

A full-page photograph of a soldier in camouflage uniform holding a young boy. The soldier is looking down at the boy with a gentle expression. The boy is wearing a plaid shirt and dark shorts. The background is a large American flag with stars and stripes.

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DEMON

**From
Kansas
to Kuwait**

Soldiers of the
Combat Aviation
Brigade say goodbye
to family, friends, and
all that is familiar.

BY SPC MICHAEL HOWARD

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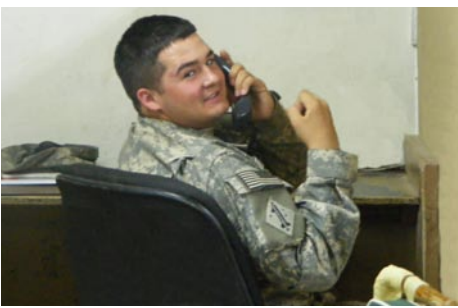
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Brigade Command Sergeant Major	Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell E. Wallace
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"No matter how much ground we cover, we just don't have the eyes to see every story in the brigade" -- Demon Staff

Briefing

THE MOMENT



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

We hope you enjoy the inaugural issue of the Demon. Your help is instrumental in making this newsletter into the best magazine in the Army.

This is your publication and in order to make it the best we can and to ensure we represent everyone in the task force we are asking for your assistance. We have a full-time Public Affairs staff of two. No matter how much ground we cover, we just don't have the eyes to see every sto-

ry in the brigade. When it comes to your company or your section, no one knows more about what is going on than you do. You are a subject matter expert in your field, and we need your input.

If you are a writer or an aspiring writer, please contact us at jef-ferey.troth@us.army.

mil with your story, story idea, or in regard to activities within your unit. The stories or ideas need to be about what your unit

You are a subject matter expert in your field, and we need your input

has done, or a particular Soldier within your command. If you have a story idea and need assistance in getting it out, contact

us at the brigade TOC. We can help you prep for the interview and provide writing tips to ensure that the process is smooth. We have the ability to get your story in front of a lot of eyes. We currently submit stories(with full credit given) to 19 publications that cater to both civilian and military audiences, and our list is constantly growing. We look forward to making your publication the best publication it can be.

Inception. Over the past year, the Combat Aviation Brigade has morphed from an element of 400 individuals into a team of over 3800. Taking the fight through Iraq’s desert air, we answer our nation’s call. **Col. Jessie O. Farrington speaks out on our progress so far**

The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, is well into this current deployment to Iraq. You leaders and Soldiers have trained hard to ensure the mission success and the ultimate safe return of this brigade back to home station. We have accomplished many milestones in answering our nation’s call to arms. We have successfully organized and prepared the brigade for combat; we have deployed all equipment and personnel necessary to be an effective combat force in Iraq, and we have integrated into the area we are responsible for – all superbly executed by an exceptional team.

The level of enthusiasm and mission commitment our Soldiers display is contagious. This brigade has grown since we departed Fort Riley and Fort Carson. We have the honor of having 4/6 Cavalry Squadron (Red Catchers) from Fort Lewis, Wash., and Task Force ODIN (Norsemen) organized at



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

Fort Hood, Texas as part of our team. We have also built an Unmanned Aerial Systems Company within the brigade. You are part of a large organization that has the responsibility of an area equal to the size of Georgia. Our success

cannot be accomplished without the dedicated support of our families and loved ones patiently waiting at home. It is our family members that are sacrificing the absence of their deployed husbands, wives, sons, daughters, fathers, and mothers.

Your aviation Soldiers are vital to the success of Multi-National Division-North.

My wife Sandi and I too have experienced the hardships of many long deployments. As parents we know what it is like to have a son or daughter deployed to a war zone. Our son Christopher is an infantryman currently deployed to Iraq – this is Chris’s second combat deployment.

Family members, we ask for your continued support as we tackle all the challenges that face us. You are critical to our mission success; we cannot accomplish our mission without your dedicated and strong commitment to this brigade.

Finally, I want to thank you for all that you’ve done in supporting our country’s cause. Our mission is to conduct full spectrum aviation combat operations in Iraq. In accomplishing that mission, I want to assure everyone that mitigating combat risk and ensuring the well being of our Soldiers and family members are at the very top of this commander’s priority list.

Col. Jessie O. Farrington is the commander of the Combat Aviation Brigade

Let me start by thanking each and every one of you for choosing to serve our country at this monumental moment in history. I realize that our brigade is young, as well as inexperienced in many areas, but many of you are on your third or even fourth rotation in support of our ongoing war. I look to these Soldiers in our formations to assist our new Soldiers in dealing with the highs and lows of this long deployment.

