



A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep



The Powder River, Sheridan County, Wyo., July 1950



Facebook vs. the 2-300th Field Artillery?

What the Powder River Cowboys are doing to keep social networking secure and available.

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait -- Social networking sites like Facebook are popular among Soldiers and their Families, but the same popularity and ability to share information causes concern for inadvertent leaks of sensitive information.

The 2-300th Field Artillery embraced the online forums with caution.

See SNS Pg 4



SNS -- Social networking sites like this 2-300th Facebook site require Soldiers to stick to regulations to keep them open.

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Promotion Ceremony

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait — 1st Lt. Casey Henry shakes the hand of B Battery commander, Capt. Fred Nasredine, after he was promoted from second lieutenant, recently. Standing next to Henry is his wife, 1st Lt. Amy Henry. Pictured next to Naredine are B Battery 1st Sgt. Robert Butz and Capt. Matthew Berry, serving as the ceremony's adjutant.

"The Powder River, a mile wide and an inch deep, too thick to drink and too thin to plough."

- An old timer from Cowboys' past

Soldier in the Field:

What's the best part of your work day?



2nd Lt. Steven Merkley, C Battery:
Going on missions with my guys



1st Lt. Shawn Stensaas, Headquarters:
Talking to Sgt. Samuel Bloom



Staff Sgt. William Ahrndt, A Company:
Lunch



Sgt. Samuel Bloom, Headquarters Battery:
Talking to 1st Lt. Shawn Stensaas



Capt. Troy Wacaser, Headquarters Battery: I like all of it.

Notes from Powder River 6



Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik
"Powder River 6"

The Powder River Cowboys celebrated the passing of another month of their vacation in the sands of Southeastern Asia.

August brought the hottest temperatures and harshest conditions of the year and we are glad to have it behind us. We learned that when the wind shifts and blows moisture off of the Persian Gulf, there actually can be high humidity in Kuwait and Iraq. The high humidity and temperatures in the 120's definitely reminded all of us that Wyoming and the United States is a great place to be in August, regardless of the weather.

This month, I would like to highlight the outstanding work of our A Company on loan to us from the 960th Brigade Support Battalion. This unit is charged with providing personnel security for American troops and contractors moving into, around, and out of Kuwait.

This mission is extremely complex with a lot of moving parts, requiring a meticulous attention to detail. Nearly every Soldier, Marine, Airman, Sailor and contractor moving into, or out of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait will be assisted by and protected by our A Company. They have done an outstanding job to date, logging more than 360,000 vehicle miles and exceeded 3,600 missions complete.

See POWDER RIVER 6 Pg 3

Chaplain's Corner

Have you ever wondered why bad things happen to good people? That's a difficult question to answer, and yet if we put things into perspective, it may become easier to understand.

The flip side of the question would be, "Why do I, a sinner, have so many blessings from God?" Think about the things that God protects you from each day. The near misses as you go about your duties, the germs that come into contact with your body that never produce disease — all the times when God goes before you, protecting you from harm that you may never even know about.

A few years ago, a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park, was walking through a burned-out section of the park that had succumbed to an early spring fire. The ranger came upon a very unusual sight. At the base of a burned-out tree, were the charred remains of a blue grouse.

Because the bird was still standing in an upright position, the ranger wondered why she didn't just fly away from the flames. He took a stick and poked the bird, and as he did so, he saw movement underneath. He rolled the bird over, and there he discovered four baby chicks, two underneath each wing. This mama Blue Grouse had stood her ground in order to protect her babies, even as the flames swept over her and burned her body to death.

See CHAPLAIN Pg 4



2-300th FA Chaplain (Capt.) Randy Sawyer

A Whole Platoon Effort



PHOTO COURTESY B BATTERY

IRAQ — The Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, 115th Fires Brigade, pose for a picture after completing a convoy escort mission, the first as a complete platoon, Aug. 23. “We encountered no problems and were excited to do a mission as a platoon,” said 1st Lt. Casey Henry, platoon leader. Most missions are run using fewer Soldiers. The 2-300th, including B Battery, provides security for convoys, among other missions and duties assigned. B Battery and the most of the 2-300th is based out of Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

POWDER RIVER 6 continued from Page 2

This is a tall order and hefty challenge for one company. Their mission is quite different than what they expected prior to our arrival, but they have adapted and executed brilliantly.

One of the greatest benefits that comes from long combat deployments is the opportunity to develop and grow future leaders. These men and women will lead our units and the Wyoming National Guard for years to come, long after the current leadership is gone.

