

# THE HICKORY COURIER

230th Sustainment Brigade



Issue 1, April 2011

# The Hickory Courier

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*Cover photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory*

*Front Cover: The Color Guard of the 230th Sustainment Brigade and the 1st Sustainment Brigade, stand at attention on March 11, 2011. The 230th's colors have just been uncased by the commander, Col. Wm. Mark Hart and the Commanding Sgt. Maj., Sgt. Maj. George E. Holland. The 230th now assumes command from the 1st Sustainment Brigade, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.*

## THE HICKORY COURIER

### Issue 1

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# From the Stump

by Col. Wm. Mark Hart

230th Sustainment Brigade Commander

Saint Marher was recorded in 1225 A.D. as having said, "And te tide and te time þat tu iboren were, schal beon iblescet." Translated it means, 'time waits for no man.' It seems like just yesterday, our Soldiers gathered in Chattanooga and began our deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Our first stop found us at Fort Bliss, Texas, where we honed our combat skills and weathered sub-zero temperatures with rolling blackouts of electricity. We completed our culminating event in early February and our Tennessee Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Max Haston, bid us luck and Godspeed.

The Hickory Brigade arrived in Kuwait in mid-February at Camp Arifjan and began work replacing the 1st Sustainment Brigade from Fort Riley, Kan. The transfer of authority was complete in early March, and the Hickory Brigade commenced operations supporting the responsible drawdown of U.S. Forces in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The Hickory Brigade, now over 3,000 Soldiers strong, dispatched personnel to various countries within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.



We manage several thousand trucks along with warehouses, postal and finance operations, airplanes and boats - all carrying supplies to fellow Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Department of Defense civilians. Today, Ole Hickory has Soldiers in five countries and moves in and out of Iraq on a daily basis.

Our Soldiers are performing like seasoned veterans after having been in-country only a couple of months. I am, as you are, very proud of their actions and commitment to our country. Ole Hickory is a member of 1st Theater Sustainment Command from Fort Bragg, N.C., commanded by Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dowd. As Maj. Gen. Dowd would say, "One Team-One Fight." The 230th Sustainment Brigade remains "Hard as Hickory."

*Col. Wm. Mark Hart assumed command of the 230th Sustainment Brigade in December 2010. Previous to the 230th, Hart served as the commander of the 1/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2004. From the time of his enlistment in 1973 until now, Hart has been a part of the 278th ACR, headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn.*

*Col. Hart attended Walters State Community College and recieved a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Tenn. in 1990. He received his Master of Science degree in 1999 from the University of Tenn. He was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer from the Tennessee Military Academy in 1983. His military education includes the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, the Armor Advanced Course, and Command and General Staff College.*



# A Final Farewell from the Brigade's top enlisted

From Command Sgt. Maj.

George E. Holland, III farewell speech

First of all, I would like to thank Col. Hart for the opportunity to serve as his brigade command sergeant major. More importantly, thanks for being a Soldier's Colonel. It allowed me to do my job effectively. It has also been a great honor to serve the Soldiers of the 230th Sustainment Brigade. I look back over my career and wonder how I got here. Well, that is very easy to answer. I've had great mentors; someone that took the time to mold me into the Soldier and man I am today. I make this comment solely on the fact that our job is never done and we will mold someone every day. We have a responsibility as NCOs that we take Soldiers under our wing and mold them on a daily basis.

Please take the time to look at yourself and find out why you put the uniform on each day. Is it because of the American Flag, love for the nation, or the comrades that stand or sit beside you? Please find out what it is that drives you to do this job.

I would like to take a minute and talk about 4 points. Honesty.



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Holland, III, receives his 230th Sustainment Combat Patch at his Change of Responsibility ceremony on March 25th. Holland replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Breece as the new Senior Enlisted Leader for the Tennessee National Guard. Holland will serve as the principal enlisted advisor, and is responsible to The Adjutant General for the supervision, training and wellbeing of the nearly 14,000 enlisted Soldiers and Airmen of the Tenn. Army and Air National Guard.

You're measured by the honesty and integrity you have inside you. Always look forward. You can always look back, but you need to learn from your past. Do something to make you a better Soldier, but also do something to make another Soldier better. Be competent. As I've said before, know your job and your Soldiers.

I have confidence in you. You guys are getting it. Most impor-

tantly, take responsibility. Don't ever forget about the customer, the Soldier that you're getting that stuff to. You are doing this job for them. Lastly, inspiration. I hope one day I will be remembered for inspiring someone. Take the time to inspire someone every day.

In closing, I want everyone of you to know that it is very difficult to leave each of you. Taking the Job as the Senior Enlisted Leader, I promise you, I will be your voice. I'm extremely humbled and honored to serve you.

Finally, Command Sgt. Maj. Massengale, I realize you have been in this position before, so I'm very confident that you will take this assignment to heart. Soldiers of the 230th Sustainment Brigade, I know why Command Sgt. Maj. Massengale does this job. He does it for you. I've known him a long time, and I can tell you he loves and cares about each and every one of you.

Hard as Hickory.





