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US Army Times

"Operation
Northern Lights"

PG. 12

"We Have Not
Forgotten Run"

PG 18

"Faces"
PG33



SUSTAINMENT *Times*



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*On The Cover:
Operation "New Dawn"*

BY THE NUMBERS:

Number of Days in Country:	153
Number of Days Left in Country:	212
Number of Promotions last month:	7
Soldiers Reenlisted last month:	11
Total number of years Reenlisted:	59.3
Reenlistment bonus money last month:	\$27,500
Lowest temperature last month:	81°F
Highest temperature last month:	120°F
Cans of Monster consumed by Sustainment Times Team:	845

DURABLE 6 SENDS



**Col. Donnie Walker Jr., 1st Sustainment Brigade
Commander, out on mission in Iraq visiting his troops.
Photo by: Sgt. David Reardon**

Another quarter has rapidly gone by during our deployment. And with it we find ourselves having witnessed and supported a very historical event as Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) evolved to Operation NEW DAWN (OND).

Over the last eight years we've moved millions of pieces of equipment into the Iraq Joint Operational Area. Through our Nation's nearly decade-long support of OIF, the DURABLE Brigade has had our colors posted proudly in various locations throughout Iraq. We served honorably in support of efforts here in two previous rotations (2003/2004 and 2007/2008).

During our third rotation which began this past April, we were deployed to Kuwait to perform a very specific and important task. In February 2009, President Obama set the goal of pulling out all combat troops from Iraq by 31 August 2010. The goal would change the battle space to an operational environment and transform combat brigades to advise and assist brigades as we

transitioned to stability operations throughout the region. The 1st Sustainment Brigade was chosen to deploy just four short months before that deadline in order to support the accomplishment of such a goal.

The mission at hand was called Operation Nickel II Responsible Drawdown of Forces (RDoF) and was to be conducted over a three month period beginning on 1 June 2010 and was to end by the 31 August 2010 deadline set by President Obama. Our unit became the main effort in getting after the task to safely and efficiently redeploy thousands of Soldiers and to transport and retrograde millions of pieces of American and Coalition equipment out of Iraq. And the strategic importance of retrograding the no longer needed supplies and equipment out of Iraq cannot be overstated. These items were to be forwarded throughout the CENTCOM theater in support of surge operations or shipped back to CONUS to support ARFORGEN units in RESET and TRAIN/READY cycles.

Everyone in the DURABLE Brigade, from the convoy escort teams (CETs) or truck drivers that hauled the equipment, the Convoy Support Teams/mechanics that kept the trucks and gun trucks on the road, the Movement Control Teams that tracked all of our equipment and made sure it got to the right place, to the Theater Redistribution Warehouse (W2N), Multi-Class Warehouse (W7A) and Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) / Theater Storage Area (TSA) that worked long, countless hours sorting through years worth of stored materiel and ammunition made our mission an unquestionable success.

To the 9,000 plus Soldiers, Airmen and contractors who are all part of the DURABLE Brigade, we all worked many long nights in support of the RDoF mission. Due to YOUR efforts, OND became a reality and will forever be etched in our American and world history.

With that being said, our job here is not done. Even though this portion of Nickel II is complete, we still must establish a solid concept of support for the Advise and Assist Brigades that remain in the IJOA, continue our support throughout the CENTCOM AOR and develop plans for the future phases of Nickel II and OND. I have no doubt we will excel as we continue our mission in the upcoming months.

Remember as you go about your duties, continue to stay focused, enforce standards and be disciplined! These are our watchwords in the DURABLE Brigade.

Always ReadySustain to Victory!

**Colonel Donnie Walker Jr.
DURABLE 6**

DURABLE 7 OUT



Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera presents a 1st Sustainment Brigade Coin a Convoy Support Team Soldier. Photo by: Capt. Y. Daniel Hosaka

Soldiers, Airmen and Families of the 1st Sustainment Brigade: it has been 5 months since our Brigade left home and the blistering sun has not affected the determination of our Soldiers and Airmen to ensure mission success every day. Very soon the weather will start to change and that will bring a second wind for our Team to continue with their amazing accomplishments.

The most complex phase of our mission was completed flawlessly and our Soldiers' and Airmen's performance surpassed expected standards in the accomplishment of the mission. They were vital to the successful completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom and are now engaged to ensure the success of Operation New Dawn (OND). The 1st Sustainment Brigade left its mark during two previous tours, and our first five months in OIF, and now we will start a new book during OND.

The Rest and Recuperation program started a few months back, and Soldiers and Airmen will be able to enjoy some good quality time with their Families and love ones. I challenge all of you to continue the safe mindset you developed here in Kuwait during your R&R. Continue to do the right thing "especially" when no one is looking, as this discipline has proven to be key to our Soldiers' Safety. HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE.

We will take a short pause September 11th to honor those that paid the ultimate sacrifice during 9/11. That was a tragic date in the history of our Nation and many of our comrades have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the preservation of our freedom. ***"We have not forgotten"***.

It is fair to say that most of our Soldiers and Airmen would rather be at home, in familiar environments, with our Families. However we understand the importance of our mission and that we are executing vital tasks in an environment that really needs us. Our Soldiers and Airmen could not do this without the continued support and love from our Families back home. Thank you for making our service possible.

"Always Ready..... Sustain to Victory"

Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel A. Rivera

Liberty Takes On Historic Mission at Camp Virginia

by: 1st Lt. Frederick J. Shear



The final day of August marks the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation New Dawn begins on September 1st, as the mission in Iraq moves from a combat operation to an advise-and-assist mission. This transition involves the movement of thousands of service members and equipment out of Iraq. Though the operation's title is changing now, the drawdown from Iraq began months ago. Over the past year, large numbers of Soldiers and vehicles moved out of Iraq and passed through Kuwait, before being processed, repaired, and shipped out of theater. The 462nd Movement Control Battalion provides critical support to complete this ongoing task.



SPC Pettit, SPC Mappy, SGT Torres, SGT Dunlap, PFC Ramey, and SPC Demko pose in front of their office. Photo by U.S. Army

One of largest movements of the summer took place with the redeployment of the 4-2 Stryker Brigade. The unit traveled 500 miles from Baghdad to southern Kuwait. Soldiers of the 462nd assisted at numerous locations during the movement. At Camp Virginia, one of the most critical nodes in theater, members of the 462nd prepared thousands of Soldiers for their trip back to the United States. To ensure they meet Army standards for transportation, the 462nd weighed the redeploying Soldiers and their baggage, before organizing their transportation to Kuwait City International Airport (KCIA). The 462nd Soldiers participating in this mission at Camp Virginia were: 2nd Lt. Ian Oliver, Sgt. Calvin Watson, Sgt. Brett Dunlap, Sgt. Daniel Huffman, Spc. Shakila Fraser, Spc. Shayne Demko, Spc. Lois Migkins, Spc. Isabella Mappy, Spc. Paul Pettit and Pfc. Eric Ramey. They all displayed their versatility in taking

on this mission. In just over one month, they helped process 14,000 service members and 500 vehicles (nearly 2,000 tons) for onward movement in and out of theater.

610th MCT Moves 4/2 SBCT Through Iraq/Kuwait

by: Capt. Kimard D. Egleton

After four days of long hours, countless phone calls, and multiple distinguished visitors, the 610th Movement Control Team has successfully facilitated the redeployment of the 4-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team across the Iraq/Kuwait Border.

As the 4-2 SBCT Stryker convoys crossed the border, many saw the glory, the attention and the spotlight on the convoys as they passed. However, behind the scenes, the Soldiers of the 610th Movement Control Team were in the thick of it, making essential contributions to this historic operation. The MCT coordinated the movements of northbound convoys and ensured that all four 4-2 ID elements reached the border with ease within the four days. The team successfully hit critical hard times that if not met, would have been detrimental to the entire operation. The team has mastered movement control operations on the border and much of the operations over the span of the operation have been executed smoothly.



