

THE HICKORY COURIER

230th Sustainment Brigade



Issue 2, July 2011

The Hickory Courier

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Brigade Commander

Col. Barry Buntin

Brigade Deputy Commanding Officer

Command Sgt. Maj. Clay Massengale

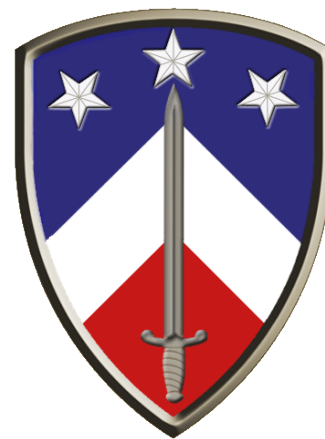
Brigade Command Sergeant Major

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Cover photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

Front Cover: Soldiers clean up the deck of the Five Forks on May 5, 2011 during a live firing range out on the Persian Gulf. The range was for Soldiers and the crew of the Five Forks to come out and validate with a live fire exercise with crew-served and individual weapons. "A range at sea is very unique," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Franky Caraska, vessel master, assigned to the 709th Transportation Company, Heavy Boat, out of Tacoma Wash. "Here, the boat is pitching and rolling, so the gunner has to take that into consideration as well as the target. What the gunner is shooting at is moving and the platform the gunner is shooting from is moving so there are a lot of variables there."



Oops! We made a mistake.

In our last issue, we inadvertently gave credit to the wrong people for stories. We would like to acknowledge the true authors for the following stories:

MV Virginian helps with Responsible Drawdown of Iraq – Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

230th Soldier wins Slam Dunk Competition – Sgt. John Dedman

Fursa Thaniya's Second Chance – Spc. Ekta Shrestha

Questions? Comments?

Suggestions?

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Issue 2

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From the Stump

by Col. Wm. Mark Hart
230th Sustainment Brigade Commander

July has brought summer to Kuwait and it's hot. As temperatures climb to three digits, the Hickory Brigade remains steadfast and strong. Our Soldiers bear the hot days and nights while continuing to focus on the mission. I am often amazed by their resiliency and ability to achieve endless tasks under some of the most severe weather conditions imaginable. You should be extremely proud of these men and women as they represent the blood and treasure of the United States of America.

Our mission here in the Middle East is nearing the mid-way point. Much has been done and more will be accomplished in the coming days.

Many of our Soldiers have begun to take Rest & Recuperation leave. This provides an excellent opportunity for the Soldiers to relax and catch their "second wind."

Your continued support during these periods is critical to the success of our mission. Encourage and renew those relationships, but above all – let's keep our Soldiers safe!

Remember, it was not just our Soldiers that went to war against terrorism, it was our nation. While our Soldiers have played a direct role in confronting this enemy, your part back home is no less important.

I thank God for all of you who keep the home fires burning bright and manage the day-to-day responsi-

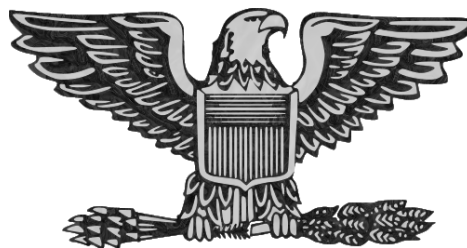


bilities back home of a deployed Soldier. Yours is no easy task and I salute your valiant performance.

Gen. George S. Patton is quoted as saying, "Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results." I can't begin to tell you how pleasantly surprised I am of our Hickory Soldiers – I am sure you'll agree.

Col. Wm. Mark Hart assumed command of the 230th Sustainment Brigade in December 2009. 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.

Hart attended Walters State Community College and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Tennessee in 1990. He received his Master of Science degree in 1999 from the University of Tennessee. 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.



From the Trunk

by Command Sgt. Maj. Clay Massengale
230th Sustainment Brigade Command
Sergeant Major

It's HOT. The wind feels like jet engine exhaust. The showers only have hot water. Metal objects outside will burn exposed skin. Dust hangs heavy in the air, making breathing more difficult. Everyone moves just a little slower, even though the mission continues and the work never ends. We are far away from our loved ones. Seemingly endless, but necessary work details, such as roving guard and Dining Facility headcount, interrupt our battle rhythm. Meanwhile, friends and family back home are posting pictures on Facebook of cookouts, motorcycle rides, trips to the lake, and complaining the weekend just wasn't long enough. Some of you have lost family and friends this year. Some of us don't have jobs to return to when the deployment ends. At the same time, active duty service members are dealing with an increase of limited opportunities in the face of a drawdown in strength. These conditions and others can make it difficult to keep a positive attitude.

I am not exempt from any of these aggravations. Even old guys like me get down in the dumps from time to time. But I'm old enough now to know how to kick myself in the butt—the chaplain would call it my “coping mechanism”—and get my attitude right again. All I have to do spend some time talking with other Soldiers. Either their positive energy picks up my spirits, or listening to their



troubles makes me realize how small my problems are. I always feel better and I'm ready to go back to work.

I have two points to make here.

One: If you're feeling down and out sometimes, that's okay. It's perfectly natural.

Two: Make yourself socialize with other Soldiers. You're deployed with the best support group anyone could have. Your compatriots, regardless of rank or position, are enduring the same separations and hardships. No matter what your problem is, somewhere near you is a Soldier who has experienced the same issue in the past and has worked through it.

Problems are like getting a case of head lice. It's not embarrassing to get head lice, but it is embarrassing to keep them.

Think safe and stay safe, both physically and mentally!

Command Sgt. Maj. Clay Massengale was born in Chattanooga, Tenn. in December 1964. He joined the Headquarters and Headquar-

ters Battery, 196th Field Artillery Brigade in 1984 as a Teletype Operator.

Massengale mobilized and deployed with the unit to Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon his return, he served in the Brigade Tactical Operations Center as a Fire Direction Specialist. He was selected as the Battery First Sergeant in 2000 and later served as First Sergeant of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion 181st Field Artillery (MLRS).

His prior leadership assignments and tactical excellence resulted in his selection and promotion to command sergeant major for the Field Artillery Battalion in June of 2007. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as the command sergeant major for Task Force Falcon.

Upon returning from deployment, he graduated from the Sergeant's Major Academy in 2008. His awards include the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.



Reflections from the Roots

by Chaplain (Maj.) Patrick Brownell
230th Sustainment Brigade Chaplain

Half way. Friends, that's where we're at; the half way point in our deployment. Recently I've been counseling soldiers who are struggling with the rigors of deployment and I constantly remind them that not too long ago we were standing in a cold armory in Tennessee and thinking to ourselves, "How will we get through an entire year of being away from our families and loved ones?" Now, as we're running from air conditioned tent to air conditioned tent we should be proud of ourselves for making it to the half way point! Congratulations!

As with anything in life, taking things in small increments makes it more manageable. Nature tries to teach us this as well. First our temperatures reached the 90s, then 100s, and now daily in the teens. If we had gone from the



60s one day to the 120s the next, our bodies would have probably reacted very poorly. And so it is with every change we make. If we can just remind ourselves to "bite" off only a little bit at a time, whether it is our work, worries or fears, we will do much better on the "installment" plan. This is one of the hardest lessons that I

have to constantly re-learn. Many of us have the tendency to panic and try to envision how we are going to do everything at once, when often that isn't needed. My mother used to remind me of a German saying, "Tea is never drunk as hot as it's brewed."

As we finish this deployment let us take great comfort that God has blessed us richly thus far. Our location and mission have spared us some of the hard realities of war that some of our brothers and sisters are now facing elsewhere. Also, I believe that the close fraternity of our 230th soldiers has allowed us to help each other and to lessen each other's burdens. It is this attitude and understanding, and God's kindness, which will allow us, before you know it, to once again stand in a cold armory in Tennessee and say to ourselves, "God, we did it!" God Bless you all.

ASIST for Life

by Spc. Stephanie Moon
230th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Suicide in the National Guard is on the rise. Chaplains and counselors constantly seek to implement tools to combat this threat to their Soldiers. Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, known as ASIST, is one such tool.

"Essentially, it is first aid for suicide," said Chaplain (1st Lt.) William R. Holcomb, one of the instructors of the two-day course.

LivingWorks, a Canadian organization, designed the program

from 30 years of experience dealing with suicide. They also run a suicide hotline as well as a center specializing in suicide-related issues. The U.S. Army 5th Corps, as a part of the 'Fit to Win' program in 1989, invited LivingWorks to deliver the ASIST training - formerly Suicide Intervention Workshop - to United States Army Europe (USAREUR). The training expanded in 1991, to include bereavement and grief training due to anticipated casualties from combat in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

ASIST is designed to allow any-

one to implement care, from senior leadership all the way down to junior enlisted. "It would be best utilized across the entire force, regardless of rank," said Chaplain (Capt.) Vincent Bain, a fellow instructor of the course. This is an important aspect in that many people who were suicidal went to friends and peers first. This sets a wide net to catch those who need help. "One of the goals of the class is to take somebody who is struggling themselves and put them in a stronger position," said Holcomb.