We took advantage of the opportunities to conduct leader training through every step of this deployment, at all levels. Over this past month, Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Guimond and I took an opportunity to spend some time with platoon and battery level leadership, both non-commissioned officers, as well as commissioned officers, to discuss some of the leadership challenges we face. Each of these leaders is responsible, depending on rank and assignment, with leading between a five-Soldier section, to a 36-Soldier platoon, or a 150-Soldier battery, or company. We discussed roles and responsibilities, unity of command and other leadership topics. The command sergeant major’s and my experiences were very encouraging. Our face-to-face meetings with all of these leaders, in the same location, at the same time, re-affirmed our beliefs that the future of our unit is in good hands.

I will conclude with a wish for a great fall in Wyoming and throughout the United States. As fall is right around the corner, many of our Soldiers become even more homesick. Many of our Soldiers enjoy fall in the states more than any other time of the year. Football season starts, hunting seasons begin, the leaves change and the weather cools off. As one of the costs of serving our great nation and state, many Powder River Cowboys will forego a hunting season and many more have planned their mid-tour leave for the coming months so that they can partake in one or more hunts. Regardless of what you like most about fall in Wyoming, the Powder River Cowboys wish you the best. We continue to be extremely thankful for all of your support and for taking care of our jobs and Families while we are gone.

Our colors and designs have meaning too

Editor's Note: This is the fourth of four articles dedicated to the traditions of the 2-300th Field Artillery.

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait — Symbols, signs and slogans can serve to focus unit pride and heritage into a small package, easily recognized and ready for

ceremony.

Nearly every aspect has symbolism and meaning. That includes the choice of colors, the designs used to create the insignias, even the size of the insignias are spelled out.

The distinctive unit insignia's, often

referred to as the unit's crest, the coat of arms and slogan can all be found through the Institute of Military Heraldry.

The following is the Institute's record of the 2-300th's products.

See Pg 5 for the full description

FACEBOOK continued from Page 1

The approach begins with the battalion's Facebook site, with limits to what can be posted and by whom. Only the battalion's designated administrators, authorized by the battalion commander, can post photographs or video. All of those posts are reviewed by the battalion's counter-intelligence staff to ensure nothing that could compromise a mission is put out for all to see and download. As limiting as it may sound, these steps are intended to keep the forum open. So far, positive remarks have been left on the site by Families and friends of Soldiers.

The second step is educating the Powder River Cowboys themselves. Many Soldiers carry cameras, shoot videos, take pictures, then blog or utilize social networking sites like Twitter, YouTube, Facebook or MySpace. With guidance from the counter-intelligence officer and public affairs officer, commanders and first sergeants can help avoid accidental postings of items the government considers sensitive.

Photographing the Photographer



Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik/2-300th Field Artillery

IRAQ — 2nd Lt. Christian Venhuizen, of Cheyenne, Wyo., photographs a location in Iraq, Aug. 11, while on assignment for the 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery Battalion, based at Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

CHAPLAIN continued from Page 1

In Psalm 91:4, the psalmist tells us that God will "Cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge." If a mother blue grouse can save her chicks from the flames of a forest fire, imagine how much more our God can certainly protect us from the flames of life. He can and He does shelter us more often than we realize.

Yes, sometimes bad things happen to good people. More often than not, though, God covers us with His feathers and provides refuge from the flames of life.

Care Packages

Care packages, letters, and cards can be mailed directly to your Powder River Cowboys. Send it to:

Name of Soldier
Battery (either HHB, A, B, C, Btry. or A Co.) 2-300th FA
APO AE 09327

If you want to send it to a specific battery, mail it to the same address, but address it to the first sergeant:

A Battery, 1st Sgt. Brian Fawcett; B Battery, 1st Sgt. Robert Butz; C Battery, 1st Sgt. Tim Metro; A Company, Jacinto Garcia; Headquarters, 1st Sgt. Michael Warner.

Packages to the 2-300th as a whole should be sent to 1st Sgt. Warner, with Headquarters (HHB).

Please identify if the package is for the whole battalion.

Name the Ribbons

The ribbon rack featured on the front page of each newsletter was modified to accurately reflect the 2-300th's combat legacy. From top to bottom, left to right, are the Spanish Campaign Medal, the Philippine Campaign Medal, World War I Victory Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korea Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global war on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army Service Ribbon.

Distinctive Unit Insignia and Coat of Arms of the 2-300th FA

Distinctive Unit Insignia *Description using modified heraldry writeup

Description: A gold-color metal and enamel device 1 5/32 inches in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules (red), five fleurs-de-lis Or (gold) one, three, and one, on a chief embattled (alternating raised blocks) azure (blue) fimbriated (fringed) of the second a demi-sun (half-sun) issuant of the like. Attached below the shield a gold scroll inscribed "POWDER RIVER" in blue letters.

