April in support of SAAM.

The Army's SHARP Program

- Is an integrated, proactive effort by the Army to end sexual harassment and sexual assault within its ranks
- Permeates the Army structure from the Pentagon down to the individual Soldier level
- Has full-time staff at brigade level and above
- Promotes cultural change across the Army with a vision toward a culture of discipline and respect in which Soldiers intervene in sexual harassment and sexual assault to protect one another
- Includes a comprehensive effort to educate leaders and Soldiers about sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Employs a concrete training program that teaches them to be alert to serial offender tactics, to intervene to stop incidents and disrupt offenders, and where and how to seek help.
- Provides commanders with the essential resources, education, and training they need to succeed in bringing an end to sexual harassment and sexual assault in the Army

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 5K Run



SHARP Our #1 Priority



COL Banian talks to the Soldiers after the run about the importance of the SHARP Program and the effects that sexual assault have on Soldiers and our Army.



COL Banian and CSM McKeller lead the SAAM Brigade Run



On 15 April 2014, the 595th TRANS BDE was led by the Command Team, COL David Banian and CSM Kevin McKeller, on a 5K run to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

STORY BY

SGT. 1ST CLASS JON CUPP

82nd SB-CMRE Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers working for and attached to the Portland, Maine-based 133rd Engineer Battalion, Maine Army National Guard, fill their days with deconstruction projects aimed at transforming and eventually transferring bases back to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

According to Pembroke, Maine native, Lt. Col. Dean Preston, commander, 133rd Eng. Bn., his battalion's mission is a unique one comprised of troops from both the Army National Guard and Reserves from eight different states and regions throughout the U.S.

"Our mission is significant in that we are a key element in re-sizing and re-shaping in the necessary footprint so we can eventually return bases to the Afghan National Army," said Preston, while explaining that his mission has been made

possible by the successful transition of security to the Afghan Security Forces. "It's a very interesting time in the history of Afghanistan and for our Army.

Preston said that, unlike other troops over the past 13 years in the combat zone who were sometimes working jobs that may not have been their specialty, his troops have been able to do jobs specific to their primary military occupational specialty and an engineer battalion.

"We've been fortunate here in that we've been building and deconstructing using engineer equipment which is a win for our troops as they're going to work and doing what they were trained to do," he said.

"Our battalion consists of two Reserve companies and four National Guard companies from Maine, New Jersey, Delaware, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Florida, so at first we thought it would be challenging having people from such diverse regions work together as sometimes we use different words for the same thing," added Preston. "In reality, we have had no real friction or issues due to where we come from. I describe it as being like building an airplane in flight as we met many of the units for the first time at a mobilization site in the U.S. and then built a great team with all the great people in it from the far north east to the south."

As part of the active-duty Army's 82nd Sustainment Brigade-U.S. Central Command Materiel Recovery Element, which is based out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the 133rd Eng. Bn. works to ensure buildings are prepped prior to deconstruction with all interior fixtures such as plumbing and electrical components removed. Once the preparation is done, the battalion can bring in heavy



FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan – Spc. Michael Hatfield, a horizontal construction engineer for the 858th Engineer Company, attached to the 133rd Engineer Battalion, operates a 22-ton crane while Spc. Michael Dement, also a horizontal construction engineer for the 858th, hooks and unhooks cable hooks to stage a concrete wall to be emplaced around a compound April 3. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. John Story, 858th Engineer Company)



machinery to tear down the structures.

Eventually, the battalion cleans up the site and clears off any debris, while also saving any reusable materials.

"We do projects to build berms, we deconstruct on several different forward operating bases throughout our area of operations, tear down b-huts, relocatable buildings, gyms and tents," said Preston. "Anything man-made that you can walk into we've torn down."

"We save reusable structures such as tents and can save some materials from building sites that can be given to locals," added Preston. "We've also had a few missions where we've been able to interact with the locals, building relationships with them. But we always try to make sure that anything reusable can be returned to the military system or given to Afghans so that we're not wasting anything when



possible which saves money in the long run."

Over the course of their nine-month deployment, the battalion has contended with several challenges.

One of the major challenges includes working long hours in the combat zone while being away from family, according to Preston.