A Stryker from the 4/2 SBCT being processed by the 462nd MCB at Camp Virginia. Photo by U.S. Army

MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR VISITS ROUGH RIDERS



On 22 July 2010, Governor Deval Patrick visited the 164th Transportation Battalion at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Governor Patrick was completing a tour visiting Massachusetts Soldiers throughout Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Governor Patrick had also presided over the 164th Transportation Battalion's going away ceremony held at the TD Banknorth Garden in early January, and the 164th was proud to host the Governor for the second time in support of their deployment.



Gov Deval Patrick poses with members of the 164th Transportation Battalion from the Massachusetts National Guard. Photo by U.S. Army

Upon arrival at Camp Arifjan, the Governor (Sporting a new Red Sox baseball hat) was greeted in the motorpool by LTC Richard G. Rollins and CSM Normand Dubois, who escorted him to a group of ten Soldiers who had been selected to meet and speak with the Governor. Governor Patrick was extremely gracious, shaking each Soldier's hand and thanking them not only for their commitment to the Massachusetts Army National Guard but also for their overseas service with the 164th Transportation Battalion. The Governor took pictures with each Soldier and presented them with the Governor's Coin, at which time he was invited to tour a number of pieces of equipment used in everyday operations by the 164th Transportation Battalion.

Governor Patrick listened intently as each Soldier described how and why they use their Heavy Equipment Transport System (HETS), Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles as



Spc. Rogers, A Heavy Equipment Transport Driver, explains the inner workings of the HET to Gov. Patrick. Photo by U.S. Army

well as the important safety features installed to ensure the safety of each crew member. The Governor eagerly climbed into each vehicle, and asked important questions of the Soldiers who operate them. The importance of the overall mission and the large scale logistical withdrawal role that the 164th Transportation Battalion holds within the Responsible Drawdown of Forces and as the main withdrawal force from Iraq was also discussed and presented to the Governor. Many of the Soldiers present expressed their appreciation to the Governor for his kindness and overall support for the 164th's Mission and Massachusetts Soldiers that are currently

deployed, but all of the Soldiers were just

happy to see a familiar face from back home and a fellow Red Sox Fan.



Soldiers of the 164th TB describe the capabilities of the HET to Gov. Patrick at the Convoy Staging Lanes. Photo by U.S. Army

STB Steadfast Support for the Responsible Drawdown



The Reliable Battalion excelled in making history with the 1st Sustainment Brigade (1SB) during the Responsible Drawdown for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). The STB played a vital role in directly supporting the 1SB in accomplishing its monumental mission and continues to support the brigade as we transitioned to Operation New Dawn on 1 September, 2010.

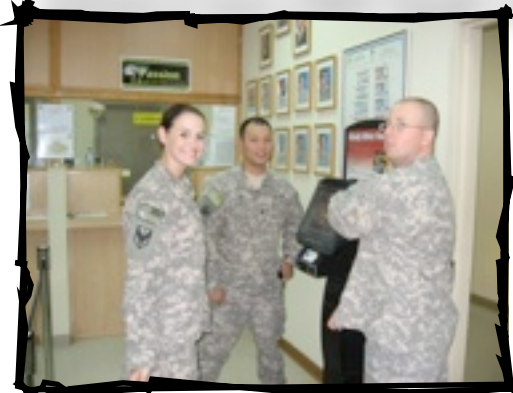
Signal Company served at point during the Responsible Drawdown by directly supporting all 1SB convoys traveling through Iraq and northern Kuwait. Their Convoy Support Teams (CST) were arrayed in five separate locations between the two countries and served as a conduit for improved maintenance operations during this critical time. During the month of July and August they had a 97% success rate in resolving convoy related maintenance issues within 24 hours. This directly contributed to improved convoy velocity and reduced the strain on combat critical sustainment assets within the Brigade. They also improved the quality of life for Soldiers on convoys through constant improvements of billeting at multiple locations and they served as a combat multiplier in providing our convoy commanders accurate and timely intelligence briefings used to mitigate risk to our Soldiers. This company has displayed superior flexibility in transitioning from their dedicated communication support mission to the 1SB and the Special Troops Battalion to their convoy support mission while deployed.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) provided seasoned mechanics to operate at the majority of CST locations assisting in managing maintenance requirements for 1SB convoys while others worked directly with the transportation battalions to improve their operational readiness rate. HHC also directly supports convoy operations with vital medical support, as each convoy is required to have a 68W (Health Care Specialist) with them. This critical

requirement for 68Ws has them traversing throughout various routes and locations within Iraq. In fact, some have already logged over 6,000 miles since the HHCs arrival in mid-April and multiple medics have been awarded the coveted Sustainment Warrior of the Week Award from the Durable Brigade Command Group.



LTC Thornton and CPT Boyd pose outside an MRAP vehicle in Iraq. Photo by U.S. Army



STB Finance Soldiers work in the Zone 1 PX Finance Office. Photo by U.S. Army

STB's Finance units and Postal Platoons provided sustained financial management and postal support to Soldiers transitioning from Iraq to Kuwait in support of Responsible Drawdown of Forces. With the completion of OIF there were significant increases in the number of Soldiers moving through multiple installations within Kuwait. These teams took the lead and the necessary measures to ensure there was no disruption in service to those re-deploying forces.

The STB overall took a comprehensive approach to supporting the Brigade during the final phase of OIF. With Operation New Dawn upon us and new challenges ahead, the Reliable Team remains postured, "Always Ready" and "Always Reliable" to accomplish our mission.

"Always Reliable"

Lt. Col. Marvin M. Thornton Jr.
Reliable 6

Aftershock Battalion Aids the 4th SBCT In Their Exit From Iraq



By Capt. Craig Tilley

Hours before the bright Kuwaiti sun would show itself, the Soldiers of the 469th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (Aftershock) were awake and waiting for the 4th Stryker Brigade Raiders to arrive at Camp Virginia. When the Soldiers finally reached Kuwait after their long journey, Aftershock was there to help them on their way. Operation Rolling Temblor, as coined by the Aftershock Battalion planners, kicked off at 6 a.m. on August 16, 2010. Over the next several hours, groups of Strykers, and other vehicles of the 4/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), rolled into the Four Corners yard at Camp Virginia to begin the several day process of clearing and cleaning the vehicles and preparing them for shipment to the United States.

Upon arrival, in full view of the media and



Long before sunrise and hours before the first Strykers arrive, the ammo detail from the 261st OD CO and 4/2 SBCT set up the class V collection point at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2

dignitaries, the yard guides directed each Stryker to a lane where they were methodically processed. In sequential stations, members of the Aftershock Battalion collected unused Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's), water, packaged petroleum products (Class IIIP) and Class IV (barrier materials) under the watchful eye of the operations Non-commissioned Officer in Charge, Sgt 1st Class Kristopher Tajchman. "Our job is to help these guys get home," he stated regarding the 4/2 retrograde mission. In the first day, his troops collected 263 cases of MREs and more than 100 gallons of

various Class IIIP containers. In addition the team also collected several rolls of concertina wire and an assortment of lumber.

Once the Strykers cleared the stations they



Sgt Cacchione(4 SBCT), PFC Haupt(469th CSSB), and SPC Duncan(469th CSSB) secure a pallet of MREs that have been turned in by the 4th SBCT. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Russell Jones Russell Jones

were directed to the back of "Four Corners" where, with the oversight of Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance), or QASAS personnel, 1st Lt. Webb and his team from the 261st Ordnance Company took over. They ensured all ammunition and other items of Class V were recovered and the vehicles were cleared for onward movement to the motor pools for the next step in the redeployment process. Total time from arrival to departure for the first group was just under 50 minutes, but this was just the beginning of the first day.

