



1st Batalion, 147th Field Artillery

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BATTALION COMMANDER

OIF 9.2 Kuwait

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Hello from Kuwait,

It seems hard to believe we have been in Kuwait for two months already the time has really flown by. It just seems like yesterday when we were boarding a plane to Ft. Hood TX to begin our post mobilization training. I guess time going by quickly is a good thing. That means we are busy and I can say in all honesty we have been very busy. Our mission is a big one and what we do in our day to day mission directly affects thousands of soldiers throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Our mission makes for some very long, hot, tiring, and down - right miserable days. In fact, the last week has brought some of the most brutal heat and humidity I have ever seen. Your Soldiers will have some great stories to share about this latest weather pattern when they get home. As far as living conditions, our Soldiers are very well taken care of. The living quarters are very good, as is the food. We have great facilities for Physical Training, Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR), and good internet access. Nearly all the comforts of home, except privacy.

Our Soldiers continue to face each and every day with the dedication and professionalism that has been the standard of every great South Dakota Soldier that has ever served. Our mission requires flexibility, adaptability, and multi talented individuals that can work as a cohesive team under a variety of ever changing situations. A team that can overcome any challenge placed in front of them and accomplish any mission they are given. As the Commander of the 1/147th, I am honored and humbled to serve with these great warriors, they are truly the best of the best. As we continue our mission in the coming months we know we will continue to face new challenges as Soldiers we will rise to meet these challenges head-on; and drive on; in the true tradition of the South Dakota National Guard.

I would also like to thank all of you for your support; the packages from home have been incredible. It is amazing what a card, letter, or package will do for the mental well being of the Soldier. Thank you once again and keep them coming. I would also like to thank all of the family and friends back home that take care of our loved ones while we are deployed since we need to stay focused on our mission. Your concentrated efforts in taking care of the home front is critical to our focus and our ability to continue to perform our mission to the level required for us to be successful. I cannot overstate how important the job that you do at home is to our overall success. Thank you once again. Lastly my sincere condolences go out to the McPartland family. Their son Jayden tragically lost his life on August 9th. Dan is home with his family. We want the McPartlands to know our thoughts and prayers are with you each and every day.

Sincerely,

David P. Chase, Spartan 6
Commander



Battalion Commander
David P. Chase



Command Sergeant Major



**Battalion CSM
George Arends**



Above: LTC Chase and CSM Arends uncasing the Battalion colors during the Transfer of Authority 29 August 2009.

As I sit to write this letter the first thing I want to convey to you all is how proud I am of all the Soldiers serving here, as I know you are also. We have settled in a routine and everyone is performing their missions magnificently. Morale is still great even with the heat and high humidity; don't believe it when people tell you it's a dry heat, that's not the case around this area in August. The Soldiers come off guard duty soaked from sweat.

Those of us who have been deployed before all agree that the living conditions here are much better than past deployments, so even though our duty here can be physically and mentally demanding we do have good barracks and chow along with many morale, welfare and recreation events to help relax and pass the time.

We will be starting the fifteen day leave back home soon, which all the Soldiers will have an opportunity to take if they so desire. This event seems to help the deployment go by a little faster and is a great morale booster for most. For some it is too hard to say good-bye again back home and return here so they opt out of taking the leave now and take it at the end of their tour.

As many of you know one of our Soldiers, Specialist Daniel McPartland, lost his son Jayden in a tragic accident. Dan is at home with his family and I ask that you keep this family in your thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

I want to thank you all for holding up the home front, without you we couldn't accomplish what is needed to do here. Thanks to all the Family Readiness Group volunteers also. To everyone back home keep up the fight and hold your heads high for you are all true patriots.

Command Sergeant Major George A Arends



Above: ISG Lacroix, CSM Arends, and SPC Hamburg proudly display their newly earned Combat patches.



