

The WRANGLER

Volume II Issue 6

Serving the 4th Sustainment Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10

December 15, 2008

A HARD LESSON TO LEARN

Article and Photos by Sgt. John D. Ortiz
4th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs



Sgt. 1st Class Oran J. Spradley, the primary combatives instructor 'rocks' Sgt. Linwood Johnson as he tries to go inside to get one of three clinches during the test-out phase of the Level One Combatives Course.

Bruises, bandaged arms, and ice packs galore; the scene repeated itself over and over in the faces, arms, and legs of Soldiers standing by to go head-to-head with instructors to clinch their level one combatives certification.

Command Sgt. Maj. Erik R.R. Frey, the 4th Sustainment Brigade Command Sergeant Major said the purpose of the Modern Army Combatives Program is to train Soldiers in combative skills and develop a train-the-trainer program.

As part of the Chief of Staff of the Army's initiative to have all Soldiers trained in Level One Combatives, the brigade senior enlisted advisor has taken the lead role in training Wrangler Soldiers.

"The purpose of combatives training is to instill

confidence and fighting skill that can only be gained through engagement with an opponent in a combative situation," said Frey.

Instituting a combatives programs was not without its fair share of obstacles to overcome. Obtaining the right equipment to ensure safety along with finding a home for the program were paramount to the success of the training, said Sgt. 1st Class Oran J. Spradley, the primary combatives instructor for the brigade.

"Command Sergeant Major Frey and I really wanted to make the program available to 4th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers," said Spradley. "We did what we had to do to get it up-and-running."

See LESSON Page 5





Table Of Contents



* A Hard Lesson To Learn	Front Page, 5		
		* Wranglers Conduct Battle Handoff	9
* BTB Commander's Words	3		
		* Wranglers Air Drop Capability	9
* Wrangler Command Team Message	3		
		* Veteran's Day Celebration	10
* BTB CSM's Word	4		
		* Training for the Worst Notification	11
* "I A.M. Strong"	6		
		* Awards and Promotions	12
* Iron Wrangler Competition	6		
		* 6th Battalion Leadership Visits With Korean Air Force At LSA	13
* 533rd CSSB Adopts Travis Middle School	7		
		* 'Lava' starts to roll	14
* Planning For The Holidays	8		

The WRANGLER

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4th Sustainment Brigade Commander
Col. Terence Hermans

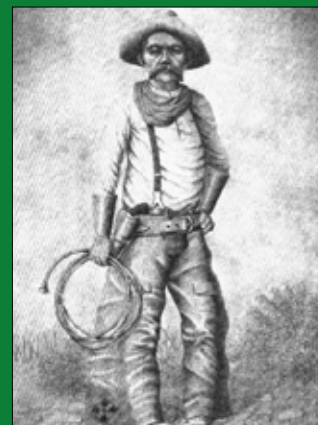
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BTB Commander's Words



Greetings Wolfpack team! We are embarking on our 10th month in our deployment here at Camp Arifjan. Leaders and Soldiers continue to march forward with various brigade task forces and missions.

As we wish 9th Finance Management Company a fond farewell, I like to welcome the 27th Finance Company. They hail from the great state of New York and although they have big shoes to fill, I'm confident they will continue to provide first-class financial services.

Welcome!

The relocation of the Brigade Troops Battalion Forward Tactical Operations Center is now complete and we are now able to provide quicker and more direct guidance and support to the seven Convoy Support Teams positioned throughout Iraq.

To date, our CSTs have supported over 3,700 Combat Logistic Patrols consisting of approximately 71,000 Soldiers and over 111,000 military and civilian transportation and security vehicles. I'm proud of the Soldiers serving at the CSTs as they continue to serve the various units and their convoys.

As the Task Force Wrangler Medic's continue to provide support to weekly convoy missions, they officially opened the doors to the Wrangler Wellness Clinic on November 27. The clinic will provide our Soldiers with metabolic testing and evaluation providing them with scientific data and a clear direction in

proper weight-loss. Since our arrival, over 350 Soldiers have attended the medic's Combat Lifesaver Course.

