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Volume 1, Issue 1



65th Engineer Battalion, US ARMY



65th Engineers Arrive at Camp Buehring, Kuwait

By 1LT Miguel Lima

Late into the evening of Friday January 3rd, troops from the 65th began to meet in the company areas. After receiving briefs and spending their last hours with their families, the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Forward Support Company and the 95th Engineer Company loaded their bags and boarded the buses that would take them to Hickam AFB. From Hickam, the Soldiers received a final word of advice and good speed from MG Raymond V. Mason, commanding general of the 8th TSC before boarding the . The airplane was

chartered specifically to transport the Soldiers to Kuwait and would take them from Honolulu, HI to Anchorage, AK, to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and finally to Kuwait City, Kuwait. The trip lasted over 25 hours and although travel weary, the Soldiers made their final movement to Camp Buehring via bus. Arriving at 0100 local time, the Soldiers disembarked to reunite with the Advance Party that

had left Hawaii one week earlier. After an orientation for the base and downloading bags, Soldiers finally claimed their bunk space for some well deserved rest. Early in the morning on Tuesday, 6 Jan, the second half of the main body arrived to Camp Buehring. With that, the battalion successfully deployed to Kuwait. A couple weeks of training and preparation and the battalion will make their final move to Iraq to begin their mission.



Right: An example of the tents that make our the temporary living quarters while in Kuwait. With cots as beds and battle buddies as bunk mates, this is home for the next couple of weeks while the battalion prepares for its final move to Iraq.

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"We sleep safe in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm." - George Orwell

New additions to the 65th

By 1LT Miguel Lima

In Kuwait, we've linked up with one of two new additions to the 65th that will complete the Task Force Trailblazer billet: the 511th Engineer Company. 511th is a Sapper Engineer company from Fort

Campbell under the command of CPT Brad Morgan. Although not a local unit from Hawaii, they have linked up with us once before out at AreaX-Ray on Schofield Barracks to participate in the Mission Readiness Exercise. They are vital to completing the bat-

talions' mission of training the Iraqi Army and providing mission support by ensuring safe mobility on the roads of north-east Iraq. The officers, NCOs, and Soldiers welcome our engineer brethren as they train with us one last time before we move into Iraq.

Big Audience for Battalion's Deployment Ceremony

By 1LT Miguel Lima

On 31 December, 2008, the battalion held its deployment ceremony. The New Years Eve event, the ceremony also attracted the attention of the local news media. Not only did the post Public Affairs office cover the event but also three separate news channels! During the ceremony, 65th Battalion Commander LTC Scott A Petersen and 130th Brigade Commander COL Fabian E Mendoza spoke to the soon-to-deploy Soldiers in formation. In a presentation steeped in drill and ceremony, its not necessarily the Soldiers on the field that

steal the show. Instead, it was the audience that made this type of ceremony unique. Both speakers eluded to this extremely important factor and fundamental base for the success of a deploying Soldier: their family. Spouses, parents, children and close friends made up our audience. Basically, the loved ones, the family of the 65th Engineer Battalion. Awesome individuals that give us the strength and determination to drive on and do our best. Whether you were in attendance or not, this ceremony was in honor of your commitment and support. Big mahalo!



The narrator reads the battalion's history as the colors are cased. Symbolically, the colors of deploying units are stowed for safe keeping until the unit's return.



Left: Battalion stands in formation for the deployment ceremony. Right: COL Mendoza addresses the formation while behind him sits the family and friends of the 65th.

Chaplain's Message



Chaplain Keith Ferrell

By CH Keith Ferrell

Finally, after four days 'Boots on Ground', the jetlag from over 20 hours in the air have faded away and the anticipation of moving into Iraq from Kuwait is building. Yet even in the midst of the excitement many are still fighting the general aspect of separation from loved ones, boredom, and expected uneasiness about head-

ing into a war zone. In the midst of these issues I am reminded of the writings of the Apostle Paul in the book of Philippians who writes, "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy— meditate on these things." The point is simple: when you think on the

positive aspects of what we are doing then you will retain a positive outlook. But when you dwell on the negative then your outlook will be bleak. As we in the wilderness look with anticipation on our mission ahead, we invite you to dwell on the good that we are doing and the job that our nation has called us to do. Time passes faster when your happy. God bless!