Above: Alpha Battery Promotes Private Traig Schuelke to Specialist /E-4



Above: LTC Robert Leshner (Hawaii), COL Waleed (Kuwait), and LTC Chase at the Transfer of Authority.

Below: Headquarters Battery promotes SSG Shawn Bastian to Sergeant First Class. Pinning SFC Bastian was CPT Patrick Sprecher, CPT Nathan Moore, and MSG Lathe Ragels. **Photo by Travis Simmons**





HHB COMMANDER

CPT Patrick Sprecher

The weather here seems to amaze me compared to South Dakota. This last week we hit the humid time of the year, which is a good thing, because once it passes they say it cools down! MWR (Morale Welfare Recreation) events have been great for the troops. We had a 4 on 4 basketball team get second place and a Soldier received first place in the poker tournament. Other MWR events and services include: a gym, muscle building, 5K runs, Bingo, movie night, foos ball, darts tourney, TV sporting events, comedians, etc...

RIPTOA (Relief-in-Place and Transfer-of-Authority) is complete and our Hawaiian friends have left Theatre. We have brought our Midwest mentality with us and are continuing to raise the bar and exceed the standards. Our Soldiers and the Units are getting complimented on doing a job well done! You and I can be proud of the 1-147th FA BN.

We have a new addition to the HHB 1-147th family. SPC Ramberg and wife Kelly Jo are proud parents of a baby boy, Jaxson. Jaxson is 7 lbs 5 oz and 20 inches long. Mom is doing well and father was able to get home and spend his R&R as a father. Congrats!

Sunday mornings come alive with HHB talent in the chapel! The band and choir is lead by SPC Hedges, singer (SGT Christopherson), keyboard (SPC Hauck), drums (SPC Gomez), and base guitar (SGT Killion). They are doing a great job!

On the 16th of August, we teleconferenced back to the Family Readiness Group in Watertown. I hope it was informative and rewarding for all participants! Thanks to current day technology, family and friends are able to communicate more easily through phone and internet. Morale is always high when we can stay in touch with family and friends. I want to thank everyone for their support and thank the Soldiers and families for their sacrifice.



CPT Patrick Sprecher
and Interpreter Victor
Photo by CPT Martin



Photo by Travis Simmons

Story by ISG Kent Thoele

Two new members of the HHB NCO Corps SPC Wade Anderson and SPC Joshua Fields were recently promoted to Sergeant during a unit formation. SGT Anderson serves as a Team Leader for the Area Reaction Force (ARF) platoon and SGT Fields is the unit Armorer. Presenting these new NCOs their stripes are CPT Sprecher and SSG Brandon Wolf.

"Lead as if you'll be held accountable, because you will"- Bobby Bowden



Above: Soldiers from the Sisseton area display the care packages received from RC Family of Companies, New Effington, SD. Right: SSG Seuer stands next to his tribute to our Fallen Comrades.





CHAPLAIN CPT Thomas Tedmon

Have any of you become disillusioned by politics in America these days? Larry Hardimann once quipped that “the word ‘politics’ is derived from the word ‘poly’, meaning ‘many’, and the word ‘ticks’, meaning ‘blood-sucking parasites’.” If you find that amusing, it probably means that you, like me, believe that many politicians confuse “public service” with “self service”. But perhaps we judge a bit too quickly; many of us fall into the same trap in our relationships.

Author Anthony Robbins has written that “Some of the biggest challenges in relationships come from the fact that most people enter a relationship in order to get something: they’re trying to find someone who will make them feel good. In reality the only way a relationship will last is if you see your relationship as a place that you go to give, and not as a place you to go to take.”

As we get into the R&R leave cycles, this is an important truth to remember. How many of us service members, and how many family members at home, are looking forward to the short reunion as a chance to “get” and not as a chance to “give”? Are we more concerned with getting our needs met than we are in meeting the needs of those we’ve been away from for so long now? This kind of self serving attitude is a recipe for a train wreck in a relationship.