With Thanksgiving behind us, our Holiday Organizational Committees have been diligently planning and coordinating the battalion's Holiday Organizational Day, scheduled for December 24. Make sure you sign up to play one of the various Sports or Game Tournaments. A big "Thank You" to the Rear Detachment Family Readiness Group for their continued support!

As we enter our last six months of our 15-month deployment, I ask that leaders continue to stress the importance of safety and ensure Soldiers continue at the same level of concentration and focus.



Wolfpack 6,
Lt. Col. Kevin J. Stevens

Wrangler Command Team Message



4th Sustainment Brigade
Commander
Col. Terence Hermans

Looking across the formation, there are numerous individuals making important and lasting contributions to the War Fight. Soldiers, NCOs, Warrant Officers and Officers are all leading the charge in the distribution mission in Iraq. Looking toward the end of 2008, the 4th Sustainment Brigade has introduced new initiatives such as the Wrangler Wellness Center and Level 1 Combatives training program. These programs are unprecedented in a deployed environment and we encourage all to participate. Last, we would like to take this time to wish Happy Holidays to Wranglers spread across three countries, and 12 different locations as well as to our Family and friends back home. Your hard work and dedication truly ensures mission success.

'JUST GET IT DONE'



4th Sustainment Brigade
Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Erik R. R. Frey

BTB CSM's Words



Greetings Warriors and Family
Members of the Wolfpack Battalion,

We have completed our 9th month of deployment and our Soldiers continue to maintain a positive attitude and perform phenomenally. We would like to welcome the 27th Financial Management Company to the Wolfpack Battalion. We recently celebrated Thanksgiving and our Dining Facility Manager and her Soldiers served us a first-rate meal. I know it was a difficult time for many Soldiers being away from home during this time, but the day was a blessed event and we are all thankful for the many blessings we have received during this deployment.

The first Modern Army Combatives Level 1 Certification Program was held from November 26 to December 2 here at Camp Arifjan. A total of 20 Soldiers were qualified on Combatives Level 1 and are now certified to train Soldiers. The following Soldiers were named Top Female and Male Combatants for class 08-01:

SGT Ahrens, Alisha
PFC Ibarra, Ashlee
SPC West, Matthew
SPC Jones, Thomas

NCOERS:

This is still the meat and potatoes for the NCO getting promoted to the next grade. What are quantifiable excellence bullets? What makes an NCO among the best? Remember that quantifiable excellence takes you beyond expectations, and identifies tasks that can only be attained by few!

Promotions:

The SFC Promotion Board convenes on 3 Feb 09 as per MILPER message 08-274 – Congratulations to all who will make it!

Congratulations to 42 “Impact” Players on their recent promotion and/or board selection:

HHC - Renegades

1LT Little, Terez
1LT Tascano, Carlos
CW2 Howard, Christina
SSG Baber, Brandon
SSG Buffalo, Rodney
SSG Cansdale, Cris
SSG Gorham, Eric
SSG Holston, Tamika
SSG Trevino, Richard
SGT Berndt, Ryan
SGT Delafuente, Michael
SGT Fahl, Sara
SGT Fenelous, Minouche
SGT Gonzalez, Armador
SGT Johnson, Linwood
SGT Lopez, Joshua
SGT Lowery, John
SGT Norris, Richard
SGT Ortiz, John
SGT Pilcher, Lenise
SGT Quevedo, Delmi
SGT Sage, Lorena
SGT Schultz, Marilyn

SGT Stout, David
SGT Taylor, Aaron

A CO - Regulators

SSG Hamilton, Gabriel
SSG Dalton, Masai
SGT Mann, Erick
SGT Halleck, Benjamin
SGT Preziosi, Daniel

9th FMC Vanguard

MSG Dulce, Jaime
SSG Barcena, Henry
SSG Heath, Kurt
SGT Emery, Brian
SGT Ladia, Seymzon
SGT Nguyen, Maida
SGT Ramsey, Andrea
SGT Robatham, Robin
SGT Wells, Amanda

Congratulations to SGT Derrick Cropper and SPC Pamela Thomas for winning the Battalion NCO and Soldier of the 1st Quarter Board. The following Warriors will also be tough to beat in their upcoming board appearances:

SGT Choi, Alex – 311th ESC Soldier of the Year Board

SGT Preziosi, Daniel – Brigade NCO of the 1st Quarter Board

SPC Thomas, Pamela – Brigade Soldier of the 1st Quarter Board

BE SAFE, thanks for the valuable service and support that you provide our Soldiers...and have a blessed holiday season!

