

1st Batalion, 147th Field Artillery

**Battalion Commander
LTC David P. Chase**

Hello everyone,
Once again it's time for our monthly update. We are entering the Kuwaiti fall, the nights are starting to cool off into the 70's. We even had a sprinkle of rain two days ago; the first since we have been here. With the cooler fall season comes the desert camping season. Each year in the fall, thousands of Kuwaitis set up huge encampments in the desert by erecting groups of large canvas tents. Desert camping is the traditional way for the Kuwaitis to unwind, take some time off from the stresses of daily life and enjoy the serenity of the desert at a time when the weather is at its best. It also takes them back to their age-old traditions of the days when many of their ancestors lived in the desert. Camping in the desert today is much different than it was in the past. Today a family encampment may consist of up to ten tents, including individual sleeping tents, kitchen tents, restroom facilities complete with running water, and of course the large gathering tent commonly known as a Dewaniya.

The Dewaniya is used for all social gatherings and meals not only while camping, but also in day to day society. Most Kuwaitis will have a permanent Dewaniya near their home that is used often for gatherings of family and friends. Myself and several other members in the Battalion have had the opportunity

to experience a Dewaniya at least once. Typically it begins with a group of men gathering and playing dominoes or other games or just having general conversations about family, politics, and religion. Drinking Chai and Arabic coffee is also a big part of the socializing. The Chai is a strong, usually very sweet tea. The coffee is very strong,



COL Knowlton, 115th FIB Commander and LTC Chase enjoy some Chai at a Dewaniyah on KNB.

has a very unique flavor, and is served in a very small cup slightly larger than a shot glass. After a while, they bring out the food which is usually several main dishes of chicken, fish, lamb, or beef served with rice and a variety of regional side dishes such as hummus and flat bread. Usually you sit directly on the floor and pass everything family-style. The host will fill your plate for you even if you don't want him to. The Kuwaitis are very gracious hosts and will absolutely make sure you are stuffed. They

will not take no for an answer the first three or four times. They just keep filling your plate. It is also completely acceptable to eat with your hands (right hand only). Most kids would like this rule. Being from the Midwest, I was always taught to clean my plate. It took me a couple of Dewaniya's to figure out that is a bad strategy. If you clean your plate, the Kuwaitis assume that you are still hungry and the host will fill it again, usually with more food than you had the first time. As I mentioned, it took me some time to break this habit growing up with five brothers. Believe me, we were taught to clean our plates. After the meal there is dessert. There are usually several choices of cakes, pastries, and the ever-present dates followed by more conversation, Chai, and coffee. It is not uncommon for men to stay in the Dewaniya until two or three in the morning. With this deployment, we have learned many things. The opportunity to experience another culture to this extent has just been incredible and I will remember it for the rest of my life.



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Volume 1, Issue 3

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**Battalion Commander
David P. Chase**



Command Sergeant Major George A. Arends



**Battalion CSM
George Arends**

All,

This month we hit a huge milestone for the deployment; on October 15th we hit the half way point, so everything from here is downhill. For most of the Soldiers the first half has seemed to have gone by pretty fast, I hope this is the same for everyone back home. I know that there are days that drag on from time to time, but for us our battle buddies are always willing to get us through those tough times. I hope everyone back home has that same support and if not will ask for help. Our Midwest beliefs seem to get in

the way sometimes from us to seek help; don't let that be the case.

We have had about three full rotations of Soldiers go on leave back home, which adds up to about a third of the Battalion. It's good to see and talk to the Soldiers when they return re-energized and full of stories from home with plenty of pictures of family members to include some new babies. I've heard a few hunting stories from some troops, which many of you know hunting is a favorite hobby of most members in the unit. We held a 5K run at Camp Patriot

on opening day of the SD pheasant season with 300 runners, all who participated received a blaze orange t-shirt with a photo of a pheasant on the back. Not the same as hunting those wily Ring-necks but we did have some fun with the event.