"Overcoming that challenge all comes down to creative leadership and we have worked hard to ensure that we're actively engaged in everything from doing PT together to resiliency classes on finance, relationships, spirituality and finding ways that can get our troops away from a mundane routine or their work desk," Preston said.

One of the ways that the 133rd leadership has come up with to combat stress and to give the troops a little time away from the job site is to

hold a 133rd Olympics every Saturday.

"For about four hours, we chose to do a few activities that build teamwork, camaraderie and resiliency with events such as horseshoes, cribbage tournaments and sporting events that involve a little friendly competition," said Preston. "It gives the troops a chance to recharge their batteries and it's great to see that something so simple can have such a positive effect on the troops, bringing a smile to their faces."

When inclement weather such as rain storms during the rainy season in Afghanistan keep engineers away from their job sites, 133rd troops have found various ways to stay busy from doing wood work indoors to assisting with maintenance teams.

"No one goes and hides, they all go looking for things to do so we will engage our labor force in other manners if the weather isn't being cooperative," said Preston.

Continued on next page...



FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan – Ennis, Texas native, Pfc. Wesley Martin, a horizontal construction engineer for the Calhoun City, Miss. - based 858th Engineer Company, attached to the Portland, Maine-based 133rd Engineer Battalion, operates a 5-yard loader to emplace a barrier at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan April 3. (Photo by 2nd Lt. John Story, 858th Engineer Company)





BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Staff Sgt. Tito Stephen (left) of Okolona, Missouri, Sgt. Carlos Walker (center) of Saltillo, Missouri, both horizontal construction engineers and Louisville, Missouri native, Sgt. Lakendrick Coleman, a cannon crewmember, all with the Calhoun City, Miss.-based 858th Engineer Company, attached to the 133rd Engineer Battalion, supervise safety during the deconstruction of a housing unit at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan Jan. 21. (Photo by 1st Lt. Harry Corey, 858th Engineer Company)

With heavy equipment such as hydraulic excavators and loaders being used every day for long hours, machinery has to be constantly maintained.

“We inherited a fleet of machinery that didn’t just come off the assembly line and we’re working it hard,” said Preston. “Fortunately, we have a great maintenance crew who are a bunch of heroes in my eyes as they are always out chasing down parts and servicing the equipment, keeping their nose to grind stone without a complaint and ensuring the mission continues.”

As with any job on involving engineers and heavy equipment, safety is something the battalion focuses on each day, said Preston. “From the brigade to company levels, we have a great safety program, which in-

cludes training, situational awareness, safety noncommissioned officers at every job site and Soldiers who provide security at various sites when necessary,” said Preston. “We continually do inspections, give classes and talk to Soldiers about safety and ensure our troops are doing the right thing.”

With all the safety procedures they have emplaced, over the course of the deployment, the battalion has greatly decreased their number of accidents.

“The metrics support that we are doing the right thing,” he added. “Our strength is our Soldiers looking after other Soldiers.”

With his troops being part of the Army National Guard and Reserve components, Preston works with the 82nd SB-CMRE brigade and his companies to ensure his troops



ion and their companies which are sent to their employer so they can hear about all the great things their employee has accomplished while deployed.”

“We have set in place a Soldier strengthening program and we expect every member of the battalion who is a staff sergeant or below to have no less than three licenses on things such as bulldozers, hydraulic excavators and other equipment,” added Preston.

“So we really want to help them return home a lot stronger.”

As he looks back on the few months left for this deployment, Preston said his troops have not lost the motivation to accomplish the mission and take pride in what they do.

“You can see a pickup in energy as the weather has gotten warmer and as our guys have started to see the light at the end of tunnel and know where the finish line is, morale is as high as it’s ever been and we’re in a good place,” said Preston. “Everyone is pulling their own weight and you don’t see too many people who don’t have a smile on their face.”

“I think the best thing about the mission is that these troops get



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Newark, Delaware native, Spc. Devan Glaviano, a heavy equipment operator with the 150th Engineer Company, attached to the 133rd Engineer Battalion, receives instructions from his team leader Sgt. Jeffrey Maestas, also a heavy equipment operator with the 150th Eng. Co. from Newark, Del., during a deconstruction project at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan April 10. (Photo by Spc. Abimbola Makanjuola, 150th Engineer Company)

to show up as an engineer battalion no matter what their specialty and they’re the only ones who can do the engineer job and no one else can do what they do,” said Preston.