# 230th Sustainment Brigade

## Assumes Sustainment Authority

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier

230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN,

KUWAIT – The Tennessee Army National Guard's 230th Sustainment Brigade officially received control of the Army's sustainment mission in Kuwait from the 1st Sustainment Brigade on March 11, 2011. The Transfer of Authority ceremony was headed by Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dowd, commanding general of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command. The ceremony saw Col. Donnie Walker and Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera, commander and Command Sergeant Major for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, case their brigade colors, as the incoming command, Col. Mark Hart and Command Sgt. Maj. George Holland, commander and Command Sgt. Major for the 230th, unveil their colors. This symbolizes the official transfer of authority of the outgoing unit's mission to the incoming command. It is also historic in the 230th is now the only Sustainment Brigade within Kuwait. The 230th primary mission is to support U.S. Forces currently stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and at the same time overseeing the responsible



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

Col. W. Mark Hart and Command Sgt. Maj. George E. Holland, the commander and command Sgt. Maj. for the 230th Sustainment Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard, headquartered in Chattanooga, Tenn., uncased the Brigades Colors in a ceremony held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on March 11, 2011.

drawdown of U.S. Forces out of Iraq by the end of 2011.

Speaking on the scope of responsibility for this mission, Dowd said, "Col. Walker and Command Sgt. Maj. Rivera led the 1st [Sustainment Brigade] with a vision and direction to accomplish a critical role in theater sustainment operations." For the past year, the 1st Sustainment carried out numerous missions into Iraq to resupply U.S. troops and at the same time pull various resources out of Iraq back to Kuwait. Their mission also consisted of maintaining a sup-

ply route to Afghanistan via air drops. As this was their last official act in theater before returning to Fort Riley, Kan., Dowd continued, "This is a lasting legacy that you should be surely proud of."

Incoming Brigade Commander, Col. Mark Hart, speaking to Col. Walker and the 'Durable' brigade, said, "The greatest tribute that anyone could pay you would be that of emulation. I can assure you that your lineage here and the job that you've done will be emulated by the Old Hickory Volunteers."

"Change is inevitable," said Hart.

"The sustainment will continue to the tip of the sword for all the Warfighters in harm's way. We stand ready for the challenge, we accept the change, and we look forward to the mission. Old Hickory Volunteers will 'get 'er done.'"

Col. Flem B. "Donnie" Walker, commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, give his outgoing speech as Soldiers of the 230th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Chattanooga, Tenn., stand ready when their Colors uncased in a ceremony on Mar. 11, 2011 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

## Special Troops Battalions prepare for Authority handover

by Sgt. John Dedman

230th Special Troops Battalion

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT - Kuwait has not been known by most Soldiers who have deployed to be the center of the action. Lt. Col. Marvin Thornton, of the 1st Sustainment Brigade's Special Troops Battalion from Fort Riley, Kan. would set the record straight with Kuwait and its current tasking. Now the mission, in large part, is the responsible drawdown out of Iraq. Kuwait's logistical mission has always been important, but not central to the primary action like it has become today.

The mission handed off to 1st STB changed radically and quickly because the drawdown is performed in phases. Each phase has

differing requirements and much of his mission consisted primarily of the activities of the phase he moved into shortly after taking over. Now Thornton is about to transfer authority to Lt. Col. Steven Barney of Special Troops Battalion, 230th Sustainment Brigade out of Chattanooga, Tenn. Before Thornton moves back to Fort Riley, Kan., he said to Barney, "Be flexible and adapt to the situation." An example of flexibility is the battalion S3 of 1st STB, Capt. Sandra Brown. She was initially to be the battalion logistics officer but was placed in operations to be the S3. Brown stated, "I was enlightened that S3 truly is the center of things." The operation continues to progress and the next

phase is about to begin, so Thornton's advice will likely be the order of the day.

Working closely with each other, Thornton and Barney discussed several challenges a STB is likely to encounter within Kuwait. More often than not, communication with battalion assets was a big problem. With the country being about the size of New Jersey, it made communication with the outlying elements difficult. The teams within the 1st STB remained flexible and found new ways to communicate, including using assets from other military branches. Thornton also noted the non-commissioned officers, or

**SEE 'STB' - PAGE 21**



# Brothers come in with a 'Storm' and leave at 'Dawn'

by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN,

KUWAIT—This is not just another deployment for two brothers, it is a historic deployment as well. Clay Massengale from Chickamauga, Ga. and John A. Massengale from Ringgold, Ga., both are assigned to the 230th Sustainment Brigade headquartered out of Chattanooga, Tenn.

The 230th Sustainment Brigade has been tasked with the robust mission of logistical sustainment of units in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, while engaging in a

responsible drawdown of equipment and infrastructure out of the Iraq Theater. Not only is this a large scale mission, drawing down a sizeable coalition footprint established over the last 8 years, but it is also the Massengale brothers last deployment.

The brother's first deployment was at the beginning of Operation Desert Storm. Clay was a Staff Sgt. and the assistant section chief for the Radio Teletype (RATT) section. He was assigned to Headquarters Battery, 196th Field Artillery Brigade, while John A. was a Sgt. 1st Class

and the Motor Sergeant assigned to Headquarters Battery, 1-181st Field Artillery Battalion. Even though they were in different batteries, they were still in the same unit and were able to see each other.