Several weeks before the first vehicles left their base in Iraq, the Aftershock Battalion was planning and preparing for the event. The plan changed and morphed as new ideas and requirements manifested and the numerous players worked out the final plan. Major Peter Gleason, the Battalion Support Operations Officer, was the principle architect of the operation. He worked in conjunction with other planners from 1st Theater Sustainment Command, 653rd Regional Support

Group, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) as well as the 4/2 SBCT itself.

Over the next several days, a total of 345 vehicles would process through the Four Corners yard, and the Aftershock Battalion worked diligently to ensure the weary, but exuberant, combat troops would not tarry any longer than was required. The vehicles arrived at Camp Virginia over a period of four days in groups of about twenty. Each group took about sixty minutes to process, which was well within the ninety minutes planned.



469th CSSB commander, LTC Ronald Salas, 469th CSSB, SPO MAJ Peter Gleason and 1st SB Safety Officer, “Sparky”, observe the class V turn in station. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Russell Jones

Once the last vehicle rolled out for the day, the Aftershock Battalion’s work was not finished. They packaged and banded the various items collected for safe transport to their final storage location. The serviceable Class IIIP, and loose MRE’s were dropped off at the 4/2 motor pool to be used by workers while they prepared the vehicles for shipment. Meanwhile the 261st OD Company was busy packing the myriad of ammunition and preparing it for immediate shipment to Camp Buehring, Kuwait so it could be brought to record.

When the last Stryker rolled out of the Four Corners yard at 7:45 a.m. on the 19 August, the Soldiers of the Aftershock Battalion took stock of their accomplishments. In four days Sgt. 1st Class Tajchman’s team of five Soldiers, along with about 20 Soldiers from the 4/2 SBCT, had collected 1,115 MREs, 2,240 Gallons of packaged petroleum, 111 rolls of concertina wire and 100 other items used for

constructing barriers. These excess supplies were packed and a Transportation Movement Request (TMR) was cut for the supplies to be transported over the next few days. Spc. Christopher Duncan, who is attached to the 469th CSSB, said, “The hardest part of the mission was getting up at 1:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. in the morning and enduring the long, hot days.” Spc. Derek Eveland, of Cerritos California stated, “The most rewarding part of the mission was helping to get the Soldiers home to their Families and receiving a Commander’s coin from Col. Norris, the 4/2 Brigade Commander.” Both Eveland and Duncan were part of the 469th CSSB group tasked to facilitate the supply turn-in.

Not to be outdone, the 261st OD Company collected over 73 Short Tons of Class V with a Net Explosive Weight of over 5,361 pounds that included 57 different types of ammunition. This herculean effort pushed the twelve 261st Soldiers and QASAS personnel to the max. Although exhausted, they were proud of their accomplishment. “I couldn’t be prouder of the work my Soldiers did in knocking this one out, and slinging this much ammo in such a short amount of time” exclaimed Lt. Webb.



4/2 SBCT Strykers make their way through the supply turn-in stations. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Russell Jones

The efforts of the Aftershock Battalion helped make the historic redeployment of the 4/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team a smooth process. The apparent seamless integration of logistics and planning in the execution Operation Rolling Temblor exemplifies the battalion motto, “Assist to Victory!”

“THE ORIENT EXPRESS” Aids in Drawdown

By: Capt Christopher Garrett

As the last combat troops exit out of Iraq and end the US combat mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, US military forces are also completing the largest logistical operation since World War II. Joint Logistics Task Force 7 conducted equipment retrograde operations since May of this year and was a key contributor to the Presidential Mandate of withdrawing combat forces in Iraq by the end of August 2010.

The Task Force consists of over 1100 Soldiers (Active Duty, Army Reserve Army National Guard) Soldiers and Active Duty Airmen spearheaded by the 7th Transportation Battalion from Fort Bragg, NC. Prior to deployment, all Soldiers and Airmen had to go through extensive training prior to arriving into theater. Training consisted of up-armored vehicle maneuvering, advanced communication operations and convoy operations to learn and adapt to the mission. Upon arriving in theater, they received additional training from the forces they replaced and then conducted missions throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

During Phase IV of Responsible Drawdown, the Joint Logistics Task Force conducted over 200

missions. JLTF 7 retrograded over 13,000 pieces of military equipment and traveled over 2.4 million miles with convoys consisting of over 40 vehicles throughout theater. The equipment retrograded consisted of equipment that sustained combat operations such as ammunition, heavy transporting vehicles and up-armored vehicles. "The Task Force was given the mission to retrograde equipment out of Iraq in order to support the Presidential mandate and we have completed that task successfully," said Lt. Col Alfredo M. Versoza, the JLTF 7 commander.



A convoy of Military and contracted line haul trucks move heavy military equipment out of Iraq. Photo by Sgt. David Reardon

During the drawdown, the Soldiers and Airmen conducted the missions with precision and professionalism.

They encountered some of the worst driving conditions and enemy threat, but ensured the mission was accomplished on time, on

target. "Their hard work and dedication is a true testament of the American patriot. These Soldiers

and Airmen are proud of their accomplishments, and proud to be part of the biggest retrograde operations since World War II", states Lt. Col. Versoza.

TRUTH OR BULL?

YOU DECIDE

BY STAFF SGT. MATTHEW VEASLEY

There he was, a U.S. Army Captain, Airborne, Special Forces, Ranger, the picture of HOOAH, Cpt. Yaw. One day his life would be changed forever. It was a chilly morning on the FOB when the silence was suddenly broken by the sound of machinery out in the distance. Cpt. Yaw was working diligently laying asphalt. Seven days later, Cpt. Yaw had laid 122 miles of asphalt single handedly. Many people begged to assist him but he only replied, "I have to give back to the Soldiers!". After laying 285 miles of asphalt and self constructing a new overpass for the Afghan nationals, Yaw built a new school in the mountains of Kabul single handedly. When questioned Cpt. Yaw only smirked and replied, "I was only just doing my job". Is Cpt. Yaw "A Real American HERO"?

TRUTH or **BULL?**

Answer on the PAO page.

OPERATION

by: Spc. V. Michelle Woods

Their torn Army combat uniforms were covered in dirt and sweat. Grease splattered over what was once a golden-sand colored pair of boots. The Kuwait heat, in excess of 120 degrees Fahrenheit, bore down on the Mass. National Guard Soldiers of 1166th Combat Heavy Equipment Transporter Company, 164th Transportation Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade. This was nothing unusual for the Road Hogs, a company on their eighth month of deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. But this deployment was different. They were contributing to the historical drawdown of U.S. equipment in Iraq, the largest since WWII.

After seven years of war and the last combat brigade pulling out of Iraq, 1166th Soldiers, along with other troops, remained in Kuwait and Iraq to complete the responsible drawdown of Iraq.

The 1166th CHET Company completed the retrograde mission Operation Northern Lights (ONL) from July 7 to - Aug. 16, 2010.

Convoys comprised of military vehicles were driven from Kuwait to Iraq with the purpose of bringing U.S. equipment back to Kuwait to comply with the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The objective of ONL was for the 1166th CHET to assist in the drawdown by loading convoys full of U.S. equipment from four different forward operating bases (FOB) in northern Iraq and driving it to a central location in Iraq, said Staff Sgt. James Curran, assistant convoy commander, 1166th CHET, 164 TB, 1 SB. The equipment would then be driven to Camp Arifjan by a different company.

“We brought the equipment from northern Iraq to the centralized location so other convoys could pick it up and continue to transport it to Kuwait”, said Curran.

In 40 days, the 1166th Soldiers completed 19 retrograde missions, drove over 7000 miles and transported more than 633 loads of U.S. equipment.

Their accomplishments are a result of teamwork and the ability of the Soldiers to endure unfavorable and exhausting conditions.

The company would drive to the FOB's, load the gear, sleep six to eight hours, and get right back to the vehicles and download the gear, said Sgt. John Spagna, HET operator, 1166th CHET, 164 TB, 1 SB. The company would sleep another six hours and head right back up to northern Iraq to get more equipment.

