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AND MUCH MORE!



Crewmen with 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division conducted weapons zero and function testing Nov. 25, 2015 near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Issue 4, October 2015

Informing the Dagger Community on the issues and events throughout the brigade

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2ABCT Commander
Col. Miles Brown



2ABCT Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Ed Alvarado

2ABCT Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Orvis

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2ABCT Public Affairs NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Tamika Dillard

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‘Daggers’ Brigade Assumes Theater Security Cooperation, Partnership Mission



The command teams from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo. (left), and 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan., stand in formation after casing and uncasing their respective brigade colors, Nov. 5, 2015. The “Iron” brigade of 3rd ABCT, 4th Infantry Division, has served at Camp Buehring since February 2015 and now passes mission responsibilities onto the “Dagger” brigade of 2nd ABCT, 1st Infantry Division.

Staff Sgt. Tamika Dillard
2ABCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait

- The Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, led by Col. Miles Brown and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Orvis, assumed responsibility of the theater security cooperation and partnership mission from the Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Nov. 5, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The transfer of authority ceremony signifies the “Dagger” brigade’s commitment to its partners in increasing partner capabilities while fostering professional and personal relationships between the U.S. and partnered nations.

The brigade will remain an indispensable tool for building long-standing military-to-military relationships in the U.S. Army Central’s areas of responsibility.

During the ceremony, Brown and Orvis uncased their unit’s colors as Col. Gregory Sierra, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Sims, 3rd ABCT, 4th Infantry Division, cased their unit colors. Maj. Gen. Paul C. Hurley Jr., deputy commanding general of sustainment, USARCENT and 1st Theater Sustainment Command commanding general, was the reviewing officer for the ceremony.

“This ceremony gives us a chance to reflect on the

outstanding performance of the 3rd ABCT, wish them farewell and thank them for a job well done,” said Hurley. “It also gives a chance to honor the 2nd ABCT as they carry on the torch of providing combatant commanders a versatile, responsive and consistently available Army force to meet requirements across a range of military operations in the region. Each brigade will write another chapter in their storied history.”

Soldiers of the Dagger brigade have conducted extensive training over the past two years in preparation for this deployment; from training and building long-lasting partnered relationships while conducting more than 150 missions in Africa as the Army’s first regionally aligned brigade to conducting two decisive action training environment

rotations at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. The BCT is ready and capable to assume this mission.

“The Dagger brigade is no stranger to Southwest Asia,” said Brown. “Multiple operational and combat deployments adorn our battle-tested colors. As we enter into this mission, we would like to thank the Iron brigade for a world-class relief in place that began back in May and has continued ever since.”

This day not only signifies the brigade’s footprint in theater but brings its history back to the future.

“On this day, we remember our orders, as Gen. Pershing instructed this brigade in 1917, ‘Pay particular attention to detail, embrace rigor and strive for uncomplaining obedience.’”

In closing the ceremony, Brown added, “We are ready now – to be brave, responsible and on point for the nation.”



Two Kuwaiti Land Forces senior officers observe the transfer of authority between 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Nov. 5 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The “Dagger” brigade will spend the next nine months conducting joint-training exercises and increasing military-to-military partnerships throughout Southwest Asia.



Col. Miles Brown, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Orvis, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, uncased their unit’s colors Nov. 5 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The “Dagger” brigade’s Soldiers will work closely with its regional partners over the next nine months to increase partner capability while fostering long-standing military-to-military relationships.

CREW Course Prepares ‘Dagger’ Soldiers for Counter-IED Fight



Sgt. Jacob Butcher, a squad leader for Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, troubleshoots the DUKE version 3 system, Sept. 11 during the testing portion of the Counter Radio-Controlled IED Electronic Warfare Specialist Certification, or CREW, training course at the Tactical Support Center on Fort Riley, Kansas. Butcher was one of more than 50 “Dagger” brigade Soldiers to successfully pass the 40-hour, two-week course.

By Staff Sgt. Tamika Dillard
2ABCT Public Affairs

FORT RILEY, Kan. - During the month of September, more than 50 Soldiers from different units and military occupational specialties throughout the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, enhanced their capabilities to combat radio controlled explosive devices at the post’s Tactical Support Center.

The Counter Radio-Controlled IED Electronic Warfare Specialist Certification, or CREW, training course prepares students to fight the war against radio controlled improvised explosive devices, said Staff Sgt. Thomas Connolly, the electronic warfare noncommissioned officer for 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div.

“The course gives Soldiers the knowledge and the skills to be a functional CREW company specialist,” the Kentucky native added. “These Soldiers will go on to be the CREW systems subject matter experts for their company commanders.”

The Soldiers trained on the three main systems they will use for their upcoming deployments throughout the Southeast Asia region. The 40-hour course covered training on the DUKE V3,

THOR III and BALDR systems.

“This course has enhanced my capabilities as an infantryman,” said Sgt. Jacob Butler, a squad leader for Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “I feel that although I am a squad leader, there is more that I could do so I requested this course.”

“I will take the knowledge and training received from this course to ensure that all systems are working properly before, during and after mission.” “If the systems were to go down, I will be about to troubleshoot it and put the company back into the fight ... avoiding being potentially hit by an improvised explosive device.”

Connolly added that being able to train these Soldiers and get them certified ensures ensured the CREW systems within the companies were up-to-date and ready to go rather than having to wait 30 days or more for an electronic warfare Soldiers.

“This training saves the unit money in the long run,” Connolly said. “The units will not have to worry about spending money to have a EWO person flown out to their location neither will they need to worry about halting missions. Having a

CREW Course Prepares ‘Dagger’ Soldiers for Counter-IED Fight, Cont.

trained CREW specialist keeps them consistently in the fight.”

Butcher, a Springfield, Missouri, native took full advantage of the training.

“I have stepped up for my company to be responsible for ensuring the safety of every Soldier within the company that steps foot outside of the wire while we are deployed,” Butcher said. “This is my contribution to the fight.”