“They’ve taken the opportunity to serve their country and take pride in what they’ve accomplished. They can look back at what they’ve done here and know that they’ve made a significant contribution that will have a historical impact on the future of Afghanistan.”

Let's
TALK
about it.

May is National Mental Health Month
Open the lines of communication and take the first step towards recovery and overall resiliency.

armymedicine.mil



Communication gets a facelift

STORY AND PHOTOS BY

SGT. 1ST CLASS LUIS SAAVEDRA

10th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – There may be some people who don't think there are significant differences between a standard definition TV and a high definition one.

One can make an argument that some items get unnecessary upgrades, but when an upgrade

can assist with security, most Soldiers would welcome it.

Staff Sgt. Shantina M. Lowden, a native of Whitehall,

Pennsylvania, and a spectrum manager assigned to the 10th Sustainment Brigade, found a way to improve communication throughout Bagram using equipment readily available.

Lowden found out, during a meeting at Regional Command – East headquarters, there was talk about ordering equipment to improve their primary, alternate, contingency and



Staff Sgt. Shantina M. Lowden, a native of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, and a spectrum manager assigned to the 10th Sustainment Brigade, disassembles an antenna as part of a plan to upgrade the communication system at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Lowden works daily with a field service representative replacing antennas, running wires and testing land mobile radio systems to ensure everything worked as intended.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/10SBPAO>

<https://www.facebook.com/10thSustainmentBrigade>



emergency plan. It was an idea that would have taken time to implement but Lowden was able to step up and make a difference immediately.

She told leaders she had some equipment that would meet their requirement and that she would work on the existing infrastructure to ensure everything worked to standard.

“She took the initiative in coordinating with the civilian counterpart here,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Edward B. Mendez, electronics systems maintenance technician assigned to the 10th Mountain Division. “She put forth the effort to re-energize and revitalize the network by providing the proper preventive maintenance and care of the systems.”

She also found equipment identified to be sent back to the U.S. that she was able to use to improve communications for the first responders here.

“We were able to provide them with another means of communication,” said Lowden. “Some of the equipment was already in specific location but were not being utilized. We recycled them.”

She said it was a matter of knowing what to look and ask for and using it in a responsible and efficient manner.

Lowden worked daily with a field service representative replacing antennas, running wires and testing land mobile radio systems to ensure everything worked as intended.

“We wanted to make sure the communication system we gave them was up and running,” said Lowden.

The equipment replaced didn’t simply get tossed in a corner. Soldiers will still be able to use the re-



Staff Sgt. Shantina M. Lowden, a native of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, and a spectrum manager assigned to the 10th Sustainment Brigade, uses a bucket loader to assist in mounting an antenna to support a new communications platform at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

placed communication method as a backup if needed.

Although she did most of the coordination, she had assistance and was grateful.

“I would like to thank the Air Force guys for the support they gave us by setting up last-minute work orders,” said Lowden.

She also thanked the 10th Mountain Division and Command Sgt. Maj. Jose A. Castillo, 10th SBDE senior enlisted

leader, for assisting in coordination with outside agencies.

“Staff Sgt. Lowden is a great example of a Muleskinner taking care of Soldiers,” said Castillo. “She wasn’t tasked. She did it because she knew what she was doing and it supported Soldiers. When you have a Soldier who is willing to support others, even on their own time, let them do it; they might surprise you.”



Flight line liaisons link Army, Air Force to keep it all moving

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SUMMER BARKLEY

401st AFSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – There’s a saying that ‘no job is finished until the paperwork is done’ and when the job falls to the Redistribution Property Assistance Team, the final paperwork often means a flight manifest.

Equipment that is excess to a unit’s mission is turned in at a RPAT yard managed by one of the logistics task forces that fall under one of the two battalions of the 401st Army Field Sup-

port Brigade. The RPATs process equipment and prepare most of it to be transported to support Army missions. Most of the transportation is provided by the U.S. Air Force and the lynch pin between the Army and the Air Force comes in the person of the flight line liaison officer.