ASIST continued on page 37

The Talented Major Wilson

Spc. Jamie Smith
230th Sustainment Brigade

Throughout the 230th Sustainment Brigade there are numerous leaders. While it may seem as though majors are a dime a dozen within the brigade, Maj. Grover Lee Wilson III, stands out in a crowd. Born at the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, Wilson has grown up around the nation. Initially, the quiet, relaxed demeanor may fool you. Make no mistake though, this major is not afraid to follow willingly or lead by example.

After joining the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1986, Wilson served three years as a Cannon Crewman before going to Officer Candidate School in 1989. Initially, he attended the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Officer Basic Course before changing his officer branch back to his roots, Artillery. He continued to work within the Field Artillery branch for the next twelve years, including a deployment to Iraq with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn. Shortly after completing his deployment to Iraq, Wilson transferred to the 230th Sustainment Brigade in Chattanooga, Tenn.

To some, even within the Army, Wilson's job doesn't seem to be an important piece to the Army machine. However, when asked about his job and the function of the Brigade Personnel Office, also known as the brigade S1, Wilson is quick to point out the often underestimated importance of being the 'people person.' "Responsible for providing Human Resources Support to both military and civil-

ian personnel, we are the primary staff that oversees this function," said Wilson.

"Specific responsibilities include unit manning, personnel readiness, personnel information management, personnel accounting/strength management, casualty operations, Morale Welfare and Recreation postal operations. But there is much more than what is listed. The commander uses the S1 as a sounding board for ideas, questions, inquiries and any other duties that he deems are appropriate for the S1," said Wilson.

When questioned about his most recent task at hand with the 230th, Wilson is very assertive and confident that the Brigade S1 is handling one of the most essential tasks - keeping the Soldiers happy. Wilson expounds, "This is our job to make sure that

Soldiers get promoted in a timely manner, that their pay is correct, that their personal information is correct and kept confidential, that they get the awards they earned and deserve, that they receive their proper evaluations. This all ensures that the soldiers of this Brigade are given the credit they deserve and that the commander has all of the necessary data to make critical decisions regarding personnel issues."

How does all of this support the brigade to support the drawdown in Iraq? "The brigade as a whole is supporting the Iraqi drawdown by providing the trucks, materials and personnel to retrograde everything out of Iraq. It is our mission to do that safely, efficiently, and with the thought to provide

WILSON continued on page 37



Photo by Spc. Jamie Smith

Maj. Grover Wilson, the officer in charge of the Human Resources section of the 230th Sustainment Brigade, updates his informational slide, reflecting the most accurate personnel tracking for a future briefing on June 27, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Desert Soldiers Train at Sea

by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory
230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE - Select Soldiers within the 718th Transportation Battalion participated in a live-fire exercise on May 5, 2011. However, this was not your normal range exercise. Members from the 778th Transportation Company, 377th TC and 217th TC joined the crew of Landing Craft Utility 2018 vessel, also known as Five Forks, out in the Persian Gulf to fire select weapons designated for the waterborne vessel's defense.

The exercise was part of a Third Army initiative known as Granite Shield. The Granite Shield program was put into effect in early-December 2010, with the purpose of improving individual, small unit and collective readiness across the Third Army Command.

"The Soldiers learned to not only fire at moving targets," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Biggins of Lowell, Ohio, "but they were moving up and down with the rocking of the boat at the same time, as opposed to stationary targets or targets moving in a straight line they would encounter on a normal range." Biggins is the future operations officer assigned to the 718th Transportation Battalion.

The Five Forks crew, assigned to the 709th Transportation Company (Heavy Boat) based in Tacoma, Wash., not only provided a lift out to the open sea, they also participated in training with the other Soldiers.

"Today, our overall mission,"



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

A Soldier assigned to the 709th Transportation Company (Five Forks), fires an M9 pistol on May 5, 2011, at a firing range held on the Five Forks out on the Persian Gulf. The range was for Soldiers and the crew of the Five Forks to come out and validate with a live fire exercise with crew-served and individual weapons.

said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Franky Caraska, vessel master for the Five Forks, "was to come out and validate the crew with a live-fire exercise with crew-served and individual weapons on board."

"Out in the desert at a normal range," said Caraska, "your

weapon is not moving. Here, the boat is pitching and rolling, so the gunner has to take that into consideration as well as the target. Caraska continued, "What the gunner is shooting at is moving and the platform the gunner is shooting from is moving, so there are a lot of variables there."

When asked about “Granite Shield” and the training on board the Five Forks, Biggins replied, “(it) brings back basic Soldier skills, learning to trust your weapon, how to fight with our personal weapon systems and ensure we have confidence in them.”

There were seven different units participating in the day’s exercise with Soldiers coming from different backgrounds and military jobs. These Soldiers have never had the opportunity to work together before. Caraska commented “a Joe is a Joe, no matter where you go. We all wear the U.S. Army uniform, we’re all in the same unit and we’re all in the Army. Everyone integrated well.” Caraska continued, “The Army watercraft is such a unique field that when we have to work with other Soldiers, they are excited and interested. It’s not just another range they have to go to. They are learning things they have nev-



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Franky Caraska, vessel master, assigned to the 709th Transportation Company, Heavy Boat, out of Tacoma Wash., fires an M249 during a live fire range on May 5, 2011, out on the Persian Gulf.

er learned before. Doing things they have never done before.”

“I believe this was a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity for a lot of these Soldiers,” said Biggins.

“They’ll probably never in their career see a range quite like this. I believe it gives them that extra confidence in themselves and their ability to use the weapons.”



Left: Soldiers from the 718th Transportation Battalion take turns firing an M2 .50-caliber Machine gun on board the (Landing Craft Utility 2018) United States Army Vessel Five Forks. The Range was part of “Granite Shield,” which is a program for all of 1st Theatre Sustainment Command Soldiers to stay trained up on basic Soldiering skills.

Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls Makes Port in Kuwait

by Sgt. Jeremy Ping
718th Transportation Battalion
and

by Spc. Stephanie Moon
230th Sustainment Brigade

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE - The Logistics Support Vessel-8 Major General Robert Smalls is the first Army vessel to be named in honor of an African-American. As part of the 203rd Transportation Detachment based in Curtis Bay, Md., she is one of the newest vessels in the Army fleet. LSV-8 was commissioned Sept. 15, 2007, and her crew is comprised of eight officers and 23 enlisted. The Master of the Ship is Chief Warrant Four Steven C. Brown. He is responsible for every aspect of the mission, and life in general, on the ship. The detachment sergeant, who is the ship-side equivalent of a first sergeant, is Sgt. 1st Class Victor D. Michaud.

Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls, the namesake of the ship, was an African-American slave during the Civil War who commandeered a Confederate ship, and with his family and several others, escaped to freedom in the North. He joined the Union Army and attained the rank of major general. He later became a congressman and the first U.S. ambassador to Haiti. "The level of achievement he attained is pretty incredible (for) the time frame," says Staff Sgt. Seymore Daniel, the Senior Engineman. "(I am) glad to see the Army giving acknowledgement to an African-American."

The LSV-8's mission is to pro-



Photo by Spc. Stephanie Moon, 230th SB

The Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls made port in Kuwait on April 21, 2011. The Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls (LSV-8) is an Army Logistics Support Vessel new inventory of the 718th Transportation Battalion, 230th Sustainment Brigade while deployed to the Persian Gulf. The vessel is the first one in the Army's fleet to be named after an African-American citizen and former slave. Smalls was a general during the Civil War after commandeering a Confederate transport and turned the ship over to the Union, but not before transporting his family and 12 other slaves.

vide theater logistics support by water. The ship is capable of 'landing,' meaning actually pulling up onto the beach with minimal draft, the amount of boat actually still under the water line. This allows access to unimproved and shallow draft harbors and lends flexibility to mission parameters. She can also open her bow and stern ramps and act as a causeway for transfers from ship-to-ship and from ship-to-land. The LSV-8 runs on engines capable of producing over 2,000 horsepower each, and two ship service genera-

tors, each of which produces 320 kilowatt hours and 460 volts. A shared trait of the LSV-8 and her predecessor, the LSV-7, is both are the only Army vessels with stern thrusters. However, unique to the LSV-8 is her bow. Instead of the ramp being the bow, there is a rounded bow that "clamshells" open to allow the ramp to fold down, allowing for a smoother voyage.

Scheduling conflicts involving the mission of the other military services are part of the reason the Army has a fleet of ships for its own use. "Because we have



A side-by-side comparison of the LSV-7 and LSV-8 bows. The LSV-8's bow (right) is unique. Instead of the ramp being the bow, there is a rounded bow that "clamshells" open to allow the ramp to fold down, allowing for a smoother voyage.