Now during their final deployment, John A. is a Sgt. 1st Class and the Motor Sergeant for Special Troops Battalion, and loves his job here; while his little brother is the Command Sgt. Maj. for the same battalion. Clay also completed another deployment in 2007-2008 at Camp Bucca, Iraq with the 1-181st Field Artillery Battalion, without his brother John A.

The brothers like to tease and joke around with each other, older brother picking on younger brother; younger brother out-ranking older brother, teasing him. They say their relationship has grown stronger since they have both been in the National Guard. "He's a Sergeant Major and I respect that," said John A. "But I still, every once in a while, I got to throw in 'I'm calling Mom.'"

They are both very proud of each other. Clay, commenting on what he respects about his older brother, said, "His longevity. 40 years in



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

Sgt. 1st Class John A. Massengale from Ringgold, Ga., stands with to his younger brother Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley C. Massengale from Chickamauga, Ga., on Mar. 16, 2011 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The brothers are on their second and final deployment together.



the service of our country. That's pretty High-Speed. And his willingness to overcome the physical wear and tear on his body, that's tough."

"I am so proud of him," commented John A. "I gave him some goals when he came into the Guard and told him how to succeed in life. He took on these goals and persevered in many ways."

Commenting on their latest deployment, John A. said, "I saw the beginning of this war in Desert Storm and now I'll see the end of it with the Soldiers coming out of Iraq."



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

Sgt. 1st Class John A. Massengale of Ringgold, Ga., stands at parade rest while discussing motor pool operations with his younger brother Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley C. Massengale of Chickamauga, Ga., on Mar. 16, 2011 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Both brothers are assigned to the 230th Sustainment Brigade and are on their last deployment before retiring.

## Other Families Serving together in the 230th Sustainment Brigade

Pfc. Stephanie Lockhart/Pfc. Elizabeth Lockhart.....	Twin Sisters
Spc. Walter (Trey) Parrish/Spc. Thomas Parrish.....	Twin Brothers
1st Lt. Clinton Cannon/Spc. Andrew Cannon.....	Father/Son
Spc. Jessica Capalnas/Pfc. Daniel Capalnas.....	Married
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chad Cookston/Capt. Tijuana Cookston .....	Married
Staff Sgt. Esperance Dawson/Sgt. Larry Dawson.....	Married
Spc. Skiegh Ward/Pfc. Matthew Ward .....	Brother/Sister
Staff Sgt. David Justice/Sgt. Patricia Justice.....	Brother/Sister
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rita Wilson/Sgt. Cory Cothron.....	Mother/Son
Staff Sgt. Amanda Lomax/Sgt. Rodney Lomax.....	Married

# Sustainment Automation Supports the 21st Century Warfighter

by Spc. Stephanie Moon  
230th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ARIFJAN,

KUWAIT - When most think of communications in the Army, they think of radios and e-mail. This is only one side of the communications coin the Tennessee Army National Guard's 230th Sustainment Brigade considers in their S-6 department. What about those systems that drive life support functions for the warfighter? That's where the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office, also known as SASMO,

steps into the spotlight. This shop is responsible for making sure that life-sustaining resources, like 'beans and bullets,' make it to the Soldier in a timely manner to keep them ready to support the Global War on Terror.

The life support and logistical operations the Standard Army Management System provides is an invaluable resource for the Army and is paving the way into the future. Imagine trying to track the movement of some 50,000 trucks, hundreds of airdrops, and the general supply manage-

ment of facilities. Now imagine having to track all those assets by hand using pen and paper. Without the automation that SASMO provides, it is impractical and prevents the Army from maintaining a successful operational tempo within various theaters of operation.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Payne is a volunteer with the unit. As a Personnel Service Technician, working Helpdesk for the State of Tennessee gives him the technical knowledge to handle these systems. "It's really fascinating to watch how all the systems interact," Payne said.

The Standard Army Maintenance System – Enhanced, or SAMS-E, is the main focus of SASMO's mission, as it is the system used to order parts, track dispatching, and maintain the massive fleet of military vehicles. With the 230th's mission focusing on the draw-down in Iraq, there is a major priority on utilizing this system to its fullest potential, as the amount of traffic passing through the area is the largest logistical operation the Army has seen since Vietnam. Many bases throughout Iraq will be shutting down and their materials and personnel will be exiting



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

1st Lt. Todd Culver, Officer-in-charge of the 230th Sustainment Brigade's SASMO shop verifies hardware settings for an end-user computer. SASMO is responsible for maintaining the numerous logistic computer systems within the 230th's Area of Operations.



theater through Kuwait by the December 31, 2011 deadline.

As far as making sure that everyone has what they need, the Standard Army Retail Supply System, SARSS, is a key component. The SARSS can be likened to a massive department store for everything from staples to uniforms to refrigerators. "Without this, forward facilities would have a difficult time getting the things they need to carry out their mission," said Payne.

The system tied to more traditional aspects of combat is the Standard Army Ammunition System – Modernization. This system is used for requesting and tracking munitions of all kinds, making combat missions possible in the first place. Be it rounds for the M4 rifle or potentially Hellfire missiles, all requests for munitions will go through this system.