During the build up for this deployment, our units lacked some essential personnel, many if not most in key positions. This required positions to be filled by junior Soldiers. They and many others worked long hours to assist with getting this brigade manned, equipped, trained and ready for war. While we did all this we did not forget about the families we would be leaving behind, for them you stood up Family Readiness Groups.

We have deployed our Soldiers to the Joint Readiness Training Center and the National Training Center, we even guarded our nation’s southern border. You met countless training requirements as well as made training events happen during this time.

Standards and Discipline. Junior Soldiers have stepped into leadership positions to train and prepare the Combat Aviation Brigade for their deployment to Iraq. **Command Sgt. Maj. Buddy Wallace speaks out on our mark in history**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin V. Angelo

We started a little over a year ago training and building our brigade for this mission. Well now here we are, at OUR time in history, exactly where the rubber grinds into the road! Demon 6 and I have been able to get out and see our Sol-

diers hard at work, from the crack of dawn to late into the evening and into the early morning hours. Make sure that you and the leadership within our ranks are aware of our battle buddies individual stressors. Don’t wait until things

get to a boiling point to intervene. We need each and every one of you in the brigade in order to sustain our current as well as future operation tempo. Remember, safety at all levels is an absolute must. Sergeants! Embrace as well as enforce standards. Do not allow our Soldiers to take short cuts. Letting standards slip when you are tired will only lead to loss of manpower and injuries. We deployed together, let’s go home together.

I could not be prouder than I am at this point in my life – a Soldier in the 1st Infantry Division’s Combat Aviation Brigade, a part of our strong Army and a part of our nation’s history. Again thank you for your dedication to duty, as well as the personal and professional sacrifices made by you and your families.

Command Sgt. Maj. Buddy Wallace is the command sergeant major of the Combat Aviation Brigade

Three Exhortations. Chaplain (Maj.) Suk Jong Lee talks about using the strength of Christ to free yourself from the discomfort around you. **Demon Redeemer speaks from the land of Jesus’ birth**

Be joyful; Be thankful; Be bold. These three exhortations were given to me the day when a godly woman prayed for me before I left Fort Riley.

I kept repeating those three words – joyful, thankful and bold. Then I thought to myself, “God indeed has humor. I am going into a war zone and God is reminding me to be joyful, thankful and bold.” Is God serious? How does God expect me to be joyful and thankful when I am leaving behind all the comforts of home and family members including my dog?

Then I was reminded of Philippians 4:4-7, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all people...Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

It is not the circumstance, but my perspective and attitude, that sets my outlook on life in the desert in two opposite directions. I can be joyful that I am in the land of the Old Testament and it may be the time for me to sharpen the geographical knowledge of my faith. I can be thankful that I have opportunity to deepen my faith and chances to share my faith which



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

Making joyful noise: *The chapel chior and praise team are looking for new members*

promises to grant me the peace of God .

Or, we can choose to be unhappy about dust all around us, complain about small living spaces we have to share, long working hours, inconveniences of not having our own car, cell phone, etc. etc. But what are we accomplishing by choosing to be unhappy and constantly complaining about the situation we are in?

Negative thoughts breed negative emotions, and negative emotions lead to anger and even depression. That’s when we start feeling helpless and hopeless.

However, true joy and happiness doesn’t always come from material abundance or physical comfort. Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy

was quoted, “Joy can be real only if people look on their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.”

I heard from the Soldiers coming back from the first deployment to Iraq that they not only appreciated American way of life, but also, how much they matured through the hardship and learning to prioritize what was really important in life. Perhaps, we are meant to be here to learn about finding the real joy through service to others, whether to Iraqi people or to one another.

Because of my faith, I am joyful and thankful for my circumstances, and bold in sharing the source of my joy and strength.

Worldview: Diyala. While the Combat Aviation Brigade fights for freedom across the sands of Iraq, the sheiks of Diyala meet with the intent of stopping terrorism. **Life in the streets of a fledging nation**

BY MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION - NORTH PAO

The Tamimi and Jibouri tribes, the two largest tribes in Iraq’s Diyala province, met Oct. 24 to discuss the importance of reconciliation and signed a fellowship agreement stressing cooperation and friendship between the tribes.

The top three Shia sheiks of the Tamimi tribe and the top two Sunni sheiks of the Jibouri tribe attended the meeting, which was hosted by Diyala’s governor, Ra’ad Hameed al-Mula Jowad al-Tamimi. Six additional prominent sheiks from throughout the province were in attendance as well to discuss how reconciliation has improved their tribal areas.