Connolly encouraged the students to treat their systems like they treat their weapons.

“Treat your systems like you do your Weapon. “Your DUKE is your weapon, your firmware is your magazine and your threat load is your ammo,” Connolly said. “Don’t leave home without it.”



Sgt. Jacob Butcher, a squad leader for Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, troubleshoots the DUKE version 3 system, Sept. 11 during the testing portion of the Counter Radio-Controlled IED Electronic Warfare Specialist Certification, or CREW, training course at the Tactical Support Center on Fort Riley, Kansas. Butcher was one of more than 50 “Dagger” brigade Soldiers to successfully pass the 40-hour, two-week course.

'Daggers' Arrive; Prepare to Take on Kuwaiti Partnership Mission

Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, "Daggers," arrived at Camp Buehring, Sept. 13, 2015. The brigade will work closely with its Kuwaiti partners over the next 9 months to increase partner capability while fostering close professional and personal relationships between the U.S. and Kuwait and remain an indispensable tool for building long-standing military-to-military relationships.



By Staff Sgt. Tamika Dillard
2ABCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - With less than two weeks on Kuwaiti sand, the Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division are conducting reception, staging, onward movement and integration, or (RSOI), as they prepare to take on the Kuwait mission from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in a transfer of authority ceremony set for early next month.

"Reception and integration training is one of the most important tasks we conduct," U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Michael Hall, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd ABCT senior noncommissioned officer said. "During this period, Soldiers will learn about their area of operations and get the opportunity to hone those core combat skills necessary to keep them in the fight."

The RSOI process for the Dagger brigade includes right-seat ride and left-seat ride with their 3rd ABCT, 4th Inf. Div., counterparts as well as U.S. Army Central's theater specific training in counter improvised explosive devices or (C-IED), Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer or (HEAT), driver's training and range safety.

More than 100 Soldiers experienced the HEAT

trainer course this past week. Five Soldiers wearing helmets, body armor, combat gloves and eye protection entered a shell that replicated the interior of a standard Humvee. Once the occupants were strapped in, the doors locked and the operator kicked in the hydraulics, sending the HEAT spinning from a 30-degree angle to a 180-degree angle replicating a vehicle rollover.

"The HEAT is designed to show Soldiers what it's like to be in a vehicle roll over either from an accident or an IED [improvised explosive device] attack," U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Adam Johnson, the training room noncommissioned officer for HHC, 2nd ABCT said. "The training teaches Soldiers the best way to survive a vehicle rollover...ultimately saving both his/her life as well as the lives of everyone in the vehicle."

Johnson added, "Soldiers must work together to ensure that everyone gets out safely and quickly."

"This is what all our training is about," added Hall. "Educating our Soldiers, from private to colonel, and providing them the right tools to effectively shoot, move and communicate no matter the situation they may encounter."

These Soldiers will continue RSOI training until next month's transfer of authority ceremony. Upon completion of the ceremony, joint-training

exercises will begin with their Kuwaiti partners.

The brigade will work closely with its Kuwaiti partners for the upcoming nine months to increase partner capability while fostering close professional and personal relationships between the U.S. and Kuwait and remain an indispensable tool for building long-standing military-to-military relationships.

“We look forward to working with our Kuwaiti partners to help ensure peace while promoting security and stability in the region,” said Maj. Douglas F. Baker, the executive officer of 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. Our partnership activities and shared training exercises will provide valuable bilateral military training to all participating service members while strengthening tactical proficiency in critical mission areas.”



Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, experienced the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer or (HEAT), Oct. 16, 2015 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait as part of their reception, staging, onward movement and integration, or (RSOI) training. “The HEAT is designed to show Soldiers what it’s like to be in a vehicle roll over either from an accident or an IED [improvised explosive device] attack,” U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Adam Johnson, the training room noncommissioned officer for HHC, 2nd ABCT said. “The training teaches Soldiers the best way to survive a vehicle rollover ... ultimately saving both his/her life as well as the lives of everyone in the vehicle.”

'Dagger' Soldiers Participate in First Accredited Kuwaiti Marathon



By Sgt. Dana Moen
2ABCT Public Affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait. – Fitness is an Army staple with physical training conducted most every morning, even while deployed to Kuwait. The ability to complete a 26.2 mile marathon with short notice speaks volumes about the fitness level maintained by 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers.

Twelve 'Dagger' Soldiers, currently conducting theater security cooperation operations at Camp Buehring, participated in Kuwait's first accredited full road race known as the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon Nov. 14. The Association of International Marathons and Distance Races certified the 10KM, 21KM and 42KM courses so any world records achieved can be recognized by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Yantis, an intelligence officer with D Co., 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. is no stranger to running marathons but knows that it takes time to prepare for one.

Twelve Soldiers with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division show off their awards after participating in the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon Nov. 14 at Kuwait City, Kuwait. The run began at Souq Sharq (The Mall), proceeded along Gulf Road, past the Kuwait Towers, Souq Mubarakiya (Market Al-Mubarakiya) and other prominent historic and cultural landmarks.

"I usually do a 12 week train-up for a marathon," Yantis said. "Before receiving the invite, I was running only 5 to 6 miles once to twice a week."

The run began at Souq Sharq (The Mall), proceeded along Gulf Road, past the Kuwait Towers, Souq Mubarakiya (Market Al-Mubarakiya) and other prominent cultural and historic landmarks. The date of the race coincided with World Diabetes Day to raise awareness of how exercise and fitness play a role in combating the growing problem of diabetes in Kuwait.

"Running a marathon is one of the most physically challenging things I've ever done," said 1st Lt. Chase Scheidemantel, executive officer with D Co, 82nd Eng. Bn., "You've got to keep your body fit to keep your mind fit."

Yantis and his fellow runners were grateful for the opportunity to run in a foreign country.

"It was great to have the chance to run

a marathon outside the US," Yantis said. "It was an awesome course and we had a lot of fun running past many of the Kuwaiti historic and cultural landmarks."

