

HAMMER HEAD

3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

January, 2013



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Collage

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2012 Highlights



Greetings and Happy New Year Sledgehammer families and friends!

The year 2013 is finally here, which means a time to reflect over the past twelve months and look forward to what the next year to offer! It has been our distinct honor to serve both at Fort Benning, Ga., and at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. 2012 was a year of many firsts for the Sledgehammer Brigade. Nearly a year ago we became the first deployable Army combat brigade to receive and employ the Assault Breacher Vehicle. Just weeks later we put our skills to the test at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., as the first brigade to participate in a decisive action rotation. We left NTC knowing we had the knowledge and capabilities to accomplish anything our Nation asked of us! For the past seven months we have trained with our counterparts in the Air Force, Navy, Marines and our allies of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. Our coalition

training has definitely prepared us to take on any contingencies in the region!

In the month's edition of "Hammer Heat" you'll see a story regarding a joint exercise with our Kuwaiti counterparts. Sledgehammer Soldiers and Kuwait's 15th Mubarak Brigade demonstrated their tactical prowess during Sewayan Shield. Sewayan is the Arabic word for together. It was exhilarating to watch U.S. and Kuwaiti vehicles maneuver on the battlefield striking targets with precision, while artillery pounded the battlefield from afar and Kuwaiti attack helicopters provided fire from the sky! Sewayan Shield proved what the U.S. and our foreign allies can accomplish when working together as a team.

Throughout our battle-focused training, we also found time to take care of our most precious resource; Sledgehammer Soldiers. Soldiers serving in 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment and 203rd Brigade Support Battalion continued the long-standing tradition of

the noncommissioned officer induction ceremony. The ceremony celebrates the important transition that Soldiers make when they pin on sergeant stripes and assume a greater role of leading others.

Our Rock's Support Soldiers also actively participated in an initiative to strengthen resiliency throughout the ranks. Soldiers discussed common situations that many of us encounter and talked through ways to best handle the issues. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron and his team for their extraordinary efforts in planning and executing events in support of such a worthy cause!

To make the holiday season special for our families and friends, many Soldiers filmed holiday greetings for local television and radio stations. Hopefully many of you were able to see your loved one's greeting via your local TV or radio station, on Facebook or as an ecard. Your love and support is not only a great motivator during the holidays, but it

fueled our success throughout the entire year. Nothing we've accomplished would be possible without you and for that we are exceedingly grateful! As we begin 2013 and wind down the last few months of our deployment, please continue to communicate with your Soldier and also your family readiness support assistant. We don't want you to miss any information regarding our upcoming townhall meeting or our redeployment and reintegration process. Once again, Happy New Year from the Sledgehammer Brigade!

Continue following the Sledgehammer Brigade at www.facebook.com/3hbct3id and www.youtube.com/3hbct3id for the latest updates.

God bless and take care!
Rock of the Marne! Sledgehammer!

From your Sledgehammer Brigade

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“Can Do!”

Lt. Col. Nelson G. Kraft
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-15 Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Angel M. Ortiz Jr.
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-15 Command Sergeant Major

CAN DO Families and Friends,

Happy New Year! The team here continues to do great things. From training, partnering and maintenance to packing up, loading out and the various inspections that come with those types of events -- our Soldiers and Leaders continue to do phenomenal things, while always being prepared to take action against the unknown.

As we turn the calendar to 2013, we are hopeful for a year that will allow us to reconnect with our families and friends back home. One of our top priorities is reintegration back to the States. This topic is not only a priority in Kuwait; it is also a priority at home. I know the BN FRSA, CO FRGs and the BN Rear-Detachment

have some great plans to discuss reintegration at the next FRG Meeting on January 22nd. Leaders are taking full advantage of informal discussions with our Soldiers every chance they get. Some topics include: excessive alcohol use, minimizing high dollar purchases until mid-summer and safe driving. Additionally, every Soldier is focused on ensuring our families are aware of our appreciation for their support throughout this deployment. It is important to understand that we have all experienced stress during this deployment and we all need to be patient and slowly transition back to normalcy.

The battalion continued with its aggressive training over the last month with three extremely successful operations. Most of our training has now transitioned to partnership exercises with our Kuwaiti counterparts. Team Baker and Hardrock both completed live fire exercises that in-

corporated very capable forces from the Kuwaiti Army. These events have allowed our Soldiers to experience the intricacies of planning and executing live fire events with coalition partners. The exercises incorporated indirect fire support from Rock's Support, the battalion's mortar platoon, as well as elements from the Kuwaiti Air Force. The operations were a successful display of coalition fire power and were very impressive to watch. Finally, Team Crusader conducted the last of our company live fires, Operation Dragon Strike. Dragon Strike was the culminating event for Team Crusader and highlighted the months of hard work and commitment of our Soldiers. CSM and I continue to be proud of the effort the Can Do Soldiers put forth every day.

Finally, we would like

to thank you all for the decorations and care packages that have been sent to the Soldiers. The desert was a little more festive because of your care for the Can Do Soldiers. As always, we thank you for your support and remain focused and vigilant. The deployment is winding down, but we must remain prepared, as Soldiers and Families, until we are safely home to Fort Benning. Again, Happy New Year to everyone back home!

Dragon 6 & 7



Soldiers' Gallery

A canvas for short stories, poetry, drawing, and other visual arts

Do you have a creative bone in your body?

Whether you write short stories on a regular basis or took a stab at poetry on a whim, if you want to share it, that's what this page is for. We are accepting submissions from Soldiers for any type of visually based art. So get out there and start exercising that creative muscle!

Submission Examples:

- *Short Stories
- *Poetry
- *Drawings
- *Paintings
- *Graphic Design Work
- *Photographs

Submission Guidelines:

Submissions are "clean" in nature. Content that is offensive, or contains generally harsh language will be rejected. Any derogatory works or direct attacks on individuals will be rejected. Posts will not advertise any for profit content, to include selling or looking to buy items. Submitting your work does not always guarantee placement do to space restrictions.