Ra’ad, opening the meeting, encouraged the leaders to discuss solutions rather than lay blame and focus on past grievances.

“Today we have to figure out how to control the terrorists,” Ra’ad said. “How can we unite? How can we bring peace together?” “The reconciliation that will have the most impact - not only in Diyala, but around the world - is the unity between the Tamimi and Jibouri tribes,” said Col. David W. Sutherland, commander of Coalition Forces in Diyala, as he explained the influence the two tribes have on countries outside of Iraq.

While the two tribes do not have serious issues dividing them, Sheik Aeman Kerhy al-Jibouri,



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3rd Brigade Combat Team

Sheik Salah al-Jibouri *speaks about the need “to stand together as men and stop supporting al-Qaeda”*

a key tribal leader for the Jibouri tribe, acknowledged the fact that both tribes do have faults.

“We need to watch ourselves, look inside and control our men,” he said.

“We reject terrorism,” said Sheik Mazen Rashed Hamed Mula Jawad al-Tamimi, a paramount sheik in the Tamimi tribe who has been the primary leader for the reconciliation movement in Diyala. “It is a disease for the world.”

The fellowship agreement, signed by all leaders present, stated that they will cooperate in identifying tribal members who are corrupt or harboring terrorists, stop mortar attacks and in-fighting between Sunni and Shia villages and work

honestly together on solutions toward a better future.

“We declare that all killings, clashes and kidnappings will stop,” said Sheik Balassem Hamed Yehia al-Hasan al-Tamimi, Tamimi’s paramount sheik. “We want to live in peace and enable our families into the future.”

“We cannot clap with one hand,” Aeman continued. “These two great tribes will act as one - one person, one tribe.”

“And when Jibouri and Tamimi clap, the world will hear. All terrorists and all militias will be like insects caught between our hands,” he said. “They will be crushed - crushed between the two hands of Jibouri and Tamimi.”