Yantis finished the marathon in 29th place with a time of 4:22 while four other Dagger Soldiers completed the full marathon, with the rest running in the 10K due to lack of available slots.

"A marathon is 50% physical and 50% mental," Yantis said. "The hardest part is forcing yourself to keep going." 🏆



Marathoner 2nd Lt. Chase Scheideman, executive officer with D Co. 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., crosses the finish line during the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon Nov. 14 at Kuwait City, Kuwait. The marathon was the first full road race in Kuwait accredited by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races so that world records can now be recognized.





Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness

By Capt. Tineal Suggs & 1st. Sgt Casey Ralls
HHC, 299 BSB

High-speed Army training! The Soldiers of HHC got the amazing opportunity to participate in some unique hands-on training with before their deployment to Kuwait. This training is going to help the Soldiers gain the tools to keep morale high in a deployed environment.

The Soldiers of HHC participated in the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) program presented by the Army Wellness Center, taught over the course of 3 weeks. But what exactly is Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness?

Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) is designed to build resilience and enhance performance of the Army family, Soldiers, their families and Army Civilians. CSF2 does this by providing hands on training and self-development tools so that members of the Army family are better able to cope with adversity, perform better in stressful situations, and thrive in life.

CSF2 is an integral part of the Army's Ready and Resilient Campaign, a campaign that promotes physical and psychological fitness and encourages personal and professional growth. This results in an improved unit readiness and better lives.

CPT Tineal Suggs, HHC Commander, had a distinct purpose when scheduling the Headhunters to participate in CSF2 training prior to our deployment to Kuwait. CPT Suggs wanted to provide tools for our fellow Headhunters by helping them create manageable, sustainable, and attainable goals while providing the necessary tools to manage and cope with stress. CSF2 also incorporated skills to help our Headhunters grow as a unit in a non-military way and environment.

SFC Lewis brings a unique perspective to our organization as a prior instructor of CSF2, "In my opinion the CSF2 class was awesome! I think it was done at the right time. It brought the Soldiers and Leaders together instilling trust and understanding of what it takes to build a team. After talking to several Soldiers and being in the class with them I've learned more about them than I knew just within a working relationship. I do believe that knowing each other is the foundation of building a team. This also allows us as leaders and battle buddies to understand when Soldiers are having a bad day and also helps to recognize what may be suicidal behavior. I think this class is also worth doing post-deployment. It will help Soldiers and their family members understand each other more after the deployment is over." 🇺🇸



Atlas Company Kid's Day



By 2nd Lt. Burtner
A Co, 299 BSB

Prior to Atlas Company, 299 BSB departing for Kuwait, we wanted to do a capstone partnership event with Enterprise Elementary School. We decided to model this after the very successful Lifeline Kids Day that took place in August for the children of the Lifeline Battalion.

Over 90 students of Enterprise Elementary School came out to visit our motorpool at Fort Riley on October 8, 2015. Once they got off of the school buses, 1SG Sydnor got them in a quasi-formation that mirrored the Company formation. The first step to getting them prepared to shadow a Soldier for the day was to swear them in as a Honorary Soldier for the day, give them a set of PV2 rank, and to have the students sign their Honorary Enlistment Certificate.

Next, they were broken up into 10-15 man squads by grade level and introduced to the pair of Soldiers that would act as their Squad Leaders as they moved between six different stations that would expose them to various aspects of Soldiering.

The first station was M249 Squad Automatic Weapon familiarization, the students got to take aim at paper zombie targets, look through iron sights, CCOs, and ACOGs. Additionally,

if they desired they could try on an IOTV and ACH.

The next station was NVG familiarization. In the blackened out conference; students experienced looking through PVS-14s and using them to identify objects around the room. Once they exited, they had to recite what the objects they had seen.

To give the students a broader experience of what a Brigade Support Battalion could do, we reached out to Bravo and Charlie Companies and had them provide a M88A1 Hercules and a M113 FLA as static displays.

Charlie Company also had a few medics on hand to show the students how to treat injuries, which they very much enjoyed.

Nearby the tracked vehicles, we stationed a M1120 Load Handling System and Hippo as a water point and to show them one more aspect of the Army. The next station was a forklift demonstration, where a 10K ATLAS Forklift demonstrated its' full range of capabilities with the expandable boom, and tilt capabilities.

The last station was a M1151A1 HMMWV static display, and also a short ride around part of the motor pool. The last station was a team Skedco litter race on the PT field.

Finally, we brought the entire school into the Battalion classroom and gave them a sampling of Army field chow. The reactions to which were a bit mixed. Some students really loved it, while others were looking forward to going home for dinner.

After lunch was complete, the teachers and students presented the company with a multipart banner which read "We <3 our 299 BSB Soldiers!" The students had also



Atlas Company Kid's Day, Cont.

decorated and signed it. Lastly, prior to their departure we took a group photo with all the Soldiers and students.

At the beginning of the day, you could tell that the Soldiers were a bit unsure if they were going to enjoy working with elementary students all day. However, within 30 minutes of the start of the activities they were really getting into it, and by the time lunch was over, the Soldiers were sad to see the children leave. ▾





Crimson Knights Clash at Crimson Challenge



By 1st Lt. Lehmkuhle
C Co, 299 BSB

It's 0600 at the Air Assault obstacle course, still dark on a cool late September morning. Most units are just arriving for morning physical training but Charlie Company 299th Brigade Support Battalion is formed up into teams receiving an Operations Order for their 3rd Crimson Challenge in three months.

The Soldiers are motivated and developing their teams plan for how to tackle the many tasks and obstacles awaiting them. They know in less than an hour that only one team will be declared winner of the challenge.

In an effort to boost company morale and built esprit de corp Charlie Company developed their Crimson Challenge. This was the 3rd running of the challenge, which is scheduled to occur monthly.