95th Engineer Company "Wolfpack"

WOLFPACK Family,
Aloha from Kuwait. It's Wednesday, 7 January, our second full day here, and the country is treating us well. We arrived to some frigid temperatures our first night, but we're all enjoying the sunny days and mild weather now. The 95th's Sappers are already training on route clearance, demolitions, and general Soldier skills in preparation for our movement north. Everyone seems to enjoy the amenities here including the extremely well stocked PX, multiple phone centers, a large tented gym, multiple dining facilities and some MWR facilities for relaxing. We are sleeping on cots and living in

large tents that support about 60 Sappers, and we have our own shower trailers with hot water. All in all, it is fairly comfortable.

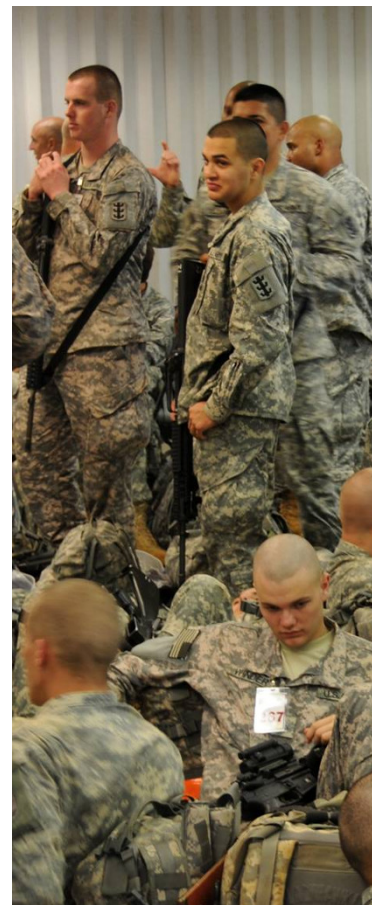
Internet is still extremely limited, so you may not receive too many e-mails while we're in transit. We will be working some long hours in Kuwait for the next two weeks, and we will also be extremely busy while we learn our jobs in Iraq. I do expect this period to include less free time for our Sappers. Rest assured, this workload will decrease as we settle into our new battle rhythm.

It was awesome to see everyone who came out for our departure on the early morn-

ing and late night of January 4th, and we all appreciated the support. We also appreciate everyone's support during our train up to the deployment. We have made the best of our training over the past year and half, and we will ensure our Sappers get everything they can out of our time here. Please know we are thinking of everyone at home, and we could not do this without your support.

Respectfully,

CPT Darren Moniot, Commander



Above: 95th Sappers wait at a Hickam terminal for the plane to arrive.

Below: A Soldier prepares for the long plane ride ahead. Some Soldiers were selected to fly in First Class because they helped out with loading the group's baggage.

FSC "Workhorse"

To the Friends and Families of the FSC "Workhorse". We have arrived in Kuwait safely and the Soldiers after a little jetlag have returned to their enthusiastic selves. We have continued to build upon our training and currently, we're recovering after the extreme

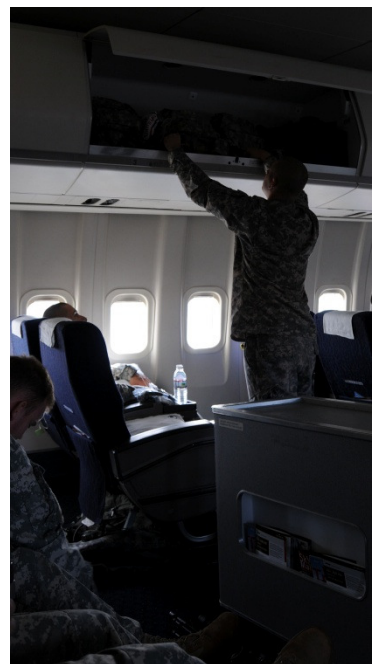
temperature difference between Hawaii and here. We plan on updating you throughout our journey and all of the Soldiers and the Command would once again like to thank the Families for their support throughout this transition. Without your support we

would not be able to complete our mission. Please continue to support the Family Readiness Group, Rear-Detachment, and your Soldier.

