



DAKOTA STEEL Rain



1st Batalion, 147th Field Artillery

October 1, 2009

BATTALION COMMANDER

Greetings from South West Asia,

It is hard to believe another month has passed already since our last newsletter as I had mentioned keeping busy has really helped the time pass quickly. Speaking of busy this will put the work our soldiers are doing in perspective. As you know we have a huge security mission covering two critical facilities in our area of responsibility. Part of keeping those facilities safe involves individual searches of civilian workers, contractors, and military personnel as they enter and exit our facilities. The numbers of personnel that our soldiers search is mind boggling. Since we have taken over this mission our soldiers have searched roughly the equivalent of the population of Sioux Falls! Think of that - how long would it take to search every man, woman and child in the city of Sioux Falls that would be a daunting task. For the soldiers of the 147th it's just another day at the office.

Personnel searches are only part of the equation, vehicle searches are the larger and more difficult part of this mission. Nearly every vehicle that enters our two facilities has to be searched both inside and out, and our soldiers are experts. The number of vehicles searched so far is about equal to half the population of Sioux Falls. Given that amount of vehicles if you lined them bumper to bumper it that line would be roughly 180 miles long! On top of that we have perimeter security Quick Reaction Force and Area reaction force for both facilities, so yes we are busy.

On the plus side the weather is slowly starting to change for the better a few hot humid days in the last few weeks but it is starting to cool down to the low 80's at night. In South Dakota that would be miserable at night but here the low 80's at night seems like fall weather. The nights get a little cooler each week, and the days are only around 100 which is actually pretty nice.

Our leave rotations are in full swing so some of you may have already had the chance to see you loved ones. When our soldiers that return from leave they all say leave was great but just too short. I understand fully how hard it is to say goodbye when they return; it is never easy. Just remember the importance of the job that your loved ones are doing on this deployment and the outstanding manner in which our soldiers perform, and be proud of the service they are giving for our great nation. I am also extremely proud of the job our families are doing at home your hardships and sacrifices are not forgotten by us we all appreciate everything that you do. I have said this many times knowing things are taken care of at home allows us to focus on our job and stay on task, thank you once again. On the bright side just think only six more newsletters until we are home.

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

OIF 9.2 Kuwait

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Executive Officer Major James Linn



“Many of our Soldiers work hand in hand with Kuwaiti Soldiers every day. This gives them the opportunity to learn from each other.”

Marhaba (Hi) from the XO,
As we approach 100 days in theater and almost 50% of our mobilization and deployment complete, I would like to look back at a couple of the many new things we have learned.

Our mission has placed us in a very unique situation in a very unique place. Our Batteries are the only units in Kuwait that live and operate inside Kuwait facilities. In this situation, we have many more challenges than other units that operate in the Kuwait Area of Responsibility. As a direct result of working hand in hand with the Kuwait Military we have a lot of opportunities to learn about their culture.

Many of our Soldiers work hand in hand with Kuwaiti Soldiers every day. This gives them the opportunity to learn from each other. We have learned much about Islam, their religion. As Muslims, they live their lives according to the 5 Pillars of Islam, the term given to the five duties incumbent on every Muslim.

Shahadah is a statement professing monotheism and accepting Mohammad as Allah's messenger. The *shahadah* is a set statement normally recited in Arabic, translated as: "I profess that There is no God but Allah, and Mohammad is the Prophet of Allah."

The second pillar of Islam is **Salat**, the requirement to pray five times a day at fixed times during the day. The times of day to pray are at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and night. Each *salat* is performed facing towards the Kaaba in Mecca. Salat is intended to focus the mind on Allah; it is seen as a personal communication with Allah, expressing gratitude and worship. According to the Qur'an, the benefit of prayer "restrains one from shameful and evil deeds".

Zakat or alms-giving is the practice of charitable giving by Muslims based on accumulated wealth, and is obligatory for all who are able to do so. It is considered to be a personal responsibility for Muslims to ease economic

hardship for others and eliminate inequality. Zakat consists of spending 2.5% of one's wealth for the benefit of the poor or needy, including slaves, debtors and travelers.