“We were pretty much on the road all the time for Operation Northern Lights, constantly picking up gear throughout northern Iraq and bringing it to the centralized location,” said Spc. Jessica Pedraza, HET operator, 1166th CHET 164 TB, 1 SB.

Driving was not the only responsibility of the 1166th Soldiers. They were expected to operate and maintain their own trucks and ensure the equipment arrived safely to its next destination.



A Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) hauls a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle out of Iraq as part of the Responsible Retrograde mission.
Photo by Sgt. David Reardon

Northern Lights

"We had to make sure our trucks were up and running," said Pedraza. "We had to make sure all of our equipment was tied down and properly stored. We hauled things as small as storage containers and as large as M1 tanks."

"We do all the maintenance on our vehicles and then what we can't do, we have our own maintenance personnel," said Spagna.

In addition to coping with the 120 degree Fahrenheit heat and the weight from the combat gear they wore, the Road Hogs also had to face challenges such as roadside bombs and small-arms fire.



Col. Donnie Walker Jr., Commander of the 1SB, awarded Sgt. William Cooper of the 1166th CHET Co. with the Army Commendation Medal for exemplary performance during Operation Northern Lights. Photo by U.S. Army

With combat troops out of Iraq, Spagna said he wanted the American people to know that didn't mean the danger was over.

Spagna and Curran said the troops who remained in Kuwait and Iraq still had jobs to do.

"We're still here," said Spagna. "There is still a lot going on in Iraq. We ran into a lot of situations that could be described as combat."

It might not be all the time, but the violence and risk are still there, said Spagna.

Curran said he was happy to be a part of the drawdown and a part of troops getting to go home to their Families.

"Other Soldiers get to go home to their Families now, while we're still here working so they can go home," said Curran.

"It feels awesome because I know I'm here for a reason," said

Pedraza. "What we do isn't overlooked anymore as truck drivers."

Although tired and anxious to complete their final mission of ONL, the Road Hogs smiled and joked as they waited to get clearance to travel into Kuwait at the border between Iraq and Kuwait.

The 1166th Soldiers completed back to back missions, pulling U.S. equipment out of Iraq on a daily basis, while enduring a multitude of challenges. The challenges they overcame during ONL contributed to the success of the mission and the morale of the company.

"Operation Northern Lights was very successful because so much gear was drawn down from Iraq," said Curran. "It's knowing the job isn't done but it's getting closer."

The completion of Operation Northern Lights boosted the resiliency and love of the job for the Road Hogs.

"It feels great," said Spagna. "We did our job. The ground troops got out on their own and we retrieved their equipment. Now we're going to head back and continue our job. We like to be in Iraq, that's what Soldiers do. We go up there and we do our job."

ENTERT

HAYABUSA

by: Staff Sgt. Matthew Veasley

With performance credentials that have established it as the hottest sport bike on the planet, the Suzuki Hayabusa is designed for the serious sport rider who will settle for nothing less than the best. Its combination of unsurpassed power, crisp handling and superb aerodynamics creates the ultimate sport bike. You could say that the 2011 Hayabusa is so intense, that it's in a class of its own. For 2011 Hayabusa will get new colors and graphics (Pearl Mirage White with gold trim and Pearl Nebular Black with red trim).



The 2011 Suzuki Hayabusa is powered by a 1340cc, in-line, DOHC liquid-cooled engine with 16-valves engine and gets a large volume 4-2-1-2 exhaust system with a large capacity catalyzer, dual triangular canisters and closed loop system. The Hayabusa comes with an optimized 6-speed transmission. Oil spray to the 4th, 5th and 6th gears reduce wear and mechanical noise during highway

SPARTACUS: BLOOD AND SAND

by: Ken Tucker, Entertainment Weekly

I'd forgotten how much fun shows such as *Xena: Warrior Princess* were



until the arrival of **Spartacus: Blood and Sand**. A slashing look at Roman warfare that trades on Zack Snyder's *300* but has deeper roots in the *Xena* and *Hercules* shows produced by Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert, *Spartacus* is a Raimi-Tapert reunion. It stars Andy Whitfield in the brooding, sweaty title role. He's forced into slavery by the Romans, and agrees to become a gladiator when his masters promise he'll be reunited with his kidnapped wife (Erin Cummings). Among the decadent Romans is Xena herself, Lucy Lawless — in real life married to Tapert but here wed to *The Mummy's* John Hannah. The impressive

amount of freedom afforded by being on Starz is enhanced by the transfixing violence, a gleeful spray of blood and bone when the gladiators clash. *Spartacus* makes the most of a combination of low budget and clever special effects by having hordes of patently CG'd-in Romans appear behind the heroes. In other words, Starz may have found its destination series in *Spartacus*. This might prove to be the not-at-all-guilty pleasure of the season.

AINMMENT

Microsoft Surface



by: Joshua Karp, CNET.com

Microsoft has designed an amazing device, one that essentially creates an entirely new market space. Sure there are multi-touch devices out there, but nothing that compares to the Surface in terms of size, versatility, and scalability. To be perfectly honest, the closest thing we can think of to the Surface, at least in regards to its physical presence, is a circa-1986 Pac-Man machine in your favorite neighborhood bowling alley.

The amazing thing about the Surface is how seamless everything is. There's almost no lag between input and reaction, and the multi-touch screen responds without an undue amount of pressure, giving the impression that it's truly an extension of whatever input you're attempting to execute.

TRUEBLOOD

by: Robert Blanko, USA Today

The course of true love never did run smooth. Particularly when one of the runners is dead. Sexy, witty and unabashedly peculiar, *True Blood* is a blood-drenched Southern Gothic romantic parable set in a world where vampires are out and about and campaigning for equal rights. Part mystery, part fantasy, part comedy, and all wildly imaginative exaggeration, *Blood* proves that there's still vibrant life — or death — left in the "star-crossed lovers" paradigm. You just have to know where to stake your romantic claim.

Adapted by *Six Feet Under*'s Alan Ball from Charlaine Harris' *Southern Vampire Mystery* series, *Blood* follows the adventures of Sookie Stackhouse, wonderfully played with an amusing mix of sass and innocence by a grown-up Anna Paquin. Sookie is cursed with the ability to read thoughts, which is one of the reasons she falls for the first man whose mind she can't read: Civil War-veteran vamp Bill Compton.

Ball is a man of many talents, but subtlety does not appear to be one of them, and viewers should keep that in mind. Many of the twists on the vampire minority metaphor are clever — a church billboard reads "God Hates Fangs" — but you do wish Ball would hammer his points home with a slightly smaller hammer. Even so, for a network that has lost its way of late in series, *Blood* is a much-needed infusion of new, well, blood. Drink up.



1ST SP

"Bump" the Negative, "Set" for Success, "Spike" the Competition

by: Sgt. 1st Class Denise Hightower-Aguilar and Pfc. Shelise Dove

The 1st Special Troops Battalion is no stranger to success, Volleyball season has just served itself to the sands of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Being away from home, family, and friends is hard enough and playing Volleyball is just what this team needs to bump off some steam.

Although, the STB Volleyball team has a season record of 0-2; under Coach Sgt 1st Class Hightower-Aguilar, and the Captain is Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sanders, they are still playing the game with their heart and soul. With every game the team is getting better and better. Due to the fact that many of the players have never played together before, the coach and the captain have Team STB practice some of the basic drills during practice. Team STB realizes that it takes time for teams to come together as one to play this game. Each player has to learn to anticipate their teammate's next move. This is why the team practices so hard and long in the evening time to achieve a sense of cohesion. STB knows that once their team members are in sync with each other they will start winning some games. "Better yet, if we can get the entire members on the roster to show up at one time we will have a power house of a team," said



The Special Troops Battalion Volleyball team preparing to go out on the court. Photo by U.S. Army

SPORTS



The Special Troops Battalion Volleyball team taking on a rival battalion during the post volleyball tournament.
Photo by U.S. Army

Hightower-Aguilar. However, with the dedication team STB displays they are still heating up the competition and shaking things out there on the volleyball court.

