

## 1st Batalion, 147th Field Artillery

### Battalion Commander LTC David P. Chase

#### The Coveted “Golden Dhow”

The traditional fishing boat used in Kuwait for centuries is a hand-made wooden craft called a “Dhow”. (pronounced “DOW”) The Dhow was the craft used by the Kuwaitis throughout their history as the primary fishing and commerce vessel in the Arabian Gulf region.

The Dhow was critical for the early economic success of Kuwait since a large portion of commerce was conducted up and down the Arabian and Persian Gulf. Dhows hauled fresh water, stones for building, and wood for construction. They were also used extensively for commercial fishing and pearl diving. For Centuries Dhows dominated the sea trade of the Persian and Arabian Gulf. Dhows were famous for their simplicity, reliability and speed. They were the mainstay of Kuwaiti mariners for centuries. Dhows were built in several different sizes depending on their purpose. They can range from 12 feet to over 100 feet in length.

The Dhow of centuries past has long since been replaced by modern ships in order to keep pace with the increased demands of today’s society in a global economy. There are still many

old style Dhows working in the Gulf everyday as fishing boats and there are several still active at the SPOD. Because it had such an important role in Kuwait’s past, the Dhow is still seen as a symbol of tradition and honor to paying homage to past generations of Kuwaitis. To this day small model Dhows are given as gifts to show appreciation for a job well done or to recognize a great partnership. If



the one received a “Golden Dhow” it is the much more special. In a ceremony on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, the 1/147<sup>th</sup> FSC Maintenance platoon was presented a “Golden Dhow” By Colonel Waleed the Kuwait Naval Base Services commander. This award was presented to CW3 Thomas Flint and his section because of the outstanding support they provided during the recent tugboat salvage operation in November. Chief Flint and his section provided most of the muscle power and technical

expertise required to complete this daunting task. They worked hand in hand with the US Army 86<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team and the contractors from LOGCAP for four long days until the task was complete. As a token of friendship and in recognition of a job well done, Colonel Waleed prepared a luncheon with traditional Kuwaiti food at the Kuwaiti Officers Club prior to presenting the awards. This was a mile-

stone in its own right since it also represents the first unit award the 147<sup>th</sup> FSC has received since the unit was created. Good job Chief Flint and crew !

As I write this I can look at the calendar and see the light at the end of the tunnel getting a little brighter every day. Time continues to go fast, which is good. We are all looking forward to coming home soon. In the mean time we will stay focused on our mission as our soldiers continue to carry out their mission with professionalism and pride.

Sincerely,

LTC Dave Chase  
“Spartan 6”  
1/147 FA Commanding

February 8, 2010

Volume I, Issue 6

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**Battalion Commander**  
**LTC David P. Chase**



## Chaplain's Corner SPC Gordy Hedges

Chaplain Tedmon is on R & R (much needed) so I will share a few thoughts this month.

We have been busy with a full complement of services here at the Camp Patriot chapel. The chaplain has been ministering in the morning and evening services with a guest speaker (Sr. Chief Maupin) helping every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday night. Chaplain Tedmon has also been teaching on Spiritual Disciplines and currently doing a series on the 7 Revelation churches. I did a 15 week study on Psalm 91 (the soldier's Psalm) and presently am doing a study in Philippians and Ephesians.

These all have been exciting and encouraging to us and to the service members that attend. Our goal is to avail ourselves to all service members here to accommodate them in worship and study.

We just finished another TCN (third world country nationals) drive. We collected items such as food, clothing and toiletries to give to them and do what we can to bless their lives. We have so much and they have so little. They were excited and grateful for what we brought to them. We were able to hand out 190 bags, 70#s of linen, 80 Red

Cross bags, and other assorted items. Wow! It was bigger than the last drive we did in July. We also are sitting on a huge mountain of toys (most sent from SD) and we'll be distributing those toward the end of January. THANK YOU to all who sent items. It truly is overwhelming. We are definitely seeing light at the end of the tunnel. We will stay focused, of course, and finish the mission. We thank you for all the encouragement and prayers. It does not go unnoticed. Blessings on all!!  
SPC Gordy Hedges



## HHB First Sergeant ISG Kent Thaelke

Happy New Year. I hope that your new year will be filled with health, happiness and prosperity. For all of us here, 2010 will be a year to remember, it's the year we came home!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day came and went. For many, this was the first time being away from friends and family. As we checked the weather back home and heard from our families we learned that like us, most of our families also spent their Christmas without family due to the winter weather and hazardous driving

conditions. We felt their pain! R&R will be completed soon with only one more group to travel home. Everyone who wanted to go home will have made it home during their deployment. Four Soldiers also were able to take a trip to Qatar for a four day pass.