Well, as always thanks to everyone back home for what you do. I'm very proud of the service and dedication not only of the Soldiers of the 1/147th but all the Family members too.

Have a Happy Halloween!!!

HHB Commander CPT Pat Sprecher



Ring Neck Pheasants stand guard over the coveted prize for running in the Ring Neck 5k.

We have made it over the hump and we continue to exceed the standards. The C2 (Mayor Cell of our Camp) has completed a project that all of the residents in the Blue Brick Buildings are grateful for, now that the temps at night are cooler. They were able to move the hot water heaters into a location that makes them safe and operational. A big THANK YOU goes out to the Base Sustainment Office (CW3 Schreurs, SFC Schladweiler, SSG Heilman, SSG Beisch, SSG Pulscher, and PFC Thyne). We are also doing our host nations part in helping the Kuwaitis clean up the base in the preparation for a Gulf Coast

Conference (GCC). The GCC will consist of 5 other Gulf Coast countries and an additional 1,000 Troops.

Training continues as we keep up with our annual briefings, combat life saver recertification, battle drills, Army physical fitness test, and weigh-in. We are also at the point of making connections with our replacements, planning for redeployment, and training for year 2011.

Morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) keeps the Soldier's minds preoccupied during down time or time off. The big event for the month was a 5K pheasant opener run, there was a great turnout and

all of the participants received a bright orange hunting shirt with a picture of a pheasant on the back. That morning it felt a little like home as we would gather to hunt birds. We continue the regular MWR events with an emphasis on safety and sportsmanship.

In the last month we had a new addition to the HHB Family, SPC Hauck and wife had a new baby; the mother and son are doing well. Congratulations to them and we were happy to get SPC Hauck home on R&R for the special occasion.

I want to thank the families and friends for the support that has been given to us while we serve our great nation!





S2 Intelligence CW3 Bob Steadman

The Military Intelligence section (S2) is not a large or often heard of section but plays an integral part of any exercise or deployment by providing critical and often classified information about the enemy's plans as well as operations and capabilities. During our daily operations we collect information from many sources to include the internet, the SIPR net (a classified internet), Humint (human intelligence), as well as many other methods, and compile and analyze all of the information and advise the Battalion Commander on the greatest perceived threats in the area.

During our normal weekly operations in Kuwait we work hand in hand with our Naval counterpart the N2 (we even share office space) in the exchange of information and analyzing Intel. We prepare briefs on the threats in the local area, as well as the threats from the other parts of the world that may affect us in our operations in Kuwait. The S2 section also meets with the other Intel sections in Kuwait on a regular basis at the Kuwait Embassy to exchange ideas and observations with other Intel professionals within the country.

The S2 section currently is

made up of two personnel. The Intel analyst, Sergeant Justin Pohlen originally from the Minnesota National Guard has served as a combat engineer for six years and the last year as an Intelligence Analyst. He has been deployed to Iraq once before in August 2006 to No-

one fashion or another. He enlisted as a Cannon Crew Member in 1988 and has held almost every position in the battery level as an officer as well as most staff officer positions. CW3 Steadman is finding this deployment to be challenging as well as a great opportunity to learn about the Intel world.

It is hard to believe that we have served four months already with only a few more to go! Over the past months we have been very busy compiling and analyzing the information left from the 1-487th FA (the unit we replaced) as

well as the information we have collected since our arrival and are trying to find trends in this information to help us understand and predict what may happen next in this world 7000 miles from home. We are glad to do this job we have been asked to do so we can return home in a few months to the country and the families we defend and love!



