



Dakota

HHB 1st-147 FA Newsletter

STEEL Rain



General Steve Doohen addressing the 1st 147 FA Soldiers and employers at North Fort Hood Chapel.



Ft. Hood Training

- Boss Lift Brings General and State Sergeant Major to visit troops
- Soldiers Clear the Shoot House
- Qualifications Continue for 9mm and M-4 rifle
- Safety Stand Down Day
- Recent Promotions

Quote for the Month

"To lead uninstructed people to war is to throw them away."
- Confucius

Employers and Soldiers are United at Ft. Hood Texas

On May 20, 2009 the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves and the South Dakota National Guard brought together 20 business owners and their deployed soldiers from South Dakota. With the employers came General Steve Doohen, the outgoing State Command Sergeant Major Bekaert and new State Command Sergeant Major Zimmerman to visit the troops in the barracks, chow halls and around North Ft. Hood mobilization site.

Soldiers were first reunited with their employers at the North Ft. Hood Chapel. The employers were then introduced to the staff for 1st Battalion 147 Field Artillery and got an explanation of our mission overseas and shown a video of some of the training their soldiers have already received in the last month at North Ft. Hood. Following the video Colonel Knowlton of the 115th Fires Brigade spoke to the Soldiers and employers about the mission overseas and his mission for the soldiers to return back physically, mentally and spiritually fit so to easily transition back into their lives when they return home.

General Doohen spoke to the group next expressing his gratitude to the employers for giving up their best employees to this deployment to serve their country. The General was excited to come to Ft. Hood and see the Soldiers he last saw at the mobilization ceremonies and talked about the overwhelming crowds that came to wish the Soldiers an amazing farewell.

Following the Colonel and General the employers and their Soldiers went to the Tactical Operations Center to see weapons, equipment and vehicles used for training. While at the Tactical Operations Center the employers signed letters of support for the guard and were given plaques from the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves. Soldiers then were released to take their employers to their barrack and for a tour of North Ft. Hood. The day ended with the Employers eating dinner with their Soldiers at the chow hall.



Lt. Colonel Dave Chase and his boss Greg Buck of Productivity Inc. of Plymouth, Minnesota at 1-147 Employers Support Day.

From the Commander

The Headquarters Battery will provide camp command, command and control to the battalion's port security missions, as well as the Area Reaction Force for all of southern Kuwait, an area that covers over 6000 square kilometers of battle space known as SECFOR South. Soldiers will provide personal security detachments for distinguished visitors.

We have completed our individual training and now we have started an 8 day combined practical exercises. The 1st exercise is training the Command and Control Cell information flow and battle drill scenarios. Mission Ready Exercise coming up in June will include real life scenarios that we may see overseas and we will have to respond to them correctly. We are maximizing the use of available additional training days to train on Battle Drills of tasks or incidents that will be our job and could possibly happen while we are there. We are working on some additional drivers training on key equipment that will be used in Theatre.

The Boss Lift was successful, the soldiers enjoyed showing there civilian bosses the training that they have received. A big event coming up is our Safety Stand Down day coming up on the 3rd of June this will be a team building event and morale booster.

The 1SG and my own goal is getting the troops Home Safely and being the Best! The Command Sergeant Major said it best, **BE FLUID.....CHANGE WILL BE COMING**

3 THINGS THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE!!

SAFETY- Every Soldier is important to the mission...own the edge from being safe and tragedy.

STANDARDS- Enforce them.

DICIPLINE- Represent your unit in a professional manner.

I want to thank all of the groups and individuals (Pre-Mobilization Training Assistor Element, Employer Support Guard Reserve, Family Support Group, New Equipment Training, and others) that have helped us get this far and will support us through our deployment.

Sincerely,
CPT Patrick Sprecher

Clearing the Shoot House

It is seen on TV and in the movies how a group of police officers, SWAT teams or soldiers go into a building that has bad guys in one of many rooms. A small team goes room by room quickly clearing every nook and cranny to find the person or people they are looking for in the building. These tactical movements are part of the Close Quarters Combat training the army used for urban operations overseas.

HHB 1-147 FA went through this training initially at Ft. Chaffee in the January 2009 and got further training while at Ft. Hood. The training included how to communicate with each without talking, how to move, how to keep from pointing the weapon at your buddies clearing with you and much more. After several hours of training the Soldiers went through a live fire shoot house. The shoot house has friendly and enemy targets that Soldiers must distinguish between while moving smoothly and quickly through the building. In the shoot house the Soldiers have live ammunition to shoot the enemy targets. If the soldiers shoot a friendly target, make too many mistakes or are to slow they are retrained and sent back through the live shoot house again. Every teams room clearing was taped and then used to critique their actions in the shoot house.



