

The Steel Sustainer

Vol. 1 Issue 3

Serving Soldiers And Their Families With Pride

February 1, 2013

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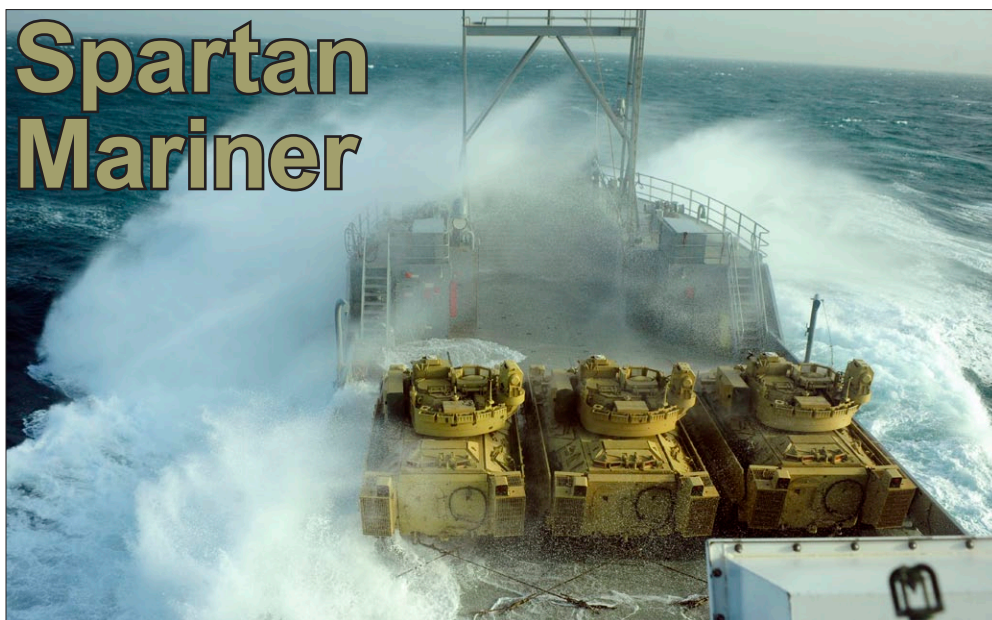
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Promotions

Spartan Mariner



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Christopher Johnston 3rd ABCT, 3rd Infantry Division

Waves crash over the side of USAV Churubusco (LCU 2013) on the Persian Gulf Jan. 9 during a training mission named Operation Spartan Mariner. The mission, conducted by 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, the 47th Transportation Company, the 436th Movement Control Battalion and the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), consisted of 19 vehicles being loaded on four Army watercraft to take part in multiple drills and exercises at sea.

*By Sgt. Christopher Johnston
3rd ABCT, 3rd ID*

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - On the cold windy morning of Jan. 8, at the Kuwait Naval Base, Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division began a mission most had never performed before.

At 6 a.m. Sledgehammer Soldiers, along with Soldiers of the 47th Transportation Company and 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), began offloading 12 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, four Paladins and three support vehicles from flatbed trailers onto a loading ramp at KNB.

The 47th Transportation Company transported the vehicles from Camp Buehring, Kuwait to the naval base a day prior to the mission.

The vehicles were then driven onto the decks of four United States Army vessels of the 436th Movement Control Battalion in preparation of Operation Spartan Mariner.

"The purpose of this training mission is to enhance interoperability between adjacent units," said 1st Lt. Anthony Rea, executive officer of Alpha Company 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd ABCT. "It gives us the opportunity to conduct training both logistically and tactically that probably only occurs once in a lifetime for Army forces."

The morning of Jan. 9, USAVs Churubusco, Five Forks, Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls and Maj. Gen. Charles P. Gross set sail on the Persian Gulf.

"I was surprised at first that the Army actually had boats," said Spc. Daniel Desisto, an infantryman assigned to Alpha Company,

See Mariner, Page 12





As I previewed all the stories for this edition of The Steel Sustainer, I was filled with mixed feelings. First, I am immensely proud of this command, of all its Soldiers, of all our partners from other commands and even other services, and of all that we've accomplished and continue to accomplish as a Sustainment Team. Task Force Steel each day expands the horizons for and expectations of all the Sustainment formations that will follow us not only here in Kuwait, but anywhere around the world our Nation needs us. As LTG Brooks has often said, "No one sets out to make history. They just show up every day to do their very best and history just happens." Thank you all for making history every day!

But I was also saddened to

think that while we are in full stride, firing on all cylinders, we are now also having to find time to plan, and even execute, the tasks to begin our departure from Kuwait. CSM Bolduc remarked to me recently that we have so much going on that we truly will be doing a Relief In Place as the Army originally meant the term – when the 135th ESC arrives, they will sit with each of you to learn your job while you do it, and then when ready, they will pick up every mission, every task, every requirement from you, and all without skipping a beat or missing a suspense. I expect everyone to keep up the pace, and even add to it if possible. We want to give the new ESC the greatest momentum right from the start and give them every opportunity to continue to grow in support of 1st TSC and ARCENT and to build a great legacy of their own during their deployment.

This also means that we will soon be breaking up Task Force Steel. I have come to know most of you as members of the Team, no matter when you joined it or where you came from. It will be hard for me to walk through the sections back at the Headquarters in

Coraopolis and not see all of you there. You will leave a gap in our lines and in our lives, and you have my most profound thanks for all you have done for our Team.

Still, whether you are staying with the 316th or moving on to some new challenge, you should take pride in knowing that you have not only made history with this deployment; you have worked together to create one of the finest, most capable units in the Sustainment community, in any component of the Army.

Everyone is eager to get back to family, friends, and the "normalcy" of our "other lives" as Citizen Soldiers, as am I, but I ask everyone to keep your focus, continue to take care of each other, and do your best every day. Finish strong!

Steel Sustainer Six



Steel Sustainer

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Up and Running



The provisional company is, from left to right, 1st Lt. Willard, Buchna, Maj. William Brine, Master Sgt. William Brown and Sgt. James Washington.

The 436th Movement Control Battalion activated a Provisional Company (Watercraft) during a ceremony aboard the USAV Churubusco (LCU 2013) at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait Dec. 22, 2012.

The provisional company, which is the first of its kind in Kuwait, was formed to help manage the operations and missions of Army watercraft currently deployed to the region.