“Wolfpack 7”
“Attitude Is Everything”

LESSON Continued from Front Page



Maj. Ester M. Morales, the GSO OIC, bites down on a mouth guard before the start of the 4th round of testing out to become Level One certified.

Spradley said that hand-to-hand combat is the main focus of the program, but with additional equipment, from pugil sticks to groin protectors, the combatives tent is stocked with equipment needed to

all night, and return each night happy to be there.”

“Everyone thinks a combatives course is all about getting beat-up for

conduct different types of combatives while ensuring Soldiers have the best protection money can buy.

Realistic training is a core concept of the program with a serious training atmosphere and grueling physical demands that often times leave Soldiers drenched in sweat, sore, and covered in bumps and bruises.

“Even after leaving the tent, Soldiers come back the next night with big smiles on their faces,” he said. “I do not know too many places where you get your butt kicked



Spec. Charles Thomas, a supply specialist with the brigade puts ice on his elbow joint after completing his third round of testing.

a week, but that’s not the truth,” said Spradley, adding the program is designed to produce confident instructors who will take these basic techniques back to their units, and train their Soldiers.

“Hand-to-hand combat training is a fundamental building block for preparing our Soldiers for current and future operations,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Frey. “Wrangler Combative training will provide this critical capability.”

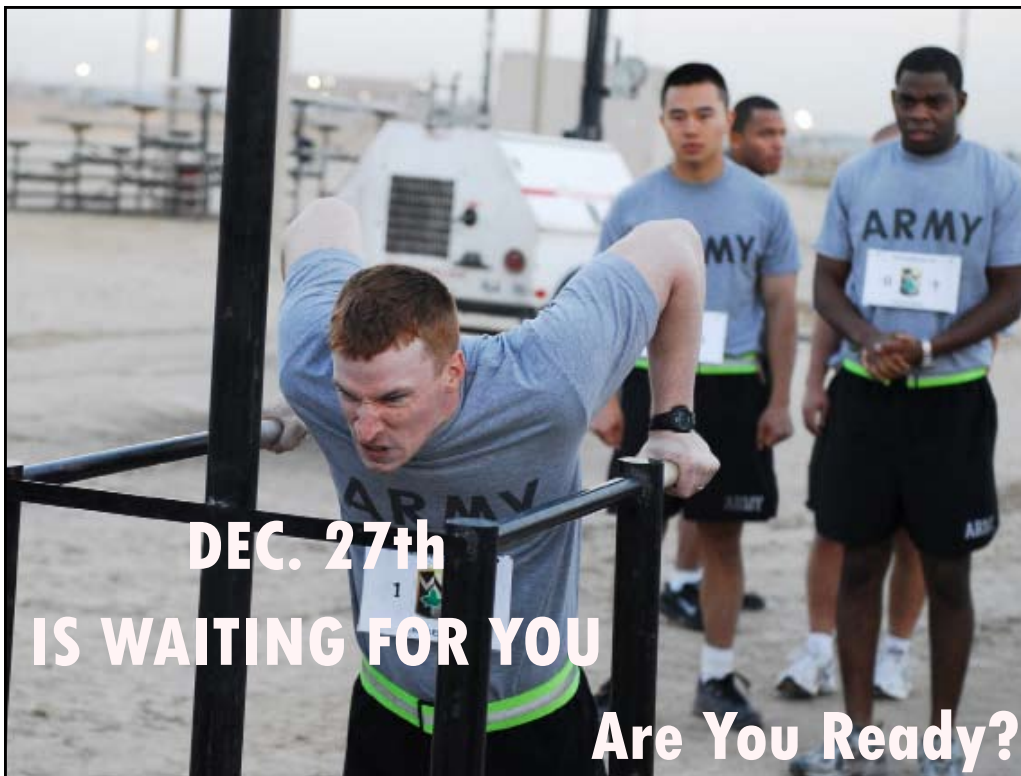
EDITORS NOTE:

The Wrangler Brigade will be training and certifying both Level 1 and 2 of the Modern Army Combatives Program and is currently only for the Wrangler Soldiers and Airmen.