The first and second game STB played was a lesson more than anything. Play by play they fought to stay in the competition. Team STB was short of players and most of the players were not used to the new rules that were being introduced to the game. Team STB refocused and played outside their comfort zone. When the second game came around, team STB acquired a new team member, Pfc. Davis. Davis stepped up to the net and her presence was felt. Not taking anything from the other players, Davis shined on the floor, helping her teammates despite the loss. They are still pressing on and looking forward to the next

game. Team STB is ready to show their improvements in game three and the team will have developed enough skill to be able to compete with any team on the court. "Give the 1st STB team a little time and practice and they will be ready to take control of the North Division of the Volleyball League," said Hightower-Aguilar.

TWO SUSTAINMENT

The 1st Sustainment Brigade, also known as the Durable Brigade, recently completed a sustainment victory by accomplishing the largest retrograde of equipment since World War II. With this accomplished and Operation NEW DAWN upon us, the 1st Sustainment Brigade led a commemorative 9.11 Kilometer Run to honor those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice since, and Wounded Warriors from OIF and OEF.

“This day will always be remembered, especially for American service members. The Durable Brigade wanted to do something to honor the day, and it happens to coincide with the recent beginning of Operation NEW DAWN,” said Col. Donnie Walker, commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

To show support from home, the Durable Brigade brought in world champion ultramarathoner, Scott Jurek, to run with the service members for the 9/11 Run on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Maj. Davy Godfrey, 1st Sustainment Brigade Chief of Human Resources Operations, coordinated Jurek’s arrival and escorted him to bases throughout Kuwait, where he visited with troops, signed autographs, and inspired all with his numerous running achievements and advice.

Scott Jurek has championship victories which border on unbelievable, to include holding the American World Record for running 165.7 miles in a 24-hour period. He also sustained himself to victory three years in a row for the Spartathlon race in Greece, a 153-mile race from Sparta to Athens. The brigade broke a record of its own with the 9/11 Run, which had over 1,500 participants, the most ever for a run held at Camp Arifjan.



Col. Donnie Walker, commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, speaks during the opening ceremonies of the 9/11 Run

Photo By: SGT David Reardon



Runners line up at the starting line for the Durable Brigade 9/11 Remembrance Run on Sept. 11, 2010

Photo By: SGT David Reardon

CHAMPIONS



The overall winners of the Durable Brigade 9/11 Run: From L to R: 3rd Place Male, Pfc. Daniel Perez; 2nd Place Male, Spc. Tristan Reese; 2nd Place Female, Warrant Officer One Docaser Richard-Bennet; 3rd Place Female, Capt. Katherine Depaul; 1st Place Female, Spc. Karen Kozub; 1st Place Male, Navy Lt. Tyler Boltjes



Lt. Col. Marvin Thornton, Commander of 1st Special Troops Battalion, stands with STB's 9/11 Run medal winners in front of the Memorial Wall

The 9-11 run was a combined effort of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, Camp Arifjan MWR and Fire Department, and the USO. The race began with a tribute, emceed by 1st Sustainment Brigade Chaplain Ric Brown, to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice or who were wounded in action. Navy Lt. Tyler Boltjes (31:35) and Army Spc. Karen Kozub (38:09) had the best male and female times, respectively, and both received Apple iPads for their victories. Col. Walker also awarded medals to the first, second, and third place winners for eight different running age groups and the top three walkers for each gender.

Scott Jurek ran among the Soldiers and stated on numerous occasions during his four-day visit that he was honored to be here and wished to convey that Americans back home have also not forgotten.

Resilience is one of the pillars of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness in the 1st Sustainment Brigade, and the sport of ultrarunning strengthens the Warrior Ethos and individual spirit. "Ultrarunners and Durable Soldiers are both in the sustainment business," said Maj. Larry Seward, the 1st Sustainment Brigade Chief of Financial Management Operations, who once completed a 100-mile ultramarathon. "The endurance, mental toughness, and resilience that ultrarunners exhibit are the traits that our transporters had to show during the difficult months of July and August, where they traveled up to 1,400 miles round trip over 12 days to retrograde equipment."

At the end of the day, we had two champions among us: the Durable Brigade and Scott Jurek. Our motto for the day was "We Have Not Forgotten." Members of the Durable Brigade and those who ran with us will certainly never forget this day.

Contraband

Mailing Restrictions: Ignorance is No Excuse

by: 2nd Lt. Treka Henry

A familiar saying is “ignorance of the law is no excuse.” It is a good time for all personnel to examine General Order 1B (GO-1B) as it pertains to prohibited items. Prohibited items are, by virtue of the restrictions placed on them, non-mailable. GO-1B promotes the readiness of United States personnel by prohibiting items such as alcohol, sexually explicit material and weapons to include small knives. There are also authorized items that fall into the non-mailable category. Theater and postal policies discuss the mailing policies for other items that are not on the prohibited list. Violations disrespect the host nation of Kuwait and can severely threaten the strong bonds service members currently enjoy.



The remnants of a suspicious package after EOD personnel conducted a controlled detonation.
Photo by 2nd Lt. Treka Henry



Staff Sgt. Darius Ramos, Postal Inspector for the 1st Sustainment Brigade Human Resources Operations Branch, tests an x-ray machine at the Joint Military Mail Terminal during a recent inspection. Photo by 2nd Lt. Treka Henry

Current postal trends indicate that Soldiers continue to receive and mail prohibited items. Consequences for possession of prohibited items can be severe for military personnel, including punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice that may result in fines, rank reduction or even imprisonment.

The first step in the process is for service members, friends or Family members to complete accurate customs forms pertaining to the contents of each package mailed. This is especially important, as it enables postal or security personnel to determine whether a package's x-rayed contents match the forms. All packages entering Kuwait are x-rayed at the

Joint Military Mail Terminal (JMMT). All packages leaving Kuwait are visually inspected at the post office and also x-rayed at the JMMT. At any time in this process, suspicious packages can be segregated and inspected by proper authorities.

If a package contains a weapon or an item resembling a weapon, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel will destroy the package.

Investigators confiscate non-mailable items such as alcohol and pornography and notify individuals by placing a letter inside the package. The incident is placed on a report generated at the JMMT to show commanders at all levels the types of items confiscated. This may cause embarrassment or other unnecessary repercussions for the Soldier and can be prevented.

Staff Sgt. Darius Ramos, 1st Sustainment Brigade Postal Inspector, offers advice: "Soldiers must inform Family members back home of prohibited items. The risk of mailing prohibited items only serves in disregarding the host nation's laws and ignores what the Army has set as a standard. The end result leads to a lack of good order and discipline."

Family and friends can check with the post office to see what is restricted or visit <http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/mailingrestrictions.htm>. Another way to inquire about non-mailable items is through social media sites such as Facebook. The increased usage of social media sites allow Family Readiness Groups to open the lines of communication between deployed units and Family members.

It is the Soldier's responsibility to abide by GO-1B for the entire time he or she is stationed in Kuwait. Warrant Officer Lamika Brown, 1st Sustainment Brigade Human Resources Technician, concludes, "If Soldiers want to mail something out of theater and are uncertain if it is authorized, all they need to do is simply ask the post office's parcel inspector."



Several screen captures from the Joint Military Mail Terminal's X-ray machine. Suspected violations are reported to the U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Division and are inspected for possible General Order 1 Bravo violations. Photos by U.S. Army

INSPIRATION STATION

by: Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Brown

Operation New Dawn is the next step in giving the Iraqi people what we started seven years ago, a new beginning. As American Soldiers, it is our duty to protect those that are not able to protect themselves. To give to them what we sometimes take for granted, the freedom to find a new beginning when necessary. As we help the weak we grow stronger in ourselves.