SGT Justin Pohlen and his wife Samantha with their new son Griffin Leo Pohlen.

ember 2007, and enjoyed his time so much that he volunteered to join the 1-147th FA's over-seas. Sergeant Pohlen and his wife Samantha Pohlen had their first child on August 31, 2009. Griffin Leo Pohlen was delivered at 1:30 a.m. weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz. and 22 ¾ inches tall!! The Intel Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Steadman has been in the South Dakota Army National Guard for over twenty one years. This is his first deployment. He has spent his entire career in the 1/147FA in



DAKOTA STEEL Rain





S6 Signal ILT Bracken Robinson

The S6 (communications) section is in charge of all communication for the Battalion. We make sure that all the Soldiers can communicate with other Soldiers and with their families back home. The S6 section spends a good portion of time ensuring that Soldiers can do their day to day operations with the assistance of computers. The section ensures that all security measures are met. This allows the 1/147th Battalion to share sensitive information with other members of the Department of Defense. The section also ensures that our Soldiers have the most up to date and most appropriate software & hardware available.



L to R: ILT Robinson, SPC Hauck, MSG Ragels, and SPC Peters

The most important aspect of this section's duty is to provide secure communication between the Soldier and their leadership. For our current mission Soldiers need to be able to communicate with their leader in order to get up to the

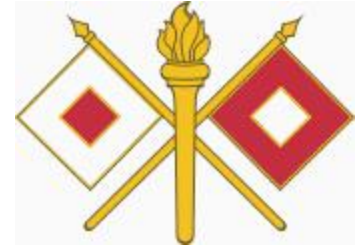
very similar to what you see in the war movies. This type of radio is where most of the secure communication happens. The second type of radio we utilize is very similar to the hand held walkie talkies that are used every day in the civilian world.

The S6 supports a variety of different types of voice communication. One type of communication is

very similar to what you see in the war movies. This type of radio is where most of the secure communication happens. The second type of radio we utilize is very similar to the hand held walkie talkies that are used every day in the civilian world.

The S6 responsibility that applies to every Soldier's life is to provide internet communication for personnel life. The section is responsible for ensuring that Soldiers have the chance to purchase reliable, low cost Internet. In doing this, we make it possible for Fathers to be home for supper, we allow for

Grandma's to send e-cards, and we allow family and friends to talk about the big Sunday game! We allow for the 1/147th to



serve our country and protect what our fore fathers have built. Please keep the Soldiers and families of the 1/147th in your thoughts and prayers, and remember that we'll be home soon.

Alpha Commander CPT Collin Enstad

Greetings from Kuwait Naval Base, As many of you are aware, we have just passed the half way point of our deployment. The soldiers are very excited to have completed the first half and will without doubt approach the second half with the same tenacity. During the first half of the deployment A Battery has searched approximately 90,000 TCN (Third Country Nationals) workers and 33,000 vehicles entering Kuwait Naval Base. When it comes to completing the mission not much has changed, we are still manning our positions 24 hours a day 7

days a week. The weather has been changing for the better. We received a small amount of rain last week. It was a refreshing sight to see clouds in the sky. The high temperature has dropped below 100 degrees with the start of the rainy season. The soldiers have been busy with MWR (Moral Wellness and Welfare), in which they have participated in a football, dodge ball, and volleyball tournament and 5K run on Pheasant opener. A Battery won the flag football tournament when they handily defeated the HHB team. There was also a soccer tournament which has been played by the

soldiers of A Battery. During the soccer games three players stood out and were noticed by the 1st TSC coach. The coach invited A Battery soldiers SPC Brian Becker and PFC Jasper Pray to play on the 1st TSC team. They traveled to a Kuwait National Guard Post and played the Kuwait National Guard team. After the game they experienced a meal with ethnic Kuwait food. Over Halloween, there was a Haunted Casino, many soldiers dressed up and played casino games to trade chips for prizes. Base sustenance did an outstanding job making a craps and roulette table for the casino

night. Many soldiers have visited home on their two week R&R (Rest and Relaxation) Leave to spend time with family and friends. Recently the Kuwaitis hosted the Gulf Coast Conference. This is the first time in 9 years that the Kuwaitis have hosted the popular conference. That being said, there are a lot of new faces and countries being represented at Kuwait Naval Base. As always we appreciate the support we receive from home, and we will see you all soon.





Alpha Battery 2nd Platoon

Greetings from the overnight shift (2nd Platoon)!!!