Those interested should contact Sgt. 1st Class Oran Spradley, primary combatives instructor at oran.j.spradley@kuwait.swa.army.mil for additional information and training schedules.



Staff Sgt. Carla Williams, a property book NCO punches Sgt. Alisha Ahrens, as Command Sgt. Maj. Erik R.R. Frey looks on as a referee.



To achieve the Gold Standard in the Iron Wrangler Competition, competitors must perform the following:

- * 270 on the Army Physical Fitness Test, with 90% in each event
- * Perform a minimum of 15 pull-ups and 30 dips

Competitors who achieve the Gold Standard will be awarded the following:

- * An Army Commendation Medal for Physical Excellence
- * The 4th Sustainment Brigade Commander's Coin for Excellence
- * The Famous Wrangler Belt Buckle
- * An Iron Wrangler T-Shirt

**DEC. 27th
IS WAITING FOR YOU**

Are You Ready?

I AM STRONG.

INTERVENE

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I am a warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Assault. I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to engage and keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Assault. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest ... together.

I am strong.

I am ARMY STRONG.

And so are you.

Legacy
Duty
Respect
Selfless Service
Honor
Integrity
Personal Courage
Legacy
Duty
Respect
Selfless Service
Honor
Integrity
Personal Courage

533rd CSSB Adopts Travis Middle School

Article and Photos Courtesy of
533rd Combat Sustainment Battalion

On Nov. 18, the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion adopted Travis Middle School under Principal Mrs. Eddy McNamara.

On behalf of Lt. Col. Gregory Koller and Command Sgt. Maj. Orlando McMurry, currently deployed to Iraq, Master Sgt. Charles Morris, the Rear Detachment Commander for the battalion presented Travis Middle School with the Adopted School Sign.

Travis Middle School is located in Temple, Texas and is part of the Temple ISD system. Six hundred and sixty-eight students are enrolled at Travis Middle, ranging in grade levels from six to eight grade. The faculty, staff and community of Travis Middle are committed to teaching socially and emotionally adjusted students with sound values and good decision making skills.

The 553rd CSSB is proud to become the adopted unit of Travis Middle School. We will strive to provide support for the success of the students and staff of our adopted school.

Travis Middle School History

In 1955, a bond issue was passed to provide for a new modern junior

high school; Travis Middle School. In September 1956, the first group of students entered Travis Middle School.

At first 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades were included but as more elementary classrooms were built in Temple, the 6th graders left and Travis officially became a junior high school.

As a result of community integration a new wing with nine classrooms and a library was built in 1968-69. The all-Black junior high school in Temple closed in 1970 and Travis continued to grow, becoming an official middle school in 1975.

As a result of the continued growth of the student population at Travis, a second new wing with four classrooms and an extended cafeteria was built in 1989-1990. Several portable buildings were also added in 1992.

During the 1998-1999 school year,

a third new wing was constructed with twelve new classrooms, including a new multi-media computer lab.

This year we begin our fifty-first year of Travis 'excellence.'



Master Sgt. Charles Morris, the 553rd Rear-Detachment Commander shakes hands with Principal Mrs. Eddy McNamara after presenting her school with an adopted sign. Courtesy Photo.



Principal Mrs. Eddy McNamara, along with her staff and members of the 553rd stand behind the adopted school sign. Courtesy Photo.



Planning For The Holidays

Article by Capt. Mary Smith
Brigade Troops Battalion

The Battalion's Holiday Organizational Day Committee met again this Saturday to go over last minute details for the Dec. 24 battalion Holiday Organizational Day. Members have been working long and hard to coordinate a first-class event for our Soldiers during our holidays away from home.