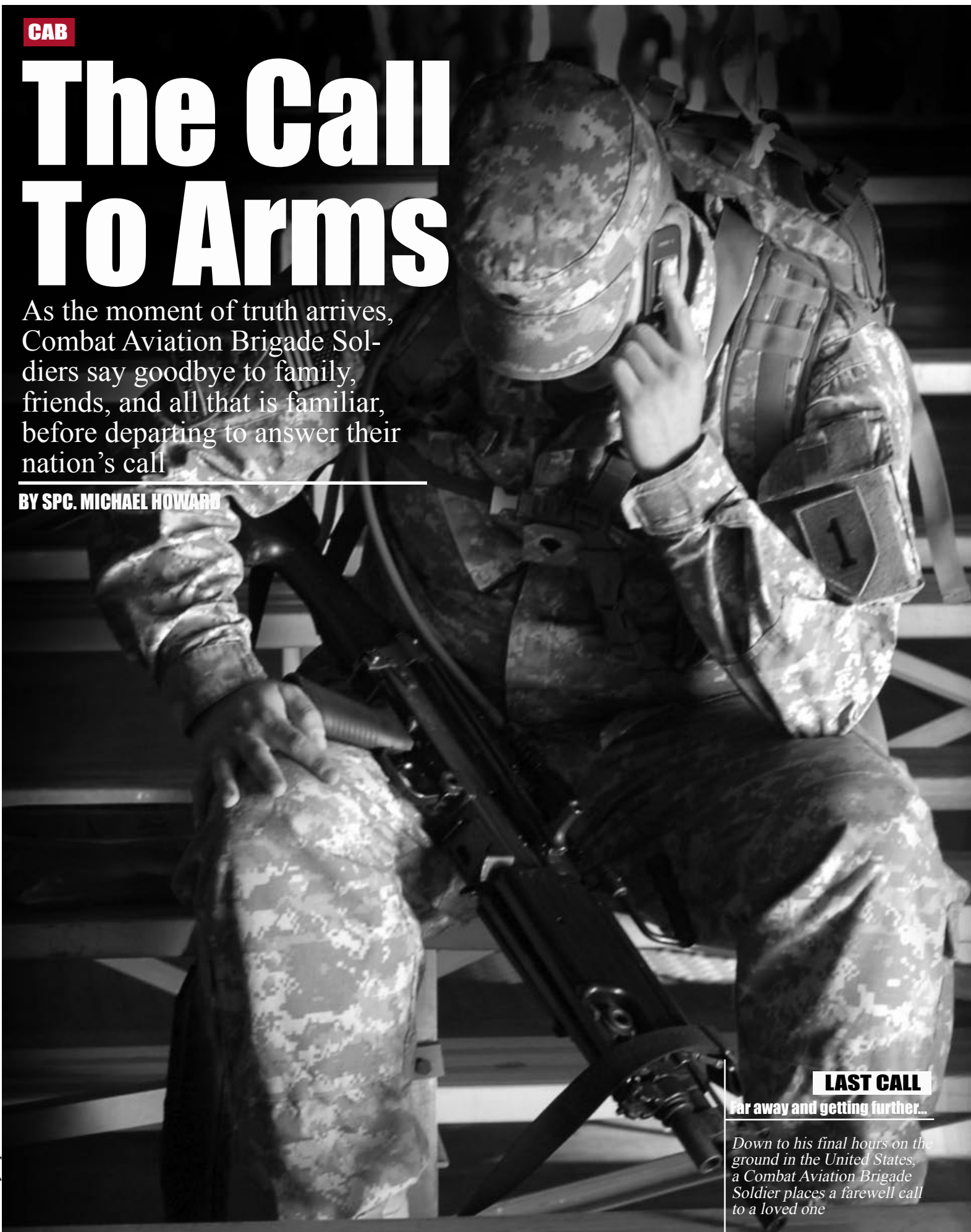
CAB

The Call To Arms

As the moment of truth arrives, Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers say goodbye to family, friends, and all that is familiar, before departing to answer their nation's call

BY SPC. MICHAEL HOWARD

Photo by Spc. Michael Howard



LAST CALL

Far away and getting further...

Down to his final hours on the ground in the United States, a Combat Aviation Brigade Soldier places a farewell call to a loved one



LAST KISS

Goodbye without words...

Sgt. Maj. Keith V. Cooper locks lips with his wife minutes before his chalk walks out of the farewell ceremony to begin the journey to Iraq

Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

For two weeks, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division families tearfully bid farewell to their Soldiers as the same troops only hours later bid hello to Kuwait. CAB Soldiers are near the end of a long and twisting path that began with a formal split with family in one of many farewell ceremonies at Fort Riley, Kan., and Fort Carson, Colo., and ends with a beginning, the inception of CAB’s mission in the sands of Iraq.

CAB Soldiers benefited from a shipping out procedure that the Army has refined through several years of trial and error. “It was long, but it was pretty well organized. If you’ve been deployed, it went pretty smoothly compared to previous deployments,” said Spc. Brandon Graham, an Apache crew chief with Company A, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, with regard to the trip.

Soldiers were divided into chawks, and each chawk attended a formal farewell in their honor. The ceremony allowed family and friends to bid them goodbye. From there the Fort Riley Soldiers were bused to the 1-1 ARB hangar, and the Fort Carson Soldiers went to the Waller Fitness Center, where their respective companies issued them weapons. After this came an identification card and ID tag check, then weighing and manifesting. They were then bussed to airfields in Topeka and Colorado Springs for their flights to Kuwait.

As the Fort Riley Soldiers boarded their transatlantic flight

TEAM DEMON

The Starters

The advance party for the Combat Aviation Brigade files into the 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment hangar for their flight manifest



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

Photo by Sgt 1st Class Jeff Troth



at Forbes Field in Topeka, Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourhman, the 1st Infantry Division command sergeant major, was there to shake hands and bid a final farewell from the United States. Before landing in the Middle East, the Fort Riley Soldiers enjoyed a brief stopover at Shannon Airport in Ireland, where they could buy food, beverages, and souvenirs. The Fort Carson Soldiers' stopover was in Germany.

CAB hit the ground running in Kuwait. With no time to lose before assuming their mission in Iraq, Soldiers began training within 24 hours of boots on ground. Soldiers rolled out of their cots as early as 3:15 A.M.. each morning to attend a variety of ranges, including a crew served weapons range, and a number of briefings and classes. "We had some IED training, some crew served weapons training, mass casualty training, we got a

Rules of Engagement brief, among other things. We've been busy. The training has been pretty good. They go into detail and elaborate on the things they told us stateside, so when you take in both pieces and put them together, it works," said Graham.

The aviators of the CAB also stayed busy, undergoing environmental flights to familiarize themselves with the area and gunneries where they tested their weapons systems before heading into Iraq. Their ground crews then got a taste of maintaining the aircraft beneath the hot Kuwaiti sun.