Instructions:

Email the Following to pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com

Email Title:

Soldiers Gallery Submission (Your Name)

Email Message:

Your Name (If you wish to submit your work anonymously, indicate after your name.)

Title of Work

The work of art

(All work must be submitted digitally, either attached or included in the email. If submitting an image, submit the highest quality possible.)



Rock's Support Pledges The Safety of its Soldiers

Story and photos by
Sgt. Christopher Johnston
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Public Affairs NCOIC

With their deployment to Kuwait closing in on its conclusion, Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division prepared to reunite with their family and friends by attending a non-commissioned officer resiliency training event, Dec. 8.

The event began at 5:30 a.m. with an esprit de corps run by Rock's Support non-commissioned officers, followed by breakfast and an open floor forum, where non-commissioned officers talked about the safety of their Soldiers when they return home.



Army resiliency training offers tools to aid Soldiers, leaders and families in their ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges and bounce back from adversity.

“The goal of this event was to build resiliency amongst our soldiers and the NCO Corps,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Aaron, 1-10 FA command sergeant major. “As well as focusing on redeployment concerns and issues that I see inside the battalion so we can minimize those risks for Soldiers.”

Rock Support non-commissioned officers participated in an exercise where they wrote down a situation they personally have dealt with during their deployment and put it in a bucket. The Soldiers then each pulled a card out and read what their fellow non-commissioned officer had written.

As each non-commissioned officer read a card, silence filled the room as they learned of the problems their peers

had faced or were facing: divorce, missing the birth of their child, financial problems and thoughts of suicide.

“These are real situations we are dealing with,” said Aaron. “My main focus is to educate my NCOs and Soldiers, to make sure they have every means possible to succeed. The Army has so many resources to help our Soldiers, we just need to determine who needs help and what help they need.”

“Every Soldier is different. A leader has to know what tools or mechanisms are out there and be creative to reach each Soldier so they can make the right decision. It all comes down to knowing your Soldier,” said Aaron.



Within the first 24 hours of redeploying, Soldiers mostly spend time with their family, their kids, and their significant other, explained Aaron, the next 48 hours are crucial. That is when

soldiers have spent that time with family and now they want to go out and blow off some steam.

“What we are planning is having Soldiers from our rear detachment down-

town checking on Soldiers,” said Aaron. “We are not there to stop them from having a good time, we are just making sure they are safe and in control of themselves, and if we see them in a situation, we can help. I truly want to make sure my soldiers are safe and taken care of.”

“United We Stand” was a pledge Aaron made and encouraged his non-commissioned officers to make. The pledge urges non-commissioned officers to personally know their Soldiers and interact on a level where they can identify any possible issues they may be facing and work together to resolve them.

With the Army facing serious problems such as suicide, DUIs and divorce, Aaron is hoping his battalion can have a safe redeployment and not let any Rock’s Support Soldiers become a statistic.



Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Aaron, assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division speaks to the noncommissioned officers of Rock Support Battalion about potential hazards the battalion might face during its redeployment at an NCO resiliency event Dec. 8, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Army resiliency training offers tools to aid soldiers, leaders and families in their ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges and bounce back from adversity such as deployments.



Noncommissioned officers assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division sign a “United We Stand” pledge during an NCO resiliency event Dec. 8, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Each NCO pledged to provide their soldiers with individual attention to avoid such problems as suicide, DUIs and financial difficulties through education or resources provided by the Army.

Rock's Support

ROCK'S SUPPORT CLOSES DOWN THE YEAR ARTILLERY STYLE

Although the year may be ending, the Rock's Support Battalion stayed busy as ever. Throughout the month, the battalion hosted Division Command Sergeant Major Watson, conducted joint training, synchronized various partnership events with the Kuwaiti Land Forces Artillery Regiment (KLFAR), and celebrated the Christmas Season with a variety of activities. As Automatic Steel finished recovery operations from November's Saweyan Shield live fire with the Kuwaitis, Marne 7/CSM Watson, came to visit Camp Buehring. Upon arrival, Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron, with along with other battalion command sergeants major, escorted Watson to the units while he conducted readi-



ness and resiliency assessments. During his walk through, he visited living areas, fitness facilities, and religious support centers ensuring that Rock's Support Soldiers had the necessary resiliency support network available when needed. As expected, the Rock's Support Battalion surpassed all expectations. The trip's highlight event included a question and answer session about the way ahead for the NCO Corps. As his visit concluded, Soldiers and NCOs appreciated Watson's visit and insight prior to the Christmas Season. As Watson departed Kuwait, the Rock's Support Battalion had already begun to transition to its next mission.

The Battalion's training priority returned to synchronizing fires between maneuver and fires support assets. As always, the Rock's Support Battalion answered the call to provide fires in support of 1-15 Infantry Battalion's company live fire known as OPERATION DRAGON STRIKE. The Ragin' Bulls took the lead for the battalion. The battery's leadership, in conjunction with both battalion staffs, developed a plan that clearly displayed joint fires integration to include attack aviation, mortars, and fixed wing assets. After various working groups and rehearsals, the Ragin' Bulls executed a flawless plan fur-