“The Army employs both landing craft utilities and logistical support vessels to provide a strategic asset, enabling operational freedom of movement and helping to promote a more stable and secure area of responsibility,” said Provisional Company Commander, Maj. William C. Brine. “This company gives a level of command and control to the vessels they didn’t have before. We are responsible for everything the boats do, from ensuring all necessary pre-combat check inspections are performed before sailing to maintenance and personnel actions of the Soldiers.”

In addition to providing command and control functionality, the provisional company provides administrative support for all Army watercraft.

“We do the behind the scenes administrative work to let the vessels focus on operations and maintenance,” said Master Sgt. William Brown said. “We work on everything from supply and administrative tasks to making sure Soldiers get their awards.”

During the activation ceremony 436th Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Thomas J. Downey presented the newly designed unit colors to Brine, symbolizing Downey’s trust in the capabilities of the new company commander.

“I’m very honored and humbled to be selected for this position,” said Brine. “It’s a big task and it’s something that I think is achievable, you just got to eat the elephant one bite at a time.”

After the ceremony had finished Brine sprinted off of the deck of the LCU diving into the Persian Gulf and christening the new company colors. Wrapping up a historic afternoon this way was unorthodox, but Brine said, “I did it to build morale and make this not just another ceremony, but make it memorable.”

(Below) The 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) during mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas, prior to deploying to Kuwait



U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter J. Berardi, 316th ESC

316th Soldiers Assist Downsizing Efforts



Story and Photos By
Staff Sgt. Peter J. Berardi

AFGHANISTAN - Teams of Soldiers with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) have been hard at work assisting with vehicle and equipment retrograde operations at bases across Afghanistan over the past couple of months.

The 316th Soldiers in Afghanistan work as part of Redistribution Property Assistance Teams. The teams inspect Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, containers, other vehicles and non-rolling equipment for ammunition, explosives, brass or anything else that may prevent vehicles or equipment from passing through customs once sent back to the U.S.

The equipment retrograde is a collaborative effort between all strategic partners across the Department of Defense. The 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) is responsible for managing the retrograde of equipment out of the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

"Our Soldiers are working with Reserve, National Guard, active Army, Navy customs, DOD civilians and contractors," said 1st Lt. Alan Eberhart, a Pittsburgh resident and the

officer in charge of the 316th team. "There are a lot of different pieces to this and our Soldiers have really come together well, and have been working well with all of the players in the system."

Each piece of equipment goes through multiple, in depth, hands-on inspections before customs will clear it for travel out of Afghanistan.

"It's a very detailed process," said Staff

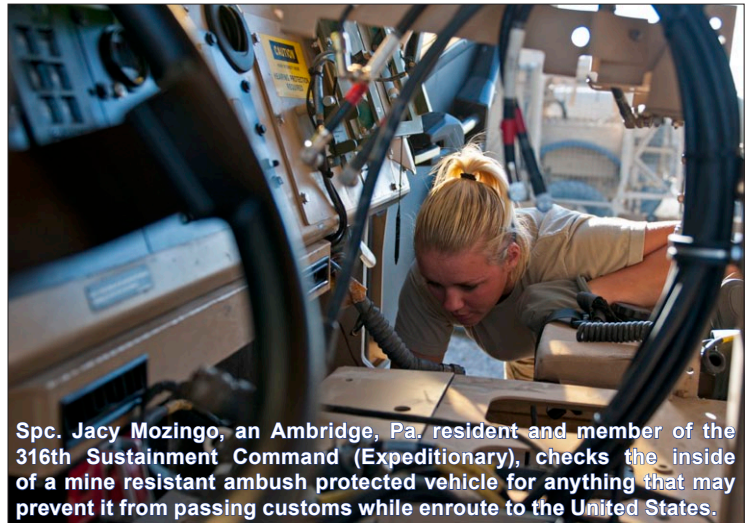
Sgt. Ramon Delgado, a resident of Bronx, N.Y. and of a member of the 316th assigned to one of the RPATs. "We inspect every vehicle multiple times to ensure they are properly cleared. We give them an initial inspection to ensure they are safe to work on. Following this, internal equipment is removed and then we inspect again, then the vehicles are sent to the wash rash followed by another inspection. After all of that, they



The 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s Sgt. Maj. Michael Bolduc sits on an MRAP and talks with Sgt. Dawn Kincer, a member of the 316th ESC Redistribution Property Assistance Team, at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.



Spc. Patrick Claybaugh, a Belle Vernon, Pa. resident and member of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), checks the engine bay of a Humvee for anything that may prevent it from passing customs while enroute to the United States.



Spc. Jacy Mozingo, an Ambridge, Pa. resident and member of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), checks the inside of a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle for anything that may prevent it from passing customs while enroute to the United States.

get one final check before being sent through customs.”

The RPATs have helped inspect and move a large amount of equipment, maintaining good use of taxpayer dollars.

“Some days we will have over 50 vehicles come through just our location,” said Spc. Patrick Claybaugh, a resident of Belle Vernon, Pa. and a member of the 316th assigned to one of the RPATs. “We stay busy as possible, if we aren’t doing ammo inspections we will work on customs inspections.”

“After trucks come in they are staged and ready for travel out of Afghanistan in no

more than nine days,” said Hamilton. “Our group has done over 1,000 inspections so far and is on pace to do over 2,500 during our time on this mission.”

Currently, the U.S. has about \$48 billion worth of equipment in Afghanistan. This includes more than 35,000 vehicles and over 95,000 shipping containers. It is estimated that redeployment will cost a fraction of the value of the equipment. This makes redeployment good stewardship of taxpayer funds and government property and it protects the American taxpayers’ long-term investment in high-quality military

equipment, said a Maj. Thomas Campbell, 1st TSC deputy public affairs officer.

At the same time our Soldiers and Army civilians will continue to work together with units in the fight to provide steadfast logistical support, helping them remain agile on the battlefield while Afghan National Security Forces continue to take the lead in securing a stable and peaceful future for Afghanistan, said Campbell.

“Our ammo abatement mission allows us to clear customs in neighboring countries without incident as we retrograde our equipment back to the U.S.,” said Col. Bruce

Hackett, a resident of Pittsburgh and the deputy commander of the 316th. “The innovative procedures that our young Soldiers have developed, coupled with their adaptability has helped produce and refine the standard operating procedures for this critical mission.”



Spc. David Niedergall (above) and Sgt. John Doyle (below), both Pittsburgh residents and members of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), check the inside of a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle for anything that may prevent it from passing customs while enroute to the United States.

Fuel Is More Than Just At The Pump

By Sgt. 1st Class Tina Eichenour
38th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - Most people may not know what all goes into managing bulk fuel while deployed overseas. Back in the United States fuel is stored in underground and above-ground tanks, and then it is transported to various gas stations for consumers to pump into their cars.