While the training the Soldiers encountered was challenging, some were surprised at the quality of the standard of living at Camp Buehring. "I was in OIF three. There have been a lot more accommodations added since I was here then," said Graham. "The

Rest stop... *The Combat Aviation Brigade stopped at Shannon Airport, Ireland to refuel both planes and Soldiers*

THE NUMBERS

Since the Combat Aviation Brigade's deployment began, the CAB has deployed more than:

2,000

CAB Soldiers have deployed from Fort Riley, Kan. and Fort Carson, Colo., to the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater of operations

90

UH-60 Black Hawks, CH-47 Chinooks, and OH-58 Kiowa Warriors

Photo by Spc. Michael Howard



Above: *Pfc. James Reaves, with Company A, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, crosses the floor of Craig Fitness Center at Ft. Riley, Kan. to board his Kuwait-bound flight*

Right: *Soldiers at Forbes Field in Topeka, Kan. order pizza to satisfy their hunger during a five-hour flight delay*

standard of living here is better than I thought it would be. If you don't like what the DFAC serves, you can eat where you like," said Spc. Michael Wagner, a network switching systems operator with Company C, 601st Aviation Support Battalion. Soldiers in Camp Buehring enjoy a choice between a number of restaurants, including Taco Bell, Pizza Inn, Panda Oriental, and Kentucky Fried Chicken. Soldiers are also able to use their downtime to visit a full sized movie theater that plays several movies per day, three Morale, Welfare and Recreation tents with table games, books, and console games such as the Playstation 3, Xbox 360, and the Nintendo Wii.

While the Soldiers are coming together as a team, there is always the thought of the loved ones they left behind. "The separation is always the toughest part of it. I love the Army, but being away from your family is tough. You've got to be strong mentally, and talk to them when you can," said Graham, who has a wife and two children. To help with this, there are Morale, Welfare, and Recreation phones, AT&T phone centers,

and Internet Cafes for the Soldiers.

Single Soldiers have their share of hardship as well, however. "I have a boyfriend, and it's hard being away from him," said Pvt. 1st Class Nikki Waggoner, of Headquarters Company, 601st Aviation Battalion, "It might not be as hard as being separated from someone you've been married to for years, but it's still hard."

However, adds Wagner, it is still easier to deploy as a single Soldier than to deploy in the midst of a marriage, because the ties between mothers and fathers are already broken somewhat when a Soldier leaves home to join the military.

Despite the hardship involved in being separated from one's loved ones, the Soldiers of the Combat Aviation Brigade are moving forward to reach their destination in Iraq and tackle the mission there. "We're ready to get in country and take care of our mission. The camaraderie of this team is excellent. Our company leads the way. We support everybody. We've been working together, doing our tasks back at Riley, and we're ready to go," said Graham.



Photo by Sgt 1st Class Jeff Troth

MISSION ZERO



Up at dawn National Guardsmen wait to board a CH-47 Chinook for a flight to the detention facility in southern Iraq where they are being assigned. The flight, which lasted less than an hour, saved them a six-hour bus ride over roadways which might be lined with IEDs

Still assembling in Kuwait, the Demons jump into the action in Iraq when they fly their first mission, a transport that eliminated exposure to improvised explosive devices and almost certainly saved Soldiers' lives

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JEFF TROTH

In the rugged desert environment there is always a need for helicopters. Any chance to avoid the IED littered roads that stretch on for miles is a welcome relief for Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A National Guard Military Police unit was spared a long convoy ride when the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division was tasked to transport the MPs to the detention facility they were assigned to in Southern Iraq. This tasking allowed the CAB, who were in Kuwait preparing to move to bases in northern Iraq, the opportunity to get a feel for their upcoming missions in Iraq. "It was a good first mission to get our focus back on combat aviation operations," said Maj. William Huff, CAB operations officer. "We were able to focus our efforts and refine our process before actually

going further north into our AOR (area of responsibility)." The CAB put to use the teamwork they had practiced at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. Soldiers from throughout the brigade came together for this two-day mission which had CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, transporting the Guardsmen, while OH-58 Kiowa Warriors from the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, performed another vital role in the success of the mission.

"The Kiowa Warriors provided security during the border crossing and were able to put eyes on the objective, just to make sure there were no issues," said Huff. Before the MPs boarded the helicopter, a team from the 601st Aviation Support Battalion

gave them a preflight brief, which included a safety brief and loading of a Chinook so they could practice loading and unloading procedures as well as actions to take in case of an emergency landing.

The flights not only benefited the CAB Soldiers, but also the National Guardsmen they transported. The flight which lasted less than an hour, saved them a six-hour bus ride over roadways which might be lined with IEDs. The Chinooks, on their return flights brought personnel back to Kuwait. "It was a significant mission in that we were able to move troops,

'It's strange that we are not doing training anymore. We are actually doing missions, the real thing.'