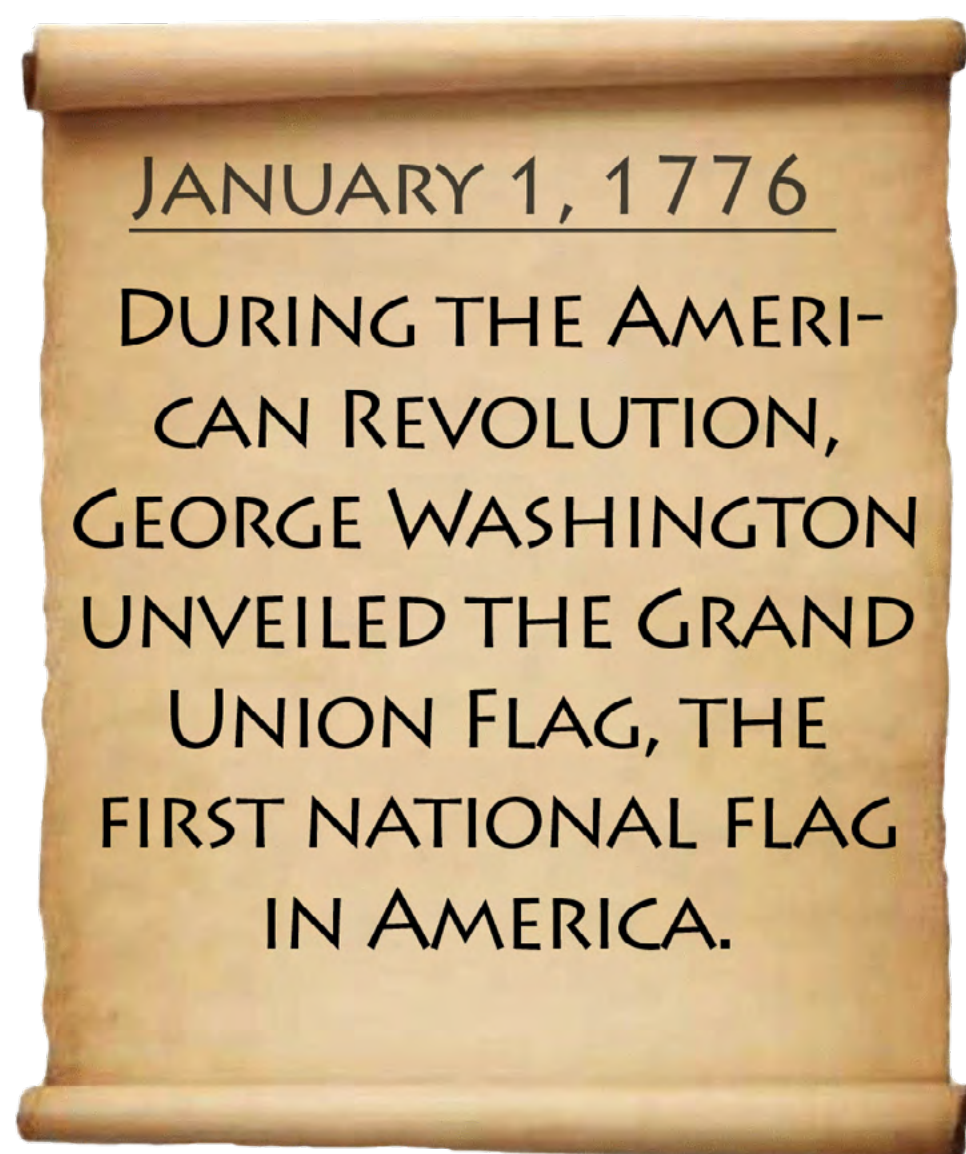


ther building upon the rapport between both battalions.

While conducting OPERATION DRAGON STRIKE, the KLFAR invited the battalion to take part in an air defense and artillery exercise. The KLFAR exercise involved the Kuwaiti rocket launcher, the Smerch, and their organic air defense system, the Patriot. The live fire's objectives included the interception of a Smerch rocket by the Kuwaiti's Patriot air defense system as they tested radar tracking and mission command nodes. The KLFAR invited Rock's Support key leaders to watch three day event. With each passing day, the battalion sent more Soldiers to the firing point to partake in this rare training event. The observation site became a cultural exchange opportunity for many Soldiers across the battalion. The Kuwaiti forces, with their impeccable hospitality, provided samples of their chai tea, hand rolled baked goods, fresh fruits, and traditional coffee for everyone in attendance.

As the holiday season approached, the Rock's Support Battalion took time to celebrate the Christmas season. Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron took the time to ensure that the NCO Corps was full of seasonal cheer.

To build “esprit de corps” throughout the NCO Corps ranks, he held an enlisted spirit run and wellness lunch to emphasize their interaction with Soldiers during this sometimes stressful time of year. After Christmas Day festivities, the battalion concluded the week with a Battalion photo to commemorate the unit’s deployment in support of OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD. The Battalion photo shoot served as a reminder of the diligence, dedication, and camaraderie built while training in Kuwait. Soldiers and leaders alike are looking forward to the beginning of a new year with new training opportunities as we begin the redeployment planning process. Rock’s Support!



Recovering from a Skid

On Ice

1. At the first sign that you are skidding, take your foot off of the accelerator. This will reduce your speed and may be all you need to do to regain control of your vehicle.
2. Slowly turn the steering wheel in the direction that the rear end is moving. For instance, if the rear end of the car is fishtailing to the left, steer to the left.
3. Don't overcompensate with steering. If the car's rear end begins to fishtail to the other side, slowly steer in that direction.
4. It is common to fishtail left and right multiple times. Remain calm and continue to steer in the direction of the rear end until the car's path straightens out.
5. If you need to, stop the vehicle after you have regained control and collect your thoughts.

Safety Page



Vigilance & Honor

Lt. Col. Steven M. George
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, BSTB Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Scott E. Guillory
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, BSTB Command Sergeant Major

Family Members and Friends of the Buffalo Battalion,

“Vigilance and Honor!”

Brigade Special Troops Battalion Soldiers closed out the sixth month of our deployment with a dynamic bang. Although we are in winter of our deployment, we maintain a combat focused mind set. We are fully engaged with our partnership effort, mission support, and internal training events. We remain poised and ready to execute whatever mission we are tasked to execute anywhere in the region. We continue to make a conscience effort to give our Soldiers time to relax, communicate with loved ones, and participate in MWR events to maintain a high level of morale.

Partnership continues to remain our main focus. Our partnerships with our Kuwaiti Brigades continue to grow by leaps and bounds. We have completed the cyclic tactical exchanges with the 26th Brigade but remain decisively en-

gaged with the unit. The Buffalo Battalion will host the leaders from the 26th Brigade at a local Kuwaiti restaurant to celebrate the accomplishments of the partnership and the newly developed friendships.