Soldiers continue to stay safe and healthy and leaders at all levels put much effort into ensuring that everyone concentrates on the mission. We are close enough now to our redeployment date to, as Skip would

say, "smell the barn". That's when many accidents occur as Soldiers relax and forget the simple, routine things that keep everyone safe. We need to keep reminding ourselves and each other to think safety at all times. We are way too close to going home to let anything happen now! We need to make sure that we do everything we can to ensure that everyone makes it home safe and whole!

ISG Kent Thaelke



# No More Mail After February 15, 2010



# DAKOTA STEEL Rain







## Combat Medics CPT Sean Kenny, PA

The combat medical section of the 147<sup>th</sup> FA has had a long and illustrious history. Its members have gone on to become artillery officers as well as janitors and doctors. The medical section has supported Global War on Terrorism missions since 2003 and continues to serve with distinction. This deployment has been no different.

The medics started their training in March at Fort McCoy, WI ranging from 2 weeks to 3 weeks in length for recertification of their EMT licenses. In October of 2009 they started the recertification of combat lifesaver skills for all non-medical skilled soldiers in the battalion. They taught classes ranging from I.V. skills, patient assessment, opening an airway, applying tourniquets; as well as other lifesaving

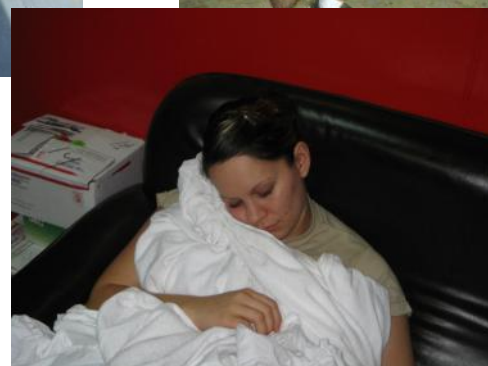
measures. October was also when we started to receive and give the influenza vaccine. Medics of the battalion assisted in giving over 350 influenza vaccines in the span of 1 week. In November the medics assisted in giving over 300 anthrax vaccinations and over 350 H1N1 vaccines. The medics have also had missions with their units serving as security forces ranging from entry control points to searching vehicles. We have had two medics, SGT Bob Godes and SPC Joshua Gripentrog who went into Iraq to assist the Army Divers on two missions. It was long hard work, but a nice change of pace for them and also gave them exposure to a different mission they might not have had the opportunity to experience. Some medics have also been filling in for other units on

convoy missions into Iraq, although not often most have made the trip north of here at least one time since being in Kuwait. SPC Guy Arnold and SPC Donnie O'Neil recently supported the Marines for their qualification ranges and had the opportunity to fire different weapons themselves while serving as medical support. In the near future the medics themselves will begin classes once again here in Kuwait for recertification hours for their EMT licenses and SGT Megan McClintock will also be going onto Warrior Leader Class.

The Alpha medics are SPC Guy "Dr Zaius" Arnold, SPC Jarid "Sloppy" Rudebusch, and are lead by SGT Dana "Piggy" Stockland.

Serving with Charlie are SPC Justin "the Killer Whale" Chanku, SPC Donald "Happy" Oneill, and are lead by SGT Robert "Festus" Godes. One of the HHB medics is SPC Joshua "the Trogg" Gripentrog who is the medic for the ARF, or area reaction force. The remaining HHB medics are assigned to the Battalion Aid Station. These medics are SGT Megan "Flower" McClintock and SSG Chad Stockland.

They have all done an outstanding job this deployment and are as anxious to come home as you are to have them home.



Left: SPC Justin Chanku preparing for a mission.

Above: SPC Guy Arnold sniper training with the Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Top Right: SGT Dana Stockland enjoying some softball.

Bottom Right: SGT Megan McClintock visiting Candy Mountain once again.



# DAKOTA STEEL Rain





## Alpha Battery Headquarters Platoon

Hello from Kuwait Naval base. After nearly nine months on active duty the headquarters

to clear their inspections. SSG Tyler and his team have worked day and night to make sure Sol-

the month for her hard work; however this award could have gone to many others for their dedication that they put into their jobs.

While this group works different hours and sleeps in 5 different buildings they are always making sure there lowest soldier gets all information that the battery leadership puts out. Even during their time off they spend time hanging out together. Many of them like to watch movies, play cards or participate in the many MWR (moral wellness and recreation) activities here on KNB.

Now that the holidays are done many of our Soldiers are counting down the days to be with their loved ones. SPC Lindner became a proud father of his first son in November and was able to be home for the birth. He is getting excited to go home and hold him and I am sure his wife will be happy to let him get up in the middle of the night to take care of him.

SPC Boettcher got married shortly before we were mobilized so he is also counting down the days till he gets back to his new wife. Sgt Sundling recently got engaged to his girlfriend, so he is busy planning a wedding. If it weren't for the people back home we would not be able to accomplish our mission here.