We are approaching our 4 month anniversary of being in the Kuwaiti theater, and operations have been running as

smooth as they were since our first day on the job. Second platoon members would like to think that we lucked out with our shift times, which

run from 2300-0700 hours. Temperatures during our shift range from the mid-60's to upper 80's. We miss out on the hot parts of the day over here and we all enjoy that luxury.

Our operations and day to day duties are no different than our other two shifts that work

ers and 70 vehicles coming on base in that short time span prior to us coming off shift. Drills are conducted on a random basis to test our platoon for responses to certain scenarios that may occur. I am proud to say, our Soldiers are exceeding the standards. I credit our Sergeants for their preparation and communication in building their teams and grooming the younger Soldiers into leaders. Our Quick Reaction Force (QRF) teams and always on standby to respond to any incidents that may occur, but for the most part, they are busy searching convoys that enter the base and conducting perimeter patrols. Tower duty consists of keeping a watchful eye on the base perimeter. We also man a few posts here on Camp Patriot checking ID's and enforcing camp policies. Our platoon has been doing an extraordinary job of staying motivated and conducting their work in the utmost professional manner. I think I speak for all the leadership of the Battalion in saying 2nd Platoon (and Alpha Battery) soldiers set the standard in professionalism for the U.S. Army. We are proud of them.

When we come off shift, we all have our routines that we are in to. Some of the soldiers use this time to read a book, clean their weapon, or write a letter to loved ones back home. Most of our soldiers choose to stay in shape by lifting weights, running, or swimming at the pool. After taking our Physical Fitness (PT) test this past month, I am proud to say that their efforts are not going unnoticed. Many of our soldiers have either lost weight, or bulked up from lifting. Facebook is our best friend. It's a great way for us to stay in touch with loved ones back home. By the time we come home though, I'm afraid none of us will look at our Facebook accounts for weeks. Skype, MSN messenger, and Yahoo messenger are our other best friends. Using these programs really helps us save

money on phone cards. Some of our soldiers participate in the several MWR events that take place here at Camp Patriot. Activities include Dodge ball, Volleyball, Football, and Softball just to name a few. Many of these events and tournaments have been won by several members in the platoon and they are rewarded with medals and trophies.

A few of our soldiers have been on their R and R and have come back refreshed and ready for the home stretch of the deployment. Those that are awaiting their dates are counting down the days until they get to come home to loved ones. Our platoon had a Pool Party this past month. Awards were given out to Soldiers recognized for their actions during the past three months. The Soldier of the Quarter went to SPC Jeremy Johnson of Britton, SD; NCO of the Quarter went to SGT Tony Lonzman of Aberdeen, SD. These awards could've very easily gone to anyone in the platoon as everyone is doing a fantastic job here in Kuwait. As I mentioned, we are on the backside of the deployment as we reached the halfway point this past October. That does nothing but motivate us to continue doing our mission safely so we can all come home to be with our families. The upcoming holidays will be difficult, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. It won't be long until we are walking into the Barnett Center for the deactivation ceremony, which from my past experience, is one of the proudest moments that soldiers and family members will experience. Thanks to all family and friends for your support of the members of 2nd Platoon and Alpha Battery.



Above: NCO of the Quarter SGT Lonzman receives his award for being a model leader in the Platoon. Below: Soldier of the Quarter SPC Jeremy Johnson receives his award for his outstanding work ethic.



SECFOR here at KNB. Some of our duties include manning the Entry Control Point (ECP), which at night is rather slow until about 5 in the morning when everyone comes to work on base. On busy days, our soldiers can search up to 500 work-



Charlie XO ILT Johann Stokes



Hello everyone, I am First Lieutenant Johann Stokes. I am Charlie Battery's Executive Officer (XO). My duties are the day to day operations of the Battery and to act as the Commander in his absence.

Charlie Battery Soldiers have started to take leave and CPT Green is one of those Soldiers. That is why I am writing this article. Our Soldiers that are going on leave are excited about going home. Most are bragging about the number of days until they are home. Those that are coming back are returning refreshed and ready to return to the duty at hand. I have enjoyed talking to those coming back to Kuwait about their time home.