We continue to charge full steam ahead with the 94th Brigade. We have completed six of eight tactical cyclic exchanges with the companies of the 94th Brigade. We are currently planning additional social events such as a dinner at a local Kuwaiti restaurant and a soccer match between the two units to highlight the great success for both units through partnership. Our partnerships with our Kuwaiti Brigades continue to reach new heights as we learn from each other and create new lifelong friendships. Soldiers, NCOs, and officers from both units will walk away with a new found understanding of one another's culture and capabilities that will prepare us to better serve side by side on the battlefield if ever called to do so.

When we are not engaged with partnerships, we continue to execute a rigorous training plan to maintain battle ready at all times. Internal training this month presented opportunities for the Battalion to integrate our enablers into collective training events as well as test equipment in various scenarios not previously tested in the last couple of years.

Alpha company was able to test various unique equipment sets for the first time since the unit's last deployment in scenario base training events. The Soldiers performed above the required standards proving they are capable of executing all of their wartime missions. In addition, the Raptors integrated the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle into the Chaos validation lanes. The integration was a huge success as it proved to be an invaluable resource in defeating the enemy on the battlefield. We validated the Third Platoon from Chaos Company on their ability to conduct route clearance operations during both day and night conditions. I can say without any doubt or hesitation; they are more than capable of executing their newly assigned mission. The Wardogs continue to support the battalion with logistics and partnership efforts. Hellraiser continue to burn the midnight oil planning, synchronizing, and resourcing brigade events in order to keep the Brigade on path to complete a successful deployment.

Morale of our BSTB Soldiers remains extremely high. The high level of morale is due to MWR programs, unit activities, and support we receive here in Kuwait and from home.

The Battalion continues to con-

duct trips to other camps that provide different amenities. Our Soldiers take advantage of the MWR sponsored trips off Camp Buehring to malls, art galleries, museums, and restaurants in Kuwait City. These trips allow our Soldiers to experience the Kuwaiti culture first hand.

The continued success and high morale of the Buffalo Battalion is a reflection of the support we receive from the families, friends, and charity organizations at Fort Benning and across the United States. Your love and support allows us to continue to reach great heights. We extend our thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for the amazing support you provide to us both deployed and at Fort Benning. From the Buffalo Family to yours, we wish you Happy Holidays, Season's Greetings, and a very Happy New Year.



US, Kuwaitis Conduct Defensive Exercise ‘Together’

Story and photos by
Sgt. Christopher Johnston
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Public Affairs NCOIC



An M1A2 Main Battle Tank fires at a target during Saweyan Shield, a defensive live fire exercise, at the Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 28. Saweyan is the Arabic word for “together”. Soldiers assigned to 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division have been conducting partnership training with Kuwaiti Land Forces since deploying to Kuwait nearly six months ago, building upon the military ties between Kuwait and the U.S.

Soldiers assigned to Company B and Company C, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and Kuwaiti soldiers assigned to the 15th Mubarak Brigade conducted Saweyan Shield, a live fire exercise, at the Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 28.

Saweyan is the Arabic word for “together” or “unity”.

The soldiers from both brigades have been training together for several weeks, beginning with basic skills such as land navigation and first aid, then progressing to more complex skills such as urban operations.

“It is great to have the opportunity to work with them,” Capt. Donald Bigham, Company B commander, 1-15 IN said of the Kuwaitis. “They are very experienced soldiers, they are very good tactically, and they have good weapon systems that allow them to do their mission.”

The live-fire exercise began with more than a dozen Kuwaiti M-84 tanks and four Bradley Fighting Vehicles in a defensive position. Kuwaiti F-18 Hornets then initiated contact with targets using close air support strikes followed by Kuwaiti AH-64 Apache helicopters providing close combat attacks.

“This is how they fight, this is what they train for,” said Maj. Joe Ruzicka, operations officer for 1-15 IN. “What we saw today was that they are truly capable of defending their country if need be.”

The main element of the defensive position made a call to Baker Team, comprised of U.S. Bradley Fighting Vehicles, M1A2 tanks, and Kuwaiti M-84 tanks, for reinforcement.

Bigham said the greatest part of the exercise was by working together, training and rehearsing as one team, they were able to operate as a single entity to maneuver and destroy the targets effectively.



Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, Third Army/ARCENT commanding general, receives a gift from Staff Col. Bassel Ahmed Al-Suwaidi, 15th Mubarak Brigade commander after observing the defensive live fire exercise, Saweyan Shield, at the Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 28. Saweyan Shield, named after the Arabic word for “together”, was a partnership training exercise between the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and the Kuwaiti 15th Mubarak Brigade, continuing to strengthen military ties and promoting security in the region.

Baker Team, maintaining spacing and maximizing frontal coverage, moved forward within two kilometers of the targets before laying down suppressive fire. Baker Team then continued to the forward line of troops and eliminated the targets.

Bigham said their partnership with the 15th Mubarak Brigade allowed soldiers on both sides to get to know each

other on a more personal level enabling them to grow tactically to become stronger military allies.

Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, Third Army/ARCENT commanding general, Maj. Gen. Gary H. Cheek, Third Army/ARCENT deputy commanding general, Col. Johnnie L. Johnson Jr., 3rd ABCT

commander, and Staff Col. Bassel Ahmed Al-Suwaidi, 15th Mubarak Brigade commander were on hand to observe the event.

“When we talk about partnership in the future, this is how I envision it,” said Ruzicka. “Whenever we do a training event here in Kuwait we should have the Kuwaiti Land Forces here with us and vice versa, so we can really build upon what we have established here and take it to the next step.”

JANUARY 10, 1776
COMMON SENSE, A FIFTY PAGE PAMPHLET BY THOMAS PAINE, WAS PUBLISHED. IT SOLD OVER 500,000 COPIES IN AMERICA AND EUROPE, INFLUENCING, AMONG OTHERS, THE AUTHORS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.



A Kuwaiti M-84 tank and U.S. Bradley Fighting Vehicles advance toward the objective during Saweyan Shield, a defensive live fire exercise at the Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Nov. 28. Saweyan is the Arabic word for “together”. The exercise was part of the ongoing training between the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and Kuwaiti Land Forces, which continues to build upon their military ties in order to promote peace and stability in the region.