The LTF-BAF flight line LNOs are on the flight line whenever equipment is scheduled to be loaded for transport from Bagram Airfield. Equipment can be either rolling stock – mostly vehicles, or non-rolling stock – mostly palletized or in ‘kicker’ boxes. The LNOs

set the priorities for moving the equipment and Air Force personnel build the load plans and supervise loading and tie-down of equipment.

“My job is to make sure equipment is loaded with no issues,” said Capt. David E. McCormick, LTF-BAF flight line officer-in-charge. “The number one priority is to load equipment safely and securely.”

McCormick and Sgt. Ivan K. Lion, who will be the night flight line LNO, have the resources to reach out to battalion assets if there are problems with vehicles or getting them aligned. One recent mission involved a non-drivable vehicle that was being moved for repair. McCormick leveraged battalion assets to maneuver the vehicle so the air crew could load it.

The flight line LNO is on-hand from the time the aircraft is ready to be loaded until the ramp is closed. In addition to being present for every mission, the LNOs complete a twice daily inventory of all equipment staged in a holding area near the flight line. They are also present for joint inspections conducted by Army and Air Force personnel just prior to the missions. While most missions



Capt. David E. McCormick, Logistics Task Force Bagram, flight line officer-in-charge, stands near the ramp of a C-17 while AC-First contractors supporting Army Field Support Battalion-Bagram missions position vehicles to be loaded onto the waiting aircraft.



Capt. David E. McCormick, Logistics Task Force Bagram, flight line officer-in-charge, watches as an airman secures a piece of equipment that is being loaded onto an Air Force C-17 for transport.

are scheduled, there are occasions when a 'bird' has space for cargo. Whenever these 'opportunistic' missions are scheduled, there are occasions when a 'bird' has space have equipment staged and the most important in the for cargo. Whenever these ready to go on short notice. equipment management 'opportunistic' missions be- McCormick said he loves his process.



U.S. Soldiers, Kuwaitis play a game of basketball, build friendships

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. JENNIFER SPRADLIN

U.S. Army Central

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait – A basketball exhibition match at the Salwa Al Sabah Sports Center in Kuwait City, Kuwait, April 26, brought two nations together in friendly competition. Twelve U.S. Soldiers from Camp Arifjan took on the center’s all-female Kuwaiti team as they prepared for an upcoming tournament against other Gulf countries.

The two teams had never played against one another prior to the game. Spc. Alaina Drake,

said that she was both excited and nervous to see how their teams matched up. Drake, who played basketball throughout high school, welcomed the opportunity to participate in the event.

“Basketball is fun for me. I enjoy it, and this is an experience that not many people get

to be part of,” said Drake, a human resources specialist with the 406th Human Resources Company. “It’s nice to be around other women that enjoy doing the same thing you like to do.”

Drake, a Hawaii native, predicted a competitive game; which proved to be exactly what the audience and “Team USA” was in for.

The Kuwaiti team held a lead during the initial quarter, taking advantage of teamwork and speed to work around the size of the American players; however, the Soldiers soon found their own recipe for success with strong rebounding and layup skills. By halftime, they had amassed a 12-point lead.

Rather than letting the game slip away from them, the Kuwaiti team amped up their aggression and found ways to get to the free-throw line. The American lead was quickly slashed to two, with the Americans utilizing smart ball management and winding out the clock to clench the win. The final score: 43-41, favoring the Soldiers.

The game ended the way it began with players crossing the court to shake hands in a show of camaraderie and respect. Discussion quickly turned to making the matchup a regular event.

“We enjoyed it so much. It’s been so long since we had a game against a good girl’s team. We’ve been looking for a



Sgt. 1st Class Ashley Ikegwuonu, logistics noncommissioned officer in charge for the 595th Transportation Brigade, and a player from the Camp Arifjan basketball team, “Team USA,” protects the ball during a basketball match against the Salwa Al Sabah Sports Club team in Kuwait City, Kuwait, April 26. The match was an opportunity for the American Soldiers to build friendships with Kuwaitis and step outside their traditional military roles here. The Soldiers held on to win by a score of 43-41.