Sawm of Ramadan. Ritual fasting is an obligatory act during the month of Ramadan. Muslims must abstain from food, drink, and sexual intercourse from dawn to dusk during this month, and are to be especially mindful of other sins. The fast is meant to allow Muslims to seek nearness to Allah, to express their gratitude to and dependence on him, to atone for their past sins, and to remind them of the needy. During Ramadan, Muslims are also expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam by refraining from violence, anger, envy, greed, lust, harsh language, gossip and to try to get along with people better than normal. In addition, all obscene and irreligious sights and sounds are to be avoided.

The **Hajj** is a pilgrimage that occurs during the Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijjah to the



Prayer call from a Mosque. The call to prayer is sounded 5 times a day.



Five Pillars of Islam (continued from page 2)

holy city of Mecca, and derives from an ancient Arab practice. Every able-bodied Muslim is obliged to make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime if he or she can afford it. When the pilgrim is around 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) from Mecca, he must dress in Ihram clothing, which consists of two white sheets. Both men and women are required to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, as the Hajj is mandatory for both males and females. After a Muslim makes the trip to Mecca, he/she is known as a Haji/Hajja (one who made the pilgrimage to Mecca). The main rituals of the Hajj include walking seven times around the Kaaba, touching the Black Stone, travelling seven times between Mount Safa and Mount Marwah, and symbolically stoning the Devil in Mina.

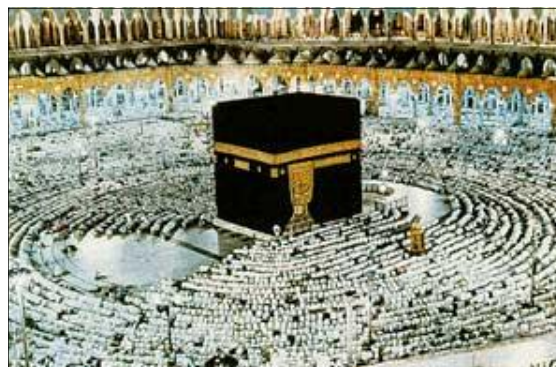
All in all, Islam is a very peaceful religion. Unfortunately, as we see in any religion, there are individuals who misinterpret different verses to rationalize what they want to accomplish. This is the exception not the rule. I hope this enlightened some of you to the fact that no matter where you go, people are human. Here in Kuwait, we have established great relationships with our counterparts and look forward to strengthening them in the future to assist us to completing a successful mission.

This information is presented to you only to understand the people we work with every day and not meant to sway your religious views.

Ma'a Salaama or Good Bye,
Major Jim Linn, Spartan 5
Battalion Executive Officer



Zakat keeps the money flowing in a Society.



Pilgrims praying in the Mosque at Mecca.



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LTC Dave Chase, COL Mike Herman, and MAJ Jim Linn at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. COL Herman was stopped for a layover on his way to Afghanistan. COL Herman also kept a watchful eye on our 4 new Soldiers as they traveled from Fort Benning to Kuwait in early September.



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Tom Tedmon

Toy Drive for Orphanage

Someone once said that "Love is like a booger...you keep picking at it until you get it, then you wonder what to do with it." But in order to know what to do with it, you have to know what it is. That may start by first understanding what love is not.

Love is not a feeling or an emotion, nor is it something that you fall into or out of. It is a conscious decision of purpose and will. It is something you step into or step out of.

This is important to remember as we deal with long-distance relationships forced on us by deployment. Both

the soldier and the

folks at home will necessarily change at least a little during the separation. What happens to the relationship when we are re-united will depend in large measure on our commitment to stick with our decision to love each other. It is important that we remember this during the R&R leave cycles, and especially after redeployment. This is when we begin to really see the changes in each other and react to those changes.