Symbolism: The red shield and the five gold fleurs-de-lis are for artillery service in France. The chief is blue for infantry service in the Philippines. The gold sun recalls both the Far Eastern service and the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 41st Division. The parting line is yellow for the cavalry assignment of the regiment, and the line is made embattled, recalling the fighting record of the old organization. The motto has been the battle cry and catch word of the regiment from its earliest days and through three wars.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 115th Cavalry on 12 June 1924. It was redesignated for the 115th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, mechanized on July 12, 1944. The insignia was redesignated for the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion on Feb. 7, 1952. It was redesignated for the 49th Artillery Regiment on April 5, 1961. It was redesignated for the 49th Field Artillery Regiment on June 19, 1972. It was redesignated effective Oct. 1, 1996, for the 300th Field Artillery Regiment. The insignia was amended to correct the authorization of the insignia on Nov. 4, 2004.



Coat of Arms *Description using modified heraldry writeup

Blazon:

Shield: Gules, five fleurs-de-lis Or one, three, and one, on a chief embattled azure fimbriated of the second a demi-sun issuant of the like.

Crest: That for the regiments and separate battalions of the Wyoming Army National Guard: From a wreath Or and gules, an American bison statant proper (natural color).

Motto: POWDER RIVER.

Symbolism:

Shield: The red shield and the five gold fleurs-de-lis are for Artillery service in France. The chief is blue for Infantry service in the Philippines. The gold sun recalls both the Far Eastern service and the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 41st Division. The parting line is yellow for the cavalry assignment of the regiment, and the line is made embattled recalling the fighting record of the old organization. The motto has been the battle cry and catch word of the regiment from its earliest days and through four wars.

Crest: The crest is that of the Wyoming Army National Guard.

Background: The coat of arms was originally approved for the 115th Cavalry on June 9, 1924. It was redesignated for the 115th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, mechanized on July 10, 1944. The insignia was redesignated for the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion on Feb. 7, 1952. It was redesignated for the 49th Artillery Regiment on April 5, 1961. It was redesignated for the 49th Field Artillery Regiment on June 19, 1972. It was redesignated effective Oct. 1, 1996, for the 300th Field Artillery Regiment. The insignia was amended to correct the authorization of the insignia on Nov. 4, 2004.



*Official write-up found on the Institute of Heraldry's website, www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/tioh.htm

'Faces' from home: Messages from Facebook

We asked our faithful Facebook following to post messages "To My Soldier," on a discussion board. These were their responses. NOTE: Corrections were made for spelling. Soldiers' names were also removed.

To My Soldier,

You're the most amazing husband a wife could ever ask for. You're such a good Daddy to Cameron, and we miss you every-day. Thank You for keeping our family safe. Love, Hugs, Kisses, and Prayers, Dani, & Baby Cameron & Don't forget the puppies Jax and Skeeter too :)



Danita Jerry

To My Soldier,

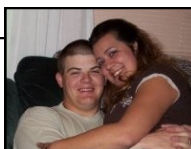
Time and distance can't touch what you and I have. You keep your chin up there and know that the kids and I will be here waiting for you when you get home. After 15 years of marriage and 17 years together, I still know that there is no better man for me and no other man could love me better than you. I love and miss you every minute of every day. XOXO



Joy Butz

To My Soldier:

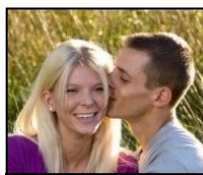
Never forget that I love you more than life itself! You are the best husband and the best daddy anyone could ask for! No matter what, we are here waiting until you come home to us. We are so very proud of what you are doing. We miss you and love you so much! Love Forever, Jess, Megs, Birdie and Lil' B



Jessica Price

To My Soldier,

My heart swells with pride every time I see you put on your uniform. We're proving we can make it no matter what others say. You are my guardian angel and my best friend. Wyatt misses his daddy. He will be so proud of what you do when he gets bigger. We love you so much! Love Always, Brittini & Wyatt



Brittini Songy



Stacey Michael

To My Soldier,

I am so proud of the man you are and always will be! Beyond the uniform is my best friend, my soul mate... the love of my life. I could not have asked for a better father or husband. Your son loves you and misses you so very much! I have to smile when I think of how far we have come and how strong we are! Stay strong my love and take my heart with you.. I love you always LT!!