The morning will commence with a friendly volleyball competition between BTB officers and enlisted personnel. Join or come and support the eight-on-eight basketball tournament at Zone 1 gym from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., or join the flag football team at 1 p.m. for what's sure to be a high-energy game.

Afternoon festivities begin at 3 p.m., with friendly game tournaments of Spades, Poker, and Dominoes. Location will be the TAC building in Zone 6. If table games are not your liking, join Sgt. Tracie Berndt for Bingo and test your luck on winning the "mystery prize."

It takes many individuals to collaborate and put such a well planned event together. We formed committees months ago to ensure all details were covered. Master Sgt. Elva Marquez and the decorating committee have spent countless hours cutting and coloring



Members of the BTB Organizational Day committee pose for the camera wearing Christmas stockings as a measure of the amount of effort going to celebrate the holidays with the Wolfpack Family. This year's theme is "Winter Wonderland." Courtesy Photo.

various decorations to create their "Winter Wonderland" theme. They plan on turning the TAC building into a magical holiday retreat.

Sgt. 1st Class Rhonique Haskins and her team have created a superb menu to ensure fabulous finger foods and drinks are available during the table game tournaments. They worked

with a local vendor to order a beautiful festive cake you can enjoy with a cup of cocoa or coffee as you watch the night entertainment.

Christmas Eve is sure to be a day filled with sports, games, and entertainment, but most importantly a day you can enjoy with your comrades. Don't miss out!

Submissions

The Wrangler wants to hear from you!

Do you want to highlight someone or something going on in your unit or section? Have a photo that you would like posted? Please send all submissions via email to Sgt. Myers at angienne.l.myers@kuwait.swa.army.mil. In the body of the email, please include the following: Full Name, Rank, Unit and Duty Position. Attach your submission as a Word Document and limit to 300 words. Submissions are subject to editing. For photo submissions, please include a caption describing the photo (Who, What, When, Where and Why).

4th Sustainment Brigade Conducts Battle Handoff

Article by Sgt. John Ortiz
4th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

For more than nine months, the Wrangler Brigade conducted theater-level deployment/redeployment operations and combat logistics patrols with units attached to the brigade.

With the deployment of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the reorganization of Theater Gateway to fall under deployment/redeployment operations of the 311th ESC, the 4th Sustainment Brigade will move from having command and control of six battalions to three.

At the start of the Wrangler's deployment, two battalions were attached to the brigade to provide convoy security escort.

1-126th Cavalry and 1-148th

Infantry, both of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team with the Ohio and Michigan National Guard provided the security elements to protect Wrangler convoys traveling throughout Iraq.

Upon the redeployment of the 37th IBCT and the deployment of the 29th IBCT, there came a change of mission; convoy escort units will remain with their parent unit.

This decision to re-organize the 4th Sustainment Brigade, will allow the Wranglers to focus and continue to perform and execute the theater-level distribution mission through two transportation battalions, and include support for those combat logistics patrols.

From six battalions to three, the Wrangler Brigade will re-organize to include the Joint Logistics Task Force 28, 6th Transportation Battalion and the Brigade Troops Battalion.

The 4th Sustainment Brigade will have a consistent relationship with the 29th IBCT, whose two security force battalions, the 1-299th Cavalry and the 100th-442nd Infantry, will provide escort security for most Wrangler convoys throughout the Iraqi Theater of Operations.

There is one constant that transcends changes to the formation, the Wrangler's ability to provide quick, quality support to execute the theater-level distribution mission.

DISTRIBUTION FROM ABOVE

The Wrangler Brigade welcomes the 824th Rigger Detachment into the formation to provide an exciting new capability to executing the distribution mission in both Iraq and Afghanistan.
Distribution from Above.



Veteran's Day Celebration

Article and Photos Courtesy of:
4th Sustainment Brigade Rear Detachment.

The 4th Sustainment Brigade Rear Detachment joined with our Adopt-a-School, Nolan Middle School in Killeen, Texas to celebrate our Veterans.

The guest speaker was Lt. Col (Ret) Comrad Novack, a combat veteran with over 21 years service as an aviator who served with distinction in the Vietnam War and went on to continue service to the nation as a teacher at Nolan Middle School.