Photo Illustration by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier, 230th SB PAO

cargo or equipment to move, and we can't wait for another service," says Michaud. He continued, "it is sometimes logistically more beneficial to move by water than by truck." Water is faster than land and there is also the security aspect of moving a large amount of supplies by water, as this alleviates the chance of encountering roadside bombs.

As for her crew, they are much

Left: A portrait of Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls hangs on the bridge of the ship bearing his name. The MG Robert Smalls (LSV-8) is an Army Logistics Support Vessel new inventory of the 718th Transportation Battalion, 230th Sustainment Brigade while deployed to the Persian Gulf. The vessel is the first one in the Army's fleet to be named after an African-American citizen and former slave. Smalls was a general during the Civil War after commanding a Confederate transport and turned the ship over to the Union, but not before transporting his family and 12 other slaves.

like their 'grounded' Army brethren. They work hard, play games together and live like any other family. During a pause in the Red Sea for a "man overboard" drill, the crew followed up immediately with morale Swim Call. "We installed an intranet to share pictures and information with fellow ship-

mates," says Sgt. Michael A. VanDam, the quartermaster. There is also a small garden to be tended in pots, which is lead by Spc. Michael Zollner, in charge of communications, and Chief Warrant 2 John Kinlein, the Chief Mate. "It is little things like this that we are doing to spice up life," says VanDam.

The voyage of the MG Robert Smalls to theater began in Baltimore, Md. on March 13, 2001. She sailed roughly 9,350 nautical miles, stopping in Rota, Spain, and transiting the Suez Canal to arrive at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait, on April 21, 2011. This LSV-8 spent about 40 days to make the journey, and even then, there was no rest for her crew. They jumped right into their mission and are moving forward with pride and absolute professionalism.

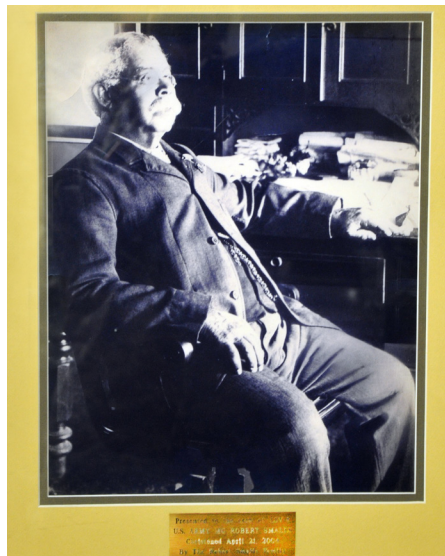


Photo by Spc. Stephanie Moon, 230th SB

Mother and Son Fuel Each Other's Success in Kuwait

FACES FROM THE FRONT

A Weekly News Feature from The Office of the Chief of Public Affairs

During deployments the majority of Soldiers endure long separations from loved ones. But on rare occasions family members have the opportunity to serve together. Such is the case for Chief Warrant Officer Rita Wilson and her son, Sgt. Cory Cothron, who deployed to Kuwait together earlier this year and have drawn on each other for the support and guidance needed to get through their tour.

Having completed nearly three decades of service, Wilson appreciates the experiences and skills that she has gained throughout her military career. Knowing the opportunities that are possible through the Army, Wilson is happy and proud to have a son that

followed in her footsteps.

"It's always a good feeling, especially as a mother, to see your child succeed at something in their life," said Wilson. "Knowing firsthand how the Army operates and the kind of sacrifices

"I can be having a crazy day, and I see or talk to him and it just makes me smile inside."

necessary to excel in your career, I can say that I have a deep sense of comfort and pride. I've seen Cory build personal and professional relationships that will last with him for the rest of his life, just as mine have after 28 years

of service."

Although Wilson's military tenure is much longer than her son's, she is currently serving her first deployment overseas, while Cothron has already completed two tours to Iraq. Having her son there on her first deployment makes it easier to do her job, and has enhanced the pair's relationship with one another.

"I can be having a crazy day, and I see or talk to him and it just makes me smile inside," Wilson said of Cothron. "We were already close before we deployed, but this deployment has helped us build a professional respect for each other."

Although Cothron's previous deployments to the Middle East prepared him for the current tour, serving with his mother has proven to be a unique experience.

"Serving a deployment with my mother has been very different. I feel like a little kid again, being told 'stop' and 'no', just as any other mother would do. But I enjoy it," said Cothron. "To know I am here to watch after her makes me feel like a good son. I'd hate for her to deploy and me not be there for her."

As an Army direct ordering non-commissioned officer, Cothron oversees the ordering and delivery of clothing and materials for individual Soldiers. In this role, he sets up accounts that Soldiers can use to order replacements for damaged or worn out supplies. He also manages the financial liability investigations of property loss

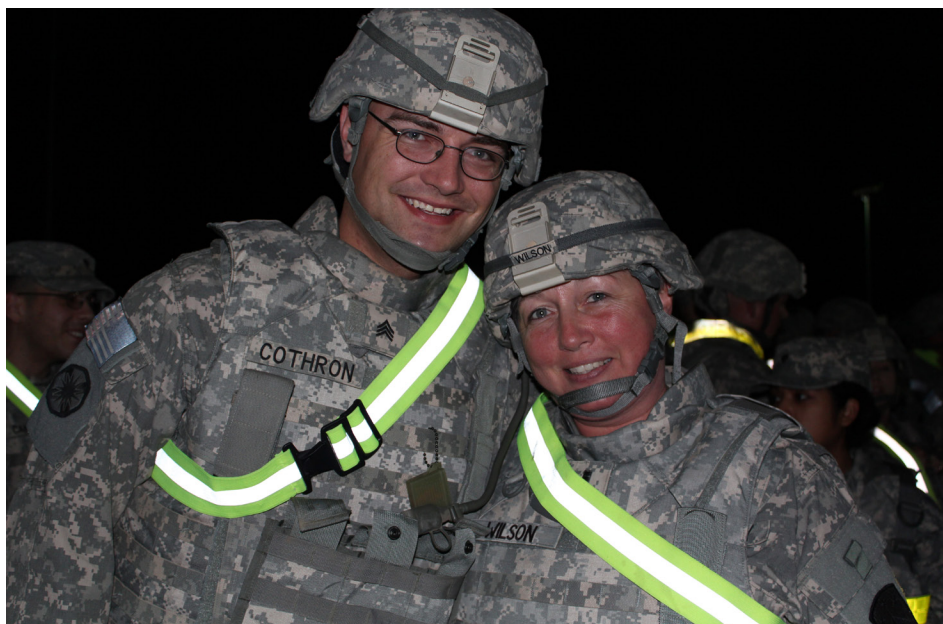


Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Lockhart, 230th SB

Sgt. Cory Cothron stands with his mother, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rita Wilson, before a 5 kilometer road march on April 28, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The mother-son pair are currently deployed with the 230th Sustainment Brigade.



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

for units in Africa, Kuwait and Qatar, and determines whether the Soldier or the Army is responsible for replacing damaged equipment.

As a command advisor, Wilson is responsible for counseling her unit on Army regulations, policies and procedures that effect everyday operations. She also is responsible for assisting individual Soldiers with personal problems, and providing senior staff members with insight and details on functional issues within the brigade.

"I give them an outlet to obtain leadership and mentorship from areas outside their chain of command," Wilson says of her mentoring duties. "It is like being a neutral party in a situation and being able to look at both sides without being too heavily involved."

To handle the wide range of questions and issues she is faced with,

Wilson must be well informed of the various missions and personnel in her unit. This requires a lot of research and paying attention to the mood and state of her team members.

With a high volume of tasks and personnel, being depended on as a constant source of information and counsel can be a daunting task.

"My biggest fear is not being able to answer the questions asked of me," admitted Wilson. "The best way to overcome this challenge is to communicate with everyone. This allows me to gain as much knowledge possible, like a sponge in water, to further develop my base of understanding and find new answers, as well as improve on the answers I already know."

While overseas, Wilson and Cothron enjoy a number of activities together, including movies, golf, dinner and a weekly 5K run. Although much of their time is spent

"I feel like a little kid again, being told 'stop' and 'no', just as any other mother would do."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rita Wilson discusses property loss with her son, Sgt. Cory Cothron, in his office at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on May 6, 2011. Wilson overseas the investigations of property loss while Cothron tracks the physical property loss. Both are assigned to the Tennessee Army National Guard's 230th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Chattanooga, Tenn.

in different offices, the time they do have together is not something they take for granted.

"We relish in the short times we get to spend with each other," said Wilson. "There are times we are unable to see each other, but we both know there is a mission to complete." She added, "We both know our jobs."

Support from his mother has certainly motivated Cothron, he is also pushed to succeed on the battlefield by thoughts of his baby daughter at home.