A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep is a publication of the public affairs office of the 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery Regiment. The publication is an authorized publication. The views and opinions expressed in *A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep* are not necessarily those of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 2-300th Field Artillery public affairs officer. *A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep* is a monthly publication.

All contributions, questions, comments and suggestions should be submitted via e-mail to: christian.venhuizen@us.army.mil. All materials submitted will be screened for security, accuracy, policy, clarity and space.

Battalion Commander: Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik
Public Affairs Officer: 2nd Lt. Christian Venhuizen



April Bloom

To My Soldier,

I love you with all of my heart and soul. I miss you with every beat of my heart and I cannot wait until I get the call that you are coming home. You are truly my hero, my best friend and the love of my life and I am blessed and extremely proud to be your wife. Thank you for being such an incredible husband and just know that you are always in my heart and will love you forever. I love you! Love, April

More Messages from Facebook (Photos from individual's public profile)



Jessica Tetzlaff

To My Soldier:

You are just an amazing husband, father and my very best friend. We miss you an awful lot here. Jayden asks about you all the time! Thank you for being so good to us! And thank you for being such an awesome soldier!!!!

You are our inspiration to be a good strong family and we can't wait to have you home!! We are proud to have

you as the heart of our family and we know that you will start to feel right about everything again! Have faith and know that we will always support you and love you very much!! 37 more days and you will have a brand new baby to love!!!!!!

We love you very much!!!!!!

Jessi, Jayden and Baby Tetzlaff!!!

To My Soldier:

Thank you to all of you for being such an awesome unit I am new to all this and all of you that know me have been helpful! Thank you for doing all that you do. Being away from family is not easy and you guys do it at will and that truly makes all of you heroes!!!!!! SO just extending a heartfelt THANK

YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THE TETZLAFFS ON THE STATE SIDE!!!!

To My Soldier:

Dad and I are so proud of you! When you were little we would pray that you would never have to be in this situation, but you are, 2nd time even. You grew up in a Wy National Guard family & joined an even larger one. We trust this "family" with our son. But most important we trust God's care over you and your family! Even when some "stupid" person hits your wife's car in the middle of the night. We love you lots Allen, your family is safe and thriving, it's hard at times on all of you but it's all good! Dad says "stay safe" and I say "say your prayers"! Love Mom and Dad! *(Kim Price)*

To My Soldier,

I feel very blessed to have you in my life. You are an amazing man and my best friend! The kids and I miss you very much and can't wait for you to come home safe and sound. I'm grateful for all the love and sacrifice you give our family. You truly are the best husband anyone could ever ask for! I love you with all my heart and I hope you can feel my love no matter where you are.

Keep up the great work you are doing and always remember that we are constantly thinking of you.

Lots of hugs and kisses and never forget that you are the best!!!!

Love always and forever,

Emily



Emily Wacaser

To My Soldier:

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Today I was reflecting on that thought for quite a while. At first I thought, that is a bunch of crap, you know, being separated just plain

sucks! Then I was thinking, this deployment has made me admire and cherish you more than ever. You are an amazing husband and provider.

Not having you here has made me acknowledge and appreciate what you do, not only for our country but at home as well. You do so much. You tackle home projects effortlessly and, with a smile on your face, you fix just about anything I ask you to, and not only all of that, but you rarely complain about pitching in with the dishes, or laundry, and you always clean up after yourself.

You might think this is silly but there are so many chauvinistic men that feel like there are "women's jobs" and "men's jobs" and will not do certain things. You have embraced our relationship and really made an effort to make it 50-50. It is a coordinated effort between husband and wife and no one holds the primary duty of any one task. If it needs done, whoever is there gets it done.

I love you for your patience and willingness to try new things and tackle tasks in uncharted territory. I feel so fortunate to have you for my husband. Not having you here has made me realize all that you do and how lucky I am. So, I can truly say, absence has made my heart grow fonder.

I love you, and I am blessed to have you for a husband.



Karie Barry



A Battery

BOHICA (Because of Honor I Choose Alpha)

From Capt. Kevin Messamer, commander, A Battery, and Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Gillespie, platoon sergeant

Another month down, and we have officially started sending Soldiers home on leave! The Soldiers of Alpha Battery are doing a great job, and, as you can see by the photographs, have discovered many ways to keep themselves motivated with some major laughs here and there.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for keeping the Soldiers informed and motivated about all the wonderful things going on at home and I know they can't wait to get home to see you. Take care and God Bless!!

— Capt. Messamer

"It's hot out here!" seems to be the words heard around here these days. Regardless of what you're wearing, or what you're doing, the heat sure knows how to play a role in our day to day lives, in Kuwait and Iraq. Telling Soldiers to drink liquids isn't much of a problem.