It is important to understand that there will be adjustments required on both ends of the

equation, just as there were when you first became a couple. There were areas where you had to negotiate the relationship and compromise on the differences between you. You have now spent half a year learning to live apart--- a year by the time the battalion gets home. It is only natural that it will take some time to learn again how to live together. The choice to love each other is the glue that will hold the relationship together during that adjustment period, just as it was in the beginning of the relationship. You have done it once, and you can do it again. And if you need help, there is plenty available. Choose to love each other enough to seek that help if necessary and you can come out the far side of this deployment even stronger in your relationship than you were going in.

We are collecting donations of toys to hand out at a local orphanage over the Christmas season. We are looking for new or lightly used toys (please—no junk or happy meal toys) that our soldiers can give out to brighten the holiday season for kids who otherwise go generally unnoticed. You can mail the items to your service member, or directly to the chaplain's office. Just about anything is fine; stuffed animals, action figures, coloring books and crayons, whatever. Please do try to stay away from overtly religious or seasonal things. While our intentions may be honorable, we must be sensitive to the culture of the host nation in these type endeavors. Thank you!



Chaplain Tedmon "models" traditional Arabic men's wear during Kuwaiti National Heritage Day at Camp Patriot.



Headquarters Battery 1SG Kent Thaelke



“Soldiers who went home to see their new babies that had arrived just days before their scheduled R & R flight.”



Greetings HHB, It's been a busy month for all of us in the unit. We recently sent out our first group of Soldiers on R & R. There were lots of smiling faces as we dropped them off at the R & R LSA. AND THEN, lots of long faces as they arrived back to the desert, the heat and the reality that they were back. It was a wonderful experience for everyone though, but especially for two of the Soldiers who went home to see their new babies that had arrived just days before their scheduled R & R flight. Congratulations to SGT Pohlen and SPC Ramberg. Eight more groups of R & R to follow.

Three months on the ground now and everyone knows their jobs inside and out. Soldiers have kept very busy with position improvements of their living quarters and work areas. Those that are assigned to the Area Reaction Force know every road, shortcut, police station, safe zone and hot spot in our area of operation. Soldiers assigned to the Mayor

cell know how to find every generator, porta potty, PCB, dumpster and civilian contractor IN THE DARK. Those that generally remain within the wire have trained on numerous tasks designed to ensure the safety of camp personnel if an incident should occur. And of course the “S” sections put it all together for us. Everyone is taking their jobs VERY seriously and are performing their duties in a professional manor. You can be proud of yourselves!

As Soldiers hear from their loved ones back in the world, they are finding that those they left behind have become very self sufficient. In fact, some like my wife Deb, seem to think they can mow the yard better than I ever could. Hummm. The Family Support Group headed by Sharon Roberts and Tammy Chase have helped where needed but we have been very lucky so far, lots of very strong wives and husbands back at home. Hats off to those who handle the home front, I believe they are just as much

American Patriots as any of us deployed over here!

For us westerners, every day is a new experience as we come in contact with a new and strange culture and different language. As we visit with our Arab hosts and gradually earn their trust and respect as they earn ours, we see that although we are worlds apart in culture and geography, we are very similar as people. We all hope for peace, prosperity and a future for our children and countries. For those of us who defend America's freedom, we long for the day we can live in peace!

Until next month, take care, and please take the opportunity now to tell those special people in your life that you love them, you may not get another chance!

Kent Thaelke, HHB
1SG

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Diver gets “once in a lifetime” experience By LTC Dave Chase

I have been a fairly avid Scuba Diver for about 17 years; I am open water two certified and have around 150 dives logged. (As deep as 145 ft)I have dived in various locations around the world from Mexico, to California, to Lake Superior along with several locations in the mid west. To this point all of my diving has been normal

scuba, I have never had the opportunity to dive with a helmet or any surface supplied air. One of the units on our base is the 86th engineer dive team I have had the opportunity to see their equipment and discuss some of their capabilities. I always ask if the opportunity ever came up to try surface supply diving I would sure like to

try it. Army divers are incredibly disciplined and trained so I wanted the chance to experience this with the best. Last week the 86th did a change of command



“This was a great experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity to dive with this great group of professionals.”

ceremony of course being divers they do it underwater. So just prior to the rehearsal I was given the chance to do a check dive with them in the 15 foot Kuwaiti pool.