"I miss my daughter, but knowing that I'm providing for her and her future gives me the extra desire to overcome difficulties and achieve anything in my path," he said.

Once back in the U.S., Cothron plans to spend a lot of time with his daughter, while Wilson hopes to return to her active guard-reserve position in Nashville, where she performs similar duties to her job now.

The Honorable Frank Kendall visits Kuwait

Photos and cutlines by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory
230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs



Left: Spc. Jeremy K. Hoel, from Elkhart, Ind., and assigned to 377th Transportation Company, briefs Honorable Frank Kendall, principal deputy under secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, on the operations of his Heavy Equipment Transport, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, on May 26, 2011. Hoel explains what the HET is capable of doing in different environments, as well as restrictions for loading and unloading different types of equipment.

Below: Staff Sgt. Jesus F. Aguirre, from Hickory Hills, Ill., and assigned to 1244th Transportation Company, briefs Honorable Frank Kendall on the operations of his up-armored, line-haul, tractor trailer, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, on May 26, 2011.





Above: Capt. Sesame Euell, from Fairfax, Va., the Contract Officer Representative for the W2N yard, and assigned to the 553 combat sustainment support battalion, briefs Honorable Frank Kendall on May 26, 2011, on the operation of the W2N yard at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The W2N yard receives various types of retrograde items that can resupply various repair activities. The W2N yard serves as a catcher's mitt for all retrograde equipment coming out of Iraq. The majority of the equipment is put back into the Army supply system that saves time and money for the Army. The unserviceable items are sent for destruction. Over 7,000 containers were processed in the last year.

Sgt. Brent A. Ferguson, from Atlanta, Ga., and assigned to 377th Transportation Company, briefs the Honorable Frank Kendall, principal deputy under secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, on the operations of his Caiman Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, on May 26, 2011. Ferguson explains what the Caiman MRAP is capable of doing in different environments, as well as the duties and responsibilities of a Truck Commander.



Safety Promoted Through Competition

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier
230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Safety is one of the Army's primary concerns during operations in garrison and combat environments. Just because a unit is deployed to a forward location does not mean safety can or should be compromised. The Safety and Environmental offices here in Zone 6 believe in these statements to the fullest.

Master Sgt. Kevin Dugrenier, of Concord, N. H., began his tour here in December 2010, with the 197th Fires Brigade (FiB), a National Guard unit comprised of units from all across the New

England area. His primary mission during the deployment is to inspect the motor pools within the working areas of the various units located in Zone 6. When the 197th took over the Zone 6 Mayor's Cell for Camp Arifjan, there was an average of eight safety infractions throughout the zone. In just the past 4 months, Dugrenier's regular inspections have reduced that average to two.

"Safety is an unforgiving job," said Dugrenier. In most cases, when units find out about upcoming inspections, there is a negative stigma attached to the individual conducting the in-

spection. Dugrenier has found a way around this. As Dugrenier conducts an inspection of a motor pool for the first time, he tells the crew, "you don't work for me, I work for you. I'm here to help you." Durgrenier continued, "I'm here to make sure that all your Soldiers go home with their fingers and toes."

From the environmental view, the motor pools had been doing rather well in keeping up their areas. Staff Sgt. Thomas Lambert, from Sharon Springs, N.Y., and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tom Graham, head the 197th FiB's Environmental Program. "Environmental sometimes runs into the safety requirements," said Graham, a Boscawen, N.H., native. "Most of the motor pools were doing well in the environmental requirements," said Graham, "so we determined including safety was one of the better ways to determine the winner."

When units are on convoy missions, there is imminent danger on the road. When they return from those missions, they tend to become complacent. Here in Kuwait, motor pools are the battlefield. Safety and environmental issues can turn a normal workday full of routine maintenance into complete chaos, with someone going to the hospital because they forgot to take off a wedding band. When Durgrenier conducts his inspections, one of the first things he does is survey the area. He is looking for the small things, like the wedding band or other jewelry some of the mechanics may have forgotten to take off.

"It also comes down to general



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier, 230th SB PAO

Lt. Col. Nicholas S. Adler, Camp Arifjan Zone 6 commander, presents the 51st Transportation Company's Executive Officer, 1st Lt. James Stream, with a certificate for the prestige of Motor Pool of the Month on May 5, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The 51st Transportation Company, headquartered in Mannheim, Germany, received the award for the month of April, after defeating the three-time reigning champions, the Illinois Army National Guard's 1244th Transportation Company in a monthly competition to see who follows safety and environmental standards better and more efficiently.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier, 230th SB PAO

The Maintenance platoon of the 51st Transportation Company headquartered in Mannheim, Germany, stand around to the coveted "Motor Pool of the Month" trophy presented by the 197th Fires Brigade's Safety and Environmental sections on May 5, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



housekeeping," said Graham. He continued, "there were nights we would drive around after-hours and just take a look at how they left their shops." Attention to detail on both the big and little things is what made the Illinois Army National Guard's 1244 Transportation Company the Best Motor Pool Award Winner for Zone 6. This team of mechanics, headquartered at Delavan, Ill., took the time and effort to see these "little things" were not overlooked. Their hard work and dedication to doing a job well began to spread throughout their battalion. After their second consecutive award in February, several of the other motor pools took note and tried to do better.

Upon winning three straight

months, the 1244th received its first true competition. Mannheim, Germany's 51st Transportation Company arrived at Camp Arifjan in mid-February. Too late for them to make the cut for March's competition, the holders of multiple award-winning "Best Motor Pool in U.S. Army Europe"

"Safety is an unforgiving job,"

set their sights high. For the month of April, the 51st overtook the 1244th by just a small margin. "We took our best three (reports) and Safety's best three (reports) to see who the winner was," said Lambert. "Safety had the 1244th and the 51st in their top three," commented Graham, "but the 51st came out higher on

the environmental list, making them the winner."

On May 5, the 51st Transportation Company received the trophy for best motor pool for Zone 6 for the month of April. The trophy, made of an oil drum, pump, and other various maintenance bay parts, is like the Stanley Cup for motor pools. It rotates from unit to unit each month, depending on the winner, and is placed in front of the winner's motor pool for all to see.

"As a general rule, Soldiers love to compete," said Dugrenier, "if you give them something to compete for, most of the time the units will try to do better than each other." In the case of this competition, the winners were ultimately the entire Army as well as the environment.

Soldiers gather for fallen police officer

by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory
230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait—Even though an event happens back in the United States, it does not mean Soldiers far from home are not affected by it. Losing a fallen comrade, whether in combat or back home, can have an emotional impact on a Soldier. Being seemingly isolated can make it hard to cope with such an event and gain some type of closure.

When Sgt. James T. Chapin of the Chattanooga Police Department was killed in the line of duty on April 2, 2011, it affected Soldiers at Camp Arifjan who knew and worked with him. Among those is Staff Sgt. David L. Young, the Brigade paralegal noncommissioned officer in charge, who worked under Chapin in Chattanooga, Tenn., as a patrolman and a member of the department's Color Guard.

When Young found out about the memorial, he went to the Chaplain's office to see if there was anything they could do to help all the police officers stationed here at Camp Arifjan. Within the 230th Sustainment Brigade, there are five Soldiers that work for the Chattanooga Police Department, as well as a Sailor assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, Forward Headquarters here at Camp Arifjan. There are also several Soldiers assigned within the 230th serving with other law enforcement agencies across the state of Tennessee.

The first person Young spoke with was Staff Sgt. Shannon Biggs,



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

Chaplain (Maj.) Patrick P. Brownell, assigned to the 230th Sustainment Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard, leads Soldiers in a prayer at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, moments before a "Live feed" video memorial service for a Chattanooga Police Officer on April 7, 2011. Sgt. James T. Chapin of the Chattanooga Police Department was killed in the line of duty on April 2, 2011. Several Soldiers assigned to the 230th worked with or knew Chapin.

the chaplain's assistant and a member of the Spring Hill Police Department. "Staff Sgt. Young came to me," said Biggs, "and let me know that we had a fallen brother in Chattanooga, Tenn. We then decided to get together and have some kind of a memorial service." Biggs then went to Chaplain (Maj.) Patrick P. Brownell to see about a memo-

rial service. Brownell suggested a prayer service since they are already having a memorial.

"I thought it (memorial) was great," said Young. "Having four police officers in one unit and another in the Navy come together and be able to have somewhat of a closure here in Kuwait. The memorial service from the chaplain

Staff Sgt. David L. Young, the 230th Sustainment Brigade paralegal noncommissioned officer in charge, worked under Sgt. James T. Chapin in Chattanooga, Tenn., as a patrolman and a member of the department's Color Guard. Chapin was killed in the line of duty on April 2, 2011. A memorial service was held for him April 7, 2011 in Chattanooga, Tenn., and was viewed by Soldiers of the 230th at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, via a "Live feed" on the internet.



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

was great. That was the whole point of us coming together and paying out last respects to our fallen brother even though we couldn't be back in the states to see anything."