With two months under our belts, and a third one underway, Soldiers have started feeling the effects both anticipation of leave and the daily grind of providing security for the massive amount of trucks which break down on a regular basis.

With steadfast thinking, good attitudes, and the will to complete the mission; Soldiers on the ground doing the mission deserve a lot of credit



PHOTO COURTESY A BATTERY

ALMOST REAL — A Battery First Sgt. Brian Fawcett enjoys some 'near beer' and burgers with his unit. Camp Virginia's dining facility provides food for cookouts, and non-alcoholic beer, sodas and beverages are sold at the PX.

for accomplishing all the little tasks accompanied with the mission that is asked of us as a unit.

Soldiers in 2nd Platoon were asked, "What is going well for you on this mission thus far?" This is what they had to say:

Sgt. Blake Strickland, "Pretty predictable schedule."

Staff Sgt. David Kingman, "Operating in a relatively safe environment."

Staff Sgt. Christopher Urman, "No swine flu, injuries, or IED's."

Sgt. Christopher Atkins, "Mission prep time makes us on time always."



PHOTO COURTESY A BATTERY

TAPE DELAYED — Staff Sgt. Christopher Urman...um...A Battery didn't really explain this one.

A Battery cont'd



PHOTO COURTESY A BATTERY

NOT REGULATION — Sgt. Glenn Worley sports the latest Camp Virginia hair styles.

Sgt. Ian Beaudry, "Experiences and teamwork."

Cpl. Randy Stevens, "Morale!"

Pvt. Albert Duran, "Safety!"

Pfc. Sean Redding, "It is what it is, I don't have much to say either way."

Sgt. Lawrence Ekis, "Squad cohesion is working out well for our convoy escort team."

Staff Sgt. Joseph Jesppesen, "Camaraderie."

Sgt. Brett Buen, "Everyone is getting a chance to do a different job, allowing us to be more versatile."

Spc. Eric Dirkes, "Doing missions makes time go by really fast."

Spc. Brandon Miles, "Less (civilian convoy) truck break downs due to us being more thorough."

Pfc. Charles Monk, "First deployment, so everything is new and I'm learning a lot."

Spc. Andrew Johnson, "I'm going on leave real soon (to Oregon)."

Sgt. John Mitchell, "Gym isn't bad, it keeps me busy."

Pfc. Dustin Scott, "Staying busy."

Spc. Zachary Simpson, "I've been going to the gym consistently."

Staff Sgt. Michael Riggins, "I've got a good crew."

Spc. Christopher Chestnutt, "There's a lot of support stuff to make our stay a little better off".

Sgt. Michael Carmenaty, "We have been fortunate to (make it) thus far with no major incidents."

Spc. John Kangus, "Chow is good, but I love the (available movies on) DVD."

Spc. Jeremy Hartt, "Accomplishing the mission and always making our times."

Spc. Brian Heffington, "My team leader is a bad a#@!"

Spc. Christopher Irvine, "Hydration!"

Sgt. Stephen Green, "The gym is nice."

Sgt. Michael Christopherson, "The ability to read books to my kids, USO, and they fix broke stuff here pretty quick."

Spc. Michael Hegi, "Keeping each other safe and doing what we were trained to do."

Sgt. Jesse Pangus, "(Morale Welfare and Recreation) is great, not a stressful mission, and the chain of command seems to be a lot better this go around."

Spc. Carlos Bautista, "Access to phones."

Spc. Harley Gonzales, "Chow is good."

Spc. Matthew Tomanek, "No surprises, there is consistency."

Sgt. Luke Myers, "Team work is our biggest strength."

Spc. Jonathan Graf, "Setting personal issues aside to accomplish our mission."

Sgt. Armando Borgonia, "Been here since Nov. 2008. I've got a routine down pat."

Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Gillespie, "My guys are taking care of business with very little complaining, in a safe manner."

As the days become filled with jobs of all sorts, our minds are pre occupied with days' events and what's next on the mission board. We realize that whether we're out on a mission, or in the office, taking care of paper work and Soldier issues, everyday completed is another day closer to coming back home to our loved ones. With cooler weather in sight, and a chance for a two week rest and relaxation break; our mission will be changing for the better. Looking back on our first day in country, we are definitely working the bugs out and running a lot smoother as a whole. BOHICA!