Support & Defend

Lt. Col. Monica L. Burnhauser
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 203rd BSB Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Kent A. Galvin
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 203rd BSB Command Sergeant Major

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays
from Kuwait!

Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and I would like to extend our best wishes during this holiday season to the Soldiers and families of the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion. As we come towards the end of this deployment we would like to thank all of you for the support we have received. The Soldiers of the Eagle Battalion, both those deployed and those at Kelley Hill, have continued to exceed all our expectations and are widely recognized for their quality of work across the entire brigade.

This past month has been extremely busy for the Soldiers and leaders of the Eagle Battalion. We continue to excel here in Kuwait while providing Ammunition, Transportation, Supply, Maintenance, Re-

covery, and Medical support for the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team. The highlight of the month was our Battalion TCO lane competition in the vicinity of FOB Gerber. The training event incorporated company competition as Eagle Soldiers were split into four vehicle serials. Each serial was graded by senior leaders on reacting to IEDs and local nationals as well as conduct MEDEVAC and recovery operations. In the end, serial 1 came out on top with the best overall execution of tactical convoy operations with 1st Lt. Glasgow and Staff Sgt. Branshaw (C Co) as the convoy commander and assistant convoy commander respectively. Congratulations Painkillers!

Looking ahead, 2013 promises to be an exciting year for the Eagle Battalion. We are on track to complete the redeployment reset phase and are very excited to make our way back home to Fort Benning, Ga. Our rear detachment team has been extremely busy supporting the brigade rear elements and preparing to receive redeploying Eagle Soldiers. We are truly grateful for all their hard work and accomplishment.

Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and I would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to thank the fifteen Eagle Soldiers who in the past month made the decision to continue serving our Nation by reenlisting. We respect and admire each of you for making the choice to remain a part of our great Army. Thank you for keeping us Eagle Strong!

We would like to congratulate the following Eagle Soldiers on their promotions this month for both forward and rear; Capt. Anderson, Master Sgt. Blue, Staff Sgt. Alvarez (Headquarters and Headquarters Co), Sgt. 1st Class Mays, Staff Sgt. Quiñones, Staff Sgt. Smith (A Co), Capt. Bohn, Staff Sgt. Hinson, Staff Sgt. Fulton, Sgt. Bailey, Sgt. Perrine (B Co), Sgt. Bain, and Sgt. Dutton (C Co). Their commitment to excellence is now being rewarded as they continue to make their way up the commissioned and noncommissioned officer chain. They have met the challenge and will continue to serve our great Army.

For those that enjoy social media/networking, I encourage you to visit the 203rd BSB – Eagle Battalion Facebook page and consider becoming a fan and “Like” our page. The page is intended as another tool to keep families informed and view plenty of pictures. Your feedback is certainly welcome. In the meantime, thanks again for your service and dedication to our Nation and your many sacrifices. Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and I are honored to serve in your ranks and wish you the very best for a blessed and wonderful New Year!

Support and Defend!

Eagle 6, Eagle 7





WANT TO PLACE AN AD?

HERE'S WHAT YOUR AD WILL LOOK LIKE

Soldier's voice

Title: Keep it short and to the point. Try to stay around five words.

Wanting to Start a Dodgeball League

SPC Chuck Finley:

Message: Include as much relevant information as you can but be brief. Anything over 7 sentences will be trimmed down.

We've got six guys right now from HHT who are ready to play and we know 3 people from 203rd who are interested too. It doesn't have to be based on company, but we want to get some teams together and start playing. If you want to play, have suggestions for forming teams, or have a team already, contact us. Let's get this going!

Contact: If you are wanting feedback, include some contact information. We will not include this unless you ask.

Contact: Chuck.Finley@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/beuhringdodgeball

This space is for you to ask questions, post concerns, or to find other Soldiers to set up an event. A submission does not guarantee placement due to space restrictions.

Rules:

Posted content is "clean" in nature. Content that is offensive, or contains generally harsh language will be rejected.

Posts which are derogatory or a direct attack on an individual will be rejected.

Posts will not advertise any for profit content, to include selling or looking to buy items.

Instructions:

Email the Following to pao.sledgehammer.bde@gmail.com

Email Title:

Soldiers Voice Submission (Your Name)

Email Message:

Your Name

Title

Message

Contact Information (Optional)

Rock's Support

Lt. Col. James E. Willard
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-10 FA Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Aaron
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID, 1-10 FA Command Sergeant Major

I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas and New Year back home. Though we could not be with you, the Soldiers, NCOs and Officers were treated with some time off, good food, and several events to make the Holiday Season as special a possible. Celebrating the holidays in the Kuwaiti desert is different to say the least, but we have all made it through in good shape. Please accept, on the battalion's behalf, my gratitude for all of the care packages, gifts and cards we received during this difficult time of deployment. Your thoughtfulness and generosity can never be repaid other than knowing that each of you

has brought a smile to every Soldier in this battalion.

The great news about getting through the holiday season and the arrival of the New Year is that it marks a transition point in this deployment. December 2012 witnessed the completion of our final combined arms live fire exercises and the transition to more logistics focused training as we prepare to hand off this mission and come home. As we draw nearer redeployment, please remember that notification of all personnel movements will be conducted through rear-detachment channels and e-Army messaging. I would ask that any questions you have be directed to the battalion rear-detachment, as information provided via any other channels is nothing more than rumor. Don't get too excited just yet, as we have a few more months before we will all be back and can officially

announce the completion of our deployment; a deployment marked with an incredible level of achievement from individual Soldier to the collective battalion.

Over the past six months, we executed some of the most realistic and challenging training that I have been involved in during my career. Each and every Soldier achieved a level of proficiency that they have previously never achieved. I would venture a wager that this is the best trained artillery battalion in the United States Army and could back that up anytime, anywhere. As I near my two year mark in command, I can honestly say serving with the Rock's Support Battalion, this incredible group of Soldiers and all of you back home has been the greatest privilege of my life.

In closing, all is well here in Kuwait and the Soldiers are extremely motivated to close out this deployment in the same way they performed throughout; exceptionally well. I want to thank everyone for your continuing support for the Battalion and our Soldiers. Keep us in your thoughts, as you are all in ours each and every day.