Scripture tells us we need to reverse the thinking and realize that giving results in greater happiness than getting (“It is more blessed to give...”) And again in Romans 13 (The Message) it says “Love cares more for others than self. Love doesn’t force itself on others. Love isn’t always “me first.”

This is an important lesson for us to learn to improve our relationships and help them weather the storm of deployment separation.

Come to think of it, it could also go a long way toward cleaning up politics in America.

ARF (AREA REACTION FORCE)

Story by Monte Patterson

The 147th ARF Platoon is a multifaceted unit that has a multitude of responsibilities. The platoon is comprised of every unit within the 147th Field Artillery Battalion and was put together on short notice just prior to deployment. The platoon’s Soldiers have meshed together exceptionally in short time during their post MOB training at Fort Hood, Texas. During the different training lanes that they were required to accomplish, the platoon set the example, consistently performing above expectations. They were also awarded “Top Gun” of the 115th Fires Brigade, arguably the most coveted honor awarded. The 147th Area Reaction Forces for the Southern Kuwait Area Of Responsibility operate to secure critical infrastructure, assist in Security Force Operations, respond to emergency situations throughout the Area Support Group of Kuwait’s South Area of Operations involving Coalition Forces personnel, and operate as the Coalition Forces Land Component Command offensive forces in the Area Support Group of Kuwait’s South Area Of Responsibility in order to facilitate a safe and secure environment for Coalition Forces to conduct logistic operations In Support Of Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation Enduring Freedom missions. The ARF conducts daily route reconnaissance of southern Kuwait, responding and reporting to any suspicious activity. They are tasked to perform HELO operation securing the landing zone for incoming and outgoing personnel. The platoon will engage in personal security for dignitaries and VIP’s including entertainers and high ranking diplomats. **Continued on page 9 ARF**

Ministry Opportunity

Story by Chaplain Tedmon

Photo by Steve Anderson

The Chaplain’s office recently held a drive to collect clothing, household items, toiletries and whatever else the service members wanted to donate for the third country nationals that work here at Camp Patriot. This is an important ministry opportunity, because those folks have a pretty tough life here, and many are supporting families back in their home countries. Thanks to the generosity of the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines here, we were able to put together 153 bags of goods, and 50 new pairs of shoes to give out. We are always collecting for these drives, and families can participate at home as well by sending the stuff on up if you wish. We’ll make sure the third country nationals that get the stuff know it came from a family in the US that wanted to make their life a little better.



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ALPHA BATTERY

Commander Comments

Greeting s from Kuwait. We have been in country not quite two months. We have been keeping busy with many different missions. Alpha Battery participated in the Theater Resupply mission in August. Our mission was to conduct base security and convoy operations security. The containers held ammunition to support the theater operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since we took over A Battery has searched over 7,000 vehicle and 23,000 third country national workers. The heat along with the humidity has made for some long days lately. The locals tell us the humidity only lasts a few days and the temperature starts to fall in late September. The living conditions at Camp Patriot are good. We have a great gym and the dining facility is near the living areas. There is a small PX and a local market a few blocks from the living area. The Soldiers have divided living areas with TVs, video game systems and the internet. Having the internet in their living area makes it easy for Soldiers to communicate with the families. We have participated in many MWR activities too. A Battery finished 3rd place in the flag football tournament, SSG Briggs took first place and SPC Scarborough took second place in the dart tournament. SPC Mewes won the 5k race and was less than 30 seconds off the record time for the camp. We also had a number of teams in the four on four basketball tournament. We did have some sad news in August. Jayden McPartland, son of SPC Dan and Sandy McPartland, passed away following a pool accident while visiting family in Texas. Thanks to family support group and the volunteers who helped during the benefit for the McPartland family. It is good to know that we have a great support system in place during times like this. Please keep the McPartland family in your thoughts and prayers.

