

1st Batalion, 147th Field Artillery

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**Battalion Commander
LTC David P. Chase**

.Greetings,

By the time you get this it will be after the holiday season and the relatives should be back home, the kids should be back in school and life should be somewhat back to normal. For us the holiday s came and went much like any other day. As you know we run 24/7 so we do not really have the luxury of taking a holiday as a unit. For me it was kind of strange since it was my first time actually being away from home and family during the holidays. It was also strange experiencing Christmas at 80 degrees, a little different than the snow and extreme cold temps you experienced back home. Something else was missing as well and it took me a while to figure it out. Since Kuwait is predominantly a Muslim country you do not see the marketing here as you do in the US. Imagine going the entire Christmas season without Christmas trees, lights, and all of the store displays that

are so common in the US. In a way it was kind of nice since it reminded you that Christmas is really not about all of those material things that usually come to mind when we think of Christmas. We celebrated Christmas in our own way in a foreign country amongst fellow Soldiers, Sailors, and Guardians without all of that "stuff" and it will probably be one of the most memorable Christmas' I have ever had in its own unique way.

Just before Christmas we had a huge morale builder, our own Major General (MG) Dooohen along with CSM Zimmerman spent a couple of days with us. We were able to show them nearly every aspect of our mission at both KNB and the SPOD. MG Dooohen and CSM Zimmerman also got to see first -hand some of the joint operations we do with the Navy and Coast Guard including a couple of patrol boat rides. MG Dooohen and CSM Zimmerman spent

most of the time talking with soldiers from South Dakota. As an added bonus 2LT Joey Larson was promoted to ILT. MG Dooohen was more than happy to do the honors. The soldiers enjoyed immensely the visit from MG Dooohen and CSM Zimmerman. It was a great boost for morale and comforting to see firsthand the outstanding leadership we have in the great state of South Dakota.

LTC David P. Chase
"Spartan Six"
1/147th FA Commander



**Battalion Commander
LTC David P. Chase**



Chaplain's Corner Chaplain Tom Tedmon



So here we are at the beginning of another new year. This is a time when we reflect on the year past, and consider what we may have done differently and resolve to do better in the upcoming year. I am not personally a big fan of New Year's resolutions; in fact, I have simply resolved not to make any. Although, I suppose that if I have resolved not to make any resolutions, I have already failed on account of the resolution I resolved not to make. I could chase this rabbit around in circles all day, (or all year, for that matter,) but I think you get my point. This resolution has worked out about as well as the ones I have made in past years.

So what really then is the problem with New Year's resolutions? Perhaps Oscar Wilde said it best when he de-

scribed them as "simply checks men draft on banks where they have no account." In other words, we're not really invested in the resolutions we make. I mean really, how sincere can we be about a decision or commitment we make after a night of sleep deprivation and over-indulgence in adult beverages?

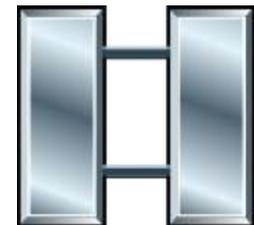
Seriously, I do think there is a fundamental short falling with resolutions—they only deal with a behavior; we resolve either to do or to not do a particular thing. But most of the time we have no real motivation to start or quit that behavior; if we did, we'd have already taken care of it. I think we need to change our approach. I don't think it is particularly helpful to ask "Am I pleased with what I have been doing?" I believe we would be far better served to

ask "Am I pleased with who I have been?" This is the question that really cuts to the heart of the issue. After all, what we do is simply the outward expression of who we are. Changing a behavior won't change who we are, so the approach is pretty much doomed to failure from the start. If, on the other hand, we begin to change who we are, our actions will also necessarily change to reflect who we are becoming. This is a more productive approach, and one far less likely to get derailed by occasional failure.

This is also consistent with the Scriptures that tell that all things are become new, and encourage us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Don't just try to change what you do. Become the person you want to be.



HHB Commander CPT Pat Sprecher



As 2009 comes to an end and 2010 begins, I am honored to command a unit that continues to be commended and praised for a job well done! This is a great reflection of the men and women who have volunteered to serve our great Nation. For many Soldiers, this was their first holiday season away from family

and friends. The support loved ones have shown through cards, letters, care packages, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated. This effort significantly increases the overall morale and motivation of the individual Soldier. I want to thank the Soldiers and families for their sacrifice as they defend our freedom!

I hope the Christmas Spirit and the New Year brought Soldiers and their families Peace, Joy, Hope, and Prosperity!