Two Indiana National Guard Soldiers from the 38th Sustainment Brigade have been managing a fuel terminal containing millions of gallons of fuel in above ground collapsible bladders for service members, contractors and DoD employees throughout Kuwait.

Staff Sgt. Garold Pennell and Master Sgt. Mark Frettinger are currently deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, with the 38th Sustainment Brigade and work at the Camp Buehring Tactical Petroleum Terminal. The fuel terminal is a storage facility for diesel,

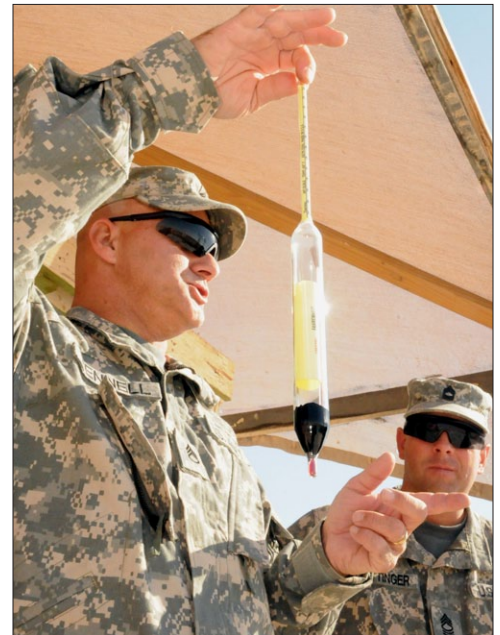
gasoline and aviation fuel.

Pennell, from Terre Haute, Ind., has more than 19 years of military experience as a petroleum specialist and has more than 13 years of civilian petroleum experience. He has a vast knowledge of what it takes to move, inspect and store fuel.

"I oversee the safety, personal protective equipment and walk the hose lines for leaks and damage," said Pennell. He said with his experience, he knows, "If the contractors are doing the procedures the right or wrong way."

Frettinger, from Rochester, Ind., is the responsible officer for the fuel terminal who works with over 40 contractors at the terminal. He is an Army trained automated logistic specialist and oversees the accountability of the fuel stored at Camp Buehring. He reports and measures the loss or gain of the fuel.

Frettinger said his work helps to ensure the upkeep is done at the facility. "That is part of



Staff Sgt. Garold Pennell, a petroleum supply specialist and assistant to the responsible officer at Camp Buehring Tactical Petroleum Terminal, 38th Sustainment Brigade, explains the use of a hydrometer at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012. Pennell, an Indiana Guardsman from Terre Haute, Ind., remains proactive in checking and correcting all operational issues the terminal may have.

our job is to make sure everyone knows what their responsibilities are to make sure things get done," said Frettinger.

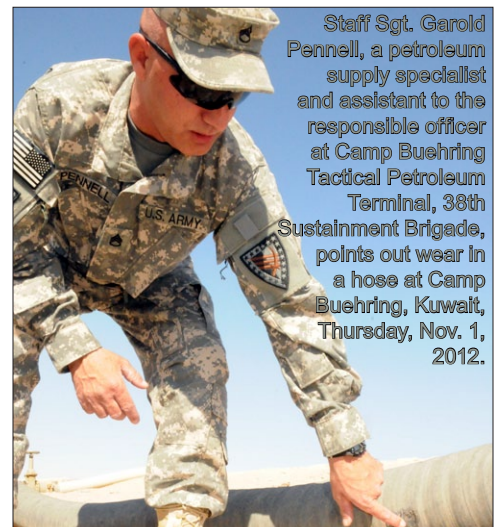
Frettinger does not have a formal background in fuel, but Pennell said he is making strides in understanding fuel and its processes from a petroleum supply specialist's perspective. "He is learning a lot on fuel, what the stuff is out there, what it is called. He is learning an aspect of a 92F."

Both Soldiers said they are learning new things about the functions of the fuel terminal on a daily basis and are working to improve the processes for the future.



All Photos This Page by Sgt. William E. Henry, 38th Sustainment Brigade

Master Sgt. Mark Frettinger, Camp Buehring Tactical Petroleum Terminal responsible officer, 38th Sustainment Brigade, explains how a line is used for measuring the amount of fuel in a bladder at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012. Frettinger, an Indiana Guardsman from Rochester, Ind., is responsible for the fuel and equipment used at the terminal daily.



Staff Sgt. Garold Pennell, a petroleum supply specialist and assistant to the responsible officer at Camp Buehring Tactical Petroleum Terminal, 38th Sustainment Brigade, points out wear in a hose at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012.

Father and Son Reunite

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, Kuwait - Halfway around the world a fathers search for his son pays off while serving their country. "I received orders last January to mobilize as the Group Commander for Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, Forward at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait," said U.S. Navy Capt. Charles I. Rink, Group Commander, NAVELSG FWD. "As I began my preparations I learned that my son, Ensign Charles Rink, was also preparing to deploy in the same region."

Ensign Rink recently joined the Navy after graduating from Officer Candidate School at California State University, Humboldt and is currently assigned to the USS Rushmore (LSD 47) as the weapons officer and the assistant boarding officer. He is the third generation of Navy in the family. Capt. Rink's father was a fighter pilot in the Pacific during WWII, flying F6F Hellcats.

As Capt. Rink stepped onto a plane on Sept. 17, heading for Kuwait as fate would have it the USS Rushmore let go its lines and

the tugs pushed it away from the pier on the very same day.

I was leaving behind my wife and daughter while he was leaving behind his pregnant wife. We both were going to miss the birth of his first child and my first grandchild and we were both going to be away from our families on the other side of the globe," said Rink.

Rink and his son, both residents of San Diego, kept in touch throughout deployment and miraculously their paths crossed. "A group of officers including Ensign Rink along with a group of enlisted had come ashore at Kuwait Naval Base for boarding procedure exercises with the Kuwait Navy," said Rink. "The base is only a short distance from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, so I jumped into a vehicle and headed down to find him."

It took checking many places before the two would finally meet up. "We knew the general area he was going to be located, but not the specific building," said Capt. Rink.

"Checking in with the local Kuwait Navy we were directed to a classroom, unfortunately he was not there. We then went to the Camp Patriot, Operations Center and were told the Rushmore personnel had just left the base approximately 40 minutes ago."

Heartbroken, but determined, Rink continued his search with no success. Just as he was about to give up he spotted some Sailors walking along a road in their Navy working uniforms. They were from the Rushmore! Included in the group was Capt. Rink's son Ensign Rink.