Best regards,

Captain Collin Enstad

First Platoon

Hello from Kuwait Naval Base,

We have taken command of SECFOR (Security Operations) from Hawaii and getting into the full swing of things. Soldiers in SECFOR man tower, guard the gates in and out of KNB, and provide security in and out of the US base, Camp Patriot. These positions have become routine and did not take long for the soldiers to get used to. Frankly, this is a relatively safe mission, and for most, it will be a counting of the days until they return home. In the meantime, life at KNB has been pretty busy. When the guys aren't on shift they are busy with working out, MWR (Moral Wellness and Recreation) activities, and spending time with other soldiers. Some recent MWR events include a basketball and football tournaments, as well as a comedy

show. A walk through the barracks will paint a pretty clear picture of daily living. The barracks are arranged into areas for 4-5 soldiers to live and sleep. Many of them have creature comforts similar to home such as TV's, gaming systems and computer with Internet. Even though the living quarters have the feeling of home, it most definitely is not. Soldiers here rely on support of other soldiers they are serving with but, most importantly they rely on your support back home. I look forward to reading correspondence connecting me with loved ones back home. I strongly urge you and yours to communicate with your soldier it means the world to us. Thank you for all you are doing back home, and we'll see you all soon enough.

Very respectfully,

ILT Eric Seager



Flower arrangements for Jayden McPartland's Rememberance service.



Flag Football team place 3rd in the KNB tournament.

Lower right: SSG Briggs won the KNB Dart tournament with an undefeated record. SPC Scarborough wins 2nd place after and early loss.





CHARLIE BATTERY

The Commander

The first two months have come and gone. The Soldiers, with their curiosities, have found most of the amenities throughout Camp Arifjan and have taken full advantage of what there is to offer. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities provide countless opportunities for Soldiers to unwind and relax.

Every Tuesday and Thursday night a group of Charlie Battery Soldiers get together to take on HHB/115th Fires Brigade, our Battalion's higher headquarters, in a game of softball. On average, 12-15 Soldiers show up for each team to compete in a game of good sportsmanship and fierce competition. Bragging rights is all that is earned, but Charlie Battery more often than not comes out on top.

The majority of the unit has found that being in Kuwait is a great opportunity to work on their physical fitness. The gyms on Camp Arifjan have a lot to offer for Soldiers of different fitness levels and athletic interests. One of the gyms is equipped with two racquetball courts and a basketball court while another has a rock climbing wall where you can frequently find 1LT Larson and SFC Haugse. Two Soldiers, SGT Steven Davis and SPC Tony Marcucci have taken their physical fitness to a new level as they are training to compete in the Desert Classic III, a bodybuilding competition in which the Soldiers are judged on muscle mass, symmetry, conditioning and posing. Good Luck Steve and Tony!!!

While MWR activities are a temporary escape from the realities of our daily responsibilities I encourage everyone to take the time and write a Soldier. Mail, whether electronic or snail, is a reminder to those that someone back home cares. If you could see the same smiles that I see every time a Soldier gets mail you would realize how much it truly helps to break the monotony. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

CPT Scott M. Green



Above: SPC Tony Marcucci performs Shoulder Shrugs as he trains to compete in a Camp Arifjan bodybuilding competition.



Left: SPC Tony Marcucci and SPC Joe Giegling take a break between sets to pose for a picture.

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CHARLIE BATTERY I-147TH FIELD ARTILLERY

CHARLIE NEWS

“SECFOR MISSION” BEGINS FOR CHARLIE BATTERY

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Charlie Battery assumed control of their security force (SECFOR) mission around the first of August after a three week left seat/right seat ride with their Hawaiian counterparts. The training that the Hawaiian unit provided was vital to the success of the mission for the Charlie Battery Soldiers.

The Battery SECFOR mission can encompass such things as securing bases, doing vehicle and personnel searches, patrolling, responding to incidents and ensuring the daily operations at that base are not disturbed.