As I think even more about Operation New Dawn, a passage in the Bible comes to mind. That passage talks about the old things passing away and all things are becoming new. Strengthening of our Spiritual Pillar comes most often through a renewal, a spiritual New Dawn.

The challenge of coming to a spiritual New Dawn is that we often have to fight through many emotional, mental and personal IEDs. We often find it easier to rebuild new cities than it is to build up our spiritual pillar, to have that new beginning. We have to be willing to face the challenges of those personal battles, like we are willing to face the physical battles of this world.

Operation New Dawn does not mean that the Iraqi people will not face challenges as they assume command of their own future, but as they face those challenges a greater and better thing emerges. They build relationships with their Allies as they seek and accept help that they need. So it is as we take and face the challenges in our own lives in order to have a spiritual New Dawn. It is those things that are a greater challenge to achieve that we will treasure the most. We must be willing to seek help when those challenges seem too much. For it is the strong that know when to ask for help it is the weak that say I can do it on my own.

Strengthening our Spiritual Pillar impacts all our other pillars. For the Spiritual Pillar shores up and strengthens the other pillars. Spirituality is not a one time event, it is a daily event. With every new discovery becomes the opportunity for a New Dawn in our lives changing and renewing our heart and allowing the old to pass away.

Iraq has the opportunity for a New Dawn, but to truly have that new beginning they must be willing to let the old things pass away. We, just like the Iraqis, must be willing to let go of the old in order to have the new. As long as we hang on to the past we will not be able to have a new beginning. Are you ready for a New Dawn in your life? Are you ready to let the old go?



The "We Care" Card developed by the 1SB Chaplain to provide an emotional outlet for Soldiers. Figure by Chaplain (Maj) Richard Brown

THE LEGAL SPILL

Adapting with the Return from R&R

by: Staff Sgt. Kristin Stewart

Going home for R&R is a high point and turning point of a deployment for all Soldiers. Whether the R&R was spent with family and friends or just getting away and releasing stress in new places, the return is always hard. "Saying goodbye the second time was harder for my son and myself," Staff Sgt. Kristin Stewart, the 1SB Legal NCOIC, remarked when asked about her return from R&R. "For me, it was dealing with the feeling of being home sick," stated Sgt. Timothy Hession, the 164th Battalion Paralegal NCO. "As a National Guard Soldier the return from R&R was the third time I had to say goodbye to my family."



The 1st Sustainment Brigade Legal team. Photo by Sgt. David Reardon

Upon returning a Soldier must readapt to the conditions placed on them by the deployment. Some of the main issues are readjusting their sleep pattern, finding the motivation to do physical training, and covering down in the work section for their fellow Soldiers currently on R&R. The R&R process wreaks havoc on sleep patterns of Soldiers. Arriving back, most Soldiers have only two days in which to try and return to the sleep schedule they had before leaving on R&R. Added to that is the return to physical training. R&R is about family, friends, and relaxing. It is no surprise then that few Soldiers do any form of PT during that time. So for those of us that are not diehard into physical training, overcoming the multitude of excuses can be tough. Finally is the return to work. Resuming the role in their section and being briefed on what occurred in their absence. Also in most cases, one Soldier's return from R&R marks the beginning of another Soldier's R&R. So in addition a Soldier will be expected to take on other duties within their work section.

For the Soldiers of the Brigade Legal Office there have been even larger challenges. Over the past few weeks the Legal Office has moved out of the Command Tent. Our Soldiers have had to maintain the processing requirements for all actions during this period of change with multiple Soldiers gone on R&R.

In this last month before the approach of Operation New Dawn, the Brigade Legal office has seen an increase in actions. From Article 15s to Investigations the work load has been on the rise. The Legal Office went from processing two to three Article 15s a week to having over 4 or 5 from each battalion in a week, and investigations seem to be coming in by the handful on a daily basis. Though at the moment actions have increased, as the Brigade settles into Operation New Dawn, we expect actions will decrease as the mission tempo decreases.

R&R marks the last true break a Soldier receives before redeployment. This means Soldiers have to rely on each other to find the support and motivation to finish the deployment. For each Soldier, readapting after the return from R&R is just another challenge to overcome and means they are a step closer to being back with their family and friends.



Masters of Health

by: Maj. Dusten MacDonald

The Wellness center promotes Comprehensive Soldier Fitness and reinforces the physical pillar of resiliency through individualized assessments of body composition and metabolic rate. This assists members of the Department of Defense family in achieving their weight loss and muscle composition goals.

Body composition is determined by measuring the relationship of body fat, lean muscle, and hydration levels. This is accomplished through the use of the Body Stat machine. Individual metabolic rate is measured using an *indirect calorimeter*. This test determines the estimated number of calories an individual uses during normal



The 1SB Wellness Center provides a measure of comprehensive Soldier fitness. Figure by Maj Dusten MacDonald

daily activities. Each person is provided a copy of their test results and given literature on how to potentially lose weight, increase muscle mass or otherwise achieve personal fitness goals.

Initial screening participants should not exercise, eat a meal, chew gum, use tobacco products, or drink liquids (except for water) 6 hours prior to their scheduled testing time. This helps to ensure a more accurate test is taken.



Spc. Villareal using one of the tools used to measure comprehensive Soldier fitness. Photo by Maj Dusten MacDonald

COME JOIN THE 935 SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN, MARINES, AND DOD CIVILLIANS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR BODY COMPOSITION GOALS

Wellness Center NCOIC, Sgt. McDougal and her staff are here to assist you. Call the Wellness Center at DSN 430-7902 or send an email to grp.arj.wellness_center@kuwait.swa.army.mil to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome from 0900 to 1100 M-SA and 1300-1700 M-F.

1 SSB PAO



OIC CPT HOSAKA



REPORTER/JOURNALIST SPC WOODS



NCOIC/EIC SSG VEASLEY



CAMERAMAN SGT REARDON

MOST USED DIALOGUE OF THE MONTH:

CPT Hosaka: Woods, I got a mission for you.

SPC Woods: Let me guess, Sir, Convoy Staging Lanes?

CPT Hosaka: Well, at least you know where it is.

TRUTH OR BULL ANSWER: BULL. However, if you've ever seen the guy it could be true...

SPO....SUSTAINMENT "BACKBONE" OF THE BRIGADE

The US Army's combat role in Iraq came to a close as the last Stryker Brigade crossed into Kuwait on 19 August 2010. Prior to this historic event, 1 SB was tasked with the Responsible Drawdown mission for Iraq. The drawdown included the transportation of Soldiers, combat vehicles, excess ammunition, repair parts, and other warfighting essential equipment.

During the last 90 days, the Durable Brigade has accomplished the largest retrograde mission since World War II (WWII) coined Nickel II, named after the Nickel Operation that withdrew forces deployed during WWII. In preparation for the Phase IV sustainment requirements, the SPO Plans facilitated the Durable Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drill. The ROC Drill provided a common operating picture and helped to synchronize flexible ways to retrograde equipment from Iraq to Kuwait for onward movement to the United States.

The Supply and Services (S & S) Division provided oversight for ground breaking initiatives during this timeframe. These initiatives included the General Supply (GSO) section's major change in retrograde operations resulting with increased productivity for retrograde operations and saving over \$800 million in taxpayer's money. Over \$2 million total in OCIE items were recovered through providing direct support to Soldiers at the CIF Annex at Ali Al Salem. The fuel section's main focus was to supply fuel to the Southern portion of Iraq from Kuwait. Over the past three months, the fuel section has planned, coordinated and delivered nearly 130 million gallons of fuel. This is enough fuel to drive your family car around the earth 104,000 times. The Aerial Delivery team set new theater records over the last three months with August being the highest month with over 1,400 air drops over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Photo by: Billy Norris

In conjunction with the S & S initiatives, the Distribution Division maintained a sprinter pace to the finish line throughout PH IV operations. The brigade's ammunition (AMMO) section planned and coordinated two quarterly ammunition resupply vessels involving over one thousand containers of ammunition. They assumed direct control of the Ammunition Supply Department and established direct oversight of an \$11 million contract. The AMMO team also planned and coordinated over 2,400 ammunition air pallets in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The transportation team assumed the theatre distribution role for Iraq and was responsible for the successful movement of combat troops and equipment out of Iraq. During this phase, they planned and monitored over 300 convoys resulting in over 1.2 million pieces of equipment successfully retrograded out of Iraq. The transportation team also monitored and planned watercraft operations resulting in nearly 3,000 Short TONS transported out of theater during Phase IV.