God Bless,
CPT Sprecher





Battalion Personnel Section-SI CPT Martin Yost

The 147th FA BN SI section is made up of five dedicated Soldiers. While not on deployment, the SI section is made up of more Soldiers but most were sent to the Batteries to support the SECFOR mission. The Soldiers of the SI section are Human Resource Specialists ranging in rank of Sergeant to Master Sergeant with one Officer that is a Captain. Our primary role is personnel support and assistance to all sections and Batteries of the Battalion.

Duties performed by Soldiers in the 42A Administrative Section are;

Processes recommendations for awards and decorations and arranges for awards ceremony. Prepares, updates, and coordinates requests for evaluations. Process requests for promotions and arranges for promotion ceremony, to include promotion declinations, reconsideration for promotions, and arrange for reduction and removal boards for soldiers on local promotion standing lists. Process requests for reductions, transfers, and discharges. Processes requests for identification cards and tags, leaves, and passes, line of duty determination, MILPER data and information management, orders for temporary duty and travel, personnel processing, retention, military and special pay programs, personnel accounting and strength management, transition processing, legal, meal cards, training soldier support file, and unit administration. Process

orders and request for orders, prepares and maintains officer and enlisted personnel records. Prepares and reviews personnel casualty documents. Transfers records and processes personnel for separation and retirement from service. Processes awards and decorations, bars to reenlistment, suspension of favorable personnel actions and section also advises the Commanders, ISGs and Staff on policies re-

Education and Literacy in Watertown. CPT Yost enjoys hunting and ice fishing along with spending time with his family and training their four dogs.

MSG Greg Whitlock is the Senior HR SGT for the Battalion. He has been a member of the SDNG for 34 years and full-time for 24 years. After our return to SD, MSG Whitlock will be leaving the Battalion and trans-

Kristi Koll who is employed with the Department of Social Services as a Foster Parent licensing official. They have two children, SSG Koll enjoys being with his family and spending time camping and being outdoors.

SGT Shane Wilkinson is a Human Resources SGT. He has been a member of the SDNG for eleven years and is a recent full-time hire for the Battalion in Watertown. Heather, his wife, works as an Executive Assistant at Angus-Palm in Watertown, SD. Together they have two sons. SGT Wilkinson graduated from Lake Area Technical Institute in 2008 with an Associate's Degree in Robotics. SGT Brian Voight is a Medical Readiness NCO. He has been a member of the SD NG for and recently moved back to Watertown from Aberdeen to become a full-time employee. SGT Voight is married to Tamara who is working towards her Master's Degree in English at South Dakota State University and the couple has one son.

As the SI for the Battalion I am fortunate to come in contact with many of the Soldiers in the Battalion. All of the Soldiers are proud of their jobs and proud to serve their country and represent SD. SD Soldiers always do their best and you can see how we have improved the Kuwaiti Naval Base and have made it our temporary home.



garding their Soldiers.

Featured below are the primary Soldiers of the SI section; CPT Martin Yost is the BN SI Officer. He has been a member of the SDNG for 24 years and full-time for almost three years. CPT Yost has two children and he is married to Lori who is employed as a Regional Director and GED Examiner for Adult

ferring to the 196th MEB in Sioux Falls. Greg enjoys golf, camping and of course spending time with the family. He has three children and his wife Michelle is a partner of Fireside Campers located east of Watertown.

SSG Adam Koll is an Assistant Senior Resource SGT. He has been a member of the SDNG for the past 15 years and full-time





Alpha Battery 3rd Platoon



Seasons Greetings from 3rd platoon! We have just celebrated Christmas and New Years over here and some lucky soldiers were actually back with family and friends over the holidays. For others at KNB we celebrated Christmas and New Years with a poker and movie night and substituted the Christmas turkey with Papa John's pizza. The support 3rd platoon has received from their families and friends have been outstanding and it shows how important family support is to our mission. As January begins, 3rd platoon will have been working

together for an entire year, starting from our first annual training in Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas to our arrival in Camp Patriot, Kuwait. Since then we have seen a change in our soldiers as they have matured and taken on higher leadership roles. The amount of responsibility these young soldiers and NCO's have taken on is incredible and it shows a lot about the character and abilities of each member of our platoon. Since our platoon works the swing shift we miss most of the MWR events at KNB but we find other ways to occupy our time. Most soldiers

work out, watch movies, or talk to family on Skype. Some soldiers took the initiative to organize their own MWR event consisting of a round robin event of sports ranging from dodgeball, basketball, and volleyball. The overall result was good teamwork with bragging rights until the next event. Some soldiers participated and excelled in other sporting events. SPC Mewes won the first KNB 5K within 12 hours of arriving at KNB. SGT Jensen and SPC Schuelke both participated in the MWR combine bench press putting up 155 pounds 47 and 32 times respectively winning the event for the Alpha Battery KNB cup. Other 3rd platoon members have excelled in flag football and other sporting events bring back some hardware for their work. While at KNB SGT Knudsen and SPC Trautner accepted jobs resulting in a promotion when redeploying back to the states. Every soldier has unique abilities that make 3rd platoon work together and operate so well. As we go into the New Year, 3rd platoon wants to wish everyone safe travel throughout the holidays and we look forward to seeing everyone when we get back.