U.S. Soldiers from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, (in white jerseys), take on the Salwa Al Sabah Sports Club team in Kuwait City, Kuwait, April 26. The match was an opportunity for the American Soldiers to build friendships with Kuwaitis and step outside their traditional military roles here. The Soldiers held on to win by a score of 43-41.

team, and we were so glad to find a team [to play against],” said Laila Behbehani, a player on the Kuwaiti team. “I really hope we can do this again.”

Behbehani has played basketball for 14 years and will be heavily relied upon during their tournament next week. She said that the American team played solid, physical basketball, and she was really impressed with their performance. She also said that her team played well, citing their teamwork and their late-game comeback as positive momentum for their upcoming matches.

Sgt. 1st Class Demara Boone, the team coach and Installation Transportation Office noncommissioned officer in charge for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area Support Group -Kuwait, said he was pleased with the outcome of the game.

“Everyone enjoyed the game. It was a competitive game, but everyone had a good time during, before and after the game,” said Boone, who played in a similar match during a previous deployment to Kuwait in 2010. “I think this game boosts the morale of the players, and most importantly,

it helps strengthen our friendship with the host nation.”

Boone, who was instrumental in organizing the match and assembling the team, said sports are the perfect way to bridge the cultural divide and demonstrates a positive image of the U.S. military.

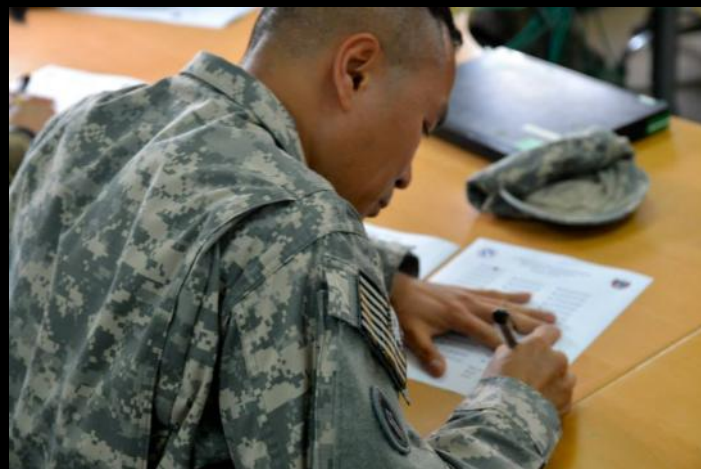
“We’re here in Kuwait, and we want to show them that we are happy to be here. We enjoy the game just like they enjoy it,” said Boone.

The Arifjan players will next participate in a four-team tournament during Mother’s Day weekend.

facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/1stTheaterSustainmentCommand>





2014 Best Warriors

Congratulations to Spc. Carl Arenberg, and Sgt. Steve Morales, winners of this year's 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) Best Warrior competition.

The Best Warrior competition is a five-day event that challenges every Soldier's mental and physical limitations with a variety of demanding contests. This year's competition was held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Read the full story at:
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/127024/1st-tsc-best-warrior-competition-leadership-and-values->



Bataan Death March

COURTESY STORY

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - 17 Soldiers of the 266th Financial Management Support Center participated in a grueling and demanding Road March which is well renowned and is known as "The Bataan Death March". The march consisted of two separate events, one being 12.5 miles and the other 26.2 miles. The history behind this significant event held annually at White Sands, New Mexico is that it began on April 9, 1942 and was the forcible transfer of Japanese Army of 60 - 80,000 Filipino and American prisoners of war after the three-month Battle of Bataan in the Philippines during World War II.

The POWs were forced to walk 80 miles under unbearable and inhumane conditions that resulted in very high fatalities upon prisoners.

The Bataan Memorial Death March started in 1989 in New Mexico, is a 26.2 mile march that honors the service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II.

It was a true honor for the Soldiers of the 266th FMSC to participate in the Memorial March that was sponsored by 54th Signal Battalion.

The day started earlier as the

participants lined up to at start line at 2 a.m. with their uniform and a 35-pound ruck to begin the 26.2 mile march around the perimeter of the entire base. As the sun began to rise in the desert, heat became a factor rising above 90 degrees, however, Soldiers of the 266th FMSC remained resilient in accomplishing the mission rucking on to the finish.