Diving with a helmet is more designed for working on the bottom, while walking or staying in one place rather than swimming with fins like normal scuba. As the team helped me prepare for the dive I couldn't believe I was

actually getting this opportunity I was pretty pumped. As I entered the water the first thing you notice is you are definitely top heavy your head wants to go down faster than your feet. Once you make adjustments for this it is pretty straight forward you get on the bottom and walk. The helmet uses a demand regulator so there is no mouth piece to mess with and field of view is

about 5 times better than a mask. The helmet is also equipped with two-way communications so you are in constant contact with the surface and your fellow divers. After about 15 minutes of “down time” sadly my dive was over. This was a great experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity to dive with this great group of professionals.

LTC Chase shown above in the Kuwaiti pool diving with the US Army 86th ENG dive team using a dive helmet with surface supply diving set.



86th Engineer Dive Team passes the guidon during their underwater Change of Command.



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Quiet Professionals

By CW3 Brett Anderson



The phrase "Quiet Professionals" represents the Warrant Officer in today's Army as it has since July 9, 1918, the birthday of the Warrant Corps. Because the

spectrum of Army operations. Warrant Officers are innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, confident war fighters, and develop-

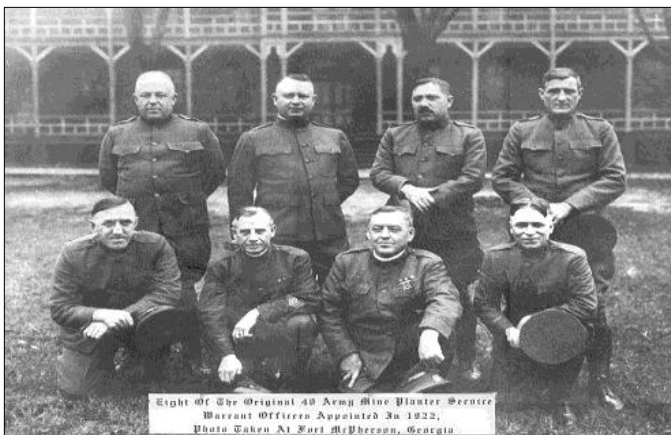
Officer Corps, and making themselves heard.

CW3 Jess Schreurs is serving as the Base Support Operations Officer for the Kuwaiti Naval Base and has 21 years of service in the military. His mission is to maintain and improve the quality of life for all U.S. forces stationed on KNB. Jess supervises a section of 8 soldiers as they provide 24 hour facility mainte-

FA. His mission, while stationed on KNB, is to provide intelligence data for the units here so they are ready to assess any threats facing our area. He supervises 2 Soldiers in the execution of these duties. Bob is an avid runner and a member of the National Guard's Marathon Team.

CW3 Brett Anderson is serving as the Base Sustainment Officer for the Kuwaiti Naval Base and has served the United States military for over 20 years. While assigned to Camp Patriot he supervises a section of 4 Soldiers as they provide logistical support to all United States Armed Forces personnel stationed here. Brett works as an AGR soldier at the USPFO in Rapid City, SD.

WO1 (P) Wes Walker is the 1-147th FA BN Property Book Officer and is assigned to Camp Patriot on KNB. He is responsible to ensure that accountability is maintained for all equipment throughout the Battalion covering several Bases throughout Kuwait. Wes has served in the



Eight Of The Original 40 Army Mine Planter Service Warrant Officers Appointed In 1922, Photo Taken At Fort Myer, Va.