Very Respectfully,

CPT Matthew Amsdell
"Workhorse 6"

During a layover at Anchorage, Alaska, Soldiers make their last calls to loved ones before departing the country



Picture Gallery





65th Engineer Battalion, US ARMY

MAIL ADDRESS FOR SOLDIERS ON SPEICHER

Rank, First and Last Name

Company

65th EN BN

COB Speicher, Iraq

APO AE 09393

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Get more information using the Virtual FRG!

Sign up today at: www.VFRG.org

CONTACT THE BATTALION FAMILY READINESS ADVISOR (FRSA)

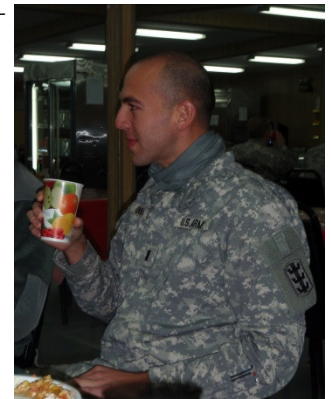
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Editor's Notes

I've been working with Bridget Shioshita, the Battalion Family Readiness Support Advisor (FRSA), and MAJ Aaron Dorf, the Battalion executive Officer, for the past three months before the deployment to strengthen our FRGs for the immense task of keeping you informed and engaged in the battalion's major events and milestones. I'll be editor for this newsletter that will be a weekly run-down of the work that we do and the heroes of the battalion. I see this publication growing into an ever changing format to showcase the broad scope of the everyday lives of the Soldiers. Please email me with suggestions on content, comments on particular stories or if you just want to pass on a "kudos" to a guest writer. Also, if you have any news that you would like to have published to the Soldiers over here, please contact Bridget. She will send a similar publication meant for us. This is another great way to stay in touch and keep connected! Salaam alay-kum (Peace be with you).

- 1LT Miguel Lima



Commander's Corner

Greetings from Kuwait!

We've been very busy getting everyone here and training in Kuwait to prepare for our mission, but most Soldiers have had an opportunity to call home. Thanks to everyone's support at the deployment ceremony and our send offs. My intent is to send newsletters and post them to our vFRG website as often as possible. As we transition with the unit we are replacing in Iraq, that will be difficult at first, but I wanted to share what our great Soldiers are doing. During the first two weeks of January, we completed our final training to be fully ready to do our route clearance, construction and Iraqi Engineer Part-

nership. None of it is possible if we are not experts in moving equipment and Soldiers Safely through dangerous areas, and know how to react if our enemies don't want to cooperate. I can tell you that our Soldiers know how to do these things but getting some refresher training and updates on what is going on in Iraq is very important.

CSM Morse and I have been very pleased with the efforts from our Soldiers here in Kuwait. Many things are difficult to do—especially when the temperatures are 40 degrees cooler than what we left in paradise and we are tired from adjusting to the 13 hour time difference. The HHC Rene-

gades have set up a functional command post, the FSC Workhouse ensure that we can maintain our equipment and get the supplies we need—when and where we need it, and the 95th Wolfpack has fine-tuned their warrior skills and had more practice in route clearance missions.

I hope that you enjoy this first deployed newsletter, the updates and pictures.

More to come!

LTC Scott Petersen

Commander, 65th Engineer Battalion and Task Force Trailblazer

"First In, Last Out"