For more photos of the march go to www.facebook.com/pages/266th-Financial-Management-Support-Center-FMSC/564128400268956



A U.S. Soldier completes the Bataan Memorial March at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Seventeen Soldiers of the 266th Financial Management Support Center join others at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and participate in a grueling and demanding Road March which is well renowned and is known as "The Bataan Death March".

www.dvidshub.net/unit/1TSCPA

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www.flickr.com/photos/1sttsc

Air Force preps 2nd LEB Marines for CENTCOM mission

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SENIOR AIRMAN DESIREE W. MOYE

386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA - The 387th Air Expeditionary Squadron is preparing the Marine Corps 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion to assume the U.S. Central Command's Customs mission, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

The 387th AES, an Air Force unit, has held the mission, which includes inspecting Department of Defense personnel, vehicles and materials departing the CENTCOM area of responsibility destined for the United States, during a seven-month rotation.

The mission will now be handed over to the Marines of the 2nd LEB, assigned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina who have been training with the 387th Airmen on U.S. Customs and Border Clearance procedures.

"Any transiting DOD personnel, vehicles or cargo returning to the states must be in compliance with customs and border protection and U.S. Department of Agriculture standards," said Lt. Col. Dan Johnstone, commander of the 387th AES. "Everything essentially must be cleared through us."

Central Command made the decision to rotate this mission throughout the service branches which is

critical to the present transition taking place down-range.

The switch between the Airmen and Marines of the 387th and 2nd highlights the importance CENTCOM has placed on this customs mission.

"We are supporting the largest military transition operation since WWII.

Customs as a whole is a critical enabler to a massive logistics operation, without a doubt," Johnstone stated.

Regulations and guidelines of the USDA and DOD are designed to prevent agricultural hazards such as dirt, seeds, spiders and insects from entering the states and international ports.

The inspectors look for everything in and on the tactical vehicles from live ammunition to lost cell phones, then they are stripped of extra equipment such as radios and seats then tagged with a bar code tracking system.

Assuring vehicles meet the high standards; customs agents assigned to the decontamination wash rack ensure vehicles returning to the states are inspected at least three times. The inspection takes place prior to washing, during a quality check after the decontamination process, and to con-