"Half a world away from home, my son and I connected in a very happy father and son reunion. After enjoying a cup of coffee together, we headed over to the pier to wait for the Rushmore's gig. While waiting for the gig, we had time to enjoy a couple cigars and the company of each other. Sadly having only been able to spend a couple hours together my son Ensign Charles Rink had to shove off. I am hopeful we find another rare opportunity to see each other again."

Part of Task Force Steel's mission involves many different units. The Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (Forward) conducts customs inspections for all personnel leaving theater. NAVELSG reports to the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and TFS works in conjunction with these sailors as part of the overall 1st TSC mission.



Courtesy Photo

Ensign Charles Rink and his father Capt. Charles Rink, both deployed to the Middle East, were able to reunite for a quick hello recently at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait. Capt. Rink is deployed with Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, Forward at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and Ensign Rink is deployed to the USS Rushmore (LSD 47).

Reserve Watercraft Making Moves



Army Reserve mariners aboard the USAV Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls (LSV 8) lower the front ramp at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait, Oct. 27. The Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls is more than 300 feet long and has the ability to transport all types of military and civilian cargo, such as vehicles, large containers and various types of equipment.

Story and Photo By
Staff Sgt. Peter J. Berardi

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, Kuwait - After a decade of war, the Army relies heavily on the Army Reserve for its technical and support capabilities, including Army Reserve watercraft. Equipped with one of the newest vessels currently available to the Army, Reserve mariners stationed aboard the USAV Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls (LSV 8) at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait, support

movement of equipment throughout the U.S. Army Central Command area of responsibility for all branches of the military.

The reserve mariners move all types of equipment, from supplies to vehicles, in support of ARCENT. Moving these materials through the area requires working closely with the U.S. Navy and our Kuwaiti partners.

Recently, Commanding General Third Army, U.S. Army Central Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks visited the Army Reserve crew

of the Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls. "The work that's done by our Army watercraft is very important," said Brooks. "You are unsung heroes, you make it happen time after time."

One of the new Kuroda-class logistics support vessels is assigned to Reserve Soldiers with the 436th Movement Control Battalion stationed at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait, and exceeds the older, but still in service, Besson-class LSVs in many ways. Among the numerous improvements, the Maj. Gen. Robert Smalls is faster, more than 40 feet longer, can carry more than 200 more tons of cargo and has a significantly longer bow ramp allowing for roll on roll off operations on shallower beach gradients.

"Saying hey, we are an Army Reserve unit that is deployed on one of the two new LSVs, there's a lot of pride there," said Staff Sgt. James Waggoner, a resident of Pearl City, Hawaii, and a junior marine engineer with the 548th Transportation Detachment currently deployed to Kuwait.

An LSV's crew is composed of 23 enlisted personnel and eight warrant officers with the vessel master generally being a chief warrant officer four. "The Army maritime field is the oldest of the warrant officer MOSs [military occupation specialty]," explained Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard Martin, a resident of Beaver, Pa., and member of the 316th ESC support operations section. "It is a very challenging, highly technical career field and the course is fast paced and academically intense. The Reserve crews also bring a diverse set of civilian skills with them, which enhances their problem solving skills."

Being members of the Army Reserve, the vessel crews bring more experience than just their MOS and are trained to manage specialized capabilities. "We are a pretty diverse crew and can do a lot more than active component crews can do," said Sgt. 1st Class Mathew Bechtold, a native of Jerseyville, Ill., and member of the 805th Transportation Detachment from Tacoma, Wash. "We bring more to the table because we have training in other areas from our civilian jobs. Our crew, at one point or another, has been licensed on anything that moves, so there's nothing that we can't operate. We've got two commercial airline pilots, I used to be in Navy subs [submarines] and Staff Sgt. Angle used to work on wheeled and track vehicles. It's kinda like the A-Team, just a little bit bigger."



Kuwait National Guard 1st Lts. Hashem Al-Refae and Hamad Al-Shetail move a 150-pound combat lifesaver medical dummy to the medical evacuation site during a simulated combat practical exercise.

Sharing Medical Information With Kuwaiti Paramedics

*Story and Photo By
Sgt 1st Class Adam Stone*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The U.S. Army has a history of teaching Soldiers who aren't medics how to treat Soldiers on the battlefield; in fact they start at basic training.

Kuwait National Guard soldiers 1st Lts. Hashem Al-Refae and Hamad Al-Shetail attended a recent combat lifesaver course at Camp Arifjan Nov. 13-16, 2012, so they could see how the U.S. Army trains its non-medical Soldiers on tactical treatment of wounds. The four day course covered classroom training as well as practical hands-on experience. The combat lifesaver course teaches when they see a Soldier injured on the battlefield how to establish fire superiority, help the hurt Soldier by stopping the bleeding, get the Soldier to a safe location and call for help.

"The Kuwait National Guard wants to try tactical combat care and develop protocols

to improve patient care," said Hamad.

Hashem and Hamad attended the class to exchange information on how each army treats the wounded. They have degrees in paramedics/emergency medicine and serve as emergency medical nurses. Both KNG and U.S. Army Soldiers had an opportunity to share their experiences and discuss similarities and differences in their jobs.

Hamed commented on one obvious difference between the KNG and U.S. Army, "KNG emergency medical technicians wear a slightly different uniform than the rest of the KNG, so an injured Soldier knows who we are."

Their experience in civilian emergency medicine brought a new perspective to the class, "The tactical way is different because it's about getting the casualty to safety first instead of treating them on the spot," said Hamad.

Staff Sgt. Frank Moore, the U.S. Army combat lifesaver course instructor, enjoyed having them in the classroom. "They have

a lot of experience on the civilian side and were able to explain the technical reasons why we do things a certain way, medically. They did the KNG proud," said Moore.

"It has been a real pleasure in each and every encounter we have had with the KNG medical soldiers and our exchange of information has been highly beneficial in increasing our knowledge base here in the Surgeon Cell," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Michelle Shimps.

Hashem and Hamed agree that and the class was a positive experience and tactical combat casualty care training for many types of Soldiers is important.

"We are looking forward to more classes because you have to practice," said Hashem.

With Hamed adding, "We like how you have the non-medical background Soldiers doing this class. A lot of those without a medical background don't know what to do. With human life, time does matter. If you have some medical background near that can make a difference."