--COMMAND SGT. MAJ. BUDDY WALLACE

which saved them from having to do a ground convoy," said Chief Warrant 2 Michail Becker, a pilot with Company B, 2-1 GSAB.

The Soldiers being transported weren't the only ones who benefited from the mission.

"It was a good 'warm up' because it got everyone's mind set for what we are going to be doing for the next 15 months," Becker said. "The mission was flown over relatively safe ground for most of the flight, but it got people thinking 'hey this is for real again.'"

Although some in the brigade are heading to Iraq for their second or third time, all the Soldiers know that this is not another JRTC or NTC rotation.

"It's strange that we are not doing training anymore," said Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Darrell Wallace, the CAB command sergeant major. "We are actually doing missions, the real thing."



Left: A 3-25 GSAB Soldier stretches concertina wire before the exercise

Right: Sgt. Shawn Sinclair of 3-25 GSAB subdues a suspected “insurgent” during the force protection exercise here Sept. 27

CHOKEPOINT

Warrior tasks and training come into play when a routine force protection exercise evolves into an impromptu grappling session

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. MICHAEL HOWARD

The headquarters companies of the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment and Task Force, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment built teamwork while

‘We are responsible for security in this part of the world. So we need to practice.’

--- 1ST SGT. DEVIN R. HORSLEY, HHC 2-1 GSAB FIRST SERGEANT

reinforcing technical and tactical procedures during a joint force protection exercise at Contingency Operating Base Speicher here Sept. 27.

When the 11ID and 25ID CABs received word of a suspected “insurgent” traversing COB Speicher, the two aviation battalions worked to establish an entry control point and intercept the suspected insurgent.

“We set up a tactical control point, which consisted of three barricades, several gunners on the main supply route, and security at each point,” said Staff Sgt. Wayne Doornbos, the nuclear, biological

and chemical non-commissioned officer in charge for the 2-1 GSAB.

As soon as the battalions finished the ECP setup, the Soldiers lost no time in establishing full security and performing a 100% check of identification cards and memorandums of employment of military and civilian motorists.

“As soon as we established the point, we checked all IDs to make sure they were up to date, and if we found someone without an ID or a memorandum, we detained them and called our command,” said Pfc. Jonquiel Coffie, an administrative specialist with 2-1.

The respective battalions were put to the exercise’s biggest test when the suspect was stopped at one of the checkpoints. When the suspect exited his vehicle, he was ready to fight and escape capture. After pretending to surrender, the suspect lashed out at guards. Sgt. Shawn Sinclair of the 25th

CAB took quick action and, with a little help from his fellow Soldiers, brought the suspect under control and into custody.

“I believe the exercise was a full success. We stopped the suspect’s vehicle and apprehended the suspect,” said Doornbos, “Not only that, but we continued to maintain 360 degree security both during the apprehension and after the fact. We refused to get complacent after we caught our man, and stayed alert until the conclusion of the exercise.”

“It couldn’t have gone better,” added Coffie. “We found the suspect, we disarmed him, we confirmed his identity, and we took him into custody. We did everything we needed to do to keep the base safe.”

The commanders and first sergeants of each company concluded the exercise with an after-action report, eager to learn from both the exercise and each other. 1st Sgt. Devin R. Horsley had a laundry list of positive comments for his Soldiers. The most important topic on his list was accountability.

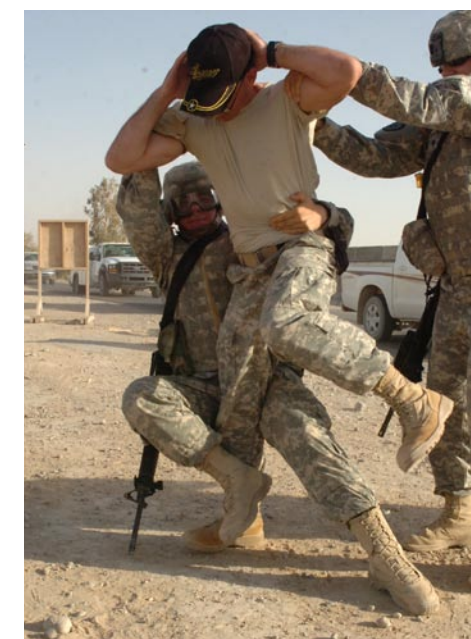
“The first and most important thing we did right was accountability. Accountability is the number one priority in these situations.”

Not only did the exercise go off without a hitch, the Soldiers learned from the experience, said Horsley. “We are responsible for security in this part of the world. So we need to practice. And the more we practice, the better we get,” said Horsley.

“I think exercises like this help to keep Soldiers aware of their surroundings and make sure that we know exactly what to do if a situation like this actually arises,” agreed Coffie.