Pictured above are eight original members of the WO Army Mine Planter Service

Warrant officer Corps makes up such a small amount of today's total force, many of our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Guardians don't know what a Warrant Officer is;

"The Army WO is a self-aware and adaptive technical expert, combat leader, trainer, and advisor. Through progressive levels of expertise in assignments, training, and education, the WO administers, manages, maintains, operates, and integrates Army systems and equipment across the full

ers of specialized teams of soldiers. They support a wide range of Army missions throughout their career. Warrant officers in the Army are accessed with specific levels of technical ability. They refine their technical expertise and develop their leadership and management skills through tiered progressive assignment and education."

At Camp Patriot, located on the Kuwaiti Naval Base, five Warrant Officers are continuing the proud tradition of the Warrant

"The Army Warrant Officer is a self-aware and adaptive technical expert, combat leader, trainer, and advisor."

nance support. They plan, monitor & complete projects throughout the camp. Jess works as a fulltime technician for the South Dakota Army National Guard back in Sioux Falls, SD.

CW3 Robert Steadman currently serves as the 1-147th FA S-2 officer and he has over 21 years of service in the United States Military with all of his years being a member of 1st BN 147th



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Left: The Kate Snappers take 2nd place in the Ghost Volleyball Tournament. From L to R: Wade Anderson, Josiah Mueller, Tony Althoff, Tim Koehler, Todd Beynon, and Keith Fitzgerald.

Right: SSG Burt Glover participates the Coast Guard Birthday 5k.



Quiet Professionals (continued)

“Through progressive levels of expertise in assignments, training, and education, the WO administers, manages, maintains, operates, and integrates Army systems and equipment across the full spectrum of Army operations.”



Military since 1998. Mr. Walker is also an AGR in the South Dakota National Guard from Watertown, SD.

CW3 Tom Flint is the 1-147th FA BN Maintenance Technician and is also assigned to Camp Patriot on KNB. Tom has served the Army for 29 years and has the responsibility to keep a Battalion worth of motor vehicles up and running to ensure the Battalion’s mission is accomplished. Tom supervises a section of 9

Soldiers who cover several Bases throughout the area and is the shop foreman for UTES #1 in South Dakota, working fulltime as a technician out of Sioux Falls.

These five Warrant Officers, with over 100 years of experience, are giving their best because that is what they are trained

to do, you may not hear them but the “Quiet Professionals” are there. Serving as part of HHB 1-147th Field Artillery, and pictured below from left to right is CW3 Jess Schreurs, CW3 Robert Steadman, CW3 Brett Anderson, WO1 (P) Wesley Walker, and CW3 Tom Flint.





Alpha Battery 1SG Terry Ching

Hello everyone. It's hard to believe we are only a few weeks from hitting the half-way mark on our one year deployment. As things have settled down we have become more familiar with our duties on KNB and Camp Patriot. The days and weeks blur into your memory and before you know it another month has passed.

You can be very proud of the performance of our Alpha Battery soldiers; their professionalism and excellence is recognized in the entire Kuwaiti Theatre. We are always receiving compliments on how well the Security Force is performing. On every inspection we are told "you are the role model other units need to follow", even though we just got here. A-Battery is on duty 24/7, providing security for KNB and the specific area where we live on Camp Patriot.

We have a 4 member, the "Phantom 4", volley

ball team who won a volley ball tournament a couple of weeks ago. Our 6-member volleyball team, the "Phantom 4" (same team plus 1), won the Ghost Volleyball tournament. This is the same as regular volleyball except they hang a black curtain over the net so one can't see what the opposing team is doing (no spiking or overhand serves are allowed). It is quite an interesting game. There was a 5K fun run called "Run for the Hills" in honor of South Dakota and the Black Hills. There were a total of 143 participants and each one received a T shirt. In October, on the opening day of pheasant season, there will be a 5K Pheasant run to honor the great Soldiers of South Dakota.

SPC Nathan Tarnowski was informed his brother, Mike, was going to be in Camp Virginia and we were able to get

him to see his brother. They had not seen each other for over two years. The smiles say it all.

The first of our soldiers returned from 15 days of R&R. All of them had a great time. They have new stories to share and a renewed energy. It is by far the biggest moral boost during one's deployment. The biggest complaint from all of them was they had to say good-bye to family and friends again, but at the same time they were anxious to get back on duty.