With the conclusion of Phase IV, the Durable Brigade is now focused and setting the stage for Operation New Dawn. Each SPO section is planning and analyzing the way ahead to support the warfighters as the theatre begins its transition. The SPO Plans section has the lead to coordinate and execute a refit and preliminary Phase V Operation New Dawn Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill. This will focus the brigade in preparation for upcoming sustainment requirements resulting in a successful Phase V Operation New Dawn mission.

DURABLE 8 SENDS:

Dear Friends & Family: The SPO team has had a tremendous summer and worked non-stop making sure America's Sons and Daughters could return home from 7 ½ years of combat operations in Iraq to assist in the transition to civil-military "stability" operations. We have also continued to ensure OEF's finest have everything from mine resistant all-terrain vehicles to Gatorade protein shakes operating within the remote hills of Afghanistan. Sustaining the full spectrum from stability to combat operations all day and all night long is our charter. I am extremely proud of our team and their resiliency to continue to maintain a strong



LTC Skrabacz with PFC Mungia before a convoy into Iraq. Photo by: U.S. Army

and steady pace. We still have a ways to go but our team is committed to carrying out the task at hand. Although the mission is more decentralized than a typical Sustainment Brigade our small team amazes me in how they can make the myriad of complex tasks look so easy. Abilene's own, Dwight David Eisenhower once said "What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the size of the fight in the dog." That is our SPO team in a nutshell. We appreciate your prayers as we continue to pave the way for a new dawn...never forget that freedom isn't free!

"Always Ready!"

LTC Jim Skrabacz
D8

DURABLE 87 SENDS:

To the Families and Soldiers: I want to personally thank the Support Operations (SPO) Soldiers for a job well done. The Soldiers were crucial to providing the logistical support to Operation Nickel II Responsible Retrograde Redeployment (N2R3) and Reduction of Forces (RDoF). They demonstrated their realistic and challenging training by accomplishing numerous sustainment operations above standard. They exhibited tactical and technical competence, confidence, and initiative by providing logistic and personnel services. As our Durable Soldiers continue to plan, execute, and assess sustainment operations while deployed in Kuwait, I just want to say thank you to the Families. I appreciate the sacrifices you are making for our Soldiers during this time apart. The Soldiers are encouraged and reassured daily that you are behind them 100%. The 1SB SPO Soldiers stand ready to fight tonight, to sustain the fight, as they continue to play a vital role in shaping the future.

"Sustain to Victory!"

SGM Angela Rawlings
D87



SGM Rawlings, 1 SB SPO SGM, takes time to acknowledge the "backbone" of the SPO shop. R to L: SPC Capalongo, SGT M. McQueen, SGM Rawlings, SGT C. McQueen, SPC Wasisang

S1

As we began to shift our operational focus in support of a new Iraqi campaign, Operation New Dawn, the 1st Sustainment Brigade's S1 section is running strong continuing to provide human resource support to a Brigade sized element with over 3000 personnel. Every day brings a new dawn here in Kuwait in the S1 section by allowing our Soldiers to continue to grow and rise above challenges despite mission and operational demands. We have grown together as a team to support and complement each other by maintaining positive attitudes, and spreading laughter as we take on new challenges.

Since our arrival earlier this spring, we have celebrated four birthdays, 2nd Lt.

Jimmy Plata, Staff Sgt. Jorge Oyola, Spc. Charnell Williams, and Pfc. Malachi Bickle. As a team, we celebrate each other's birthday and build a family bond, giving Soldiers with birthdays that fall that month a cake, and singing happy birthday. Along with birthday celebrations, we would like to congratulate our 2 promotions this month for Pfc. Malachi Bickle and Pfc. Kameisha Ayala.

In the short amount of time since our arrival, Soldiers have already had the opportunity to experience new jobs, and began taking Rest and Recuperation Leave. Though it is not uncommon to spend a Saturday afternoon eating pizza and training on some essential personnel services, they are sometimes rewarded with a day off for their hard work. With our mission focus changing, and units coming in and out of theatre, work brings great experiences. Recently, 1st Lt. Renecas Doxie and Staff Sgt. Williams were selected to fill new positions within our brigade at the battalion level, giving them opportunity to enhance and spread their expertise in the human resources field. We would like to welcome aboard a new family member 1st Lt. Antonio Brown to the Brigade's S-1 shop, where he will have the opportunity to learn what human resources is all about, and be a key player in the new dawn.

As a brigade, we will continue to push and foster individual growth of our Soldiers, preparing them to excel in future assignments. As a family, we care for each other while continuing to put "Duty First" with a smile. We are almost at the half way point in our tour, and with that being said, expect to face many more new dawns, while looking over the horizon to our friends, family and loved ones back home.



Master Sergeant Wynn promotes Private Ayala to Private First Class Ayala. Photo by Spc. V. Michelle Woods

Did You Lock the Car?

by: Capt. Neal Fisher

Al Qaeda is the recognized threat in countries that surround the Persian Gulf and in Afghanistan, but what is the threat in Kansas, California, Massachusetts or other places in the United States? Agent Fisher's research shows that car thieves are a threat to spouses and Family members in the United States, stealing one car about every 26 seconds. Car thieves, like home burglars, generally have an easy time of it. Their thievery is made simple by car owners who obligingly leave doors unlocked or who leave keys in the ignition. You can greatly increase your protection against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions.



1. Never leave your keys in an unattended car. Always lock your car.
2. Avoid leaving a car unattended in public parking lots for an extended period of time. Park in well-lighted and designated areas.
3. Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring.
4. Whenever possible, turn wheels sharply toward the curb or in the lot when parking, making it extra difficult for thieves to tow your car.
5. Lock all doors and roll up windows whenever leaving the car unattended.
6. Don't leave valuable possessions visible in your car. Remove CD players, GPS, CB radios and antennas when possible. Secure them in your trunk.
7. With an electric engraver mark your driver's license number on your CD players, GPS and CB radios. Participate in "Operation Identification."
8. Never leave the car registration or your driver's license inside the car. Carry these items in your wallet. If you don't, thieves will be able to produce legitimate documents when stopped by Police.
9. Install non-flared door locking buttons to discourage thieves with coat hangers.
10. Consider the purchase and installation of security devices such as:
 - Interior hood lock and release
 - A second ignition switch or "Kill Switch."
 - An alarm device, which will activate a siren, horn or lights, or all three to frighten the thief away before he/she is able to steal your car
 - A locking gas cap
 - A fuel switch, which prevents fuel from reaching the engine.



AGENT FISHER,
SECRET SQUIRREL



The 1 Sustainment Brigade Electronic Warfare (EW) Section consists of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Gordon, Staff Sgt. Allen Owens and Spc. Danny Lowe. All three work in a unified effort to oversee and manage the Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) systems on the vehicles for the Joint Logistics Task Force (JLTF) 7 and the 164th Transportation Battalion.

CREW is designed to mitigate the Radio Controlled IED threat. This protection may come from the ground as well as the air. Gordon is the EW advisor to the Brigade Commander and recommends ground movements in concert with proper air coverage. Gordon also provides an information conduit between Division and Battalion EW Officers to effectively develop a CREW operational framework tailored to the requirements of the unit. He also pushes down usable guidance to subordinate Battalions.