Pfc. Jonquiel Coffie, an administrative specialist with the 2-1 GSAB, checks the identification card of a Kellogg, Brown and Root construction worker during the joint force protection exercise



Sgt. Shawn Sinclair of Headquarters Company, 3-25 GSAB performs a takedown on a suspected “insurgent”

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

As the birds of the Combat Aviation Brigade find their way to land, an advance party of Demons descend upon the shores of Kuwait and refit their aircraft into a state of perfect mission readiness

BY SPC. MICHAEL HOWARD

In the period immediately before the bulk of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division deployed to Iraq, the fate of an entire brigade rested in the hands of less than 50 Soldiers. An advance party made up of Soldiers from Company B, 601st

Aviation Support Battalion and 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment had a mission to unload and assemble the aircraft of three battalions, and until they did, the rest of the brigade couldn't operate.

"The people at the port said that it was one of the largest

buildups of aircraft they had seen in many years, and it was mostly soldiers from Co B, 601st ASB maintenance who did the reassembly. The Soldiers were able to download the disassembled helicopters and bring them back to flight status in five days," said Capt. Aric J. Raus, the production control officer for the 601st.

Accomplishing the mission and ensuring that the CAB was in the air as soon as it arrived was a team effort which required strong leadership and hard work from every Soldier involved. In the space of five days, the Soldiers assembled almost 100 Chinooks, Black Hawks, and Kiowa Warriors

Soldiers from Company B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion reassemble the rotor of a CH-47 Chinook

Photo by Capt. Aric J. Raus, 601st Aviation Support Battalion



Port workers in Kuwait download a CH-47 Chinook from the the Cape Knox

port operations, so we're used to it," said Spc. Michael D. Arneson, a Chinook mechanic with Co B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion.

Port operations were going smoothly for the Soldiers when they were informed that their Chinooks would have to be operational by Sept. 15 for a mission that would ferry National Guard Soldiers from Kuwait to Iraq.

"We were preparing to do scheduled maintenance, because the aircraft were going to fly so many hours.

"It required our team to shift focus from building up aircraft to preparing for maintenance missions. And that wasn't something we were prepared for, so we quickly had to get our equipment ready and accomplish that mission," said Clinkenbeard.

Much of the team's success in the face of a changing mission could be attributed to the training the Soldiers underwent before they left Fort Riley.

"We knew what our mission was going to be before we left Fort Riley, and we took steps to ensure that everybody knew what was going to be expected of them. We knew exactly what maintenance tasks we were going to perform, so we were prepared for the mission we were about to undertake," said Clinkenbeard.

Even with the change of plans, the team of Soldiers operated with such speed and precision that they were still done well ahead of time. "All of our birds were standing ready and assembled well before the brigade had need of them. It really couldn't have gone any better," said Arneson.

to ensure that the CAB arrived in Camp Buehring fully mission capable.

"Our job as an aviation support battalion entailed going to the port in Kuwait, and once the boat arrived, we helped tow all the aircraft off the boat. Once we got the aircraft lined up the way we needed them, we started building the aircraft and making them ready for flight," said Sgt. Curtis P. Clinkenbeard.

The Soldiers faced somewhat of a departure from their normal job. They soon learned that more teamwork and more manual labor was required of them during port operations.

"It required a lot more people and a lot more coordination than our normal job, and definitely, a lot more teamwork. Because

usually in our job, we only work on one specific aircraft. In this case, we got to work on three, so people got to see different aspects of the job," said Clinkenbeard, "Another difference was that there were a lot of other MOSs who could help us out because a lot of it wasn't necessarily airframe specific work. There was a lot of manual labor involved. You end up moving blades by hand to get them hooked up, things like that."

However, though elements of the job were different for the Soldiers, some of the troops also found common ground with the job they performed day to day.

"It's a common task for us. Taking the birds apart to put on a ship, we don't do much, but we actually do more disassembly for phase maintenance than we do for

Photo courtesy Co B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion.





Respects: Soldiers line up to honor their fellow Gunfighter, Spc. Micheal Brown

A Smile To Miss

Spc. Micheal Brown served his nation at war, in combat, with courage and honor. He passed away Oct. 16, missed by his family, friends, and the Soldiers with whom he served

BY SPC. MICHAEL HOWARD

More than 75 Soldiers from Task Force Demon bid farewell to a brother in arms — the only loss in the brigade's short history — during an emotional memorial ceremony conducted in the morning hours of Oct. 20 on ceremonial grounds at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

The ceremony honored Spc. Michael Brown who died Oct. 16, after being medevaced from Iraq on life support.