Old Man Winter



By Staff Sgt. Kristin Walker

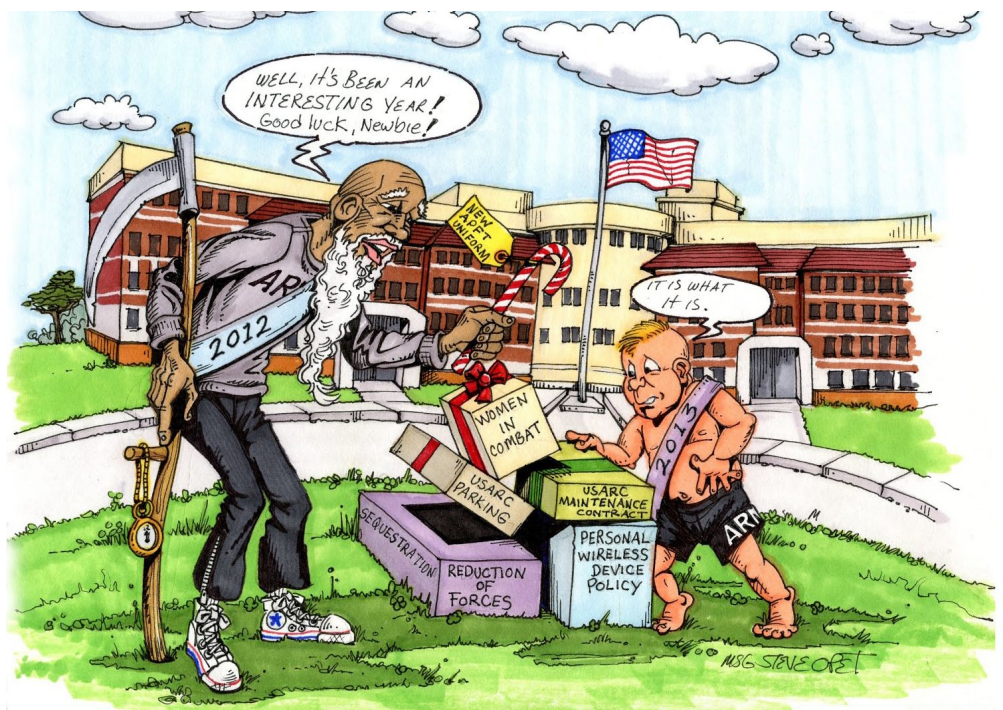
The 316th is based just outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and even with nearly half of the unit being comprised of Soldiers who were transferred from other units, many of us are from the Northeast and not strangers to the biting cold of January. Average temperatures in the area around this time of year can climb to an impressive 38 degrees prompting New Englanders, Yinzers, and New Yorkers to bundle up in their hooded sweatshirts and down jackets before venturing outside. Many scoffed during our predeployment briefings this time last year when we were strongly encouraged to pack cold weather clothing in our footlockers or duffle bags. Why waste the limited space we already had to pack Penn State sweatshirts or Steelers jackets when we were headed to the desert where temperatures during the hot months would consistently be upwards of 115 degrees?

To the dismay of some, relief of others, and perhaps shock of us all we have in fact found ourselves suddenly enveloped in winter in the desert. Similar to the way the antagonist is pictured in spy movies stalking his target before firing a critical shot, many of us did not suspect anything until the sudden chill in the air caused the hair on the back of our necks and arms

to stand on end. The temperature began to drop to a comfortable 90-something-degrees, and even dipped into the high 80s on cooler days during September. The preferred attire for many remained flip flops, shorts, and T shirts (especially those garnered from 5K runs) well into November; however there was a change the latter half of the month, and the night wind began to foreshadow that colder days were yet ahead. We all learned that the ominous warning about cold days and

nights promised during the predeployment briefings was right when we stepped out of our living quarters shivering into a frosty 60 degree day in late December. The Penn State hoodies, Pirates long-sleeved shirts, and Steelers jackets have become fashion statements now as we bundle up before heading out to our daily activities. Some have gone as far as to wear scarves, woolen hats with the knit ball on top, mittens, and the occasional ascot to stay warm. January began with a couple weeks of biting cold in the mid-30s accompanied by sharp nagging winds. Certainly temperatures in the desert are no -13 degrees with wind-chill factored in as it is back at home in the Northeast, but a drop from 115 degrees to the low 40s is enough for those of us who have gotten acclimatized to the desert reason to break out the thermals. Even though it has recently started to warm back up to the 70s, many keep their Penguins jerseys close at hand just in case.

Staff Sgt. Kristin Walker is a 27D, Paralegal, in the US Army Reserve. She hails from the Washington DC area and considers herself a happy person. She writes for the 316th from Kuwait on a regular basis.





Throughout America's history, from the Battle of Lexington to the Battle for Fallujah, black Soldiers have honorably answered the call to duty, serving with great valor and distinction in America's armed forces.

During February, the Army celebrates and pays tribute to black Soldiers and recognizes the important contributions they have made in past wars and are continuing to make today in overseas operations.

"Hell Fighters" From Harlem

Sechault, France, September 29, 1918.

From Harlem streets and other New York City neighborhoods they came, "over there". Many months after their arrival in the war zone the 369th Infantry, as part of the French Army's 161st Division, marched toward a date with destiny in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. A fierce artillery barrage preceded the attack by the 369th, nicknamed "Hell Fighters" by the French and Germans. The 369th Infantry fought valiantly in the Allied (Champagne) Offensive. Attacking behind a fiery barrage, the 369th Infantry assaulted successive German trench lines and captured the town of Ripont. Against determined resistance, the 369th advanced up the heights north of the Dormoise River and spearheaded the attack toward the town of Sechault where the town was taken and the 369th Soldiers dug in to consolidate their advance position.

Their actions, depicted in the photo, earned the Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) given to reward feats of bravery, for the entire regiment. But the Meuse-Argonne claimed nearly one-third of these black fighting men as battle casualties. This distinguished Regiment left its proud mark on as "the regiment that never lost a man captured, a trench or a foot of ground..." For more information visit www.army.mil/africanamericans

From Mariner, Page 1

1-15 IN, 3rd ABCT. "It was an honor to be part of this mission. I was told this is the first time Bradleys had seen the water in a very long time."

The units' training did not end once they were underway. Soldiers conducted radio communications, as well as man overboard and fire drills.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Vernon Slaughter, vessel master of USAV Churubusco, explained that these vessels generally cruise at 12 knots even with six Bradleys, weighing over 150 tons, on board.

With three to six foot seas crashing over the side of the vessels, the flat bottomed Churubusco vigorously rocked from side to side.