"To have fellow law enforcement brothers come in and share in the grief with the Chattanooga Police Department was also awesome," said Young.

Being in a warzone, Soldiers cannot attend the memorial at home, but with modern technology, they can come together and view the memorial via the internet.

"I think the service was good," said Biggs. "It helped bring closure because all these people who are 8,000 miles away who knew Sgt. Chapin gave them some time to get some things off of their chest and talk. Plus it also got this law enforcement family who worked together back home, gave them a chance to come together."

The military and civilian law enforcement agencies are structured almost the same way. As such, the tight bonds and camaraderie within their respective



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

ranks are very similar.

"Even though we were not able to physically be at the funeral, we did get to see some of it from here. Just seeing the parts of the memorial we were able to see, it did start the closure process for us. When we get back to Chattanooga, it will not be as bad as if we didn't see any of the memorial," said Young.

Even though they did watch some of the memorial via the internet, there were large gaps they

missed due to technical connection interruptions. A disc of the complete memorial ceremony is being sent to the deployed officers who are on the Chattanooga Police Department so they can come together again and view it in its entirety.

Sgt. James Timothy Chapin
Chattanooga Police Dept.

Nov. 27, 1959 - Apr. 2, 2011

Top: 1st Lt. Densil R. Helmick, assigned to the 230th Sustainment Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard, listens to Chaplain (Maj.) Patrick P. Brownell just before the memorial service started for Sgt. James T. Chapin of the Chattanooga Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on April 2, 2011. The memorial service was held in Chattanooga, Tenn. on April 7, 2011.

Bottom: Soldiers assigned to the 230th Sustainment Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard, and a Sailor assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, Forward Headquarters here at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, watch the memorial service for Sgt. James T. Chapin of the Chattanooga Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on April 2, 2011. The memorial service was held in Chattanooga, Tenn., on April 7, 2011. Servicemembers stationed here were able to watch the ceremony via a "live feed" over the internet.



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

230th Soldiers win Sustainer Challenge

by Sgt. John Dedman
230th Special Troops Battalion
and
by Spc. Ekta Shrestha
553rd CSSB

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - At the end of the day on April 7, 2011, the 230th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers proved they are a force to be reckoned with. Hosted by the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, the Sustainer Challenge was a two-day competition consisting of nine 4-man teams and six events on which the whole team would be evaluated. These events included a 10 kilometer road march in full combat protective equipment with a backpack load, a live-fire range, an M2 .50-caliber machine gun disassembly/reassembly, the Army Physical Fitness Test, a medical evacuation exercise, and a combatives challenge. This competition was open



Photo by Sgt. David Kanavel, 1TSC PAO

Staff Sgt. Chrystal Yazzie fights with an opponent on the ground during the Combatives Tournament on Day 2 of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command's Sustainer Challenge Competition. Yazzie won all of her matches during the tournament and went on to capture the "Best Warrior-Female" honor for the competition.

to all Soldiers that fell under the command of the 1st TSC. To level the playing field, the 4-man teams had to consist of one female; one Soldier, 35 or older; one officer

and one junior enlisted.

Two teams from the 230th Sustainment Brigade proved to be some of the toughest warfighters around, demonstrating their endurance, mental capabilities under pressure and brute physical strength. The first of the two teams included Capt. Tammy Cook and Staff Sgt. Michael Taylor of the



Photo by Sgt. John Dedman, 230th STB

Capt. Tammy Cook, left, and Staff Sgt. Michael Taylor disassemble a M2 .50-caliber machine gun during the 1st Theater Sustainment Command's Sustainer Challenge on April 6, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Cook and Taylor are assigned to the 230th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Sustainer Challenge is a competition designed to determine the best Soldier within a sustainment command by testing basic Soldier skills. Taylor, an ammunition sergeant for the brigade, went on to win the "Best Warrior-Male" for the competition. Photo by Sgt. John Dedman, 230th Special Troops Battalion.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 230th Sustainment Brigade. The 230th team also included Pfc. Bong Chi and Pfc. Toutabizi Kpelafiya, both attached to the 138th Financial Management Company. The second team, representing the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion was comprised of Staff Sgt. Chrystal Yazzie, Sgt. Steven Pagan, 1st Lt. Cory Bates, and Cpl. Dustin Arnaud.

Both teams exceeded the standards set for each event and brought home numerous bragging rights. The 553rd won first place in "Team Competition," "Litter-Carry/First Aid," "Shoot-

ing," "Combatives," and Yazzie won "Best Female Warrior" for the competition. Taylor brought home "Best Male Warrior" for the 230th.

Both teams represented the 230th Sustainment Brigade extremely well and left the competitors with a sense of accomplishment. "I'm proud of my team and proud to represent my unit...I feel a great sense of accomplishment," said Taylor. Yazzie added, "The competition gave me the opportunity to get to know Soldiers. It certainly helped enhance camaraderie, which is definitely something you need during a deployment."

(Additional contributions by Spc. Jamie Smith, 230th Sustainment Brigade)

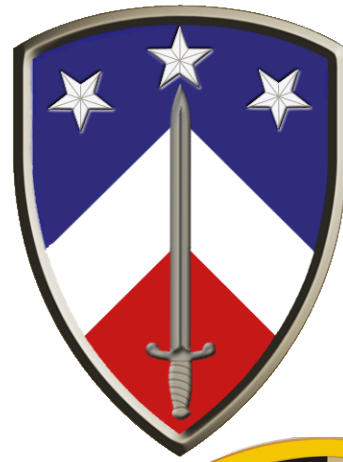


Photo by Sgt. John Dedman, 230th STB

Soldiers from the 230th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Chattanooga, Tenn., and other Soldiers assigned to the 1st Theater Sustainment Command begin a grueling 10 kilometer road march with full tactical gear on April 6, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The march was part of the Sustainer Challenge, an event designed to determine the best Soldier assigned to a sustainment command through basic Soldier skills.

Granite Shield Road March

Photos and cutlines by Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier
230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs



Top: Col. Wm. Mark Hart, commander of the 230th Sustainment Brigade, leads the brigade on a 5 kilometer road march in the early morning hours of April 28, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The road march was part of Granite Shield, a training regimen designed to keep Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines stationed in Kuwait at their peak readiness.

Right: 1st Sgt. Reginald Sims, first sergeant for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 230th Sustainment Brigade, surveys his Soldiers after completing a 5 kilometer road march on April 28, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.





Left: Command Sgt. Maj. Clay Massengale, command sergeant major for the 230th Sustainment Brigade, leads the brigade on the final steps of a 5 kilometer road march on April 28, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The road march was part of Granite Shield, a training regimen designed to keep Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines stationed in Kuwait at their peak readiness.

Bottom: Acting Command Sergeant Major for the 230th Special Troops Battalion, Master Sgt. Rebecca Moore, leads the battalion on the final steps of a 5 kilometer road march on April 28, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Byrum wins Brigade Soldier of the Month

Spc. Nicholas Hanson
230th Sustainment Brigade

The gathering on the morning of Saturday, April 16, 2011, was already extremely anxiety provoking. Three sets of Soldiers from the 230th Sustainment Brigade stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait slowly assembled to wait for the bus. The Specialists were gathered to stand before a Soldier of the Month board. Milling about, last minute cramming, and receiving advice from their sponsors seemed to be the order of the day. Three noncommissioned officers were there as sponsors for the Soldier who they each deemed ready to go before the board. These leaders could be seen counseling and trying to instill in their board attendees the calm

demeanor they themselves have mastered over their extensive careers in the service. Five members made up the board and were all senior enlisted: four Master Sergeants and the First Sergeant. Going over last minute notes and clarifying amongst themselves how this operation would proceed, these board members had a look of intense study on their faces, clearly interested in seeing how this board was going to turn out. Overall, everyone had arrived that morning with a smile, and ready to conquer the challenges of the day ahead.

As the bus approached its destination, excess nervousness began to appear. Spc. Tabitha Parsons, an intelligence analyst for the brigade, dropped her note cards. Spc.

Colton Jones, a human resource specialist for the support plans and operations section, sat quietly in his seat, going over the entire process in his head. Their leaders, recognizing they had done everything they could to prepare them, left them alone and conversed amongst themselves. The bus slowly pulled to a stop outside a rather crude-looking guard shack, and everyone filed into a line to pass through the security point. A much-needed break cut the tension, and brought life back into the competing Soldiers. They began to converse with each other, share notes, and ask questions on random points of how the process is supposed to go. The board members headed into the room to set up and, within ten minutes, were ready to begin.



Photo by Spc. Nicholas Hanson, 230th SB

Spc. Jamie Smith, a Human Resources Specialist for the 230th Sustainment Brigade answers questions presented by the board during a Soldier of the Month Competition held on April 16, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The purpose of the board is to distinguish the best and brightest of the junior enlisted serving within the brigade.