Depending upon the location of the shop, the mission can be very different. According to Payne, the systems are hardened and well established in a garrison environment. The issues and troubles encountered are minor in nature. However, in a deployed environment with connectivity being a major hanging point, the problems they encounter are much larger. Since this mission is centered on the responsible drawdown of Iraq, members within the shop's

ranks have been assigned to various bases throughout the region,

to help track and maintain the logistical systems they manage. A proactive approach to the austere environment ensures issues are caught early and system users get the best customer service possible.

Part of military protocol today is the close association between the military and the civilian contractor. Working to maintain this complex web of systems, the contractors go just as far as their military counterparts, sometimes overnight after a normal shift, in order to get a system up and running. Payne said, "Their dedication to the mission is astounding." The knowledge base the contractors bring to the table is invaluable to the people responsible for using and maintaining the equipment and systems. "The least experienced person I [have worked with] still had four years experience on the job," Payne said.

With the responsible drawdown in Iraq and all the gear, vehicles, and personnel involved in this movement, these systems are critical for managing the logistics of this monumental task. Without SASMO and the systems they maintain, the Army mission could not and would not succeed. They are a gear in a very large machine that keeps the Army moving forward.

## Highlights from Shutterfly



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All photos are for public release and are available for download and purchase through the shutterfly site.

# MV Virginian helps with Responsible Drawdown of Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier

230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

KUWAIT CITY - Under a deep, warm, blue sky and over water so clear, fish could be seen swimming in the depths below, the MV Virginian made port at the Kuwait Naval Base on March 19, 2011. The Virginian seems like just another shipping vessel that docks here on a daily basis, however, the role it plays in U.S. military operations in this region is huge.

The 230th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered out of Chattanooga, Tenn., has many missions. One of the largest is the responsible drawdown of equipment from Iraq and this is where the Virginian comes into play.

The Virginian carries retrograde equipment. "Retrograde equipment is equipment no longer used or will not be used in the theater of operation," said Lt. Col. Thomas E. Taylor, from Nashville, Tenn. and assigned to the brigade within the Support and Plans Operations section. "So we send it back for other uses. Basically it's just a drawdown of equipment we send back to the states."

A mission like this takes about four units and six months to plan. "We do this mission once a quar-



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

The MV Virginian makes its way to the Kuwait Naval Base dock March 19, 2011, with some help of tug boats. The MV Virginian will be unloading just over 400 containers then reloading just over 300 containers bound for three different countries.

ter, four times a year," said Taylor. The 230th provides oversight in ensuring the retrograde equipment is ready for shipment when the vessel docks. "We also ensure we meet or exceed the number of containers going back on the vessel," said Taylor.

Today, the Virginian docked with a little more than 400 containers of incoming supplies for the region and set to reload with just less than 400 more filled with the retrograde materials

"Tonight we are conducting deployment/redeployment operations for about 900 containers

total," said 1st Lt. Arthur Stepuro, commander of the 518th Port Management Team. "The containers will be (unloaded), then proceed to the sterile lot where they will be tallied and segregated. From there on, they will continue on toward the (Transportation Security Administration) on convoys."

Stepuro said, "Once a vessel comes in, they can usually move 12 to 15 containers per hour. That's using two ships' cranes and a pier-side crane."

"It usually takes about 40 to 44 hours using three cranes to unload," said Master Sgt. Thaddeus



Pool, non-commissioned officer in charge of the combined joint logistics center, and assigned to the 369th terminal supervision team, an Army Reserve unit headquartered out of Houston, Texas. "Then about the same amount of time to load that many containers. Roughly about four days to discharge and to upload it for about 500 containers."

"It takes a combined effort," said Stepuro, "including (U.S.) Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Kuwaiti Navy, contractors from different organizations, international work-

ers from all over the surrounding regions, 200 to 300 personnel involved in this operation alone, and that's not including over 100 truck drivers that will be working with us."

With the Virginian carrying so much retrograde equipment, the vessel plays a critical role in the responsible drawdown of Iraq.

It takes a plethora of people and several combined units from all branches of the military to ensure not only the vessel is unloaded, but reloaded with as much retrograde equipment as possible in a

timely manner. This maximizes the amount of time and space available to conduct the complete withdrawal of U.S. Forces and equipment from Iraq before the end of 2011.

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#### *MV VIRGINIAN STATS*

*Built in 1984 as Saint Mangus*

*Tonnage: 16,169 Gross Tonnage*

*Displacement: 34,601 Tons*

*Length: 480.4 feet*

*Beam: 105 feet*

*Draft: 29.0 Feet Max. Navigational Draft*

*Capacity: 21, 541 Deadweight Tonnage*

*Total 1413 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units*

*Speed: 16 Knots*

*Crew: 21*

*Other Names:*

*Jolly Indaco*

*MV Strong Virginian*

*Source: Wikipedia*

Connex's containing various class of supply for U.S. Forces in the Southwest Asia region aboard the MV Virginian, are being unloaded at the Kuwait Naval Base on March 19, 2011.

Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory



# Sept. 11 Flags Transferred to Reserve Unit headed to Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier

230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN,

KUWAIT – A somber mood was felt in the crowd as the 462nd Movement Control Battalion transferred American and New York City Fire Department flags to the 77th Sustainment Brigade on March 20, 2011. The ceremony marked the final time this particular set of flags transfers from one New York state/New Jersey Army Reserve unit to another serving in the Middle East for the past seven years.