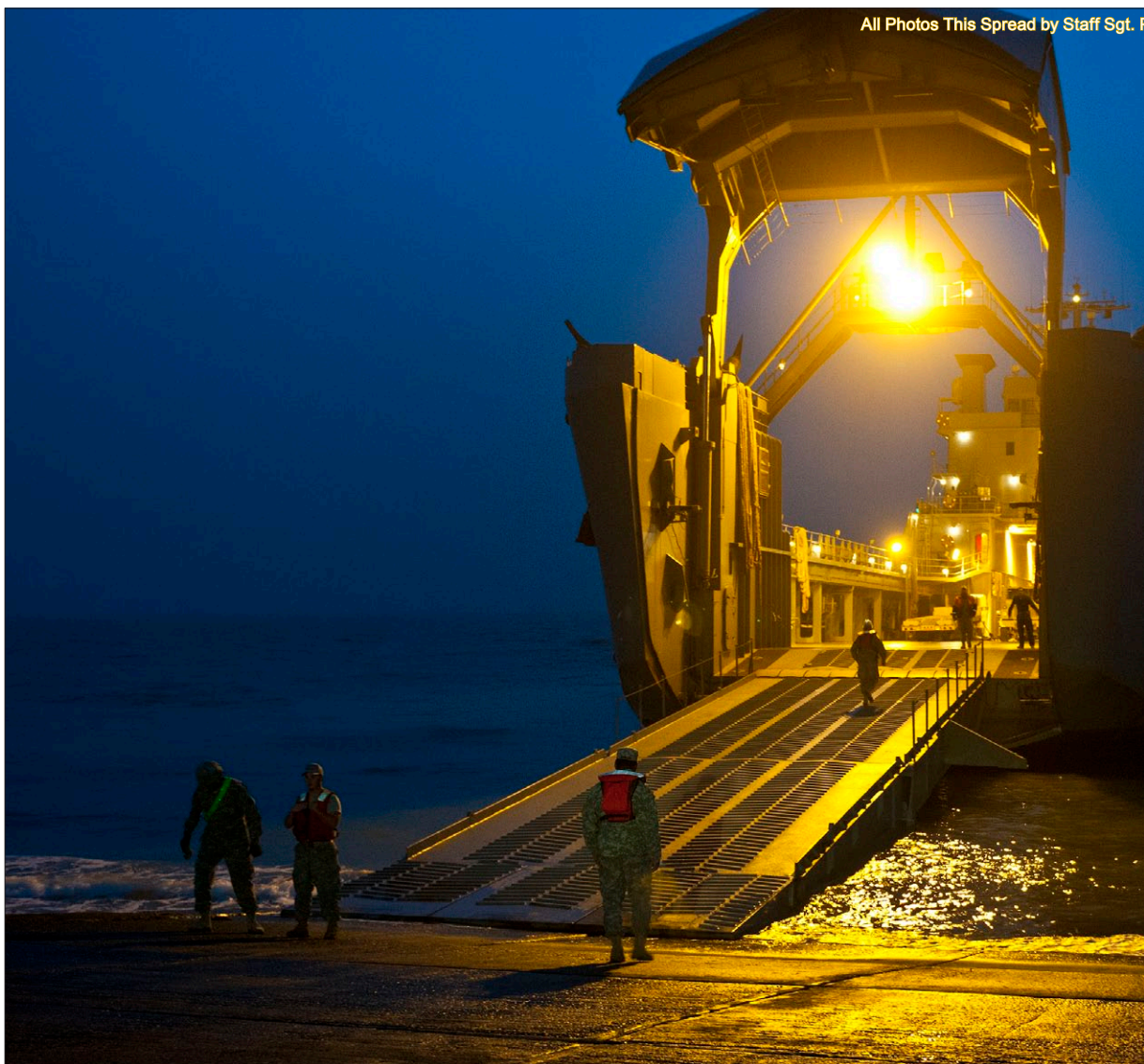
"It started out as a blast, for about the first hour while we were docked, without getting hit by the waves," laughed Desisto. "Once we got out to sea and the waves started hitting us, it was rough. A lot of us got seasick, but I was glad to be part of this mission. It is something I will never forget."

The vessels sailed two hours out and returned, giving the Soldiers from the different units time to interact, cross-train and bond.

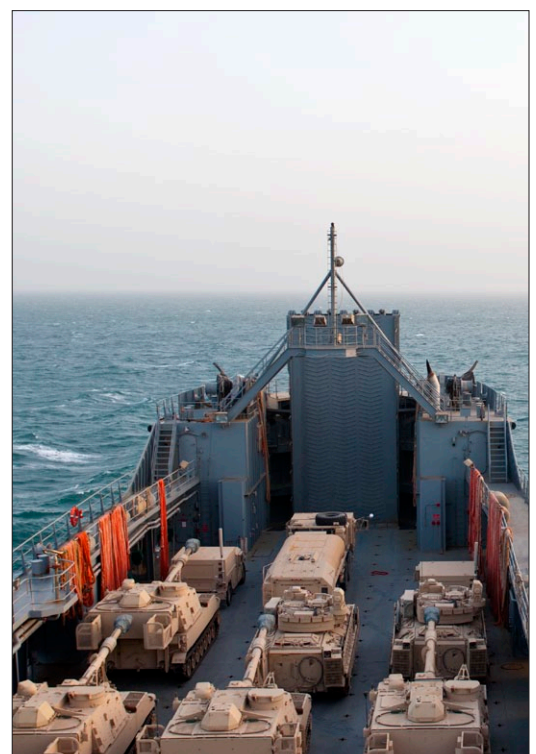
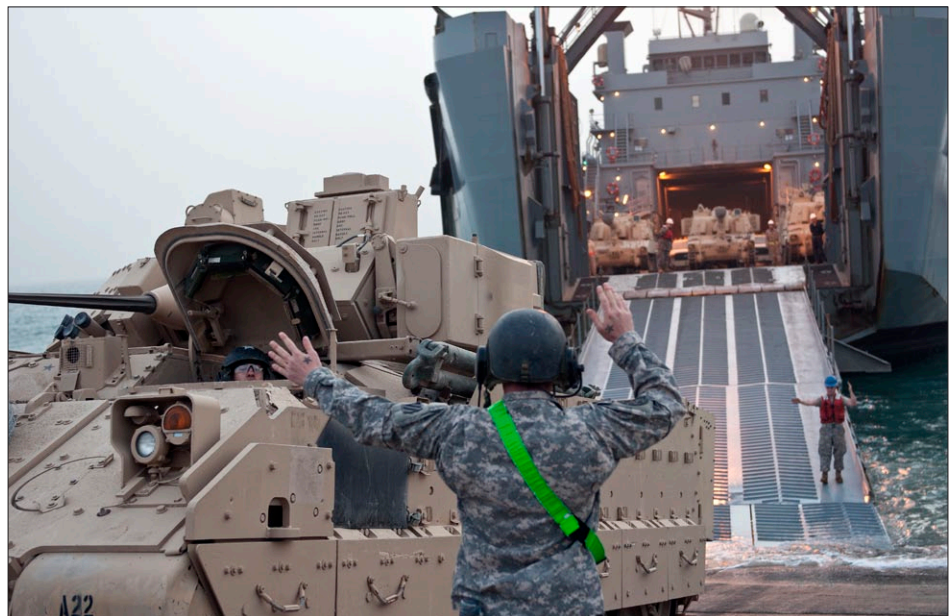
"Because of coordination with supporting units, particularly the 47th Transportation Company, the execution portion of loading and unloading the vehicles went smoothly," said Rea.