“Rock's Support”!

LTC Ed Willard and CSM Mark Aaron



Tips for dealing with the Common Cold

1. Blow your nose often, rather than sniffling mucus back into your head. Make sure you avoid blowing too hard and causing an ear ache.



2. Staying well rested helps your body direct more energy to combating the cold.

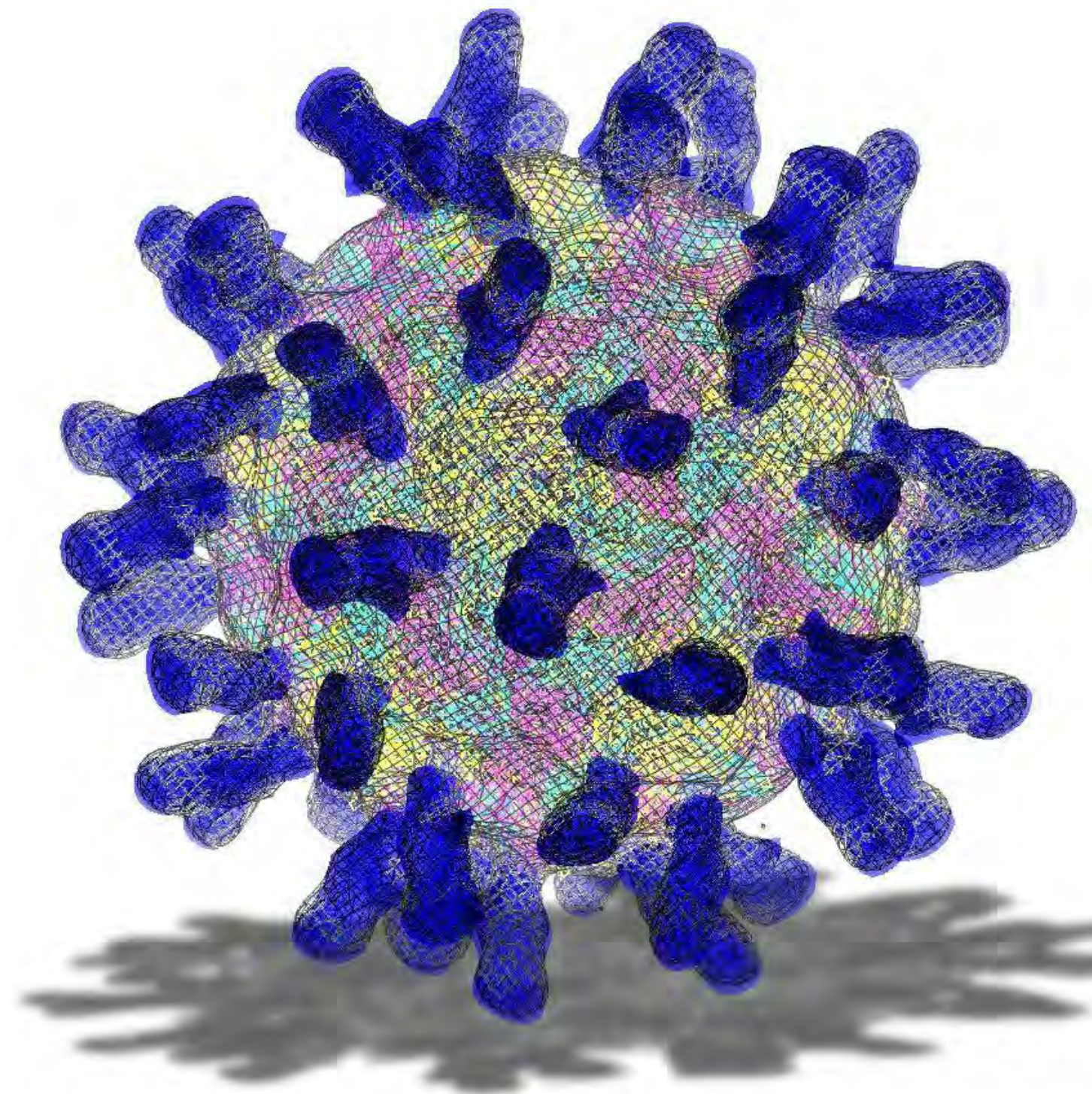
3. Gargling salt water, tea containing tannin, honey, and a few other home remedies can help relieve a sore throat. Honey, however, should not be given to children less than 1 year old.

4. Hot liquids can soothe a sore throat as well as relieve nasal congestion.

5. A hot shower with steam can moisturize your

nasal passages while relaxing you.

6. Both hot or cold packets can help you feel more comfortable and relieve some of the ache you are receiving from the cold. Try both and see which works best for you.



7. Sleeping on a slope will help with nasal passage drainage. Sleep in a chair, use an extra pillow, or place some padding under your mattress to create a slope.



The NCO Corps' Newest Eagles

Story by Capt. Garrick I Guicko
203rd, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Battalion Communications OIC
Public Affairs Representative

The 203rd Brigade Support Battalion hosted an Noncommissioned Officers Induc-

tion Ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The ceremony was a celebration of the newly promoted joining the ranks of a professional Noncommissioned Officer Corps which emphasizes and builds on the pride NCOs all share as members of such an elite corps. Fourteen newly promoted Eagle Soldiers were inducted into the Corps. The ceremony allowed fellow NCOs to build and develop a cohesive bond, support team

development, and serve as

a legacy for future NCO Induction Ceremonies.

As the senior NCO of the battalion, Command Sgt. Maj. Kent Galvin served as the host of the NCO Induction Ceremony. Command Sgt. Maj. Galvin and 203rd company First Sergeants composed the "Official Party." Also, included in the official party was guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Aaron of 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery who presented the newly promoted Soldiers a framed copy of the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer and a copy of Field Manual 7-22.7, The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide.