Utilizing the 8-step Military Decision Making Process, leaders of Charlie Company have planned, prepared, executed and revised their challenge with different challenges at each successive running.

All personnel are involved in the process and events are chosen by the previous challenge winners. So far the challenge seems to be a

success and has become increasingly complex with each successive running.

The last challenge warranted a visit from 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Commander, COL Miles Brown, who recognized Charlie Company's Commander and First Sergeant with the Army Commendation Medal for their role in implementing the Crimson Challenge and for "being awesome."

The company hopes to continue the tradition of the challenge during their upcoming deployment to Kuwait. Future evolution of the challenge hope to include participation from other companies in an order to increase awareness of the challenge.

Events at the last Crimson Challenge included a shotgun start obstacle course with the addition of a written test of some basic warrior skills (donning of a protective mask and litter carries).

Each event was timed and total time was included as a separate event with time penalties for team members unable to complete obstacles.

Results were announced at an Organizational Day at Moon Lake. SPC Connor Pickens was a member of the winning team and named



Crimson Knights Clash at Crimson Challenge, Cont.

Crimson Challenge MVP. He was presented with a Company Coin for his role and lower enlisted members of the team were awarded with a late work call later in the week.

When asked about the challenge the winning team leader, SSG Scott Herrington, replied, "The competition definitely increased the motivation of the Soldiers as well as challenged every Soldier's physical fitness and endurance. Every Soldier wanted to win and pushed themselves during the competition. I look forward to the next challenge and hope to continue the tradition." 🏆





Bravo Bandits

Company Clean Sweep

Bravo Company, 299th Brigade Support Battalion conducted a clean sweep operation in order to appropriately turn in excess equipment prior to deploying. This operation was assigned to the Field Maintenance platoon as a leader development tool for the platoon leader and platoon sergeant in understanding the stewardship required with Army property and how to turn things in correctly when excess is identified. The operation was supported by the company XO and 1SG throughout the duration, while select members were forward in Kuwait.



The clean sweep mission started with the identification of excess equipment in multiple areas of the footprint. Next, the platoon laid out all equipment and executed a joint inventory with the supply clerk to obtain NSNs and begin the paperwork process to turn the equipment into DRMO

The overall cost of the equipment totaled over \$129,000 and will be used to fill required shortages across the Army. 🏆



Company Training

The company simultaneously executed a Battalion Range Density. The Bravo Bandits planned, coordinated and executed ranges on the M2 (.50 Caliber Machine Gun), M240B (7.62 MM Machine gun), and the M249 (5.56 Squad Automatic Weapon). Overall the company trained and qualified over 40 personnel from four companies across the Battalion. The Non-Commissioned Officers on the range not only executed lane safety duties, but also provided preliminary marksmanship instruction to the Soldiers who were un-trained previously on the weapon system.



This attention to detail and professional knowledge was key to the safe and doctrinally correct qualification of all personnel who fired. The actions of the company are in keeping with being the most “Lethal Support Battalion in the United States Army” as stated by Colonel Brown (Dagger 6). This is an identity, and a mentality that our Soldiers live every day and always strive to achieve in training. 🏆



Part IV: A Brief Departure, then Return to the 1st Infantry Division and Service in the Balkans

Part of a series on the history of the 1-7 FA

The 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery was inactivated at Fort Riley on 25 March 1983, ending 66 years of continuous service with the 1st Infantry Division.

On 24 September 1986, the battalion was reactivated as an element of the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York. During its service with the 10th Mountain Division, the battalion deployed soldiers in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in support of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions.

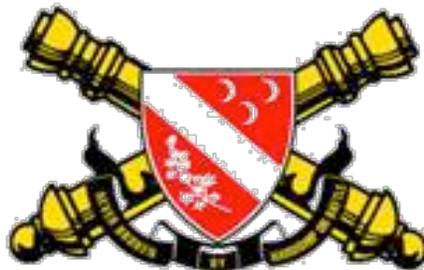
The battalion also provided elements in support of Operations RESTORE HOPE in Somalia, aided in the relief of Florida after Hurricane Andrew, and secured Haiti during Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. The battalion inactivated at Fort Drum in December 1995.

The 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery returned to the 1st Infantry Division on 16 February 1996 and activated in Schweinfurt, Germany. The battalion took the nickname of "First Lightning" because of

the long-line of firsts achieved by the unit throughout its history.

In September 1996 the battalion deployed with the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR/JOINT GUARD. For its outstanding service, the battalion was awarded the Army Superior Unit Award.

The battalion returned to the Balkans on 24 June 1999 as part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in support of Operation JOINT GUARDIAN II in the province of Kosovo, former Republic of Yugoslavia. During this operation, the battalion again made history on 30 July 1999 as Alpha Battery fired the first artillery rounds in hostile action in the Balkans in support of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry. On 4 August 1999 the battalion fired in support of the 13th Russian Tactical Group (Airborne) marking the first time since World War II that an American artillery unit fired in support of a Russian army unit. 🇺🇸





“First Lightning” In Action

Soldiers and Leaders of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery welcomed their fellow Artillerymen from the British Royal Artillery to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 30, 2015. The visit included a capabilities brief of the American artillery, vehicle static display and lunch with “First Lightning” Soldiers.





Vehicle Gunnery Sharpens Lethality



By Sgt. Youtoy Martin
19th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - Vehicle crews from 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division practiced firing machine guns from moving Humvees during a vehicle gunnery exercise here, Nov. 14-22.

The ‘Dagger’ brigade Soldiers mounted M240 Squad Automatic Weapons and M2 50-caliber machine guns to their Humvees and worked on marksmanship and maneuver during a series of day and night qualification scenarios to maintain readiness.

“This gunnery allows us to have qualified crews that are trained and capable on their individual weapons platform,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Knutt, a master gunner with 1-18th Inf. Regt. and native of Cando, North Dakota. “This gets the crews familiar with the capabilities and ranges of the weapons system that they have.”