Owens manages the two subordinate Battalions regarding the ground effort. He oversees and manages the upgrade and maintenance of over 700 ground CREW Systems as well as spot checks the Quality Assurance/ Quality Control procedures for convoys traveling north of Kuwait. Owens also verifies compliance with FRAGOs from higher requiring update of CREW firmware and threat load upgrades. He also establishes systems to track and account for procedures performed by individual vehicle/system that are required to maintain mission readiness.

Lowe comes from a Missile Systems Repair background and has not gone to either the 1K or 1J courses, but has excelled in the Brigade CREW Specialist position. Lowe is responsible for the CREW maintenance and accountability of the Personal Security Detail and Command vehicles for the Special Troops Battalion within the 1SB. At the moment his duties are that of any seasoned EW NCO. Lowe monitors EW CREW mission capability in detail. He monitors CREW systems and equipment availability and accountability at the individual asset level. Lowe also ensures that subordinate command CREW requirements are met and coordinates with higher and lower as necessary to maintain CREW mission readiness.

The Army being what it is, resistant to change, has a collective challenge remembering or even accepting the CREW system as an absolute life saving measure equal to the individual weapon. The Electronic Warfare spectrum is one that can't be quantified with simple terms. Our finest moment is when a convoy returns safely with no IED events occurring on its trip.



The 1st Sustainment Brigade S3 Shop in front of the 1SB Sustainment Operations Center. Photo by Capt. Y. Daniel Hosaka

A NEW DAWN FOR THE APOD

The 1st Sustainment Brigade Engineer Section in conjunction with a team of Soldiers from 462 MCB have been working to improve the APOD for Soldiers that will be transitioning through the APOD during Operation New Dawn. We have emplaced sunshades over the water and Gatorade storage area to help keep them cool and erected a tent and built benches for Soldiers to relax while they await further movement from the APOD to follow-on destinations. We have also coordinated for a site visit with the Third Army Force Protection NCO and emplaced 26 additional Jersey barriers for bus lanes to as increased Force Protection measures. This project is ongoing and once completed will be a “New Dawn” for Soldiers during their brief layover at the APOD.

S4



1SB Dining Facility Soldiers in front of the Zone 6 DFAC. Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Veasley



The new tent erected by the 1SB Engineer Section for the APOD, so Soldiers can keep cool while awaiting transport. Photo by U.S. Army

Good Eats

by: **Staff Sgt Matthew Veasley**

The Military system has many different moving parts and dedicated missions. With every notable aspect of this system it is a coherent notion that everything takes fuel to operate. When that MRAP leads a convoy across the boundaries of Life and Death fuel is consumed. But what about mental fuel that tells that soldier to react, fight, secure and sustain?

Food is that fuel and it is a necessity for Soldier readiness. The 1st Sustainment Brigade's Zone 6 Dining Facility continues to sustain the health readiness of Soldiers and civilians through the culinary arts here at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. They work tirelessly to provide four meals a day to thousands of hungry patrons.

Not only do the Soldiers of the Dining Facility provide regular meals, but they also cater for special events, such as promotions and Victory Call. So the next time you're waiting in line at the DFAC or see a tray of food at a promotion, remember that a 1SB DFAC Soldier was behind the scenes making it all possible.



Greetings,

I hope that all of our friends and Families are doing well back home. Time continues to march along bringing us to the halfway mark of our deployment. We all have our loved ones in our hearts, but getting the job done safely and correctly are also on our minds.

Your Signal Soldiers are staying busy and doing fantastic work. As the Brigade continues to move equipment out of Iraq at a historic rate, the Soldiers of the S6 section are doing their part by ensuring the communication architecture is robust and remains intact.

Of note, some of these tasks have included extending our networks to additional locations, software and security updates, and equipment maintenance. I could not be more pleased with the results this section is achieving.

On an unofficial note, Spc. Albright has taken lead for creating a little interoffice, nonprofit competition. With the NFL season upon us, Albright is dual hatted as Commissioner Albright in the S6 Fantasy Football League. He has already done an outstanding job organizing the league and we are set to draft our players in a matter of days. With our section's high participation and already hearing a little "smack talk" around the office, I can tell that we are going to have an interesting and exciting season.

Staff Sgt. Clark: Hello to all and all my love goes to you with this letter. I am doing fine and cannot wait to see ya'll in Jan. Be good for mommy and GOD bless you, love DADDY

Sgt. Baez: This message is for my wife Karen and daughters Paola and Isabella. I just want to say that I miss you and I love you and I can't wait to go on R&R and spend some quality time with my girls.

Spc. Albright: Love and miss you all. Sorry that I won't be there to watch the Ravens win the Super Bowl with you. I'll be back before you know it!

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Houck: To my wonderful wife Melissa and children Isabella, Kathryn, and Trey, I miss and love you very much. Thank you for your continuous support. You are always in Daddy's prayers. To our friends and family thank you for your support.

Maj. Bishop: To my wife Toni and daughter Olivia, I miss you both very much. Our time apart won't be much longer. Until we are together again, you are always in my thoughts and prayers. Love you always.



Signal Soldiers proudly display handmade cards sent from the children of Eastside Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi. Photo by U.S. Army

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Parachute Riggers of 824th Quartermaster Company, Detachment 9 Provide Humanitarian Aide to Air Land Mission in Pakistan

When you think of Parachute Riggers in the Army, most people think of Airborne Paratroopers falling from the sky into battle using the parachutes the Riggers pack. In reality, the life of most mobilized Parachute Riggers is drastically different. The stage of war we are currently in has the majority of the Riggers building Cargo Delivery Systems (CDS), which are dropped from Aircraft with all types of supplies for the Soldiers on the ground. With the escalation of IEDs in Afghanistan the use of CDS drops has steadily increased to a point far beyond what anyone ever imagined it would be.

On 7 September, a call came into the shop of the 824th QM Company, Detachment 9. This resupply request was a little different than the thousands previously received during Detachment 9's deployment. To start with, the channel of communication was completely different than had ever been seen. Instead of getting a call from a Theater Air Drop Officer with details of commodities, times, places and the situation the unit on the ground was in, either emergency or sustainment, the call came in from Class I personnel and an Air Mobility Officer. The tasking came down as an emergency, and not the type the unit is used to. This one was a humanitarian mission to Pakistan due to the flooding that occurred in the country during the past month. To make it even stranger for a group of Parachute Riggers with six months of air drops under their belt, this was to be an Air Land mission and it was to happen the next morning. Once the confusion had worn off that commodities leaving our place for resupply would not have parachutes on them, the wheels started rolling at the shop. Personnel were tasked with this new mission; the retasking of personnel at the shop, now the team was left even shorter than they normally were to complete the Air Drop missions that were already on the schedule for the next few days. Our task seemed pretty simple, receive and escort trucks through the gate to the airfield, unload the trucks and repalletize the commodities onto 463L pallets for air transport; then get the details of the loads and create the TCNs required to move. As normal in today's military the KISS (keep it simple) principle was not used and problems developed. After a bit of time working out the bugs with the Air Force personnel, the loads were certified and ready to be air lifted.

This mission was definitely different than anything the 824th Quartermaster Company, Detachment 9 had been involved in, but as always everyone involved attacked the mission with the can do attitude that is demonstrated by these Soldiers each and every day. This mission may not have been typical for a Parachute Rigger, but proudly the Riggers of the 824th Quartermaster Company, Detachment 9 have never turned down a mission that has come their way, even ones that aren't dropped from the sky. Air drop, Air Land, or whatever is thought of next for this small band of professional Parachute Riggers to accomplish, surely the same answer will be given to every Air Drop request that has come their way, "Send It!"





"SUSTAIN TO VICTORY, ALWAYS READY, FIRST TEAM"



ABOUT US

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