Lt. Col. Michael Mahony, the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment commander, headed an official party including the Soldiers' chain of command, enlisted leaders and the 1-1 ARB chaplain.

"Spc. Brown was a gentle giant, with a pure heart, and an infectious smile and laugh. You could never discourage Spc. Brown, nor could you slow him down. This was his second combat deployment, and he knew his duties. In the words of Robert E. Lee, 'Duty then, is the most sublime word of the language. Do your duty in all things. Do not do more. You should never wish to do less.' Spc. Brown understood this," said Mahony.

Mahony acknowledged the pain of the loss, but he vowed to continue the mission of the battalion.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth

Capt. Cynthia White-Diemand, the 1-1 ARB adjutant, and Maj. Jeness F. Steele, the CAB S-4 OIC, share a tearful embrace after the ceremony

"The Soldiers here in formation today, we honor our comrade by our grieving, and by remembering, by our continuing... continuing the fight on terror. That is our mission. It is what Spc. Brown would expect us to do," he said.

Capt. Thomas McQuary, the 1-1 Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, testified to his Soldier's "positive outlook on life, and his constant smile," describing Brown as irreplaceable. He used the day he first met Spc. Brown to define the type of Soldier that the Gunfighters lost.

"I first met Spc. Brown back in January of this year during the first day of change of command inventory, and the weather was cold and windy. In the miserably cold weather, laying out the inventory was a tedious task indeed. Some of the Soldiers [treated the task as one more job]. But not Spc. Brown. He was the one who had a smile on his face, and he was ready to do anything it took to help us complete our task," he said.

Chaplain (Capt.) Jeffrey T. McKinney, the 1-1 chaplain, got to know Brown when they became neighbors at the beginning of the deployment. He placed the Soldiers' sacrifice in the context of what he said was God's plan for everyone and the life he said Brown was living at that moment.

"I see now that God orchestrated a set of events to draw Spc. Brown close to Him," the chaplain told the assembled Soldiers. "Spc.



FINAL WORDS

As the crowd of mourners ebbs from Spc. Micheal Brown's memorial ceremony, Sgt. Elie M. Regis and Staff Sgt. Douglas J. Saunders remain behind to pay their final tributes to their fellow Gunfighter

A COLORFUL LIFE

A memorial in honor of Spc. Michael Brown, a flight operations specialist with the 1-1 ARB Gunfighters displayed during his ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher



Brown, like most of us, was learning, growing, and finding his way. I am honored that he chose to do that among us.

"We really saw in the weeks leading up to his death how God wrapped his arms around him, and brought him back into his fellowship. I know that God has brought Spc. Brown to green pastures and quiet waters, and He has restored his soul. And that even here among us, He led him along the path of righteousness for His namesake,

and even though Michael Brown walked through the shadow of the valley of death there was no fear for our God was with him."

During one of the most emotionally trying parts of the cer-

'I want you to picture him sitting at a table, beside green pastures and quiet waters.'

--CHAP. (CAPT.) JEFFREY T. MCKINNEY, 1-1 ARB CHAPLAIN

emony, Staff Sgt. James Borchardt, who was not only Brown's squad leader, but also considered himself a close personal friend, spoke about his memories and experiences with Spc. Brown.

"I had the privilege of being Spc. Brown's squad leader for almost a year. Spc. Brown was always willing to lend a hand, or a hug, to everyone that he met," Borchardt said.

Several speakers at the memorial service remembered

Brown's everpresent distinctive smile, and Borchardt was no exception.

"His smile was contagious. He had a way to bring the best out of everyone. Spc. Brown had this remarkable smile that no one could ever forget. His loud-pitched voice and humorous laugh [added to] his personality," Borchardt said.

The ceremony culminated in the traditional last roll call – taken by 1st Sgt. Sean Gale, the HHC first sergeant; the sounding of

"Taps;" and a salute to the fallen. McKinney asked the assembled Soldiers to remember Brown during the roll call.

"We will conduct a roll call in just a minute, and as you hear the silence after Michael Brown's name, I want you to picture him, sitting at a table, beside green pastures and quiet waters, with that big cheesy smile of his, saying, "Here I am first sergeant, here I am," McKinney said.

At the conclusion of the

ceremony, a column of mourners filed past Brown's display, saluting the memorial displays and saying their final goodbyes, as strains of slow music filtered through the periphery.

"Today, Michael Brown sits at a table. His head is anointed with oil, and his cup overflows," McKinney said of the fallen during his remarks at the ceremony. "Goodness and love will follow him, as he dwells in the house of the Lord."

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