— Sgt 1st Class Jonathan Gillespie



B Battery

A Day at the 'Office'

Sgt. 1st Class Adam Ross, platoon sergeant, B Battery



2nd Lt. Christian Venhuizen/2-300th Field Artillery

MISSION PREP — (Top) Sgt. Brian Parish, right, of Evanston, Wyo., and Spc. Blake Hampton, of Arthur, Neb., make sure their .50 caliber machine gun is ready for their mission to escort convoys from Kuwait to Iraq, Aug. 24. (Bottom) Pfc. Quincy Morrell, of Green River, Wyo., steps out of a MaxxPro Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle, Aug. 24.



I recently spent 24 hours with one of my squads on the convoy quick reaction force. This duty rotates amongst all of the 2nd of the 300th Batteries.



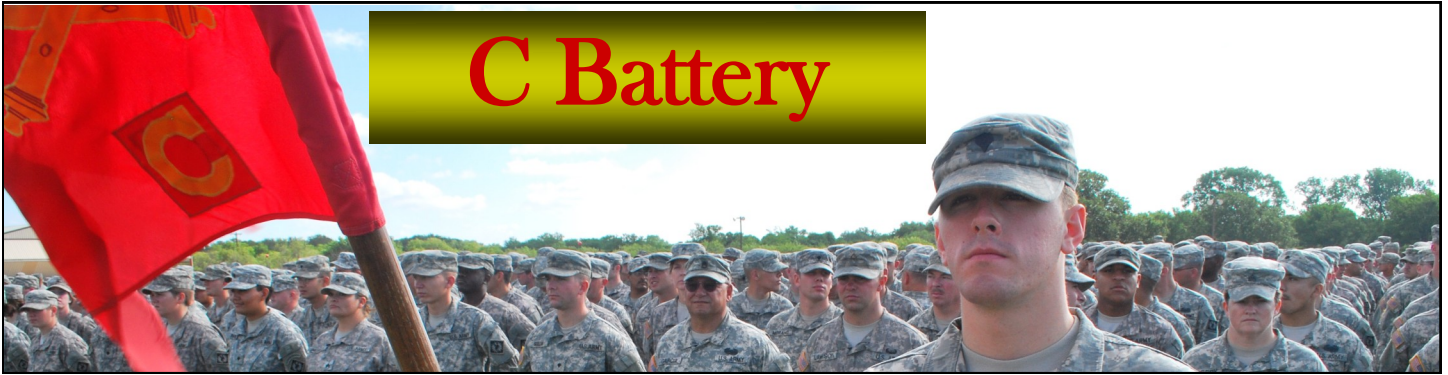
Sgt. 1st Class Adam Ross

The duty consists of preparing trucks and equipment in case there is a need to secure and recover vehicles headed to and from Iraq. After completion of mission preparation, we went into a standby status to assist any of our convoys going north, to Iraq, or coming south of the "berm."

We received an early morning call that one of our convoys needed our assistance. We finalized a location for the link-up with the wrecker truck and other support elements and were moving down the road within minutes of the alert.

Arriving at the site of the disabled vehicle, we immediately established a secure perimeter to start recovery operations. The recovery personnel completed a temporary fix on the disabled truck and gave us the green light to head back to base. We escorted them safely, back to their repair facility, and then returned to our camp.

This is a slice of operations that Bravo Battery Soldiers and the rest of the 2nd of the 300th Powder River Cowboys have to do on a daily basis. Lots of driving, long hours, heat, border crossings, and yeah, did I mention the open desert landscape? The sun never looked bigger and brighter!



Communicating with Charlie

Capt. Glenn Nicholson, commander, C Battery



Spc. Brandon Yule/2-300th Field Artillery

READY TO ROLL — C Battery Soldiers prepare their tactical vehicles to roll at the Iraq-Kuwait border crossing.

They volunteered to hold over for another tour of duty. Their experiences are a welcomed addition to the battery. Overall, our Soldiers bring a wealth of experience from across the Army and other military branches. Most of our Soldiers have deployed before.

The sum of our military experiences are greater than even the age of our republic. We have not only become a team, but a close knit group akin to a Family. It is said that in war one does not fight for lofty, abstract ideals, but rather for the Soldier at your right and left. That is certainly true of the War Dogs of Charlie Battery. All of these factors add up to an effective unit that can accomplish the mission (described by the Commander in the last newsletter) while keeping each other safe.

Missions take up a lot of our time, but training hasn't stopped. Our Soldiers continuously sharpen their skills.

Friends, Family, and employers of the men and women of Charlie Battery, be proud of your Soldiers! They are thriving in the midst of adversity.

Every challenge, to date, has been met and overcome. Here are our current milestones:

- 130 missions completed,
- 39,166 miles driven.