Best Regards,

SSG Joshua Price

**No  
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FEB 15**



platoon has become a very close knit team. At the end of the day, the headquarters platoon is in charge of all the Supplies, an Admin Cell and a 24 hour Arms Room. They spend their day taking care of soldiers, which could include cleaning their weapon, ordering supplies and doing all administrative paperwork. There is never a problem that someone in headquarters will not fight to fix. While this platoon is much smaller than any other, with only 13 soldiers including the three highest ranking battery leadership, they need to always be thinking ahead.

SSG Tyler is in charge of Supply and the Arms Room and has worked countless hours to get things ready to go home. He has already ordered the connexs for the equipment and started to work with Customs to be able

diers have all the gear they need to perform their mission.

SGT Sundling was recently promoted and became the Arms Room NCOIC. He has trained 4 other Soldiers while continuing to running a 24 hour operation. His Soldiers have become very proficient in weapon maintenance and troubleshooting.

SFC Wiley and his team work all the R&R paperwork, awards, pay issues and all the soldiers' files. This team has worked countless hours to make sure there is never a Soldier that is not taken care of. SGT Adams has been working to get everyone's pack-ets ready to go home while continuing to do her daily job. She has stepped up and has proven time and time again that she is irreplaceable in the Admin Cell. I am proud to say that SGT Adams won the battery NCO of



**DAKOTA STEEL  
Rain**







## Alpha Battery First Sergeant ISG Terry Ching

A belated Happy New Year from A Battery! As 2010 begins our duties on KNB and Camp Patriot have remained the same. Our main focus is enforcing camp policies; with new units arriving all the time and changes to the rules from above, we have kept busy to say the least. Questions always arise as to why the policies are emplaced. Through good communication with all parties involved the importance of the rules are understood and followed, with only an occasional reminder needed.

Camp Patriot MWR sponsored a 7v7 flag football tournament which included six teams from the Army, Navy and Coast Guard units on the base. With some team members absent due to R&R rotations to other issues and fierce competition from other teams, the chances of a "three peat" seemed slim for our team. But in the end Alpha Battery once again stood alone as champions. With a few bumps and bruises the team is very proud of its dominance on the football field. Another MWR event the battery competed in recently was the Commanders Cup competition. This was a series of events held throughout the month of December with points awarded in each event for first, second, third or fourth place. The overall winner decided by the total points. The Alpha Athletes or "AA Team" won first in many events with the overall lead changing many times throughout

the month. Overall first place would be decided in the last event. Unfortunately a second place finish in the last two events resulted in the "AA" team falling short of the championship by just two points. There were many soldiers who helped the team by cheering them on or covering for a team member who would have been on shift. A softball tournament is next up for MWR Activities and the battery looks forward to competing in this and continuing our dominance in sporting events on base.

The next few weeks are going to be exciting and busy with packing boxes and duffle bags, then going through the customs inspection. And as always we will have countless meetings and briefings to attend. Once that is complete we can start to pack the shipping containers for their return trip back to South Dakota. It is almost as though we have finally mastered our new duties and now we have to put everything away and go home. Our biggest and probably our favorite obstacle in the near future will be to bring our replacement unit up to speed on the how's and why's of our duties. The duties they are training for and are ready to accept.

As we near the end of the deployment it is fascinating to reflect on the events of this past year. After the first few drills we were a rough crew but

by spending some time getting to know each other through work and play we have become a strong, dedicated, cohesive group of men and women. There are many tales to tell and each of us will have our own version making the tales more colorful. From preparing to deploy in South Dakota and Arkansas, to mobilizing in Texas and finally calling KNB home for this short time each of us has faced a wide variety of emotions ranging from highlights we will never forget to lows we wish to soon move away from. Through these events we have learned one thing this past year and that is we can depend on each other regardless of the situation. Heading into these last months of deployment we will continue to rely on each other every day. At times our individual focus may waiver towards home, family and friends, but as a whole we remind each other that we still have to ensure the safety of everyone on KNB. And last but certainly not least we want to extend a special "THANK YOU!" to everyone at home who has supported our mission with unwavering dedication. Words cannot express how much easier that dedication has made our jobs and this deployment.



**No Mail After 15 February 2010.....Thank You!!!!**





## Charlie Battery Headquarters Platoon

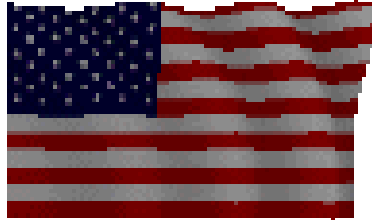
Hello from HQ's Platoon - Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. It is hard to believe that 2010 is here. It has been the year we all have been waiting for, to return home again to our loved ones and families.