The three-knock standard echoed throughout the tiny, beige room. The sponsor was already sitting next to the door inside, maintaining a calm, cool demeanor, while the recommended Soldier marched to the front of the lone table. After the Soldier reported, 1st Sgt. Reginald Sims, first sergeant of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, called out facing movements to inspect for both proper execution of drill and ceremony and correct wear of the uniform. Only then was the Soldier asked to sit down.

The onslaught of questions soon began, ranging from current events and military funerals, to the physical fitness uniform and first aid. This inquisitive forum poked and prodded for information involving all military standards. Each response was rated and tallied into their overall score. The entire board took most of the morning and was very thorough in its evaluation of each Soldier. Master Sgt. Chandra Collins, the brigade's personnel section chief, asked the questions on first-aid and unit history. She wanted to stress the importance of knowing not only the unit history, but also the origin of the National Guard. Additionally, she asked the Soldiers to name four of nine lines used to request a medical evacuation. "We as Soldiers should know how to request a nine-line and operate a radio under any circumstances," remarked Collins.

As Sims gathered his notes, he reminded everyone of how impressed he was at the composure and knowledge of each Soldier had. Board members agreed the

board went extremely well and the Soldiers in attendance did an outstanding job. Sims made it very clear how proud of everyone he was. He congratulated everyone and let them know he appreciated the time and work they put into preparing for this board. Monday he would announce for whom all the hard work would pay off.

Afterward, Master Sgt. William Whitley, a Plans NCO for the SPO and member of the board, commented, "this board was a good learning experience for the Soldiers." Master Sgt. Proctor stated, "all the Soldiers represented themselves well."

The return trip was more relaxed, as everyone was calmly joking with each other. The clarity of the relief these Soldiers felt after the board concluded was evident. Joking about work, each remembering their individ-

ual strengths and weaknesses, and knowing where they would need to improve themselves for the future. It was an interesting and well-learned lesson, and after all the stress and worrying the morning offered, everyone returned to work, supporting and maintaining the warfighter.

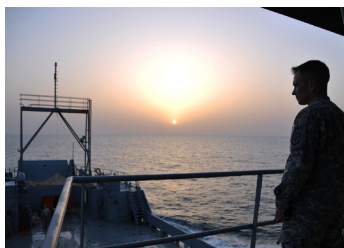
On April 18, Spc. Nathan Byrum, an administrative assistant for the HHC, was announced as the winner. To prepare, Byrum used a study guide supplied by the HHC, as well as watched and read the news about current events. Byrum also received additional help from several NCOs within his chain of command. "I would really like to encourage more junior enlisted to participate," said Byrum. "Even if there is already someone going from your section, you should go too." Byrum continued, "I mean, even if you don't win, I feel like you come out of it more knowledgeable. It was worth it."

Spc. Nathan Byrum reports to the board members during a Soldier of the Month competition held on April 16th, 2011, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The purpose of the board is to distinguish the best and the brightest of the junior enlisted serving within the 230th Sustainment Brigade. Byrum, an administrative assistant for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 230th Sustainment Brigade, went on to win the competition.



Photo by Spc. Nicholas Hanson, 230th SB

Highlights from Shutterfly



For these and many other great photos,
visit our Shutterfly page.

www.230thsustainmentbrigade.shutterfly.com

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

Soldier awarded Combat Action Badge

by Sgt. Jeremy Ping
718th Transportaion Battalion

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The night of February 7, 2011, is one Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul Engelman will not soon forget. Engelman was a passenger on a 778th Transportation Company convoy heading from Taji, Iraq to Victory Base Camp, Iraq. Engelman was riding in a Heavy Equipment Transport when the convoy was hit by a roadside bomb. Coincidentally, the vehicle damaged during the attack was the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle Engelman had switched from at the convoy's prior stop of this mission. The MRAP was disabled and after a failed attempt to hook the vehicle up to a wrecker, the decision was made to put the vehicle on the empty trailer of the HET in which Engelman was riding.

Even though Engelman was the senior man on the convoy, the self-proclaimed "fobbit" took direction from the more experienced Convoy Commander, Staff Sgt. David Wichman and Truck Commander, Staff Sgt. Tyrone Stinson, on what he should do to help. Engelman was given the mission of assisting with perimeter security while others worked to recover the downed vehicle. His sector included a side road where some men were gathered off in the distance talking. One of the men got into a car and slowly proceeded down the road toward the disabled convoy.

Suddenly, Engelman found him-

self in a position he never expected to be in: staring at a car moving towards him and the rest of the convoy, at night, just after an explosion. "The situation was tense," said Engelman. Soldiers are often given training on escalation of force and Engelman was able to use this to properly diffuse the situation. Despite Engelman's first two attempts, the car continued to approach, but with a third motion, the car finally backed up and took off another way. Engelman admits the driver could have been hostile or just a friendly citizen in the wrong spot at the wrong time, but at that moment, there was no way to be certain. "Be prepared for the worst, but be collected in your actions," said Engelman.

When asked if the pre-mobilization training he received helped in this situation, Engelman gave all credit to Wichman and his entire crew for their expertise, professionalism and guidance during not only this event, but the entire mission. Ultimately, he felt the training all Soldiers receive during the mobilization process is beneficial and was exemplified on this night.

On May 31, 2011, Col. Wm. Mark Hart, commander of the 230th Sustainment Brigade, awarded the Combat Action Badge for the events of that night to Engelman and the other Soldiers involved in the convoy.



WLC Strengthens “The Backbone of the Army”

1st Lt. Dave Tanner
1244th Transportation Company

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Soldiers in a deployed environment receive plenty of “on-the-job-training.” Their adaptability and professionalism frequently shine through when things need to get done. While here during the past few months, enlisted Soldiers and junior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) had another type of training which tested their adaptability and further developed their professional capabilities. Under the leadership of Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Macias, who served as NCO education system commandant, numerous Soldiers took part in the Warrior Leader Course.

WLC, formerly called Primary Leadership Development Course, is the first leadership course required for NCOs attend. The WLC curriculum, usually a month-long course for most active components, was upgraded in this deployed environment to complete the broad range of training in half the time, but with all of the benefits for the Soldiers trained. The course teaches specialists, corporals and junior sergeants the basic skills crucial to leading small groups of Soldiers. This course is hard hitting and intensive with an emphasis on leadership skills, and prepares Soldiers to successfully execute the duties inherent to the roles of an NCO.

Command Sgt. Maj. Macias and his staff assembled an NCO Academy to instruct WLC at Camp

Buehring, Kuwait. WLC students live at the academy training location for the duration of the training that combines classroom instruction with practical application in the field. Any Soldier wanting to move up in rank is required to take this course. WLC is not Military Occupational Specialty-dependent and includes topics such as Leadership, Training Management, Map Reading, Land Navigation, War-fighting, and Drill and Ceremony.

The Illinois Army National Guard’s 1244th Transportation Company took full advantage of the WLC opportunity for its deployed Soldiers by sending eight enlisted through the course. All eight performed well throughout the course and brought their increased knowledge, confidence and leadership abilities back to their unit to improve overall performance. Soldiers attending the course were Sgt. Joshua Adams, Sgt. Laurel Baker, Spc. Brian Fox,

Sgt. Tiffany Givens, Sgt. Matthew Kirkpatrick, Sgt. Odvin Moran, Spc. Chinonso Nwosu, and Sgt. Ryan Schneid. Baker and Fox were the last of the 1244th graduates under Command Sgt. Maj. Macias, as his NCO Academy and staff were needed elsewhere until later this year. Fox earned Commandant’s List honors for his performance, and immediately after graduation received his promotion to sergeant.

The entire 1244th is proud of their newest WLC graduates. More importantly, the unit and its Soldiers benefit greatly from the skills and knowledge these warriors obtained and developed during the course, which in-turn, strengthens everyone’s performance. As stated in the Creed of the NCO, these Soldiers are now fully integrated into the time honored Noncommissioned Officer Corps and become a valuable part of that fraternity known as “The Backbone of the Army.”



Photo by 1st Lt. Dave Tanner, 1244th Trans. Co.

Lining up for congratulations after their Warrior Leader Course graduation ceremony are Sgt. Laurel Baker and Spc. Brian Fox at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on April 30, 2011.

National Guard helps British withdraw from Iraq

by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory
230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

UMM QASR, Iraq - Another chapter in the responsible drawdown of Iraq has ended. On May 16, 2011, the 1244th Transportation Company from North Riverside, Ill., along with the 230th Sustainment Brigade's Personnel Security Detail, headquartered out of Chattanooga, Tenn., took a trip to Umm Qasr, Iraq to transport the last remaining British equipment and soldiers out of Iraq.

British officials asked the Army to augment their efforts with this daunting task because they did not have the full complement of assets to complete this mission on their own. Upon receipt of the mission, the Tennessee Army National Guard brigade made direct contact with the British liaison officer to plan, coordinate and implement the necessary assets to accomplish the request.