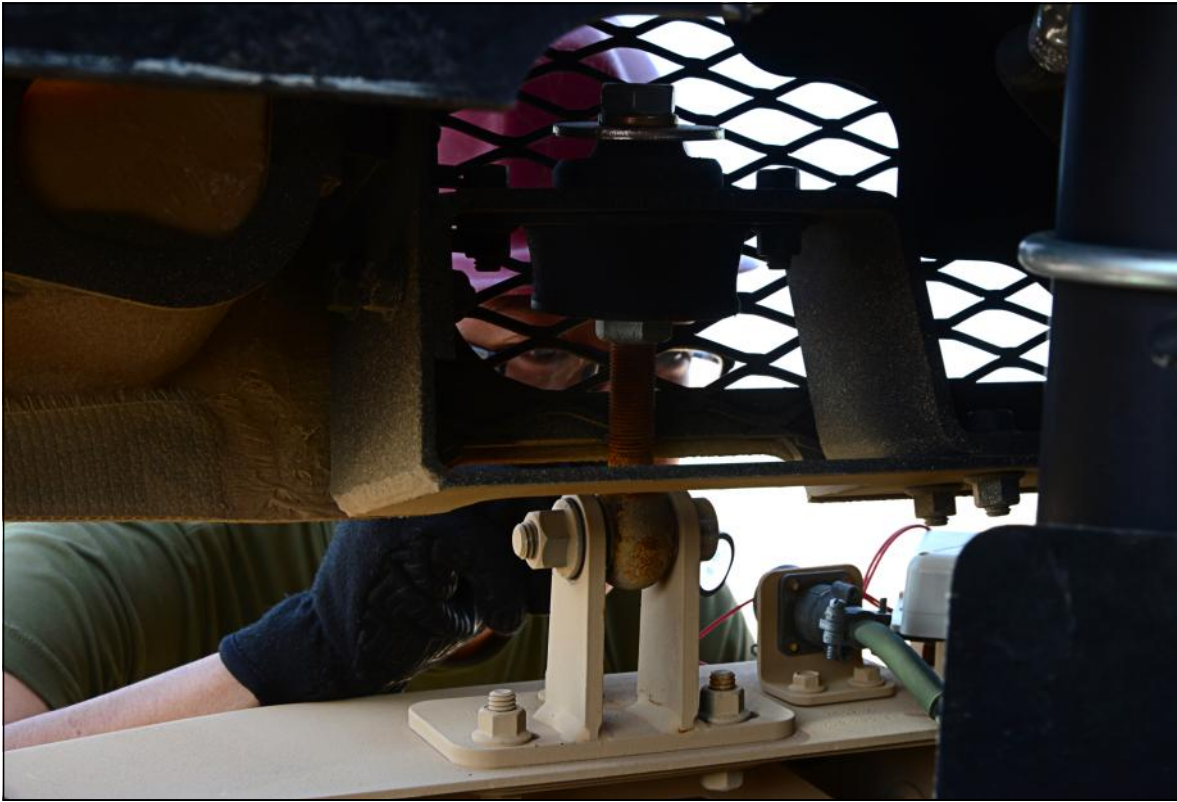


Master Sgt. Jose Diaz, 387th Air Expeditionary Squadron customs agent, trains Marine Cpl. Jason Pickard, a 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion customs agent, on total vehicle inspection procedures.

clude before they depart for the U.S., according to Master Sgt. Jose Diaz a 387th AES customs agent.

Also serving as a large part of the mission success are the Gateway Customs Terminal operations agents, who handle inspections on the passenger side.

Their primary mission is to verify all gear is cleared of prohibited items and passengers are not storing illegal objects. Once all inspections are complete, paperwork is signed and stamped with an official customs seal that certifies the item has been



Marine Lance Cpl. Christopher Nguyen, a 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion customs agent, inspects a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle for dirt and insects prior to its relocation to a storage yard at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. The 2nd LEB, assigned to Camp Lejeune, N.C., assists in a variety of missions including customs operations.

properly inspected. containers and nearly 19,000

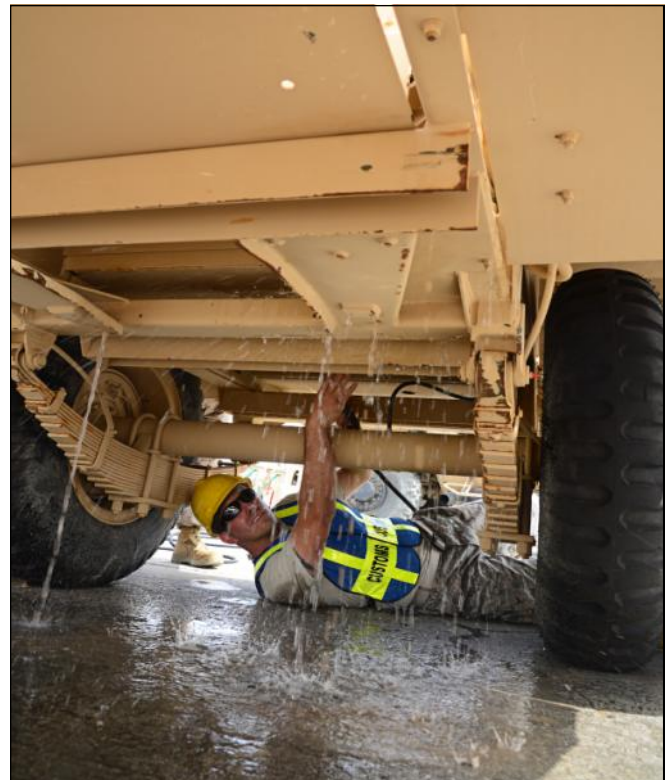
For the past few weeks, personnel across the AOR in the current 387th AES agents a six-and-a-half-month time have trained the frame. According to Johnstone, these are just a few highlights completed by this highly praised squadron head-

Continuity at each work i n g o u t . station and established people “We have reached the very end of our training here with the Air Force agents,” said Cpl. Jason Pickard, 2nd LEB customs agent. “We are eager to take over the mission here and surpass the rotations accomplishments, as awesome as they are.”