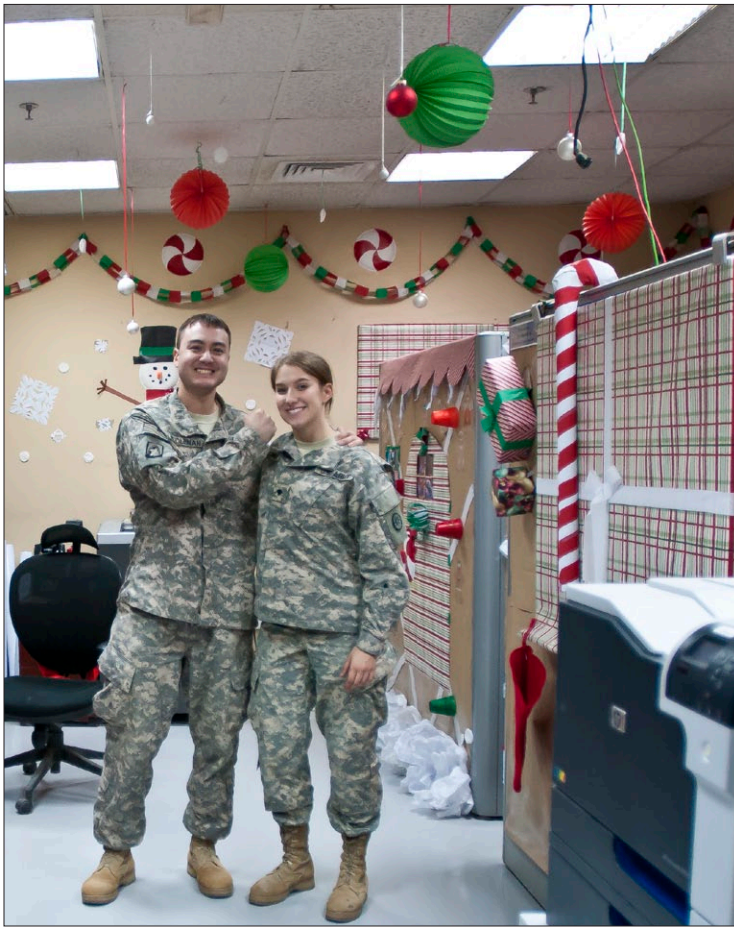
The exercise demonstrated the ability to rapidly transport vehicles for any possible contingency in the region explained Rea.

"I think the Soldiers really got a feel for how big of a deal this training event was with so many people out and about to witness the execution portion," said Rea. "It gave them something to be proud about."



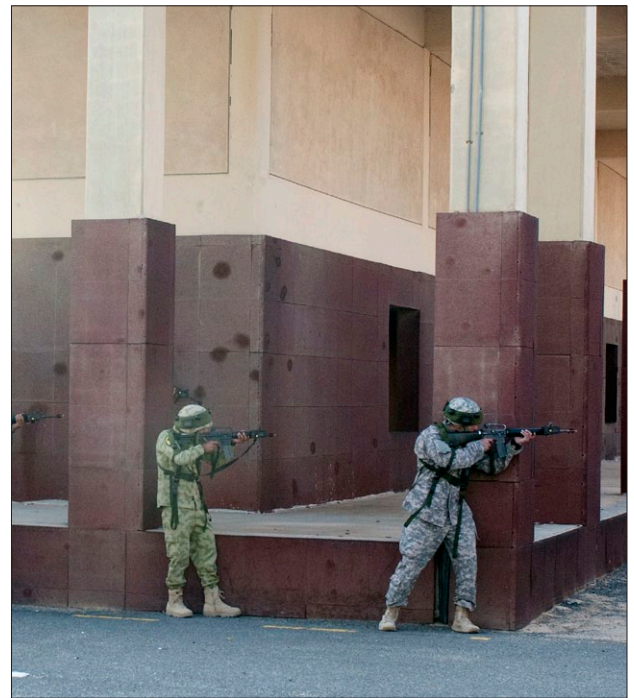
Peter J. Berardi, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)





316th Soldiers: Throughout the Area





Building Camaraderie With Kuwait National Guard Soldiers



Dec. 22nd End of the World 5K Run



Soldiers with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) sponsored an end of the world 5k zombie run/walk at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Dec. 22.

The event took over four months of planning, dozens of volunteers and over 50 zombies to chase the over 300 participants who survived the zombie apocalypse.

Capt. Bronwyn Odhner said, "It was a lot of work to put together but it was a lot of fun to see it happen and to see zombies chase runners."

Odhner would like to thank Camp Arifjan, the post fire department and the Soldiers who did everything to make it happen.



Motorcycle Safety



Motorcycle Refresher Training.

What is it? Motorcycle refresher training for licensed riders who have completed a Motorcycle Safety Foundation course.

The MRT will be provided for any (motorcycle licensed and endorsed) Soldier owning the motorcycle and returning from a deployment greater than 180 days. The MRT will be conducted prior to any Soldier operating his or her motorcycle on a public or private street or highway with the exception of riding to the training site or location. The MRT will be conducted on the individual's own motorcycle to confirm ability to safely handle their motorcycle verses taking training on a smaller size/cc training motorcycle. Training will be provided through the Army Traffic Safety Training Program contractor or may be conducted at the unit level using the USACR/SC MRT DVD.