Our Soldiers are no longer just from Wyoming. They hail from every climate and place — literally throughout the world. The Eastern Seaboard, the Great Plains, the West, and various islands in the Pacific are all represented.

We particularly want to welcome our newest Soldiers. They arrived to the battery from the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, the unit the 2-300th replaced.

C Battery cont'd

See C BATTERY CONT'D Pg. 12

We have recently completed two rifle ranges, where our gunners shot our crew served machine guns and individual weapons.

Drivers' training is rigorously conducted to produce personnel qualified to operate the newest vehicle in our fleet – the MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle. Sustainment training in areas such as first aid for Soldiers and civilians, handling hazardous materials (there are many tanker trucks carrying petroleum products in the convoys), mounted land navigation, and troop leading procedures is conducted on an ongoing basis.

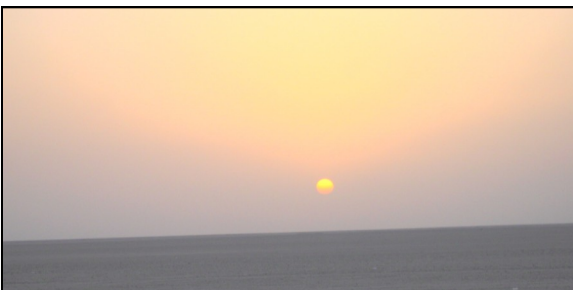
Personal development is a top priority for many of our Soldiers. Our Soldiers are taking advantage of educational opportunities here at camp Virginia. The University of Maryland and Central Texas College offer technical, professional, and vocational classes. There are also classes available to assist Soldiers in increasing their ASVAB (the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) scores. Higher scores translate directly into more career options. Soldiers also have the option of taking CLEP and DANTES tests. A passing score on these will earn a soldier college credit in the course tested.

All in all the men and women of Charlie Battery are very busy. The benefit is that time passes more quickly. It is hard to believe that over one third of the scheduled deployment is complete. At times we feel as though we are just now settled into a routine after all of the work-ups and training. It's been a long road in getting



Spc. Brandon Yule/2-300th Field Artillery

BEAUTY OFTEN OVERLOOKED — Sometimes the views of our surroundings are cluttered with things like traffic, blowing dust and sweat from the heat of the desert. However, there are moments when the dust settles, the traffic dissipates and the air cools. (Top) Civilian style vehicles (nontactical vehicles) drive through the Kuwaiti desert in the middle of a sandstorm. (Bottom) The gunner's view from the turret just as day breaks in the Kuwaiti desert. (Bottom left) The sun rises just above the desert sands, signaling the start of a new day, and another day closer to coming home.





Notes from Alpha Co.

Capt. James Ezell, A Co. commander

2nd Lt. Matthew Bullington, 1st Platoon leader

Hello to everyone in the great state of Wyoming. All is well here in Kuwait.

We completed our combat patch ceremonies, five in all, since we have a few of our folks spread out over Kuwait.

First Sgt. Strasser told me this morning that we were 40-percent complete with our deployment as of Sept. 3, so it's a good day today!

Our missions are going well and we continue to look for ways to improve and make things work more efficiently. Hopefully we'll be out of the triple-digit temperatures real soon.

We're getting along great with all our Hawaii, Samoa, and Guam folks and they continue to be highly motivated along with the rest of Alpha 960th.

I'd like to say thank you to a few folks that have adopted us through the "Adopt a Soldier" Program. A "thank you" goes out to William "Derek" Crockett from Wade, N.C., Tanya Nelson from Huntsville, Ala., and Kristina Hopkins from Naples, Fla.

Thank you for all your kind words and support along with all our friends and Families from Wyoming! Also, its football season so GO POKES!!

Take Care everyone and we'll see you all soon!

— Capt. Ezell



PHOTOS COURTESY A COMPANY

CAMP CLEANUP — A photograph of Third Platoon, A Company, 960th Brigade Support Battalion, participating in a camp-wide cleanup of the Life Support Area, Kuwait, recently. More than 30 bags of trash were collected in an hour. Third Platoon Soldiers noted a definite improvement to the look of the camp.



HARD WORK —

Sgt. Matthew Hutchinson, of A Company, 960th Brigade Support Battalion, sports gloves and eye protection while out helping to beautify the Life Support Area, Kuwait, on Aug. 26.

Joining the Ranks of the NCOs



LIFE SUPPORT AREA, Kuwait

Kuwait — Sgt. Daniel Provost sports his new rank after his Aug. 7 promotion.