Phantom CLFX

Story by
Capt. Kristopher E. Lovingood
1-15 IN, 3rd ABCT, 3rd ID
Pegasus 6

The Soldiers of Phantom Company have stayed immensely busy providing sustainment for the entire battalion throughout the deployment. While they have excelled in that capacity, it has often been difficult to balance mission requirements with our own training. Recently, we had an opportunity to focus on Tactical Convoy Operations utilizing JSS Gerber and the surrounding Udairi Range Complex here in Kuwait while still maintaining our responsibility to support the battalion.

The company Situational Training Exercise (STX), Tactical Convoy Operations training, and culmination live-fire, allowed the company to simultaneously hone multiple skill sets. From the initial planning through recovery operations, the Company focused on combining doctrine and the lessons learned over the past six months. The Company stood up the Field Trains Command Post (FTCP) in order to command and control every sequence of this training event. This provided me and the company First Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Orlando Moore, the ability to assess our own ability to manage the training and track the flow of logistical assets.

The first day of training focused on the unit's ability to plan, prepare, and execute a logistical convoy. This training included periods of instruction on threat awareness, the 9 Principles of IED Combat, receipt of an OPORD and concluded with mounted rehearsals and Troop Leading Procedures. Time was also permitted for both leaders and Soldiers to share their experiences from previous combat deployments as it related to the training. This also provided an excellent opportunity to update and validate the unit SOP's. Following the didactic portion, the Distribution Platoon received its order to provide "resupply" to forward elements of the battalion within our Area of Operation. As the platoon prepared for the following days mission, they were evaluated on their time management, TLP's and effective use of rehearsals.

On the second day of training, numerous scenarios were utilized to ensure that both leaders and Soldiers were exposed to the myriad of challenges facing a convoy given a Hybrid Threat. The convoys negotiated narrow roadways, multiple road intersections and scenarios based from real world experiences. Phantom Soldiers really had their skills put to the test reacting to near and far ambushes, sniper fire, both roadside and vehicle borne improvised explosive devices and a host of other problem sets. The platoon was tested on their ability to react effectively and efficiently, utilizing the battle drills they had practiced during their Reduced and Full Force rehearsals.

"This training gave us an opportunity to refine our tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP's),"

said Sgt. 1st Class Clarence Clark, the Distribution platoon sergeant. "Even though it is was somewhat of a condensed lane, we were able to train on a lot of tasks such as react to both indirect and direct fire, react to improved explosive devices, and of course do something we are very good at...suppressing the enemy".

In addition to "suppressing the enemy" with direct fire, the platoon's leadership practiced utilizing another tool from their kit bag, calling for indirect fire. Earlier in the deployment they had the opportunity to conduct live Call-For-Fire training with 1-10 FA during the battalion's leader's certification. In practicing these skills, undoubtedly the platoon demonstrated its lethality and the benefit of combined arms training.

Throughout the second day, the company continued training on tasks such as CASEVAC and vehicle recovery procedures. When vehicles were struck by an IED or were otherwise rendered immobilized, medical treatment and transport of the simulated casualties was facilitated with the help of medics from Hellraiser Company. The hands-on medical training was also beneficial for our Combat LifeSavers within the company, adding to the extensive training they have received during the deployment. Following the treatment and evacuation of the mock patients, recovery of



the downed vehicle was initiated. The two options available was self-recovery proceeding into a deliberate recovery, or an outright deliberate recovery depending on the tactical situation. The integration of the company's internal recovery assets into the convoys was yet another example of how we were better able to maximize our training time.

"As the Convoy Commander it showed me that I had a lot more to consider when planning and maneuvering my convoy," said 1st Lt. Joe Hill, the distribution platoon leader with Foxtrot 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Forward Support Company.

The last day of training culminated with the live-fire exercise. This portion brought together the

previous two days of training and allowed the convoy to engage targets from an unstable platform while moving. While driving through a closed course, the convoy had to react to small-arms fire, treat wounded personnel, request medical evacuation support, stay vigilant for improvised explosive devices, recover downed vehicles, and send up Unexploded Ordinance and SALUTE/SPOT reports to higher headquarters.

The integration of FSC's leadership into every facet of the Combined Arms Battalion training plan over the past year has resulted in unmatched lethality and an extremely adaptable force, able to sustain and fight under any conditions. This was clearly on display throughout the training exercise. The credit to all of this success lies firmly with the talented and hard working NCO's and Soldiers of Phantom Company.

JANUARY 16, 1991

THE WAR AGAINST IRAQ
BEGAN AS ALLIED AIRCRAFT
CONDUCTED A MAJOR RAID
AGAINST IRAQI AIR DEFENSES.
THE AIR RAID ON BAGHDAD
WAS BROADCAST LIVE TO A
GLOBAL AUDIENCE BY CNN
CORRESPONDENTS AS
OPERATION DESERT SHIELD
BECAME DESERT STORM.



Buffalo Soldiers Charge Ahead With Training

As we draw near to the end of the month of December and the calendar year, the Buffalo Battalion continues to charged full speed ahead with our partnership efforts, collective training, and resiliency activities. We remained focused and steadfast on the goal to build a lasting partnership with our Kuwaiti partners and remain tactically and technically proficient in all of our unique skill sets.

Tactical exchanges with the 94th and the 26th Kuwaiti Mechanize Brigades remain a strong focus for the Buffalo Battalion. We have two of eight companies remaining from the 94th Brigade to conduct tactical exchanges. As we enter into the latter phase of the current exchange cycle, we have begun planning a soccer match between the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and 94th Brigade and a final feast consisting of traditional Arabic cuisine. These events will serve as a celebration for the lifelong partnerships and friendships we have developed between



the two units. We are proud to announce the successful completion of the schedule exchange cycles for the 26th Brigade. We concluded the tactical exchanges for the 26th Brigade with an awards ceremony to acknowledge all of the hard work and effort from the Instructors and the students. We continue to conduct visits with the 26th Brigade and look forward to the partnership dinner scheduled for early January.

The Battalion executed an aggressive training regiment during the past month that included marksmanship ranges, medical, and collective training.