DAKOTA STEEL
Rain





Alpha Battery

Season's Greetings,

Hope this letter finds you and your family well this holiday season. Good news, by the time this letter is published and reaches you it is going to be 2010, the year we finally come home! It has been a long and trying eight months but the Soldiers are beginning to see the so called light at the end of the tunnel after a weeklong visit from the incoming Battalion Commander.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation has done an outstanding job getting together holiday activities and decorating Camp Patriot.

They have constructed a large Christmas tree and numerous others around the area along with lights and a giant snowman to help foster in the holiday spirit. We have received a large amount of holiday gift packages that the Soldiers have enjoyed tremendously. It is going to take a few extra hours in the gym to work off the weight we have gained from all the cookies and baked goods, but well worth it!

Some recent events that the Soldiers have participated in include the Saint Barbara's Award Ceremony and the Commander's Cup Competition. SFC Mark Buschenfeld was awarded

the Saint Barbara's Award for his contributions and dedication to the Field Artillery over the past 20 years. The ceremony took place on an Army vessel and consisted of a live band and authentic Kuwaiti cuisine. The Commander's Cup Competitions is composed of ten events that have been taking place over the past couple of weeks and are expected to be finished by the end of the month. Currently, A Battery is in first place out of four teams with three events to go. The results will be published in next month's newsletter.





Charlie Battery 3rd Platoon

Hello all and Happy New Year from Charlie Battery, 3rd Platoon! So far, so good for the start of 2010. The best part about the New Year is that we are coming home this year! We ended 2009 in great shape with many of our soldiers getting home on leave and spending the holidays with their family and friends. Those of us that remained here had a fun time with a gift exchange and then a pizza party and games. It wasn't your typical Christmas meal, but it was a nice change from what we usually have and provided a great atmosphere to relax and socialize with our platoon members. We've been working the day shift which has been a nice change from the night shift that we were on for the first few months of the deployment. As a

result of the change to days, we have been able to take advantage of some additional opportunities such as playing in a softball league, going to a movie or just being up and available when things on the camp are open. Our softball team has experienced much success in our league as well as a second place finish in a one pitch tournament between Christmas and New Years! This has been a great event as most of the platoon attends whether playing or not. The one thing we all have in common here is the camaraderie, something that has been a big part of all of our military careers and remains a big part of the reason we all serve. We will be switching up our shift times in the next couple of weeks, so it's time to alter the skype and

phone times just when you thought you figured the best times to talk now. We're getting close to the finish and can't thank you all enough for your support and encouragement! The Floridians should be mobilizing soon and prepping to get here to replace us so we're wishing them all the best and in the meantime will continue to mark one day at a time. It appears that we won't make it back in time for the freezing weather you're experiencing right now however we're thinking warm thoughts for you all! Thanks again for a great 2009 and we look ever so forward to seeing you all very soon in 2010. Sincerely, all of the members of 3rd Platoon!!

p.s. we have the greatest LT in the world!!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

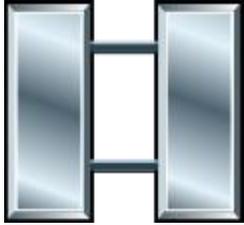


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Charlie Battery CPT Scott Green



As was stated in the last message published on Thanksgiving, which seemed like just a few days ago, is that Christmas will be upon us before we know it. Well here it is and it has snuck up on us faster than we could have imagined. In just a few short days the year 2010 will be upon us.

The packages, cards and letters have been pouring in by the truck full. The Soldiers are passing around more candy and baked goods than anyone had expected. We have personally gotten to eat sugar

cookies, peanut butter cookies, cinnamon bread, rice crispy bars, chex mix, banana bread and the list goes on and on. Everyone shares their little bit of home that they have received from family and friends. We might not be able to be home physically so you have all done so well to send a little bit of home to us.

As we have talked to most Soldiers, plans have been made to call home at a certain time or to get on webcam to see family or watch the kids open presents. It is amazing

the ingenuity that families are using to be able to spend part of Christmas together. The platoons have all planned Christmas parties to either grill out or order pizza to spend time together as the Charlie Battery family that we have become.

Thank you all for your support to the Soldiers of Charlie Battery. Because of you Christmas will be that much more special.

CPT Scott M Green





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