SPC Sieverding searches the rear of a vehicle while on duty with first platoon. Photo by SGT Reinhardt

2nd Lieutenant Joey Larson states, “The guys have really embraced the mission. They took to it right away and were able to take control of their



duties almost immediately. Our Hawaiian counterparts did a very good job preparing us for our mission during our time here in Kuwait. They were a good unit to work with and it was hard to see them go. “.

SPC Overby of First Platoon, prepares to move-out on patrol Photo by SGT Reinhardt

The Battery starts R&R leave soon and the Soldiers are looking forward to a brief stay

SGT Anderson (I-C-I-147FA) searches an individual Photo by SGT Reinhardt



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South Dakota Unit working with Kuwaiti Ministry of the Interior Forces

Kuwait City, Kuwait: C Battery, I-147th Field Artillery works hand in hand with the Kuwaiti Ministry of the Interior (KMOI) forces in their SecFor mission in Kuwait. The South Dakota National Guard unit started the overseas part

of its deployment on July 1, 2009. A good working relationships with their Kuwaiti partners is an essential component for the Charlie Battery Soldiers and their Security Force mission.



KMOI forces help with vehicle security on a Kuwaiti highway

Photo by SGT Reinhardt



Mark Chesnutt Concert

Camp Arifjan. Country Singer Mark Chesnutt performed in front of hundreds of Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Monday, August 19th. First platoon Soldiers from Charlie Battery, I-147th FA were among those who enjoyed the two hour USO concert. The concert gave Soldiers a much needed



break from the daily Security Force mission.



All photos by SGT James J Reinhardt 2502



Charlie Battery Soldiers at the Mark Chesnutt concert on August 19, 2009.



SGT Klages inspects the interior of a vehicle.



PFC Red Cloud walks around an 18 wheeler while searching it.



SPC Bartman prepares to allow a vehicle through his gate.



Driving on mission is a daily task for SGT Anderson.



SGT Reinhardt prepares to go on patrol as a gunner.



PFC Red Cloud searches the underbelly of an 18 wheeler.



PFC Red Cloud climbs up onto an 18 Wheeler to complete a thorough search.



One of the many Reptiles found in Kuwait is this Horny-tailed lizard.

COMMANDER LTC DAVE CHASE

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE ARENDS

HHB CPT PATRICK SPRECHER/ISG KENT THOELKE

ALPHA BATTERY COLLIN ENSTAD/ISG TERRY CHING

CHARLIE BATTERY CPT SCOTT GREEN/ISG MATT LACROIX





Comedian Scott Kennedy from "Comedy Central" was at Camp Patriot on his 32nd tour to Iraq with "COMIC'S READY TO ENTERTAIN". Photo by SFC Steve Anderson



CPT Dave Hoines and CW3 Jess Schreurs participate in Kuwait Heritage Day Celebration.

ARF Continued from page 4



Team Kate Snappers members from left to right: Tanner Baird, Todd Beynon, Wade Anderson, Randall Fitzgerald, Justin Redmond, Keith Fitzgerald, and presenting the award MAJ James Linn.



SSG Nicolaisen links up with his sister on her way home for R&R. SPC Nicolaisen is currently stationed in Iraq.

The ARF Platoon of HHB, 1/147th threw a basketball team together at the last minute to compete in the Camp Patriot 4 on 4 basketball tournament held in early August on Camp Patriot, Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait. The "Kate Snappers" as they were called, competed against teams made up from the tenants of Camp Patriot consisting of Army, Navy, and Coast Guard. The tournament covered four days in early August with temperatures reaching triple digits and some games ending in the late evening hours. The Kate Snappers had to not overcome the heat but the competition as well. Playing a total of five different teams and six games, they ended with a record of 4 wins and 2 losses, placing them second in the tournament. Not too bad considering they had never played together as a team and only marginally losing the championship game to a very experienced seasoned team.



Far Left: SSG Jeffery Koepp in full battle rattle during a Delta Drill.

Near Left: ARF planning OPS in the CP

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