In late September some of the platoons put together a beach pizza party and a pool party for their Platoon members. Pizza, chips, pop, grilled Bratwurst, and salads were served. It was a great moral boost and team building event. The food for the parties was paid for by the unit fund, so thank you to all who helped with that fundraising effort.

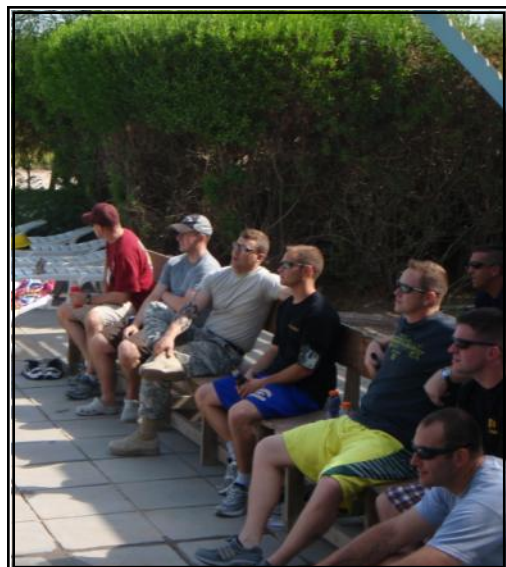
As we get closer to fall and winter the temperature is changing. For this week the daily highs are from 100-105, the lows from 75-80. This is a good thing, but 75 degrees is chilly. The wind still blows and sometimes when it comes from the east it is extremely humid. The heat is almost bearable but when the humidity hits it makes life outside miserable. You can walk 200 feet and your clothing is soaked from sweating. With the change in weather and the dust there are a number of us who get to visit Captain Doc Kenny for some verbal abuse and meds for colds and sinus infection. A visit to Doc will ensure you do not want to get sick again.

1SG Terry Ching



Alpha Battery Fun and Games

Clockwise from Top Left: Tarnowski brothers Nathan (L) and Mike (R), 3rd Platoon Beach Party, 2nd Platoon Pool Party, and Ghost Volleyball Champions "Phantom 4" from left to right, SPC Josh Lunzman, SPC Clint Rainford, SPC Tony Scarborough, SPC Joe Kraft, SFC Tim McCurdy, and SGT Tony Lunzman





Alpha Battery News

Over five years ago Thelma Pickett of Wessington, SD, read an article in a Kansas newspaper about a soldier serving in Iraq who wrote to his mother telling her how cold it could get in the desert. The soldier's mother made and sent him a quilt to stay warm during those chilly nights. This story inspired Pickett to start *Quilts*

for Troops in Wessington. Since its establishment five and a half years ago *Quilts for Troops* has made and given away 618 quilts; some went to cancer patients locally, but the bulk of the quilts have been sent to troops serving in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. Pickett said, "We feel that in a small way we are letting our troops

know how proud we are of them and wish to thank them for their service."

The members of *Quilts for Troops* gather every other week to work on the quilts and enjoy the fellowship the group has generated and to enjoy the accomplishments of something that is dearly important

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"a soldier serving in Iraq who wrote to his mother telling her how cold it could get in the desert. The soldier's mother made and sent him a quilt to stay warm during those chilly nights."

Quilts for Troops

to them. They do not commit to any set number of quilts to be made at each meeting, as the number of quilters present may fluctuate from four to fourteen. When the group began they thought it would last for perhaps six months, but they are still going strong after over five years since the article was first read by Pickett.

The fabric for the quilts and postage for sending them are all donated locally. At first the group mailed the quilts to local soldiers, but with the help of a local chaplain's assistant they received names of other soldiers and began sending out

boxes of quilts to them as well. *Quilts for Troops* sends their products to any soldier, regardless of home state. "We just want them all to enjoy them and hopefully get some comfort knowing we are thinking of them," Pickett said in reference to soldiers on the quilt recipient list.