As the two units stood at parade rest, a video depicting the terrorist attacks, the rescue efforts thereafter and the forging of steel for the U.S. Navy warship aptly named the USS New York, inciting tears amongst those who remember that infamous day or had lost someone in the attacks. Participating in the transfer ceremony for the 462nd were Lt. Col. Michael Bulter and Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Smith. For the 77th, Col. Stephen Falcone and Command Sgt. Maj. Nagee Lundee took possession of the flags. Also participating, Capt. Chris Linto of the Camp Arifjan Fire Department stood in to represent the firefighters of the NYFD.

“It has been nearly four months since our Battalion participated in this type of event. On Veterans Day of last year, we received the Ground Zero flags displayed before you today,” said Butler. “We are grateful that we were chosen to continue the tradition of safekeeping the Ground Zero flags.”

An Army Reservist, Col. Neil Skow, flew the flags over Ground Zero for 4 months after 9/11.

Skow, being a Citizen-Soldier himself, served with the NYFD Ladder Company Two during the events of 9/11. During the initial rescue efforts, Skow’s company lost 10 firefighters. In 2003, Skow deployed to Iraq as commander of the 413th Quartermaster Battalion, taking both flags with him. Since then, the flags have been passed on to various units from the New York state and New Jersey area and flown with pride and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier

Col. Stephen Falcone, commander of the 77th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered at Fort Dix, N.J., renders a final salute to the American flag after passing control to Command Sgt. Maj. Nagee Lundee, command sergeant major for the 77th Sustainment Brigade, during a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Mar. 20, 2011. The flag was flown by Army Reservist Col. Neil Skow while serving as a fireman for Ladder Company Two at Ground Zero, for four months after the terrorist attacks brought both World Trade Center towers to the ground. This ceremony marks last time the flags will be transferred between New York state or New Jersey Army Reserve Units serving in the Middle East for the past seven years.



honor for the extent of each unit's tour. Since the rotation began, the 773rd Transportation Company, 306th Military Police Battalion, 962nd Ordnance Company, 304th Transportation Company, and 462nd Movement Control Battalion have all had the privilege of carrying these flags into a combat zone and transferring them from one unit to the next, carrying on the tradition.

Butler continued, "As time passes, occasions such as today become increasingly important, as we owe those who gave their lives proper homage. I had the duty and responsibility as one of the guardians of these flags – which symbolize liberty, sacrifice, strength, and the resolve of a nation – to ensure that we properly continued to pay our respects."

Being a Citizen-Soldier himself, Butler was one of the first responders on 9/11, serving as a New York City police officer. But-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier

An American flag and New York City Fire Department flag lay at rest on a display representing units past and present to possess the flags during deployments to the Middle East since 9/11. The flags were flown by Army Reservist Col. Neil Skow while serving as a fireman for Ladder Company Two at Ground Zero, for four months after the terrorist attacks brought both World Trade Center towers to the ground. This ceremony marks last time the flags will be transferred between New York state or New Jersey Army Reserve Units serving in the Middle East for the past seven years.

ler admitted he was not the only one within the brigade to have a personal connection to that Tuesday morning in Sept. 2001.

"The sacrifices made that morning resonate with our unit – six Citizen-Soldiers from the 77th gave their lives that day. Since then, five more Soldiers from the 77th died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are humbled to wear the patch on our uniform

sleeves that represents the service and sacrifice of all these patriots," said Butler.

It seems fitting that the 77th is the last Reserve unit to have this honor. During Sept. 11, the 77th was activated to help with the recovery and clean up efforts in and around Ground Zero. Later next year, the 77th Sustainment Brigade is due to carry the flags back to New York City, where they will present the NYFD with the flags for permanent display in their headquarters.



Command Sgt. Maj. Nagee Lundee, command sergeant major for the 77th Sustainment Brigade headquartered at Fort Dix, N.J., renders a final salute to the American Flag transferred to the Brigade by the 462nd Movement Control Battalion from Trenton, N.J. This American Flag was flown for four months over Ground Zero by Army Reservist Col. Neil Skow, a firefighter with New York City Fire Department's Ladder Company Two during the events of 9/11. The ceremony marks the final transfer of authority of the flag to New York state and New Jersey Army Reservists serving in the Middle East for the past seven years.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier

# 230th Soldiers Walk 'Death March'

by Sgt. John Dedman

230th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT - It was a very warm start on Sunday morning, March 20, 2011, in Kuwait for the second annual Bataan Memorial Death March. That morning, more than 350 Soldiers gathered outside the Zone 1 fitness center clad in ACUs and backpacks, weighing at least 35 pounds.