When asked why the 230th, Lt. Col. Martin J. Basham, executive officer of the brigade replied, "(The 230th Sustainment Brigade) are the guys that move all the stuff out of the country." One of the 230th's missions is to help facilitate the drawdown and complete withdraw of U.S. forces in Iraq by the end of 2011. "We are the haul assets," continued Basham. "Not only do we haul stuff out of Iraq, we also sustain the units currently there. We also handle all the equipment and people as it goes in or out of Iraq."



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

A British shipping container is being loaded onto one of the 1244th Transportation Company trucks for transportation out of Iraq and back to Great Britain on May 15, 2011, at Umm Qasr, Iraq. The British Liaison Officer asked the Tennessee Army National Guard, 230th Sustainment Brigade to assist them in moving their last remaining equipment out of Iraq because they did not have the assets to do so on their own. Together with the 1244th Transportation Company, Illinois Army National Guard, they successfully withdrew the remaining British and their equipment out of Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Chris Garcia, assigned to the 230th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered out of Chattanooga, Tenn., places a military shipping label on a British shipping container prior to being loaded on May 15, 2011, at Umm Qasr, Iraq. Shipping labels are placed on all containers to help track it on its journey. Not only do they get shipping labels, but tracking devices as well.





Photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory, 230th SB PAO

"This mission is very historic. Not only are we helping the British leave Iraq, but where they are coming out of Iraq is only a few miles from where they initially entered Iraq back in 2003," said Capt. Shawn D. Nokes, company commander of the Illinois Army National Guard's 1244th Transportation Company and Quincy, Ill., native.

For the 1244th, this is just another mission, not unlike any other they have done. They go somewhere, pick up a load, then transport it and drop it off. "This one is a little more intricate," said Staff Sgt. Shelly R. Johns, a convoy commander for the 1244th, "(and) a little more detailed." Our job is to pick up something and take it where it needs to go. This one was a little more detailed, working with other countries and their operating procedures. The hardest part was just coordinating between different countries and

contractors," said Johns.

"It was a privilege and an honor for the 1244th to not only be a part of the United Kingdom extraction mission, but to meet and get to know some of our coalition's British counterparts. We are humbled to be part of this historical piece and have the opportunity to work with our British comrades," said Nokes.

Nokes continued, "Staff Sgt. Johns and her crew executed in an exemplary fashion navigating through rough terrain and tight congested areas to pick up and deliver the loads. Job well done."

FOLLOW-UP

In a gesture of good faith and a way to say thank you, Great Britain's Liaison Officer for Kuwait, Lt. Col. Alan Platt, and 230th Sustainment Brigade Executive Officer, Lt. Col. Martin Basham swapped flags between the each

Capt. Shawn D. Nokes, from Quincy Ill., and the commander of the 1244th Transportation Company, prepares a trailer after a convoy on May 15, 2011, at Umm Qasr, Iraq. Nokes is lowering the landing gear for the trailer as a safety precaution. The 1244th TC has incorporated this into their standard operating procedures. Every time they shut the engine off of a truck, they lower the landing legs for the fear that if a loaded trailer was to be separated from the truck, that load would not fall off and cause either injury or damage.

other. Basham presented Platt a Tennessee State Flag, which had been flown over the state capital, Nashville, in early April. Platt in turn presented the 230th with the last British Military flag to be flown in Kuwait. Great Britain had a military presence in Iraq and Kuwait for since the beginning of Operation New Dawn in 2003.



For additional photos, visit our Shutterfly page.

www.230thsustainmentbrigade.shutterfly.com

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

Team Goes Beyond the Call of Duty

by Sgt. Jeremy Ping
718th Transportation Battalion

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 718th Transportation Battalion recently demonstrated their selfless service by going above and beyond what their mission required of them, this to ensure fellow Soldiers in Afghanistan received fully mission capable equipment. The 718th was given the mission of pulling four Heavy Equipment Transports from the Theater Provided Equipment Reset yard. The scope of the mission was to sign for the HETs and use the battalion's transportation assets to haul them to the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade in Afghanistan. The final destinations for the HETs were to be Kandahar and the Helmand Province for use in transporting

equipment throughout Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Upon receiving the equipment, the 718th Quality Assurance/Quality Control team took it upon themselves to ensure the equipment being shipped to Afghanistan was road-worthy. With help from the 494th Transportation Company, the QA/QC team loaded, road tested and quality-inspected the TPER HETs, just as they would with any trucks from the 718th going into Iraq for convoy missions.

Upon inspection, Spc. Lloyd Bethea and Spc. Jorge Hernandez-Rosario discovered a cracked engine head in one of the trucks. They understood the impact this could have on Soldiers down-range, and reported the results to 718th Battalion Motor Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 2

Keith Peddicord. Peddicord contacted the Department of Defense Red River Army Depot team at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and subsequently, a team was formed consisting of members of the 718th, 494th and Red River. Within 36 hours, the disabled HET's cab and engine were removed, a new engine was placed and the cab was assembled.

The extra steps taken by the QA/QC team and the quick response from the newly assembled team ensured all four trucks were ready to ship to Afghanistan on time, and more importantly, fully mission capable when they arrived. This kind of selfless service by the 718th will free-up time and resources for the Soldiers of the 402nd Army Fire Support Brigade in Afghanistan to continue to sustain the fight in their area of operations.



Members of Red River Army Depot work to replace an engine in a vehicle bound for troops in Afghanistan. The engine was found to be inoperable by the 718th Transportation Battalion Quality Assurance/Quality Control team.



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Keith Peddicord, 718th Trans. BN

Life on the road

Part 1 - The Convoy Escort Team

Photos and story by
Staff Sgt. Matthew Zier
230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Living out of a suitcase is normal for some business men and women, but for a Soldier, that suitcase is a rucksack. Soldiers from the 377th Transportation Company can attest to this statement all too well. The Fort Bliss, Texas, head-quartered company has been deployed to Kuwait for the past 10 months. Their primary mission is to help facilitate the responsible drawdown and withdraw of U.S. Forces in Iraq in support of Op-

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Sgt. Larry Showman of Latrobe, Pa., loads ammunition into the back of his Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle in preparation for convoy operations with the 377th Transportation Company on May 31, 2011.



Sgt. John Wright of El Paso, Texas, ground guides a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle out of the 377th Transportation Company's motor pool at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on May 31, 2011.



Spc. Suzanne Muao from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, conducts a radio check with the other elements in her Convoy Escort Team before convoy operations conducted by the 377th Transportation Company on May 31, 2011.



Clockwise from Left:

Pfc. Inoha Barth of Lubbock, Texas, tightens the bracket on an anti-improvised explosive device system prior to a 377th Transportation Company convoy mission in Iraq on June 2, 2011.

Spc. Michael Holston of San Bernardino, Calif., cleans the windshield of his Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on June 1, 2011.

Spc. Kevin Woodward, of Monroe, Mich., looks for any leaks on his Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle before heading into Iraq on June 1, 2011.

Members of a convoy escort team assigned to the 377th Transportation Company have a discussion prior to a convoy operation into Iraq on June 1, 2011.

Pfc. Jake Shoup of Plainville, Ind., checks the head space and timing on his M2 .50-caliber machine gun before a convoy escort mission on June 3, 2011.





Spc. Joe Busby of Midland, Texas, stands in the turret of his Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle while waiting to leave with a convoy in Iraq on June 6, 2011.



Spc. Jose Velazquez of Chicago, Ill., carries the main assembly of a M2 .50-caliber machine gun, along with the rest of his personal equipment to a transient housing tent after finishing a convoy escort mission on June 4, 2011.



Sgt. Larry Showman of Latrobe, Pa., prepares a radio before a convoy mission into Iraq with the 37th Transportation Company on June 1, 2011.



Pfc. Jake Shoup of Plainville, Ind., prepares a box of "chem-lights" prior to a convoy escort mission in Iraq on June 3, 2011. Shoup uses the chem-lights to identify road hazards for the rest of the convoy.

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eration New Dawn.

For some, these missions involve some of the most heavily armored vehicles within the Army's inventory, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle. It's the main mode of transportation for the Soldiers assigned to Convoy Escort Teams. They provide security for both the military and civilian trucks hauling various loads out of Iraq. This can be quite the daunting task for only 12 Soldiers.

Typically in groups of three, the 377th Soldiers load up into their MRAPs and ready the turrets with automatic weapons and glow sticks. On the inside, the lights from all the communications equipment illuminate the faces of the crew. Coolers filled with sports drinks, water, and energy drinks are prepared nightly before the convoy rolls to its next destination. Due to heat and traffic, most of the convoys travel at night, to help minimize the negative effects hundreds of trucks could have on daily traffic within the cities and villages of Iraq. Various snacks and candy can usually be found within the crew members' bags. Not knowing how long they could be on the road, the crew stocks up on these items to help keep their energy up and hunger at bay.