Recently, six members of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion/147th Field Artillery were the proud recipients of some of the homemade quilts. And as the picture below illustrates, they do enjoy them.

Just as they are proud of the troops, we too are

proud of the selfless devotion *Quilts for Troops* displays towards our deployed soldiers. Thank you, *Quilts for Troops*, for your patriotism and thoughtfulness.

Back Row, Left to Right, SPC Levi Culver, PFC Michael Skinner, PFC Steven Breitag

Kneeling, SPC Clint Rainford, SPC Michael Sundling





Charlie Battery ISG Matt Lacroix

As the fall season begins in South Dakota, the temperature in Kuwait begins to fall. For some back home hearing a high of 107 degrees may seem hot, but it is a relief for the Soldiers here. The days are now comfortable to work in and the evenings are starting to feel cool. Some Soldiers are finding the cooler weather an opportunity to get outside to enjoy a jog. A few have used the change to participate in some local MWR 5K runs. SPC Murray and LT Stokes are prepping for the army 10 mile race happening in October. Running is not the only activity our Soldiers have found time to do. We have had Soldiers finding time to play some softball, basketball, weight lifting competitions, body building competitions and enjoying a Mark Chestnut concert or a comedian show. The Soldiers are finding many ways to spend their after duty hours

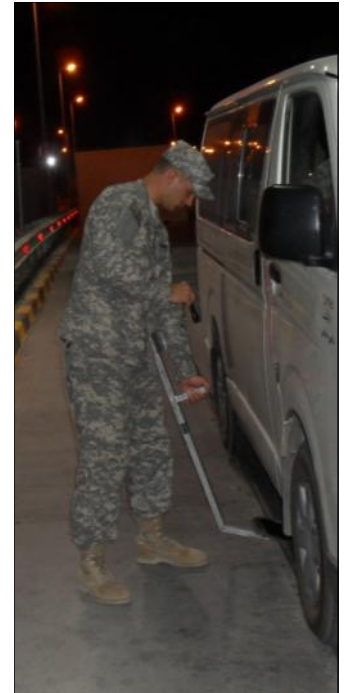
to better themselves both physically and mentally.

Also with the change of season brings Charlie Battery one step closer to coming home. We have just about reached the 6 month mark on this deployment and we have begun sending Soldiers home on leave. Some Families were able to see this first hand, as we sent home 14 Soldiers the beginning of September. We will be sending approximately 14 Soldiers about every 21 days from now until the end of February. The first group has returned from leave with smiles on their faces and the talk of what it was like back home. This also gives the Soldiers another way to judge how fast the time is going.

The last thing about the season change is the start of football. If you go into the barrack on a late Saturday evening early Sunday morning, you will find the college

football fans huddled around a TV or a computer watching their favorite team. You will hear the cheering when their team scores a touch-down, hear the complaining when they are losing, and the bragging rights for some for the rest of the week. For those that were unable to see the college games due to work schedule, you will find them the next evening watching the NFL games.

The fall season has begun and will be gone before we know it. Leaving us with the holiday seasons of winter and when the spring season arrives and the beautiful life it brings, Charlie battery will be returning home to enjoy that season with their families again.



If you go into the barracks on a late Saturday evening early Sunday morning, you will find the college football fans huddled around a TV or a computer watching their favorite team.





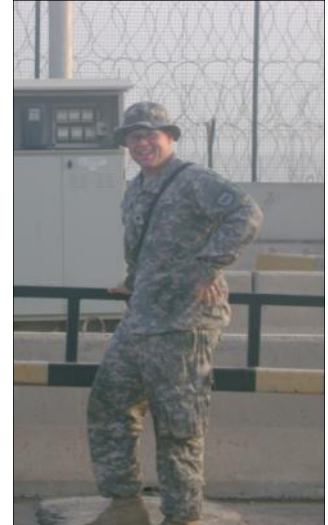
Charlie Battery News

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait: Charlie Battery has been in Kuwait now for three months, one month longer than Fort Hood. The SecFor (security force) mission that the Soldiers have been doing has kept them busy. Soldiers generally spend about 12 hours daily

preparing for and securing Ash Shuaibah Port. This port was recently visited by the United States Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General George Casey, Jr. In his visit to the busiest U.S. military shipping port in the world, General Casey stated that he was

confident in the ability of the military to handle the draw-down of troops in Iraq. General Casey was pleased with the operations and security of the port, which is secured by Charlie Battery.