Above shows Specialist Robert Ramberg, Staff Sergeant Chad McMillan, Sergeant First Class Justin Morrison and Specialist Gordy Hedges entering a room at live fire shoot house at Fort Hood, Texas.



From the First Sergeant

Greetings to HHB Soldiers and their families. We are over half way through our duty here at Fort Hood. The time is going by rapidly and soon we will be on pass enjoying our families or the local attractions here in Texas. Then it's on to the "REAL THING". Those of us who have mobilized before will tell you that the time at MOB station is the most demanding and frustrating part of the entire deployment.

You have taken every challenge in stride and are now closing in on completing all required individual and collective tasks. As I visit with you everyday, I'm greeted with smiles and positive attitudes. You have adapted to the over crowded living conditions without a single personality conflict or harsh word and you have remained flexible as training changed on a moments notice. This speaks volumes about your character and dedication to the mission and to your fellow Soldiers. Honestly, in my over 30 years of service, I have never worked with such a fine group of Military Professionals!

I ask that you keep your eye on the ball, keep the momentum moving forward, stay safe and then mentally prepare yourself for what is yet to come. With everyone focused and working together, we will all complete our mission with distinction, bringing everyone home safe and whole.

1SG Thaelke



Qualifications Continue on 9mm and M-4 Rifles



Sergeant Megon Christopherson firing at the 9mm qualification range at Ft. Hood, Texas.

HHB has been working on getting all Soldiers qualified on their specific weapon system they will be using overseas. Most of the Soldiers have shot the M-4 rifle at least once at the day fire, night fire with lasers and night vision goggles or at the Close Quarters Combat training range. Some Soldiers had to qualify with the 9mm handgun both day and night fire. These ranges have been at times long depending on when the Soldier is going to the range and what groups are there to shoot with them.

The first day and night fire range for HHB Soldiers started around 3:30 am and ended 25 hours later at 5:30 am. This included day fire with the CCO day time scope and then ended with the PEQ-2 and PEQ-15 night fire. The night fire ended short due to a thunder storm that move into the area. That then required the rest of the shooters to visit the range with other units within and outside of the 1st – 147 FA.

Several Soldiers are now being equipped with 9mm handguns due to their mission specific position in Kuwait. These Soldiers are getting their first time handling and shooting a handgun and so good basic safety and operation is being given to them. At the range the Soldiers are shooting from several different stances at a paper target. Once it has been identified that the soldier has qualified they then down their gas mask and shoot. The 9mm range is then followed up later in the day with a night fire. The Soldier must shoot at a different paper target with not light and then go verify they have qualified for night firing.

All the ranges have different qualifications requirements and all must be met prior to the Unit deploying overseas.





Photo of Lake Belton from the shelter house with some 1-147 FA Soldiers heading to the beach for a well deserved day off.

HHB 1-147 Safety Stand Down Day at Lake Belton

On May 25th, the Mayor Cell from HHB 1/147th FA joined Charlie Battery 1/147th FA for a fun day that was held out at Lake Belton. Major Takai and Captain Wong from the 487th also joined us.

There were a variety of activities held. It was a perfect day to do some swimming and sock in some rays! While some were doing that, others took a paddleboat or two out on the lake, which was some good exercise according to a couple soldiers. SSG McMillan and SPC Gomez played some volleyball with some of the Charlie guys and gals. There was some horseshoes going too. The steaks that were grilled were provided by SGM Arends.

A moment of silence was held for our fallen comrades. The remainder of HHB 1-147 FA will enjoy the sun, beach and steaks on June 3, 2009 at Lake Belton.

Recent Promotions



Private Mark Thompson from Bookings was promoted on 7 May 2009 to Private First Class. HHB 1st -147 FA Battery Commander Captain Patrick Sprecher is seen shaking hands with Private First Class Thompson after his rank was changed on his uniform. Promotion took place at North Ft. Hood, Texas during mobilization training for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sergeant Justin Morrison of Mitchell was promoted to Sergeant First Class on 7 May 2009 as part of HHB 1st-147 FA. The photo shows Morrison standing in front of Captain Patrick Sprecher and First Sergeant Kent Thaelke. The promotion took place at North Ft. Hood, Texas during mobilization training for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