Sgt. Victor Mathow with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, performs a functions check on a M2 .50-caliber machine gun mounted in the turret of a Humvee during a vehicle gunnery exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 17. The gunnery aims to qualify individual crews on their primary weapon systems, the M240 and the M2 50-caliber machine guns. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Youtoy Martin, 19th Public Affairs Detachment, USARCENT Public Affairs)

The Soldiers have completed several iterations and scenarios that helped them improve their shooting confidence on an unstable platform.

“The tables that we run will certify us a crew,” said 2nd Lt. Philip Dennis, of Indianapolis and the platoon leader of 1st Platoon, B Company. “There are additional tables that will be conducted to certify each section, platoon and company.”

During the training, an evaluator sits-in and ensures that the crew is maintaining safety standards, effectively engaging targets and communicating properly, said Dennis.

“This training helps us improve our proficiency in using our weapons as well as maneuvering our vehicles while employing the weapons at the same time,” said Dennis. “It focuses us on maintaining our lethality.”

For Spc. Erick Peterson, a gunner with 1-18 Inf. Regt. and native of Cassville, Missouri, shooting from a Humvee was a new experience.



Vehicle Gunnery Sharpens Lethality, Cont.

“It’s nice being the gunner, I love it,” said Peterson. “It’s completely different trying to shoot from the Humvee as it goes over bumps. For some of us, it’s our first time shooting from a vehicle, so this is really good training. It was definitely a lot bumpier out there than I thought it would be.”

Leaders from 1-18 Inf. Regt. developed the training to concentrate on readiness and Soldier skills.

“The primary focus is really two-fold,” said Capt. Robert Deppa, commander of D Company, 1-18 Inf. Regt. “One is to get our gunners and vehicle commanders to gain confidence in using the weapons, both at day and night. Second it aids in (training) our mission essential task of moving to contact.”

“We are qualifying crews so that they are trained and proficient to go out and maneuver anywhere in the area of operations when called upon,” said Deppa. “The ultimate result is a lethal company capable of going anywhere in the area of responsibility and effectively engaging the enemy.”



From left to right) Sgt. Joseph Ray, Spc. Luis Jimenez, and Sgt. Michael Hall, with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, load a 50-cal machine gun, mounted to the turret of a Humvee, during a vehicle gunnery exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 18. The gunnery aims to qualify individual crews on their primary weapon systems, the M240 and the M2 50-caliber machine guns. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Youtoy Martin, 19th Public Affairs Detachment, USARCENT Public Affairs)



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment line up their Humvees before a vehicle gunnery exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 16. The gunnery aims to qualify individual crews on their primary weapon systems the M240 and the M2 50-caliber machine guns. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Youtoy Martin, 19th Public Affairs Detachment, USARCENT Public Affairs)



A Message from Vanguard 6

The Vanguards are definitely not in Kansas anymore, Toto!!! Sorry everyone, I had to say it. Over the last two weeks most of the battalion completed the 7,177 mile journey from beautiful Fort Riley, KS and the home of the “Big Red One” and safely arrived at Camps Buehring and Camps Arifjan, Kuwait ready to support the critical mission of assured access to US Forces and their allies throughout the region. Over the past month, we successfully integrated our Soldiers to the new mission. Words cannot express how proud I am of the professionalism demonstrated by the Vanguards since we arrived and conducted a Relief in Place with 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment (Silver Lions) from 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson. Special thank you to the 1-68 Armor Leadership for setting us up for success going forward. Our Soldiers are trained and ready to answer the call to support any contingency throughout Central Command’s Area of Responsibility by land, sea or air. The Vanguards readiness is a direct result of the months of preparation, tough, mission-focused training, and dedication to our profession of arms. All of which would not be possible without the unwavering support and commitment of our friends and families back home.

Today, (picture below) the Vanguards officially uncased their colors signifying the beginning of another historical chapter of the 18th Infantry Regiment’s Legendary History. Your Soldiers continue to carry on the proud lineage of the 18th Infantry Regiment’s participation in nearly every major conflict since the Civil War. Our mission will become synonymous with past operations like the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the Invasion of Normandy, the Tet Counter-Offenses, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom II, Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom-HOA. Operations that saw the 18th Infantry Regiment The Vanguards will continue the fight against our enemies to protect our friends and families back home by securing our Nation’s interest abroad.

Over the next few months, the Vanguard Nation will continue to improve readiness through aggressive decisive action maneuver training while expanding our partnerships with regional allies. CSM Coronado and I together with the Company Command Teams are committed to ensuring your Soldiers receive the best training possible and are prepared for any contingency or situation.

The Vanguards miss everyone in the good ‘ol USA and especially back at Fort Riley, Kansas but rest assured your Soldiers are healthy, well-fed, and will stay connected to you throughout the deployment. Most importantly, the Vanguard Nation is actively looking out for each other. We will continue to share as much information as possible with our families throughout the deployment. Stay connected with your Soldiers. You have no idea how big of a morale booster a daily FaceTime or text can be throughout the course of the deployment. Thanks again for supporting the Vanguard Nation through your efforts on the home front.





ATTACK!! Company

ATTACK!!!: The past three weeks have been very busy for the Soldiers of ATTACK!!! Company. The company has focused on completing the tasks and training needed to operate in support of the security force in Kuwait and allow B/4-10 CAV to travel back home to Fort Carson, Colorado. We thank our partners from B/4-10 CAV for an excellent mission handover. The Soldiers of 1st and 2nd Platoons and the company headquarters have readily assumed the security mission here at Camp Patriot and Kuwait

Naval Base (KNB) working for the 82 EN BN as part of Task Force Bluebabe. During these past weeks, the company inventoried the property here at KNB and focused on meeting with our partners in the Kuwait military. The Soldiers of 3rd Platoon relocated to Camp Arifjan in order to support our sister company C/1-18 IN with their security mission. The mailing address will remain the same for the Soldiers in 3rd Platoon. The morale is high as Soldiers are establishing routines and mastering their jobs. We arrived at the right time of year as temperatures are dropping and making it excellent weather to begin training, although there has been an unusually high amount of rainfall. We thank the families for all of your support back home. ATTACK!!!