Charlie Battery Soldiers secure the port 24 hours a day, 7



Charlie Battery Mission Moves Onward

days a week along with a group of Coast Guard and Navy Sailors. They perform duties such as checking the identification of all people entering the port area, searching vehicles, searching personnel entering and ensuring proper authorization for the access. They also provide security oversight to the port and have roving Humvees that keep security within the Port as well as reacting to any problem that comes up. In the last 2 ½ months alone,

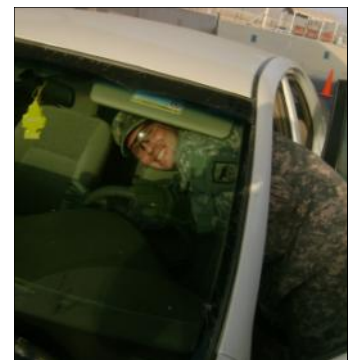
Charlie Battery Soldiers and the Sailors have searched nearly 30,000 vehicles, 57,000 personnel and nearly 1,000 convoys.

The soldiers are supported by the headquarters platoon that supplies them with everything from administrative needs to boots, to guns to Gatorade. It gets pretty hot out there in the Kuwaiti sun with highs in the 130's. The Soldiers have become accustomed to that heat and perform their duties to the highest level

every day. With autumn upon us now, the temperatures in Kuwait are starting to cool down with highs in the 110's and lows in the 80's. With the change in seasons comes a change in winds and humidity. There was almost no humidity during the summer heat (thank God) but the wind changes in the fall and blows from the southeast at times, with 70 – 80 % humidity. The Soldiers still seem to find ways to stay cool and stay motivated.

Soon you will be no-

In the last 2 ½ months alone, Charlie Battery Soldiers and the Sailors have searched nearly 30,000 vehicles, 57,000 personnel and nearly 1,000 convoys.





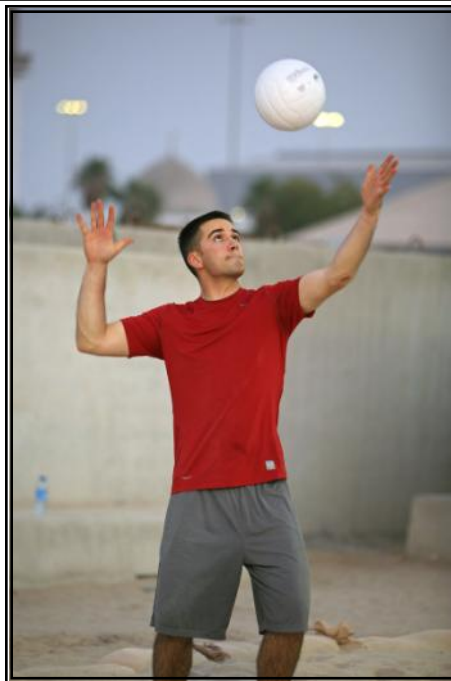
Mission Moves Onward (continued)

ting that your Soldiers will be on mission at different times. This is one way that the leadership tries to keep Soldiers motivated and tries to keep them from becoming complacent. The change in shifts lets the Soldiers work out

in the gym at different time, go to a movie or even eat chow at the Arifjan chowhall. It switches up who they see on duty and the vehicles that come in. With half of the mission complete, the troops are looking forward to the change and to

getting on with the rest of the tour. R&R leave in full swing so expect to see your Soldier soon if you haven't seen them already. Be proud of your Soldiers. Thank you for all of your support.





DAKOTA STEEL Rain





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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 MAJ JAMES LINN