The 230th Sustainment Brigade was not to be outdone. Several members of the 230th arrived early to weigh their bags and hang out together while waiting for the march to start. Staff Sgt Taylor said, "I wanted to participate and represent my unit in honor of those who were in the Bataan Death March." There was much excitement and photos taken to later be shared among friends over Facebook. Some were there to support fellow 230th Soldiers on the march. Spc. Megan Carlisle, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 230th Sustainment Brigade supply clerk, said, "I went to provide support for the Lockhart twins." Stephanie and Elizabeth Lockhart are fellow supply clerks and twin sisters in the unit. Some were there to test their endurance, like Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Long, the convoy support team operations officer. Long said, "Honestly, this

road march showed me I wasn't as conditioned as I had originally thought." Others wanted to be a part of something special as with 2nd Lt. Melake Whyte, whose grandfather was in World War II.

Phil Cochran was the event coordinator this year. He spent some time in the gymnasium where each Soldier first weighed their packs and spoke about the history of the event. The recounting of the history seemed to elicit strong emotion from him while speaking of the treatment of the Soldiers and civilians that were marched 60 miles after the Battle of Bataan during World War II. Cochran shared that he really liked events that were "high value," and this

event was packed with historical significance. He was inspired by the camaraderie he saw the event produce amongst the participants. When asked what elicited an emotional reaction, Cochran said, "When I worked for the Transportation Security Administration, I was checking the bags of an elderly couple and in conversation I asked where they were going. The man remained silent, but his wife proudly announced that they were going to the reunion of those who survived the Bataan death march." The event was started in 2010 by Dee Davis, who previously worked for the fitness center. Davis was at the fitness center last year when

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With salt-covered skin, 2nd Lt. Melake Whyte finishes the last leg of the Bataan Memorial Death March on March 20, 2011 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Photo by Sgt. John Dedman





# The Newest Leopards, 824th's DET 10 receive their Combat Patch

by Spc. John Valdez

553rd Combat Sustainment Support Bn.

For some Soldiers, it was their first time to receive a shoulder sleeve insignia, a right arm "combat patch" designating wartime service. The newest Leopards of the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), the "Riggers" of Detachment (DET) 10 of the 824th Quartermaster Company, are now recognized as veterans who have served in a war zone.

DET 10, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) from an air base in Southwest Asia, is commanded by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marion "David" Pettus of Cedar Hill, Tenn. Besides being the DET 10 commander, Pettus is also the Senior Airdrop Systems Technician.

The unit is a combination of U.S. Army Reserve volunteers from the 824th Quartermaster Company, Fort Bragg, N.C. and 861st Quartermaster Company, Nashville, Tenn., who are in a special field of Army logistics. These Soldiers specialize in airborne operations, providing critical supplies from the sky to remote areas that cannot be reached easily by ground sustainment resources.



Photo by Spc. John Valdez

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Steverson, DET 10's First Sergeant, places the 4th Sustainment Brigade's combat patch on Spc. Andrew Jimenez of Charlotte, N.C.

On a busy day in February, the riggers stopped to conduct their patch ceremony amongst their completed air loads for future operations. Battalion commander of the 553rd, Lt. Col. Matt Melvin spoke of the significance of the Soldiers receiving their combat patch; following the time honored tradition of veterans in service to our nation's call. Melvin stated that what would be remembered of the event, would not be of him, nor the battalion they are currently assigned to but the Soldiers with whom they work with day in and day out for rest of the year. It

will be the memory of hard work, sweat, friendships, professional growth and the support to the warrior on the ground that will be burned into their memories for a life-time.

DET 10 has one of the busiest missions in the Leopard Battalion, working an average of 14 hours daily, seven days a week building air loads to be dropped from a C17 aircraft. These air loads can be anything from fuel to building supplies. Their skills are in building the air load itself, ensuring

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Photo by Spc. John Valdez

the loads meet Air Force regulation. They make sure everything is weighed and tied down properly ready for air transport and release from the aircraft. The loads go through multiple inspections by certified riggers as the load is built in the production lanes.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Steverson of Fayetteville, N.C., who is DET 10's First Sergeant, stated that every load receives a minimum of three inspections. "We make sure every load is secured tightly and every item is accounted for," said Steverson.

Although riggers are experts in the building of the air loads, they are also true logistical experts, spending a lot of time in preparations of future operations. "I plan and set priorities against manpower to ensure success on the production line

Spc. Evette Williams of Angier, N.C., conducts final preparations for the combat loads that will be delivered by air.

every single day," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Jones of Louisville, Ky. Jones is the inside rigging lane shop foreman, ensuring that all loads are built correctly and they have the correct amount built to

meet their daily mission requirements. He plans all daily shop operations, as well as production scheduling of daily workloads according to upcoming requirements.

One of the few non-riggers is Sgt. Denise Nuckols of Louisville, Ky. Assigned to the 824th, she is responsible for managing all the supply stock required to build load plans, ensures accountability of all on hand quantities and the replenishments of the stocks as the supply is con-

sumed in production. Having such a great responsibility, she has already proven she is up to the task. When asked about her first combat patch she said, "I feel honored to be part of a battalion with great values, motivation and I am proud to be part of this operation in our history."

DET 10 is on its way to contributing their history to OEF and the folks back in Fayetteville and Nashville will be proud to know their ambassadors of freedom are truly professional Soldiers.