ATTACK!!! Putting a fresh coat of Infantry blue on the CP porch



Partnership handover meeting



CDR & 1SG Conduct partnership meeting with Kuwaiti Logistics Officer



82nd EN BN uncasing ceremony



Barbaric Company

Barbaric Company hit the ground running after arriving at Camp Buehring. The past two weeks have been eventful for the Company as Barbaric Soldiers continuously executed tasks in-order-to assume their mission from Baker Company 1-68IN. Baker Company Soldiers were extremely professional and insightful during their handover and the Company appreciates their stewardship over the last nine months and wishes them a safe and well earned return home to Fort Carson, Colorado. Barbaric Soldiers began preparing themselves and their equipment as the Company assumes their mission.

Over the last two weeks, the Company has spent many hours training, preparing equipment and learning the environment, all of this during the beginning of the “rainy season” here, which saw record rainfall and flooded areas. The weather has been ideal and conducive for great training and morale is high as the men settle into the beginning of the deployment. On behalf of all the Barbaric men we hope the Barbaric Ladies and Families are doing well, we miss you!

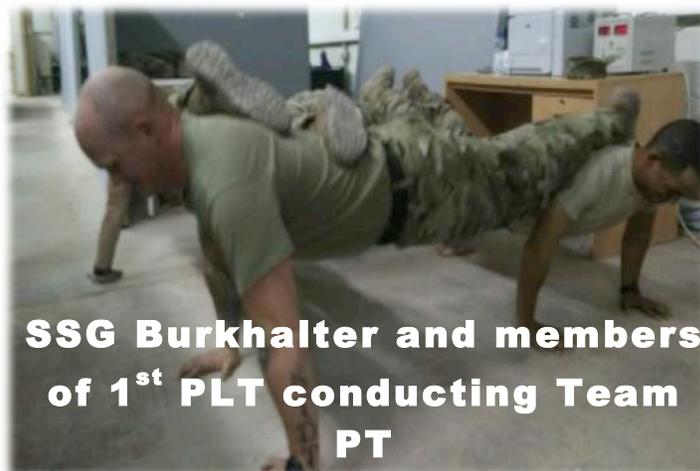
“Dedication!” -Barbaric 6



**Mission Prep in
action**



**3rd PLT Soldiers
inventory packing lists**



**SSG Burkhalter and members
of 1st PLT conducting Team
PT**



‘Dragons’ Awarded for their Service and Dedication During Deployment Preparation

CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT – Soldiers from 1-63 AR were awarded the Army Achievement Medal on November 14, 2015 for their superior work in ensuring a smooth deployment from Fort Riley to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The Army Achievement Medal is awarded to Soldiers for exceptionally meritorious service in the line of duty. 1LT Curran of Bounty Company, 1-63 AR received the award for his actions as Executive Officer during his company’s transportation of vehicles and personnel to Camp Buehring. SSG Guillermo Fariascardenes was awarded for his personnel management work during the Battalion’s movement. Also among those awarded was HHC’s SPC Jose Carranza, who established the Battalion’s Command and Control systems during occupation of Camp Buehring.

“I’m really proud of the work that these men and women did during the movement process and I know they’ll continue to impress me with their dedication to the Army and to this Battalion,” said LTC Murtha, the 1-63 AR Commander. “I’m really glad we got to recognize them in front of their peers so that their service acts a positive example to the whole unit.”



SSG Guillermo Fariascardenes salutes LTC Murtha, the 1-63 AR Commander after receiving the Army Achievement Medal at Camp Buehring on 14 NOV 2015.



Soldiers from 1-63 AR stand at attention before being awarded the Army Achievement Medal at 1-63 AR’s deployment awards ceremony at Camp Buehring on 14 NOV 2015.



“Dragons” Conduct Veterans Day Uncasing Ceremony

CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT -- Soldiers from 1-63 AR conducted a Colors Uncasing Ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait on November 11, 2015 in order to officially assume deployment duties.

The ceremony began with a bagpipe performance by Captain Pascal Reber of D Co, 82nd BEB, who played as the Dragons formed their guidons around the cased Battalion colors. Following an invocation by 1-63 AR’s Chaplain (CPT) Joung, LTC Anthony Murtha and Command Sergeant Major Pingel officially uncased the colors. The Battalion colors had been cased since September 28, when the Dagger Brigade officially began deployment operations.

Following the ceremony, CSM Pingel and LTC Murtha reminded the Battalion of the importance of Veterans Day and the seriousness of the mission before them. “Many of the Soldiers in this formation have deployed before and served this country honorably in combat,” said LTC Murtha. “I respect all of them for their service. But I also respect each and every one of you here for answering the call and honoring your commitment to the country and to each other. I am deeply appreciative of your sacrifice and I know that we will be proud of the work we are here to accomplish.”



SPC Robert Landry holds the cased colors as CSM Benjamin Pingel and LTC Anthony Murtha prepare to uncase them for the first time at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



LTC Anthony Murtha, the 1-63 AR Commander, stands with the uncased Battalion colors during 1-63 AR’s Colors Uncasing Ceremony on 11 NOV at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



LTG Garrett visits Daggers and Thunder

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait -- Lt. Gen. Michael X. Garrett, the Commanding General of U.S. Army Central located at Shaw Air Force Base South Carolina visited the Dagger Brigade at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 27, 2015. The visit included a briefing by the Battalion Command Teams describing the unique capabilities that the Dagger Brigade provides to the region and a walk through of the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment's motor pool.