We are now starting our seventh month in Kuwait and everyone here is getting anxious to start wrapping it up and slowly waiting for our replacements.

The PLT (all 14 of us) are staying very busy with many different types of job assigned to HQ's such as: 24 hr Vault Duty, Supply, Admin, Operations, along with ISG, Commander and Executive Officer duties.

There are not too many dull moments in the Battery TOC

(Tactical Operation Center) as we work very close together every day all day, (you can only imagine).



We also stay busy with the many activities offered here at Camp Arifjan, Zone 6 where we live in Pre Cast Buildings (PCB's). They offer a nice PX, MWR events, fast food court is available, and a 24 hr Gym where we spend a lot

of off duty time.

All of us here from the HQ's PLT would like to thank all our families and friends for the excellent support you have given us all year long while in Kuwait. It won't be long now and we will all be together again at the welcome home ceremony in Yankton.

One thing for sure is, when it is all said and done, we will all have met new friends and have a new C-Btry family for life. If I had to do it all over again I wouldn't change a thing. God Bless C-Btry and all our Families.....See you soon!!



## Command Sergeant Major CSM George Arends

Soldiers and Families,  
February 1, 2010

January has been a busy month with our mission; we also are starting the planning process for our re-deployment which energizes and brings smiles to all involved. Something that is being worked on is all of the awards that will be presented to the Soldiers of the Battalion. I can't express how proud I am of all that you have accomplished while reading through each award.

You truly are America's finest and have made a direct impact against the war on terror. I accredit a lot of the unit's dedication to duty and diligent work ethics to our mid-western upbringing and moral beliefs...so for all the mom and dad's reading this letter, job well done!!

As stated earlier we are planning our return home but still need to stay focused on the task at hand. We are reaching our last sixty days in country which by all statistics can be the

most dangerous for safety. So for the Soldiers of the 1/147th continue the excellent job you have been doing and for all the Families back home keep up the encouragement until we reach the finish line back in good ole South Dakota.

To all a prosperous 2010,  
CSM Arends



**Battalion CSM  
George Arends**

**[www.dakotasteelrain.com](http://www.dakotasteelrain.com)**



# DAKOTA STEEL Rain







## Charlie Battery First Sergeant ISG Matt Lacroix



Time seems to be going by fast. It seems liked yesterday, when I wrote about the seasons, leave just began, and football.

Now, the football season has come to end, the last leave cycle is here, and winter season, here, is over.

Everyone here knows the end of the deployment is coming to close. The first indication was the replacing unit arrived at their mobilization site at the beginning of January, a very comforting feeling for the Soldiers.



With that, the planning process has begun to prepare Charlie Battery to return back to the States. As every day has passed in January the excitement in the Soldiers faces grows.

Some have started counting down the approximate days to their return. Along with this process, rumors start circulating from Soldiers and home with dates. To control the rumors, nothing is set in stone and when information is released, the Soldiers and Family Support will be informed.

As for mailing packages, we have informed everyone to please stop sending mail by 01 March. That way we can ensure all packages would arrive before we leave and we can close our accounts.

Please let everyone know back home, that Charlie Battery really appreciates all their support over Christmas Holidays.



147th Forward Support Company receives their first official award as a unit. They were recognized for their efforts on removing a sunken Kuwaiti tug boat on the shore of Kuwait Naval Base. Presenting the award to CW3 Tom Flint is Colonel Waleed Al Bader of Kuwait Navy Base Services. They are joined by LTC Dave Chase.



# DAKOTA STEEL Rain





## Battalion Maintenance CW3 Tom Flint



Last July the 147th FSC Maintenance Section rolled into Kuwait Naval Base and gave the SECFOR Motor Pool an "Extreme Makeover" and a new chance at high readiness rates.



The weather in July was severe, the dirt and dust blew through the tattered maintenance bays. Electrical problems caused safety hazards and equipment problems. As the year progressed and the weather cooled the rains came causing the tattered tents to leak and the area to flood.

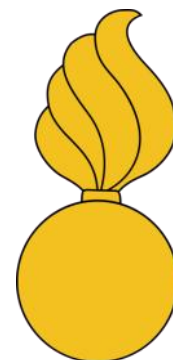
Five months after the maintenance section arrived in Kuwait; the weather had cooled and the materials were gathered to do a motor pool make-

over. The old tents were removed and new tents were erected. The faulty wiring was replaced with a new safe power grid.

The 147th FSC Maintenance section did most of the work, but could not have completed the project without some outside help. The Area Reaction Force (ARF) crew assisted with man power. The Mayor Cell provided contracting support, and materials. The FMS support shop fabricated new aluminum ends for each tent.

"For the last six months we worked in a shop with broken windows and a leaky roof. The tents were in terrible shape", said SSG Wacholz.

The new tents along with other improvements will make the work environment safer and more comfortable for many years to come.





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