“We can process upwards of 500 personnel in one day,” said McDonald. “This unit was a well-oiled machine and from my observation, these sharp Marines will keep it t h r i v i n g ! ”

The 387th AES cleared more than 5,000 tactical vehicles, 5,500 shipping

The 2nd LEB assists in a variety of missions that include law enforcement, route regulation, humanitarian assistance, nonlethal weapons training, military working dog employment and now customs operations.



Tech. Sgt. Jacob Phillips, a 387th Air Expeditionary Squadron, customs agent, removes agricultural hazards from a generator during a vehicle decontamination.



TRAIN HARD, FIGHT EASY

PHOTO AND STORY BY
SGT. JUSTIN A. SILVERS

3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

Standing at a lean 6 foot 1 inch tall, Sgt. Richard Cole's stature is not an overwhelming presence; however, in a room full of Soldiers, Cole's energetic personality stands out amongst the crowd.

That same energetic personality can be found on the mat, as Cole explodes with fierceness and precision that would make even the largest of men weary.

Cole, who is currently serving as a member of the principal security detail with the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in Kabul, Afghanistan, is an avid practitioner of Army combatives. His experience dates back to November 2010 when Cole participated in combatives for the first time with the 41st Fires Brigade based out of Fort Hood, Texas. Cole said that experience motivated him to continue doing combatives.

"The experience taught me that I didn't need a weapon to feel secure," said Cole. "I didn't have to think that just because someone was bigger than me that I was defenseless or I had no chance."

After successfully putting two of his noncommissioned officers to sleep during his first combatives experience, Cole's first sergeant recommended he join their combatives team. After joining the team Cole went on to participate in his first tournament.

Cole entered his first tournament in January of 2011, and while his impressive 6-2 record didn't earn him first place, he was determined to improve himself.

"Our coach was big on one style which was Jujitsu, but I

couldn't win just based of Jujitsu; I had to evolve," said Cole. "When I lost I went to another coach and had to evolve into a wrestler and then into a boxer."

In addition to learning new techniques, Cole also managed a healthier diet. His determination and experience paid off the following year when he entered his second combatives tournament.

"I had a lot of downtime to train; I had a better diet and was able to cut 15 pounds in three days," said Cole. "I rehydrated and put on 25 pounds within 24 hours. Walking into the tournament I was already 10 to 15 pounds heavier than my opponent, giving me a weight advantage, in addition to my vast knowledge of techniques."

Cole successfully bested eight different opponents and secured first place in the tournament. Cole said the victory felt unreal.

"The installation is so big, to be able to say you're the number one person in that weight class for that sport; first you have bragging rights, secondly it's an unreal feeling," said Cole.

While Cole has invested an immense amount of time and energy into his training, he had had many mentors who helped him along the way. One such mentor that had stood out to Cole was Command Sgt. Maj. Edgar Fuentes.

"Fuentes was my first coach in the hand to hand combatives program," said Cole. "He knew how to teach and develop Soldiers, what to say and how to say



Sgt. Richard Cole, an all wheel mechanic, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), puts Sgt. 1st Class Steven Barthmaier, the senior human resources noncommissioned officer with the 3d ESC, in an arm bar during combatives training April 15 at the New Kabul Compound, Afghanistan.

it. He wouldn't just coach from the sideline; he would actually get in there and teach you something."

Fuentes, who is now serving with the 2-82 Field Artillery, 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, said he remembered training with Cole.

"Sgt. Cole to me was a coach's dream, easy to coach, never scared of trying something new and a good listener," said Fuentes. "Many times he was in the middle of a fight, and when I wanted him to do something, he executed exactly what he was instructed to do. But more than anything he had the potential of being a great fighter and a great Soldier."





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1st Theater Sustainment Command

Black Jack EXPRESS



In air, on land: 1st TSC Soldiers practice sling load training at Fort Bragg, N.C. For more photos of this training, visit the 1st TSC [Flickr](#) page.