“Thunder” in Action

CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT- 1LT Robert Palmateer and 1LT Matthew Saunders received Army Comendation Medals for their service to the Thunder Battalion. Both lieutenants served in various positions across the formation and increased our organization's combat readiness. They will be missed but we are sure they will continue to do great things for the United States Army as they continue on to the Infantry Captain's Career Course.



CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT- This Sunday, 22 November 2015, Hannibal Company held a Change of Command Ceremony. CPT Bradfield relieved command to CPT Claudio R. Innocenti due to medical reasons. Captain Bradfield's time in command of HHC was short but was essential in HHC's successful deployment to Kuwait. CPT Innocenti comes to the Thunder Battalion from commanding Charlie Company, 1-18 Infantry Battalion.





“Longknife” In Action

5-4 Cavalry Troopers training in Southwest Asia with partnered forces.





“Longknife” In Action

5-4 CAV Troopers conduct sniper training and Basic Rifle Marksmanship training with Partnered nations in Southwest Asia.





82d Engineer Battalion Build on their Unit's Rich History



The 82D Engineer Battalion has a rich history of leading from the front in every mission assigned. The Battalion was in the first attack wave to hit the beach at Gela, Sicily in the early hours of July 7, 1943. Fighting as Infantry, their support for LTC William Darby and his 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions was paramount to the mission success. They cleared obstacles and minefields, droving off tanks of the 16th Panzer Division in its counterattack against the 1st Infantry Division.

Throughout the remainder of the war in Europe, the 82D Engineer Battalion played an integral role in many battles. The Battalion cleared hedgerows allowing the 29th Infantry Division to capture Saint Lo. Bravo Company built two of the bridges used by U.S. forces during the breakout from Saint Lo as they crossed the Vire River in their battle for the pivotal city of Vire. 82D EN was tasked with reconstructing the bridge over the river Seine, and was in fact the first troops to cross the river. The 82D Engineers continue to lead and fight until Allied Forces achieved victory in 1945.

In the first Gulf War of 1990-1991, the Battalion's primary and most critical mission was the breaching and subsequent clearing of the double berm along the Iraq, and Saudi Arabian border. The success of this breach was vital to the 2nd ACR's initial assault, and VII Corps' forward passage of lines, as they passed through lanes created by the BLUEBABE sappers. In all, the Battalion constructed 43 mobility corridors to facilitate the attack into Iraq before the Battalion re-deployed to Germany.

During OIF II, 2004-2005, the nation called upon the Battalion once again. The Battalion deployed to Iraq to conduct counter-insurgency operations in order to stabilize Southern Diyala Province. Each line company attached a platoon to the other Battalions in the Brigade establishing Task Force BLUEBABE. TF BLUEBABE received a platoon from 2-2 IN and 2-63 AR. The Battalion spent a grueling 14 months stabilizing the region and clearing the roads around the city of Ba'qubah, (most notably the road called IED Alley in 2003). The road was renamed BLUEBABE Highway as the Battalion was committed to keeping IED activity down on the road. OIF II saw the first National Elections in the country of Iraq. 82D Engineer Battalion designed, organized, built, proctored and secured the first National Election in the country in 2005. Leaders of the Battalion rebuilt the government of Diyala province from the ground up, installing Mayors, Police, Army, restarting the public works, and holding an election in the region. When time came to redeploy, 82D Engineers had operated in the Eastern Offensive, Najaf, Fallujah, and secured the first national elections in the country. The Battalion served valiantly until its deactivation in 2006.



82d Engineer Battalion Build on their Unit's Rich History, Cont.

In 2015, the Battalion main deployed to the Middle East with the 2D Armored Brigade Combat Team (Dagger) in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The Battalion is once again leading the way for Dagger Brigade, assuming mission in sector upon arrival in Kuwait. Task Organized as Task Force BLUEBABE, the Battalion has operational control of Alpha Company and Charlie Company 1-18 Infantry Regiment, a platoon from 1-7 Field Artillery, and a Company from the 299th Brigade Support Battalion. The Battalion assumes responsibility of SECFOR South and maintains readiness for engineer contingency mission. Task Force BLUEBABE deploys Soldiers north in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, making these Soldiers some of the first in the Brigade to deploy in this capacity. The Battalion will continue to lead the Brigade in every mission, history illustrates that no mission is too great for the 82D Engineer Battalion. BLUEBABE, Strength and Courage! 🇮🇶





Brave Bulls, 82 EN

BRAVE BULLS: The last month went by quickly as the BRAVE BULL Company is almost ready to board its flight to Kuwait. We hope the last few days will be spent with family and friends and will carry these Soldiers through the next nine months until they are once again united with loved ones. The BRAVE BULLS have a squad of Soldiers already deployed as part of an Engineer Training Team with a very special mission under the leadership of 1LT(P) Hunter Sewell. Even with most of our equipment on a boat headed to Kuwait the BRAVE BULLS had a very busy month. It began with a grueling 36-hour Sapper Stakes challenge that tested each Squad's physical and mental capacity to complete engineer and infantry tasks on no sleep and little food. The company also completed COIST (company intelligence support team) training, HEAT training and other pre-deployment tasks to prepare them for their mission in Kuwait. The BRAVE BULLS participated in the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team's color casing ceremony. The next time the colors are opened will be when the Brigade is deployed. The BRAVE BULLS are ready now to support the DAGGER Brigade in the coming months. We wish to thank all the BRAVE BULL family members for their continued love and support they provided as we prepared for this deployment and pray for the safety of its Soldiers and family members while away from home.



Headquarters: Headquarters platoon has been working hard to ensure all necessary administrative work is completed prior to deployment. SGT Early and PFC Cordero worked diligently to update DTMS for the company to confirm the company is ready for the upcoming deployment. Headquarters also participated in simulated vehicle roll over training, room clearing procedures, and combative training that strengthened their soldiering skills and knowledge and prepared them for possible future scenarios. Throughout all the training, the company leadership, ensured all Brave Bull soldiers had extra time each day to spend with their families and prepare for deployment. In the next couple weeks prior to deployment, there will be time for all soldiers to ensure that they and their families are prepared. There will be a final Family Readiness Group Meeting on October 15th for all Soldiers and families that will give information on the support opportunities Fort Riley provides families while their spouse is deployed.