They have a gleam in their eyes and a grin on their faces.

The month of November is the start of the rainy season here in Kuwait. You may start hearing of how it rained. Please keep in mind that back home it would only be considered a misting. If you hear there was a downpour it was probably only a sprinkle, If there was a monsoon, it might of rained. Just as a point of reference the average precipitation for the month of November is 1/2 inch.

In the off hours the Soldiers of Charlie Battery have been taking advantage of all the MVR activities that Camp Arifjan has to offer. There is the movie thea-

ter that plays two current releases daily. There is also a free video rental. The stage has live entertainment in the form of karaoke or a band. The pool is almost as popular as the gym. My favorite has been the 5k fun runs / walks. Finally, there is a softball league in which Voo Doo has a record of 5 and 1, and are developing quite a following.

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone for bearing with me in my first attempt at journalism. I would also like to assure you that the regular columnist will be returning soon. Thank you all once again and God-speed.

ILT Johann Stokes

Charlie 2nd Platoon

Army, Coast Guard and Navy Fully Integrate as a Force Protection Team

Sea Port of Debarkation, Kuwait: Second Platoon of Charlie Battery, First Battalion, 147th Field Artillery based out of Yankton, SD is integrating their mission with the Coast Guard and Navy at the Sea Port of Deportation (SPOD) in Kuwait. When the South Dakota National Guard second Platoon arrived at the SPOD in July, the Army manned all entry control points (ECP's) on the land side of the port and the Coast Guard and Navy manned the pier side ECP's. Platoon Sergeant First Class Adam Haas and his Platoon Leader Second Lieutenant Ben Abbey were entertained with the idea of integrating all points and Quick Reaction Force (QRF) patrols with a combination of Army, Coast Guard and Navy personnel.

The two leaders started that integration in September of this year and have had great success with the mission. "This all came about because Lieutenant Junior Grade Murray Archam-

bault, of the US Coast Guard, asked if we could let the Coast Guard run in the QRF trucks." The Coast Guard Sailors were trained at Ft. Dix, NJ by the Army and that training allowed them to be Army Humvee and machine gun qualified prior to arriving in country. "This training made their integration into the QRF seamless," stated Sergeant Haas.

Once this level of assimilation was established, SFC Haas and 2LT Abbey started talking about how this left the Navy out of the mix. "We talked to the leadership for the Coast Guard and Navy and came to the agreement that we would try to exchange four positions a day. We have been doing this for over a month and have received very good

reviews from the Soldiers and Sailors" Haas said. The Soldiers and Sailors like the integration because it allows them to see how the whole SPOD Force Protection operates. Soldiers can see what all happens on the pier side and Sailors get to see what the QRF and land side duties entail. The biggest bonus heard by leadership is that Soldiers and Sailors get to meet and work with members from other services while learning more about how the other military forces operate.



The Army, Coast Guard and Navy Fully Integrate as a Force Protection at the Sea Port of Debarkation in Kuwait as a South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier searches a Semi-tractor trailer while his United States Coast Guard Reserve Sailor counterpart finishes a cab inspection prior to allowing the truck access to the Kuwaiti port.



Army Ten-Miler: Kuwaiti Style South Dakota National Guard Runners Take 2nd Place

Camp Buehring, Kuwait: On October 4, 2009 the United States Army put on the largest 10-miler race in the country with over 30,000 participants in Washington, DC. On that same day in Kuwait, members of the deployed Charlie Battery, First Battalion, 147th Field Artillery from the South Dakota Army National Guard participated in the Army 10-miler race of their own at a U.S. base.

Five members of Charlie Battery participated in the race with two Soldiers placing in their respective age divisions. SGT Dan Murtha placed second overall in the male, under 30 year old division and Staff Sergeant Jeremy Brady placed 2nd overall in the male, 30 to 39 year old division.