He retired from his teaching career in 2006 after 22 years of service with the Killeen ISD.

Novack motivated the students by explaining a little about each of our recent conflicts and asking Veterans from those combat tours to stand and be recognized.

It was humbling to be in the presence of World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Veterans who have served this Nation so proudly. 4th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers were honored to be included in such a group.

Novack concluded the celebration by explaining that four of his six sons have



Members of the 4th Sustainment Brigade Rear Detachment Command pose with Lt. Col. (Ret.) Comrad Novack, the guest speaker for the Nolan Middle School Veterans's Day celebration.

served in the military; two in the Army, one in the Navy, and one in the Marines. His son in the Marines continues to serve and is a lieutenant colonel. He has a second son who continues to serve in the Army as a medical service Soldier.

He called the young people to serve their Nation in any way they can.



The Nolan Middle School 6th - 8th grades pep rally during Veterans Day Celebration.

This is the third year in a row that Novack was asked to be the guest speaker at Nolan Middle School's Veteran's Day celebration.

We know why. He is not only an inspiration to anyone he comes in contact with; he also knows how to motivate

a crowd of 6th - 8th graders. The celebration turned into a pep rally for Veterans. Loud is an understatement!

At the conclusion of the celebration, we presented our sponsor school with 4th SB emblems to place all over the school. Our goal is to have the distinctive 4th SB emblem all over the school so that students recognize our strong relationship with them. The first emblem was placed in the main hall by two students.



Guest speaker Comrad Novack, a retired Lt. Col and former school teacher of Killeen ISD makes an inspirational speech to the 6th - 8th graders of Nolan Middle School, in Killeen, Texas.

4th SB Trains For Casualty Notification

Article and Photos by Pfc. Naveed Ali Shah
13th ESC Public Affairs



Becky Townsend, Julia Duncan, Sgt. 1st Class James Yuras, and Capt. Kristin Doneth, conduct casualty notification training at the Killeen Convention Center.

Two Soldiers walk solemnly up to the front door, dressed in glossy black shoes and crisp green uniforms, medals adorning their chests, shiny brass gleaming in the sun, they barely tap on the door before it swings open.

One of them speaks up, "Ma'am, we regret to inform you..." Uttering the words that no spouse ever wants to hear when a loved one is deployed to combat

This is the scenario upon which the 4th Sustainment Brigade, based their casualty notification training Nov. 20 at the Killeen Convention Center.

The training consisted of classes and panel discussions for both Soldiers and Family Readiness Group volunteers on how to handle casualty notification.

Members of the class also learned how to conduct a memorial ceremony, and care team operations.

It was all put together by a rehearsal

of operations concept so that the Soldiers and civilians could implement what they learned.

"We wanted to walk away from here with a brigade plan on how to handle casualty notification and take care of the Family," said Maj. Alanna Cook, Commander, 4th SB Rear Detachment

"We've been lucky because we haven't had to do this, but it's something we need to be prepared for," she said.

The 4th SB has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for several months, so the FRG volunteers and rear detachment Soldiers took this training very seriously.

"It's important to be prepared because we're going to have a lot of deployments and, unfortunately we're going to have casualties," Corinne Hermans, the senior FRG spouse and wife of 4th Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. Terence Hermans.

"I want the spouses to feel comfortable in their volunteering roles, so we can help the Families," she said.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of the training was finding the time to gather all those who would be involved and pooling resources to make the training practical.

"Rear (Detachment) rarely has time for training so it was a challenge to set aside time, but finding people to help out was not hard at all, we had so many people willing to help out," Cook said.

"We got so much support from our sister units at the 3rd [Armored Cavalry Regiment], 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division, 13th ESC, Army Community Service, and the Casualty Assistance Center," said Cook.

Family separation is the toughest part of any deployment for the spouses and Families of deployed Soldiers, said Julia Duncan, wife of a 4th SB Transportation Officer.

However, a strong support network of relatives and friends helps the Families of deployed Soldiers cope with their absence.