Brave Bulls, 82 EN, Cont.

First Platoon: Over the past month 1st PLT has been actively completing training requirements before deployment in order to create the standards for success while gone. 1st PLT Soldiers attended the 82nd EN BN Town Hall Meetings which presented helpful information to families. Our Squads valiantly completed the grueling 36 hour Sapper Stakes which tested their merit and technical skills. 1st PLT participated in simulated vehicle roll over training which gave them the skills for the worst case scenarios. There have been a few unique Physical Training Events over the past month as well. Soldiers tested themselves during the Mission Essential Fitness days utilizing weights and strenuous circuit training. Soldiers also gave it their all during a Combatives Physical Training session. On a lighter note, Soldiers and spouses were able to have a fun, relaxing night during the Battalion Ball with their Battle Buddies. Through all the time consuming training the support of the families is ever present and greatly appreciated especially with our upcoming mission.



Second Platoon: This quarter was premised on high intensity training and preparation for the deployment. 2nd Platoon performed seamlessly executed an Advanced Rifle Marksmanship Range, M320 Range, Fire Team and Squad Live Fire Exercise and Unstabilized Gunnery in conjunction with connex pack out and rail load operations. Each operation built individual tactical and technical skills while creating a lethal and cohesive team to serve as a invaluable asset to 2nd BDE. 2nd Platoon has performed exceptionally in rapid paced training environment and looks forward to taking the fight to Kuwait/Iraq

Third Platoon: The Punisher Platoon has been very busy over the past month in anticipation of deployment. All of the Soldiers have worked tirelessly completing all of the final training events and pre-deployment training. They are well prepared and are fully capable to complete all missions thrown their way. Third Platoon performed well during Sapper Stakes and took fourth out of ten teams. They also participated in the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) training, which consists of roll-over drills to better prepare them for combat, and keep them fully ready to engage the enemy in close combat. Many Soldiers and their spouses attended the Battalion Ball, allowing them to relax and spend their last moments home dancing and socializing with friends. It was a great success and a well deserved break from the high operational tempo of the last few months. All of the family and friends of Third Platoon Soldiers reading this right now, should be very proud of their loved ones for all they have done. They are ensuring the continued security of the United States and engaging and destroying evil wherever it emerges. "CLEAR HELL"



Adapt and Overcome!

By Kyle Santarelli

October; a month of rapid changes, flew by with a flash of new experiences. Soldiers from 2nd platoon have hit the ground running in Kuwait, quickly adapting to their mission as if it were second nature. Soldiers arrived on ground late this month. In the few weeks that they have been at Camp Arifjan, they have set the standard for professionalism and conduct for the rest of the deployment. Working with the Soldiers stationed in Kuwait for the preceding 9 months, 2nd PLT Soldiers have quickly learned the mission they will be executing for the deployment. Soldiers worked diligently in the heat; sometimes reaching up into the 105 degree range, to accomplish tasks such as layouts and patrols. With a mission set that is changing rapidly, 2nd platoon's Soldiers demonstrated their ability to quickly adapt and overcome any obstacle.

As for what 2nd PLT is doing here in Kuwait, a better question to ask: what are they not doing? Soldiers are conducting missions that range from maintenance, presence patrols, all the way to security of sites in Kuwait City. In the time they have away from the mission, Soldiers have worked side by side with their leaders to polish skills they learned and honed in Ft. Riley. These skills make them effective Soldiers and Engineers. "We're still finding our groove," said Sgt. Jerrod Martinez "but, I definitely feel like we're making progress."

When asked about what the mission set, Spec. Timothy Kauppila spouted, "we're making Camp Arifjan safe, fulfilling the job we were asked to do." Although it sounds like a lot of work, Soldiers do have free time as well.

In the free time that they have, Soldiers find different ways of blowing off the steam they generate during their training and missions. Many of the soldiers have established a working schedule of Physical Training, working out every morning, and sometimes every evening. The internet is available here, for a fee in the barracks and free in the USO. Everywhere you turn, there are activities at Camp Arifjan. In the past month, there has been a poker tournament, a weightlifting competition, a Halloween 5k and other events.

When asked what he like to do in his off time, PFC Tyler Cotterman mentioned, "Volleyball is big here, we can play almost every night, there are a few courts and the weathers not too hot."

Soldiers are staying busy, but they are already missing their families back home. But with one month down and only 8 more to go, Soldiers are excited to get their job done here and return home happy and healthy.





BLUEBABE in Action



LTC Bullock and LT Heffernon discuss Kuwaiti Mechanized Battalion capabilities with the 91st Battalion Commander.



Leaders of 82D Engineer Battalion take a group picture with members of 1st Company, 91st Mechanized Battalion



Major Phillipson and Major Pevey discuss training opportunities with the Kuwaiti Naval Force Operations Officer



ATTACK!!! Company serves Thanksgiving Lunch



Around the Brigade



Lt. Gen. Michael X. Garrett, the Commanding General of U.S. Army Central located at Shaw Air Force Base South Carolina visited the Dagger Brigade at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 27, 2015.



Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division feasted on turkey, ham and much more during a Thanksgiving lunch at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Maj. Gen. William Hickman, Deputy Commanding General of Operations for 3rd Army/ U.S. Army Central, visited the Dagger Brigade at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 18, 2015.



Col. Miles Brown, with the assistance of aviators from the Ohio National Guard, conducted a flyover of the Udairi Range Complex, Nov. 17, 2015.



Mixed Martial Artists, like UFC's Dan Henderson, visited Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 15, 2015.



Col. Miles Brown, Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Orvis and Lt. Col. Xander Bullock attended a Remembrance Day Ceremony at the British Embassy, Nov. 11, 2015.