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she recalled a missed opportunity to participate in the memorial road march in White Sands, N. M. "In 2001, I was a combat medic and I planned to participate in the White Sands Bataan Memorial Death March," said Davis. For her, it "is rich with historical meaning." The chance was lost when 9/11 occurred and all such activities were put on hold. Staff Sgt Michael Roberts, the supply sergeant of HHC 230th, would agree with Davis as he said, "I just did it because it was good reason to do it." Working at the fitness center at the time, she proposed the idea to her supervisor and a new, meaningful event was added to the calendar. She was pleased to hear that over 300 people showed up this year; in fact, she seemed

pleasantly surprised it was held again for the second year in a row. The history of the event is what makes the march so important to military service members. In 1942, after the Battle of Bataan, part of the Battle of the Philippines, a forcible transfer of 75,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war were marched for 61 miles without food or drink most of the way. Many were beaten or even killed if they fell behind or could not march.

Annual memorial marches are held in Minnesota by the 194th Armored Regiment of the Minnesota Army National Guard, and in New Mexico at White Sands Missile Range. The distances range from 10 miles to marathon distances. Camp Arifjan's me-

morial march took Soldiers on a 12.5 kilometer (7 3/4 miles) path through sand and gravel around the post and ending back at the Zone 1 fitness center.

It was a time of friendship and sharing a moment that would become significant and special to them. Above all, it was about finishing that challenge which was different for each as Carlisle said of the Lockhart twins, "Rucksacks are not made for short people," explaining the struggle the pack presented for the Lockharts. Each of them gave support and encouragement to others to continue to the finish line. Lockhart quipped, "I felt sore, but (I felt) accomplished after I finished."

Photo by Sgt. John Dedman



230th Special Troops Battalion's Capt. Tammy Cook receives a medal for finishing the Camp Arifjan Bataan Memorial Death March on March 20, 2011. Cook completed the march in record time for her age bracket. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored memorial march is similar to those held across the world in memory and respect for those Soldiers who were forced to march as Japanese Prisoners of War during World War II. Camp Arifjan's march took servicemembers on a 12.5 kilometer (7.75 miles) trail through sand gravel and Kuwaiti heat.

# 230th Soldier wins Slam Dunk competition

by Maj. Patrick Brownell

230th Sustainment Brigade Chaplain

Morale, Welfare and Recreation, or MWR, events are considered a valuable part of life during deployment. Being responsible to help keep the spirits up of the Soldier is the best way to combat stress, fatigue, and even boredom. Most troops refer to their days as "Groundhog day," an allusion to a comedy starring Bill Murray, in which the main character lived the same day over and over again.

One such event was a Slam-dunk contest at the Zone 1 Gymnasium at Camp Arifjan. This event was held by MWR on March 6th. Each participant had 2 minutes to perform a dunk. According to 1st Lt. Christopher Lawson, Spc. Keenan Lee did it in 3 tries. The competition was pretty tough all around, but only one other participant really gave Lee a run for his money. Lawson said, "It was pretty nerve-wracking. He performed well." 1st Sgt. Reginald Sims, first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 230th Sustainment Brigade, stated, "It was pretty competitive but Lee surpassed all the others."

Lee is a West Tennessee native from Memphis, Tenn. and is part of a detachment of the 230th Sustainment Brigade, located in



Photos provided by MWR.

Petty Officer 1st Class Patrice Fant presents Spc. Keenan Lee with first place for competing in the Slam-dunk contest on March 6, 2011 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Millington, Tenn. The brigade, headquartered in Chattanooga, Tenn., recently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom. Lee said, "(It) was my first competition and I was kind of nervous." Lee was quoted by Lawson as saying, "The goal grew very small and the floor grew very big when I got on the court." He admitted that this event took him back to his basketball days at McGavock High School in Nashville, Tenn. He said that he felt that MWR made a significant investment in the success of the event and he appreciated that. Lee is just

one example of the competitive spirit and grace under pressure of the 230th Sustainment Brigade.





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NCO's with those outlying groups functioned at a much higher level than expected from a normal garrison environment. In most cases, the NCO was the senior ranking individual at a site and had to make command decisions on critical tasks.

Maj. William Lamar of 230th STB stated that his concern that the greatest challenge would likely be learning the roles and responsibilities of subordinate units and the impact they will have on the mission. This is likely to be a challenge as the units are not all located in one place. The area served by the 230th Sustainment Brigade is broad, with elements in Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar and Iraq and communications will have to be constant and clear to successfully

manage day to day operations. Command Sgt. Maj. Clay Massengale points out that, "In an operation like this, fighting complacency will be a challenge. Operations will become routine and that can be a dangerous time," said Massengale. Sustainment brigades are not in the combat areas, but they are crucial as they must be vigilant to ensure whatever the combat arms Soldier needs, he has. Massengale continued that "the communal living quarters for soldiers operating here at Camp Arifjan will present its own unique challenges." When asked if his predecessor set the conditions for his success, Lamar said, "Absolutely! This has been the best and the smoothest transition and I've been through a few." Massengale felt the same

about his counterpart saying, "He gave me a good look of the day to day operations in battalion operations."

All in all, the outlook is upbeat. The preparation provided to each of the staff during the transition by their counterparts has left the 230th staff feeling more confident in taking over such a significant operation. This transfer of authority is significant as this mission is directly involved in the historic mission of the complete drawdown of U.S. Forces in Iraq and the necessity of a responsible withdraw to ease the completion of the transition from the U.S. military back to the Iraqi people is crucial.

Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory



Lt. Col. Steven Barney (L) and Lt. Col. Marvin Thornton watch the Commander's Update Briefing during the Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority process at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in early March 2011. Barney, commander of the 230th Special Troops Battalion, replaces Thornton, commander of the 1st Special Troops Battalion, as the Tennessee Army National Guard's 230th Sustainment Brigade assumes the Army's sustainment authority in Kuwait from the 1st Sustainment Brigade headquartered at Fort Riley, Kan.

# Fursa Thaniya's Second Chance

by Sgt. John Dedman  
230th Sustainment Brigade

## CAMP ARIFJAN,

KUWAIT—The Resiliency Center in Zone 6 had a surprise for Soldiers, on Feb. 25, 2011 that often go there to take a break from work. They were greeted by Fursa Thaniya, a friendly and playful, two year old German Shepherd-Husky mix. He is a therapy dog for Camp Arifjan and often visits Soldiers in the Camp.

"The name Fursa Thaniya means Second Chance in Arabic, since he was given a second chance at life, or third and fourth, as it seems to be," stated Capt. Erika Stapp, Army Veterinarian Service Chief for Camp Arifjan.

The Pest Management at Camp Arifjan found Fursa wandering around the site and brought him to Stapp on Aug. 18, 2010. "When he came in, he was 10 pounds under-weight and was about 3 times his current size in matted fur," explained Stapp in an email interview. "He was afraid of everything and cowered in the corners of the clinic."

Stapp revealed that Fursa had been physically abused. He had been beaten, starved and even shot at. She also discovered a pellet in the back of his head and a



Photo by Spc. Ekta Shrestha

Fursa Thanya, Red Cross's therapy dog for Camp Arifjan, visits Soldiers at the Zone 6 Resiliency Center on Feb. 25, 2011.

few weeks later she found another one lodged in his back muscle. "It took me about 2 weeks to start gaining his trust enough to get him to come near me," said Stapp. She tended to Fursa and nursed him back to health and in October, it was decided that Fursa would stay in the Camp as a therapy dog. "We brought him into our therapy dog program since he is so people-friendly," stated Carol Proxee, assistant station manager of the Red Cross in Camp Arifjan.

Since then, Stapp, Proxee and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Dan Polo, a Navy radiology technician, have been working hard,

training Fursa to be a therapy dog. He has already put his training to practice, makes routine visits to Soldiers in the hospitals and around the Camp. "A therapy dog aims to provide comfort to the service members," explained Chaplain Vincent Bain (Capt.) of the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. "They present an opportunity to connect to things back home, like your own pet you left back home." Fursa has been doing just that, setting Soldiers' mind at ease and bringing smiles to their faces.

Spc. Kirian Muran-de Assereto of Fort Hood, Texas, a human



resources clerk for 553rd CSSB, was one of the Soldiers that took a break from work to meet Fursa. Muran-de Assereto stated that she aspires to be an animal rescue cop and especially enjoyed spending time playing catch with Fursa. "After finding out that Fursa was rescued and seeing how happy he is, further makes me want to pursue a career in animal rescue."



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (February 25, 2011) - Fursa eagerly waits for Spc. Kirian Muran-de Assereto to throw the ball.

Photo by Spc. Ekta Shrestha

## Reflections from the Chaplain

by Maj. Patrick Brownell

230th Sustainment Brigade Chaplain

I send you greetings from the land of sand and gravel. As the temperatures rise, so has the morale of the men and women of the 230th Sustainment Brigade. It's taken a few weeks to get settled, but I think we're about there. We were very blessed to have arrived during the coolest part of the year. With the establishment of regular routines, sleep and eating habits in particular, many of us have been able to reduce our stress levels. We are also looking forward to the arrival of our black boxes. As you may know, these are trunks we placed personal items we anticipated would make our life here a bit easier. When we get those boxes, I imagine it will be like Christmas around here. It's amazing how we take so many things for granted.

I'm continually amazed at the generous showing of support from the people back in Tennessee. Since we left Chattanooga, I have received over 50 care packages! I'm still perfecting my distribution method, but we're getting care package items to the troops. I'm working on shelving and bins in the front lobby of the Resiliency Center so we can offer all visitors a convenient way to pick up snacks, toiletries, etc. The 230th Resiliency Center is a wonderful, one-stop place for all servicemembers to come and relax, speak to a chaplain (we have 3 here), play a guitar, read a book, use one of the fully body massage chairs, play a video game, and even read and record a story for a child back home. We are open 24/7 and we even have twice a week visit from a very friendly

Red Cross dog.

With the increased use of Facebook, e-mail and Skype, regular mail delivery has slowed down a bit, but I can assure you that we are all happy to receive what many call 'snail mail.' The Mail Room is probably one of the happiest places in our work area. If you are worried about a Soldier in particular, or would just like to drop me a line, please don't hesitate to contact me here at [Patrick.p.brownell@kuwait.swa.army.mil](mailto:Patrick.p.brownell@kuwait.swa.army.mil).

May God bless you and the men and women of the 230th Sustainment Brigade.