Military and civilians were allowed to be competitors of this road race. Eight hundred battled on this Sunday morning adventure which started at 0600 hours. The course, which resembled a figure eight, was run on about 40% paved roads with the other 60% being a rocky trail composed of sand and gravel. SSG Jeremy Brady, who has competed in two marathons back in the states said, "I had three goals: finish, have a time between 80 and 90 minutes and keep a Battalion runner known for his distance running in my sights." SSG Brady finished with a time of 72 minutes, 15 seconds for his overall top 15 finish. He also passed his pacer at the eight mile mark. Brady, who ran the 10-miler on his birthday stated, "Running ten miles is all mental and if a Soldier can run five miles he can run ten."

Charlie Battery's other overall top 15 finisher was SGT Dan Murtha. The SGT was a former Augustana College runner who has competed in numerous 10 K road races and even a half marathon. Murtha ran the 10-miler on that hot, windy Sunday morn-

ing in a time of 69 minutes. "I was impressed with the way everyone from Charlie Battery ran. I can't believe how well they all did" Murtha exclaimed. SGT Murtha's advice to beginning runners is, "Start slow and before you know it, you will be adding on the miles."

Captain Scott Green, Charlie Battery Commander started running in June of 2008 after a biggest loser competition at his work. He lost nearly 40 lbs and found that his running to lose weight helped him prepare for running in four 5K's so far while deployed. Captain Green says he is not like other runners who run for the high. Green states, "I don't enjoy running, I do it for a healthier lifestyle and for the camaraderie of being and running with others." He hopes that the running catches on with his troops. Green ran the race in 86 minutes after a deal with one of his Soldiers that she would run the 10-miler if he did. Green said, "There are not many people in the world who can say that they ran a 10 mile road race while being deployed and receiving combat pay. I am very proud of my troops for accomplishing this feat"

A former cross country and track distance runner, Specialist April Murray took on the challenge of running the 10-miler with a challenge of her own; a challenge to the Commander to run with her. Murray says, "I feel like I really did something. My only goal was to finish." Murray finished sixth place overall in the woman's, under 30 age group with a time of 89 minutes, 52 seconds. SPC Murray has competed in numerous 5K's and even a one half marathon back home, but never expected to ever run the Army Ten-Miler, especially while being deployed and in the desert. Murray said she got back into running on this deployment to get into shape and it has really motivated her

into competing in 5K's and even this 10-miler. She says her husband, who is a Sailor is excited that she is running again and can't wait to run with her in road races back home in California. Murray's advice to beginners; "Start at least 12 weeks before your race and stick with it. It is all mental!"

Charlie Battery's Executive Officer also competed in the Army 10-Miler at Camp Buehring. First Lieutenant Johann Stokes has competed in five 5K road races while in Kuwait. Stokes, who ran with a sore hip stated, "Sometimes, the way you finish a race is just one foot in front of the other until you are at the finish line." Stokes also stated that the hot, dry, windy weather combined with the rugged course, made this 10-Miler something a little special. He likened it to the saying "Running on the road less traveled." Stokes who finished the Army Road Race in a time of 77 minutes was a runner in his high school and ran while he was in the Marines. He started running again in preparation for this deployment.

All Charlie Battery 10-Miler runners plan on running more road races in the future and plan on encouraging their fellow Soldiers to do the same.



Soldiers and Officers from the South Dakota National Guard unit Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery are shown after participating in the historic Army Ten Mile Run on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Pictured from left to right are: SSG Brady, SGT Murtha, SPC Murray, CPT Green, 1LT Stokes and Coast Guard LTJG Archambault.





COMMANDER
LTC DAVE CHASE

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
CSM GEORGE ARENDS

HEADQUARTERS, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
CPT PATRICK SPRECHER & 1SG KENT THOELKE

ALPHA BATTERY
CPT COLLIN ENSTAD & 1SG TERRY CHING

CHARLIE BATTERY
CPT SCOTT GREEN & 1SG MATT LACROIX

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