Overall the training was a success in that both the FRG volunteers and rear detachment Soldiers learned more about the process of casualty notification and established their own guidelines in the event of a loss.

Cook said, "This is an area where we cannot accept failure and we cannot make any mistakes."

846th Transportation Company Awards And Promotes

Article and Photos courtesy of
846th Transportation Company

Dec. 6 was a special day for the 846th Transportation Company 'Road Dawgs' Family. With a majority of the company back from missions, it was the perfect time to reward and promote those Soldiers who have shown exemplary performance during the Unit's mobilization and deployment. The cool Saturday morning on the Zone 6 basketball court was the ideal spot for the company to form up and conduct the awards and promotion ceremony.

The first awards presented were certificates of achievement for the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers that took part in the theater ammunition resupply mission. The Soldiers that received the COA's were Sgt. 1st Class Lavel Prioleau, Staff Sgt Johnny Allen, Staff Sgt. Mary Shipp, Staff Sgt. Patrick Truesdale, Sgt. Christopher Wilson, and Spc. Grady Whitely. Soldiers also received COA's for their exceptional performance on Convoy Logistics Patrols in the theater of Iraq. These Soldiers are Spc. Russell Gaskins, Spc. John Gray, Spc. Frederick McCall, and Spc. Billy Pennington.

The next awards presented were

Army Achievement Medals that were also earned during the theater ammunition resupply mission. These were given to the Soldiers who performed above and beyond their required duties. Sgt.

1st Class Mozella Mason received the award for her planning and leadership as the assistant convoy commander, which also served as the mission Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of more than 120 personnel. Spc. Nicholas Gunter was awarded the medal for his care and dedication to over 90 Third Country National drivers as the TCN Supervisor. Spc. Michael Jordan received his award for performance as lead vehicle commander in charge of effectively moving over 100 vehicles during the mission as well as for his help with the TCN drivers.



Soldiers of the 846th Transportation Company are presented Certificates of Achievement at Camp Arifjan. The Soldiers' commitment to mission success has lead to an exciting and successful deployment for the Road Dawgs.

was promoted to Specialist. David White, a hardworking combat logistics patrol TCN Supervisor, was also promoted to Specialist.

Two new NCO's, sergeants John Gray and Daniel Suber, were promoted for their outstanding performance during the unit's mobilization and deployment. Gray is a loadmaster on CLPs and Suber is a Lead Vehicle Commander. Both Soldiers have been of tremendous value on the road as technical experts and on the camp as mentors and motivators.

The 846th Transportation Company is proud of its newly awarded and promoted Soldiers. The hard work and commitment of these Soldiers has lead to an exciting and successful deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is a proud moment for the key leaders of them and they are grateful they could reward deserving Soldiers with awards and promotions. With four months left in the deployment, the 846th is eager to have the opportunity to award and promote more of their dedicated Road Dawgs.

Promotions were the final part of the morning and featured four Soldiers that have shown the dedication and responsibility to make it to the next rank. Justin Shinta, a clerk for the 846th Tactical Operations Center



Spc. Michael Jordan is presented with the Army Achievement Medal for his proficiency as lead vehicle commander during the ammunition re-supply mission.

6th Battalion Leadership Visits With Korean Air Force At LSA

Article and Photos by: Chaplain (Capt.) Guen Lee
6th Transportation Battalion



The 6th Transportation Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth W. Melton, sits in the cockpit of a C-130 used by the South Koreans in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

to redeploy to Korea, closing the four-year mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 58th Airlift Wing never had a unit Chaplain while they were deployed. So, either a local Korean Pastor, or U.S Korean American Chaplain

a delicious Korean Cuisine dinner. During the reception, Lt. Col. Kevin Powers, the Battalion Commander, Maj. Jason Cameron the Executive Officer and myself received a plaque and a certificate of appreciation from the Korean Air Force “Dayman” Squadron.

One the way back to Arifjan, I thanked God for several things. First, I thanked Him for 58th Airlift Wing’s successful mission during the past four years of coalition support with more than 4,300 tons of cargo lifted, and over 4,300 Soldiers transported.

Secondly, I personally thanked Him for the privilege and opportunity to support the Korean Air Force coalition Bible study.