The members of First Platoon have been extremely busy since taking over the "Black Horse" Gateway mission. With over 800 missions in less than 60 days they are always moving. We have also been fortunate enough to honor three Soldiers with long awaited, and much deserved promotions. Spc. Ravid Ingram, Spc. Wade Wohl, and Pvt. (PV2) Karl Ayers all were awarded with the rank that they have earned.

Spc Jesus Aguilera has shown Soldiers, sailors, and Airmen alike the strength of the Wyoming National Guard. Aguilera entered and won two 5K races that are open to anyone on Camp Virginia. With very little competition for him, Aguilera cruised to victory in both races.

— 2nd Lt. Matthew Bullington



Let'r Buck!

2nd Lt. Christian Venhuizen, executive officer, Headquarters Battery



PHOTO BY 2ND LT. CHRISTIAN VENHUIZEN

HIS FIRST COMBAT PATCH — Spc. Matthew Burns, right, stands proud as he receives his combat patch from Headquarters Battery Commander Capt. Troy Wacaser. Combat patches are awarded for serving in a combat zone.

As a young officer, relatively speaking (I'm 31 years old), I have an opportunity to be constantly amazed as to what Soldiers can do and how they can contribute. It's a license given when you pin on your bar and told to look at the complete picture.

When I enlisted, the other newly indoctrinated Warriors and I took to our roles as the lowest ranking Soldiers on the block. We were the ones taking out the trash and cleaning out the latrines.

There were times when I worried that my real abilities were



PHOTO BY 2ND LT. CHRISTIAN VENHUIZEN

LOCAL ARTIST -- Staff Sgt. David Fink creates some of the signs going up around the 2-300th Field Artillery compound at Camp Virginia. He splits time as a starving artist and a well fed mechanic.

overlooked.

Now, I'm on the other end. I am looking to see how ALL of the Soldiers in the battery can contribute to the fight, some in their own unique manner.

I wandered through the motor pool recently and found Staff Sgt. David Fink. I knew he was a mechanic, but was surprised to find him over a stencil instead of under a vehicle. He's created some of the battalion's new signs. It's a skill, he smiled about as he described it to me.

Then there's Spc. Matthew Burns. Initially a bit reserved, he's finding his stride in the desert. He has found a use for that massive intellect of his. What he does, I can't really describe, but I can say it keeps us in the fight.

Recently, I've even had to take a look at myself. You'll notice a photo of me on page 4. Among the lessons learned -- I never fail to find wisdom when the battalion commander orders it done.

-- 2nd Lt. Venhuizen



Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery commander



Pfc. Jeremie Ressler/960th Brigade Support Battalion

FROM THE HEART -- Second Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, commander Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik, of Pinedale, Wyo., delivers an address to troops, during the Patriot Day ceremony at the Camp Virginia, Kuwait, chapel, Sept. 11.

Like most of America, including Wyoming, the Powder River Cowboys commemorated the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in their own way. Some attended a memorial service on Camp Virginia. Some remembered as they conducted missions in Iraq and Kuwait. Some spent time alone reflecting on the day and it's meaning to them individually.

The military is a very ceremonial institution. We honor, memorialize and celebrate a variety of different events and occasions and we do it often. Sept. 11 is unique. It is unique because it is an event that we can share with our Families and others, who don't all wear a uniform.

All of us remember where we were, what we were doing and our feelings on that dreadful day. It hit us in the guts hard enough to remember well. It hit us in the guts whether we wear a uniform of the armed services, the uniform of a firefighter, the uniform of a policeman, or whether we don't wear a uniform at all. We all may not understand, but what is important, and what makes it unique, is the fact that *we all can relate*. We all have our own memory and thoughts regardless of our profession, and regardless of how we individually choose to support our nation's efforts, or future endeavors.

History will mark Sept. 11, now Patriot Day, as one of the most influencing moments of the century. It changed our way of life. It changed our opinions. It changed our perspective on the world. It changed our relationships. It strengthened our resolve. It strengthened our might against enemies and it strengthened our military.

As we honor and remember those who sacrificed on that day, we have a new opportunity. We have an opportunity to celebrate Patriot Day together. We have an opportunity to thank our forefathers for their contributions to our country. We have an opportunity to celebrate all of our own contributions to our nation, uniformed or not. As we remember those who sacrificed then, before and since that day, we have the opportunity to honor their contributions through all of our own service to our state and country.

On this day, as the Powder River Cowboys celebrate Patriot Day with their brethren in uniform and their fellow countrymen, they remembered it is this spirit of service that makes our country what it is.

POWDER RIVER! LET R BUCK!