Chaos conducted a rigorous training for the recently arrived Engineer Route Clearance Platoon that culminated with an integrated live fire exercise utilizing some of the Battalion's unique internal capabilities. This live fire exercise allowed the Battalion to validate the Platoon's ability to conduct their newly assigned wartime mission with proficiency. The platoon executed their task with a superior performance. In addition to the Route Clearance mission Chaos company provided Engineer support to Charlie Company 1-15 Infantry's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise. During the exercise the Engineer Platoon reduced a lane in an obstacle us-

ing a Mine Clearing Line charge (MICLIC) fired from an Armored Breacher Vehicle (ABV). The Engineers fired two MICLICs per ABV during the hours of darkness to simulate the reduction of two vehicle lanes.

The A Company Raptors provided critical visual support to the Route Clearance exercise with the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). They were able to use the UAV to identify potential dangers which allowed the platoon to spoil plan enemy attacks. Alpha Company got the opportunity to validate several of their systems for the first time in two years. Bravo Company conducted small arms ranges to sustain their marksmanship skills. When not conducting marksmanship training "Beast" Soldiers were rehearsing their specialized signal skill sets to ensure they remain at the top of their craft. In addition to internal training, the company has worked non-stop to train the Brigade's signal community on various communications equipment in preparation for the signal gunnery scheduled for early January. The signal gunnery will test the signal personnel's ability to set up and employ various communications equipment. Although, we are favored to perform higher than the remaining Battalions, Beast Soldiers continue to share their skills across the 3ABCT footprint to increase the Brigade's

ability to communicate across great distances. HHC spearheaded partnership exchanges with the 26th Brigade. The Chemical Recon Platoon conducted the tactical exchanges with the 26th Brigade with sheer perfection. The company continues to provide security assistance throughout the entire region while also logistically supporting every tactical training event throughout the Battalion. HHT remained focused on planning, synchronizing, and coordinating resources for every major training event the Brigade is involved in as well as redeployment.

The Battalion continues to sustain a high level of morale through various resiliency events. We conducted multiple MWR events this month. Some companies took advantage of Camp Buehring's MWR sponsored trips to Kuwait City. They were able to experi-

ence the culture, dining, and historical experiences of Kuwait. A large group of the Buffalo family was promoted to new ranks this month. We are proud to announce the promotion of Soldiers to the following ranks; three Specialist, three Sergeants, four Staff Sergeants, two Sergeant First Classes, one First Lieutenant, and four Captains. We are proud of the accomplishments of these outstanding Buffalo Soldiers and congratulate them on their promotions.



The Buffalo Battalion took a minute to reflect on safety this month by having a Safety Stand Down. The Soldiers engaged in multiple training events related to safety in the work, living, and play areas. The training reminded us to ensure that we are being safety conscious no matter what activity we are participating in.

We would like to say Happy Holidays to all of the Buffalo friends and families. We hope that your holidays are filled with the joy of the season surrounded by your family and friends. As this holiday season begins, we not only reminisce about our homes and families but spend time reflecting on the new memories created by unique training events and a successful partnership. We realize that none of our great accomplishments here would be possible without the love and support we receive from our families and friends at Ft Benning and around the world. We appreciate the letters, care packages, and support you all provide. From the Buffalo Family forward and at FT Benning to yours, we wish you Happy Holidays, Season's Greetings, and a very Happy New Year. As always we remain vigilant and honorable.



facebook townhall

(Jan. 16, 2013.) Contact your Family Readiness Support Assistant for more information.



New Years' Message

Written By: Chaplain (Capt.) Chang S. Park

Happy New Year! Sledgehammers

Time has gone by so fast. The year of 2012 is finally gone and will never come back to us. The year is now history and in our memories. What kind of memories do you want to store in your heart?

Because of deployment, we are separated from our lovely family and friends. Like others, I am still having unstable times since June of 2012.

My deployment was the biggest news to my family and myself. It is my second deployment and is giving both me and my family a hard time. How could I get over this circumstance? Now I reconsider that my faith, love, and hope are the main elements to help overcome my current circumstances.

I would like to think back to the past. Without faith in God and faith in family, I do not think I could overcome circumstances, like missing family, being homesick, loneliness, despairs, and more. Faith led me and my family in believing and in trusting God for life. Faith is to produce confidence,

hoping for reunion and has led me to act on of my belief.

Now turn the topic from faith to love. If you live with love, you are the most blessed person in this world. Can you image a world without love? Right now, we are spending our life in the dry desert. Even this dry desert is loved by season. There were showers of blessing. It looks like the promise of love to desert. Like the showers of blessing in the desert, family and friends are true covenants of love. They portray the refreshing seasons sent from the Kingdom of LOVE. If we are the ones who know this magical word, it is smiling in this dry land.

Finally, I would like to touch one more element; hope. For the year of 2013, what is our hope? I want to say, back home. It is everyone's dream and first priority. Our mission and duty here will soon be finished. We will soon see our lovely family and friends. With this hope, we are still marking on our calendars. Hope is not just a wishful thinking, but it is confident expectation. We are in hope and it will be not broken. Every individual member must hold onto their own hope.

Now it is time to march on forward to the year of 2013. Let me tell you a short story. There is a boy who runs fast. One day, he was running around the lake when the shadow of the sunset was gradually spreading out long on the ground. He decided to follow the shadow and catch the shadow of his head. He ran fast with confi-

dence and eager. Then, what happened? He couldn't catch his shadow but it seemed like he was going to catch it. However, whenever he ran faster, the shadow also seemed to run even faster than the boy. In the end, the boy was utterly exhausted. Incidentally, the boy stood towards sun, turned back, and he eagerly ran towards sun. Suddenly, his shadow disappeared. When he looked around, he saw that the shadow was following to him.

Look back at our past; what do you look for? Time is following us. We can't forget our past memories, but it will be a precious time to all who separated since June of 2012. You don't need to try catching your shadow, but lead your shadow to follow you.

Sledgehammers and families!

Our journey will soon be complete. We are still marching on towards our current mission. In the past, we marched by faith. In the present, we march by love. And we will be marching on hope for our fantastic reunion.

May God's peace and grace be upon to you all Sledgehammers' family this new year of 2013.