Each mission can range from a couple of hours on the road to almost an entire day. With that in mind, the CET will bed down in transient housing after arriving at their next stop and sleep, sometimes for over 12 hours. For these

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Convoy Escort Team members lift a tow bar back into position after moving an inoperable Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle to a staging area after a convoy escort mission in Iraq on June 4, 2011.



Above: Pfc. Inoha Barth of Lubbock, Texas, checks the alignment of her M240 machine gun prior to a convoy escort mission in Iraq on June 3, 2011.

Left: Spc. Kevin Woodward (left) of Monroe, Mich. and Pfc. Jake Shoup (right) of Plainville, Ind., attach a spotlight to an M2 .50-caliber machine gun in preparation for a convoy escort mission into Iraq on June 1, 2011.



Above: Sgt. Larry Showman of Latrobe, Pa., reads a scripture verse before setting out on another convoy in Iraq on June 4, 2011. Being a little superstitious, Showman ensures he reads a bit of scripture before every mission.

Below: An Iraqi girl runs alongside a U.S. convoy headed by the 377th Transportation Company, as a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle provides security over watch on June 8, 2011. Headquartered at Fort Bliss, the company's main mission is to help facilitate the responsible draw-down and withdraw of U.S. Forces in Iraq.

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Soldiers, it is hard to say when the next time they will be able to sleep, so they take every opportunity they can. In between missions, the CET will conduct physical training on their own time, to ensure they stay physically ready for the next mission. Visiting various gyms and running around the different camps not only helps to pass the time, but keeps the Soldiers fit to fight.

Normal military life still applies to this seemingly fearless crew. Pre-combat checks are still conducted on both their trucks and personal equipment. Checking each and every crucial component before and after each mission enhances the success rate and survivability of each Soldier on the team. Each Soldier has an assigned task for each escort mission, but each Soldier is capable of doing the other's job. Extensive training and conduct-

ing rehearsals also help in preparing them for what may come.

For most of the missions, maintenance is the biggest concern. When a truck within the convoy goes down, it is typically due to a flat tire or a mechanical failure. During this time, the CET will move into position to provide over watch of the truckers working to either make an on-the-spot repair or recover the vehicle.

Scanning their sectors and moving at an impressive speed, the CET crews keep the remaining assets of the convoys safe from danger, ranging from insurgent threats to potholes. The team works together, keeping each other informed of what is on the next curve or just over the horizon. Ensuring the safety of the crew and the other elements of the convoy helps to keep the flow of U.S. equipment out of Iraq at a constant pace, well on track to make the December 31, 2011 deadline.



Equal Opportunity Hosts Holocaust Remembrance Exhibit

Staff Sgt. Esperance Dawson
230th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – In addition to listening to Soldiers and assisting them with filing formal and informal complaints, Equal Opportunity Leaders and Advisors conduct Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Consideration of Others Training. For special events such as Black History month, Women's history month, and Holocaust Remembrance, just to name a few, the equal opportunity (EO) community holds observances. Since the 230th Sustainment Brigade has been here, there have been two of these such observances.

The first was during Women's History Month which was celebrated with a cake-cutting ceremony on March 31, 2011. The

guest speaker for the event was the U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Deborah K. Jones.

The second event was the Holocaust Day of Remembrance. On May 2, the EO community had an observance for the Holocaust Day of Remembrance in which there were photos from the Holocaust Museum and movies about the Holocaust. This year's theme was "Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?" The exhibit from the museum was held at the Training and Activity Center (TAC) building in Zone 6.

Why a Holocaust Remembrance?

After the horrors of the Holocaust, Jews wanted a day to memorialize this tragedy. But what day? No specific day stood out as a representation of this destruc-

tion. The Holocaust spanned years, with suffering and death spread throughout these years of terror. Included in this span was the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In Hebrew, Holocaust Remembrance Day is called Yom Hashoah. In 1950, the 27th of Nissan, the first month in the Jewish calendar, was chosen as a day of remembrance, which falls beyond Passover but within the time span of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Orthodox Jews still did not like this date because it was a day of mourning within the traditionally happy month of Nissan. As a final effort to compromise, the Jewish community decided if the 27th of Nissan would affect Shabbat, which falls on Friday or Saturday, it would move the observation. For example, if the 27th of

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Graduation means more Soldiers to help Soldiers

by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory
230th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Soldiers from various units within Third Army, stationed in Kuwait, graduated from the Equal Opportunity Leaders course on March 31, 2011, held at the Zone 1 Chapel.

This is the second of eight classes Third Army has scheduled for 2011.

So what is Equal Opportunity? The Army currently has a policy against discrimination of any kind, with regard to race, color, sex, national origin or religion.

If someone has a discrimination complaint, their initial step is to see the EOL. The EOL can assist the victim in filing an informal complaint. Even further, the EOL will initiate an investigation to determine if there is enough evidence to support the complainant's case.

Each month, the EO community has a different theme to help raise awareness amongst the ranks. This gives all the EOLs a chance to get together and discuss the current climate within their respective commands, in order to better prepare leaders

to deal with certain situations.

Depending on the circumstances, EOLs could work with their unit's sexual assault coordinator. Each EOL is appointed to their positions by their commanders and work closely with them, as well as with legal staff and chaplains.

The importance of maintaining and enforcing an effective EO policy is, among other things, to improve unit cohesion. Any form of discrimination has the potential to break down the morale of a given unit. As one of the Army's slogans states, discrimination "Hurts one, effects all."

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Army Central Command and the 1st Theater Sustainment Command sent down a minimum threshold requirement of those to be trained. However, due to the increased risk, the 230th Sustainment Brigade increased that minimum requirement. "They recognized the importance of this issue, especially us being a National Guard unit, and our numbers actually spiking over the last couple of years," said Holcomb.

The two-day course must be taught by two chaplains who have gone through the trainer course. Even further, LivingWorks maintains that it must be taught as is, in its entirety. The chaplains and

their assistants must coordinate space and materials for the class and give leadership enough forewarning so they can select people in their sections best suited for the training and adjust scheduled for being short on personnel. The course is also to be taught in either civilian clothes or PTs to remove the element of rank within the class. This enforces the aspect of "anyone can help" when it comes to suicide prevention.

Those who take the course are warned that ASIST is a framework to help those who are suicidal. It is not an easy answer or "magic pill." It gives service members "more tools in the box," as Bain explains. The certification does not make someone a therapist or

other mental health professional. However, it better equips them to get the persons at risk to the help they need.

One life lost is one life too many. Serving in the armed forces has its inherent dangers, and combat, in general, takes many fellow service members from us. With the training and the experiences within the Armed Service, service members become an extended family. That stated, losing one to suicide is heart-wrenching to the unit and the service as a whole. Soldiers are the first line of defense, because they are intimately familiar with their 'battle buddies.' Watching each other and making sure they are mission ready is part of what Soldiers do.

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Nissan falls on a Friday, Holocaust Remembrance Day is moved to the preceding Thursday. If the 27th of Nissan falls on a Sunday, then Holocaust Remembrance Day is moved to the following Monday.

On April 26, 1993, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum opened to the public in Washington, D.C. In general, Yom Has-hoah is observed with candlelight, speakers, poems, prayers, and singing or with museum exhibits -- like the one that was held here at Camp Arifjan.

About 90 service members and DOD Civilians visited the museum, with Soldiers from the 230th accounting for almost 50 percent of those in attendance. Among the attendees was Maj. Gen. Harold Gary Bunch, the U.S. Army Materiel Command's assistant deputy commanding general for Reserve Affairs since May 19, 2009.

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MWR, medical and religious support to our service members riding the roads daily in Iraq."

Wilson continued, "The S1's function in this drawdown is to ensure that we continue to take care of the Soldiers assigned to this brigade. We do have a unique mission in that we have command and control over a broad range of services. We have the Active Component, Reserve Component, National Guard, Air Force and Army Boat Units that fall under the flag of the brigade." Wilson explained this mission will show the Pentagon that a National Guard unit can provide the same level of professionalism and dedication as Active Component units that historically have had this mission.

Wilson expressed a lot of hope about the next year. He goes as far as to say he envisions the 230th

Sustainment Brigade impacting our Nation's History, "First of all, the United States has not strategically closed out of a theater of war. We stayed in Germany and Japan after WWII. We are still in Korea and we just left Vietnam. I say this to help the young Soldiers of today's Army realize that they are not only participating in history, they are also making history. The 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment made history in 2004 and 2005 when they deployed to Iraq and performed a nearly flawless combat action against the enemy. I believe that this is the reason that Col. Hart is so hard on the Officers and Senior Noncommissioned Officers in the brigade. He wants them to relay to the junior Soldiers in this command that we are creating history and he wants the world and the State of Tennessee to know that we did our best and served the citizens of the United States of America with distinction, honor, integrity and valor."