Lastly, I thanked Him for the special reception offered by the 58th Airlift Wing Squadron. Their hospitality and kind reception reminded us that though we have a different nationality, we are the one team to build the peace and reconstruction in the Middle East. I sincerely pray that God continues to bring success to all the members of Koran Air Force in their mission for God and country.

6th Transportation Battalion Command group made a visit to the 58th Airlift Wing Squadron at LSA. The 58th Airlift Wing is a South Korean Air Force team which has been supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the U.S coalition force since October, 2004.

This unit is also known as the “Dayman” Squadron which means in Arabic word, “Always with You.” The 58th Airlift Wing’s mission is supporting the Zaytoon Korean Army Division in Iraq as well as giving support to coalition forces.

The unit consists of 135 Korean Air Force Pilots and associated logistics personnel. In September 2008, the unit held a ceremony to celebrate their 6,000th hour of accident-free flying between the Iraq and Kuwait, which was accumulated over the past four years. The 58th Airlift Wing is wrapping up their mission and is currently preparing

occasionally supported their religious needs. I learned of their situation as soon as I deployed to Kuwait in the summer and upon my battalion commander’s approval, I started going to LSA to support their Bible study every Monday.

In the middle of supporting the religious needs of the Korean Airmen, the 58th Airlift Wing Commander, Col. Ko Seok Mok, invited the 6th Battalion’s leadership to LSA to show his appreciation for religious support provided by the 6th Transportation Battalion.

This visit went beyond our expectations. For about three hours, we were treated to a mission briefing, a C-130 aircraft tour and



Members of the 6th Transportation Battalion and 58th Airlift Wing Commands pose together for a group picture in front of the South Korean Flag at LSA.

Lava Brigade sets out in support of Wranglers

Article and Photo by Sgt. Tracy Ellingsen
311th ESC Public Affairs



A gunner with Alpha Battery, 1-299th Cavalry of the 29th IBCT prepares his mounted weapon in preparation for their first solo convoy mission in support of the Wranglers.

with the members of the 1-148th Infantry from the Ohio National Guard. With only a short amount of overlap time between the two units, there was only enough time for one of these training missions, but the Alpha Battery Soldiers got some unexpected training while traversing the roads of Iraq.

“They got hit on their first convoy,” said Spencer, referring to a small arms attack the unit encountered. “First time out and they

The Alpha Battery Soldiers were anxious to get on the road. They decided to forgo dinner and instead eat the midnight meal served at the next base they were going to. After all, it was their first convoy escort mission up to Iraq that they would be performing without the watchful eye of their predecessors.

Not only was this the first CET mission for Alpha Battery, but it was the first for the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat team since arriving in theater.

“I’m very proud right now,” said Capt. Timothy Spencer, their company commander. “It was a long process coming here and I’m glad to be doing the mission we trained to do.”

The Hawaii based National Guard unit is now poised to conduct convoy

escort missions, as well as other security operations, throughout Iraq and Kuwait. In a few months leaving for another mission may feel a little routine for the teams, but departing for the brigade’s first mission was anything but.

Before heading out the Soldiers posed for pictures while standing in front of and on top of one of their up-armored Humvees. At 5 p.m. sharp, the familiar bugle sounds of retreat began to play. There, in the sunset, the Soldiers saluted the flag – a tradition that is performed at U.S. military bases throughout the world – not knowing where they might be watching the flag go down over the next week.

This wouldn’t be the first trip to Iraq for the Alpha Battery Soldiers; they previously traveled on a training mission

already saw action.”

For this mission both the company commander and first sergeant were on hand to check and double check the equipment and safety measures that the Soldiers take each and every time before heading out on the road.

The commander of the convoy escort team, 2nd Lt. Bingham Tuisamatalele, gathered the Soldiers in a huddle for a prayer, then they packed their gear in the vehicles and headed down the road, a cloud of dust left in their trail.

Spencer looked on with an obvious sense of pride and likened watching their departure to watching one’s children leave for the first day of school. “I have a lot of confidence in them,” he said. “They trained hard.”