Motorcycle sustainment training. Based on the type of motorcycle owned or operated, Soldiers are required to complete motorcycle sustainment training every 3 years, which consists of, at a minimum, retaking an ERC or the MSRC. A Soldier can meet the sustainment training requirement, at no expense to the government, by taking an Army approved advanced level motorcycle course.

Who attends? The ISO Motorcycle Safety Training Program is currently registering active duty military, their dependants, military Reserve and National Guard, retired military, DOD civilian employees and DOD contractors who have previously completed a BRC or ERC. The MSRC is mandatory for licensed military sport bike riders. Also, Motorcycle refresher training (MRT) is mandatory for Soldiers deployed for more than 180 days.

Where? The 99th Regional Support Command provides MSF funding for O & F and Training commands, and 99th RSC Soldiers and MILTECHS located in the following states: West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

For a list of courses meeting the criteria or for additional information please visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center Web site, <https://safety.army.mil> or contact your nearest RSC or Mr. Allen Pancheri, the 316 ESC Safety Officer.

Contact your area Regional Support Command Safety Office for additional information

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 63rd RSC | - (650) 526-9678 |
| 81st RSC | - (803) 751-9790 |
| 88th RSC | - (608) 388-0552 |
| 99th RSC | - (609) 562-7469 |
| 1 MSC | - (787) 707-2560 |
| 9 MSC | - (808) 438-1600 ext 3367 |

Army Delivers Mail Before Christmas

*Story and Photos By
Sgt. 1st Class Adam Stone*

SOUTHWEST ASIA – You know you're a big deal when you can say you have your own zip code. For Soldiers of the 2nd Field Artillery Battalion, 18th FA Regiment deployed in Southwest Asia, that means mail delivery.

To support this need Army Reserve Soldiers of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and 444th Human Resources Company, from Coraopolis, Pa. and currently deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, set up a new Army post office from scratch just two months before Christmas.

Getting mail to Soldiers deployed overseas is a command priority, especially at this time of year.

"Everybody on the camp knows when mail day is. They know that their families

are sending everything they're asking for," says Spc. Jimmy Bennett, 2nd FA Battalion, 18th FA Regiment, and a native of Columbus, Ga.

"Our chain-of-command wanted to make sure they have the support they need before Christmas. Since this operation started we have been pushing it in time to get it ready for this critical moment," says 1st Lt. Mikil Hernandez of the 316th and a resident of Browns Mills, N.J.

When the 2-18th was building its camp, it included a post office in its plans. This means, postal Soldiers are able to sort thousands of pounds worth of mail at a time inside their tent.

Hernandez was the first team member to arrive around the beginning of November to set up the APO. Before the team could start receiving mail, he had to make sure the post office could receive and store mail while also finding a way to get mail to the Soldiers.

"In a situation like this, an APO can take anywhere from three to eight weeks before we can start distributing mail," said Capt. Leslie Mose, the 316th Human Resources Operations Branch officer in charge.

The 444th HRSC Soldiers that took this mission were expecting to leave with the rest of their unit, this December. They've volunteered to remain in theater to sustain the postal mission until the 2-18th leaves theater in a few months.

Spc. Leslie Royster of the 444th and a native of the Hill district in Pittsburgh said, "The Army goes to great lengths to get mail to Soldiers no matter the location. Some may get it more regularly than others, but we do everything within our power to get Soldiers their mail."

The mail team has delivered more than 24,500 pounds worth of mail since Thanksgiving according to Sgt. Greg Council of the 444th and a native of the Northside neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

"I enjoy the mail mission and the joy it brings to Soldiers' faces. At times, they may be in a desolate place. That little piece of mail brings a piece of home to them," said Council.



Soldiers of the 2nd Field Artillery Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment sort more than 4,000 pounds of mail that arrived in their location Dec. 4. A three-Soldier team has processed more than 25,000 pounds of mail since Thanksgiving to support the 2-18 Field Artillery Battalion Army post office. "I enjoy the mail mission and the joy it brings to Soldiers' faces. At times, they may be in a desolate place where there's not much to do or to see. That little piece of mail brings a piece of home to them," said Council.

Getting to Know CW3 Jeremy Gula

I'm Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeremy Gula, from Central Pa., currently deployed with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) G4 section as the property book officer and the command's biggest Yankee fan. My main duties include tracking inventory compliance for our down trace units and assisting units with shortages of equipment.

I joined the active duty Army in September of 1994 branching infantry and was initially stationed at Ft. Drum, N.Y. I left active duty for the Army Reserve becoming a member of the AGR (active guard reserve) program in 1998 as a supply specialist.

I had made it to the rank of sergeant first class in the supply field then I decided to become a warrant officer. I was accepted to candidate school in 2004 after my first deployment to Iraq, as a battalion supply NCO with the 324th Military Police Battalion and graduated in August of 2004 as a warrant officer.

One of the most important things that the Army has given me during my time in is stability in my life by providing me with a routine, good benefits and a stable career. Another thing I have gained from being in the military is a greater sense of purpose than I

had as a civilian because I learned that everything is not about me and that others can come first.

I think that my 2003 deployment to Iraq was the most memorable experience I've had in the Army. That deployment gave me validation as a Soldier. It showed me that I was highly trained and prepared to do what I needed to do during high stress or dangerous situations. I think that the average guy probably wonders if they can perform when the conditions challenge them and after that deployment I knew that I could.

So far this deployment has been going good and overall I've kept pretty busy. There have been a couple of unexpected things but nothing that couldn't be adapted to or over come. There have also been some peaks and valleys in the workload. Normally, when units leave I get a little busier because they have to do a final inventory to see if there is any equipment missing and I have to help reconcile any discrepancies.

After this deployment I will PCS (permanent change of station) to Florida. I'm not the biggest fan of winter anymore, plus I'll get to go to Yankees spring training.

I'd like to say hi to my wife, my kids and my family at home. Thanks for the all of the support and go Yankees maybe we'll get 'em next year!



Getting to Know MAJ Larry Mix

I'm Maj. Larry Mix, from Farmington, N.M., in the heart of America's Southwest, and am currently deployed to Kuwait with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) as the knowledge management officer in charge.

Many people ask, what is knowledge management? My sections job is to help capture and document Soldiers individual knowledge, and help its dissemination within the organization to better manage and share information.

I joined the Army in 2000 after graduating from Arizona State University with a degree in mechanical engineering. The most memorable event in my military career has to be 9/11. By the end of September 2001, I was in Saudi Arabia as a signal platoon leader helping to build up our communications infrastructure in the Middle East. Over the next five years I deployed two more times. I deployed to Kuwait with the 40th Signal Battalion and Iraq with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

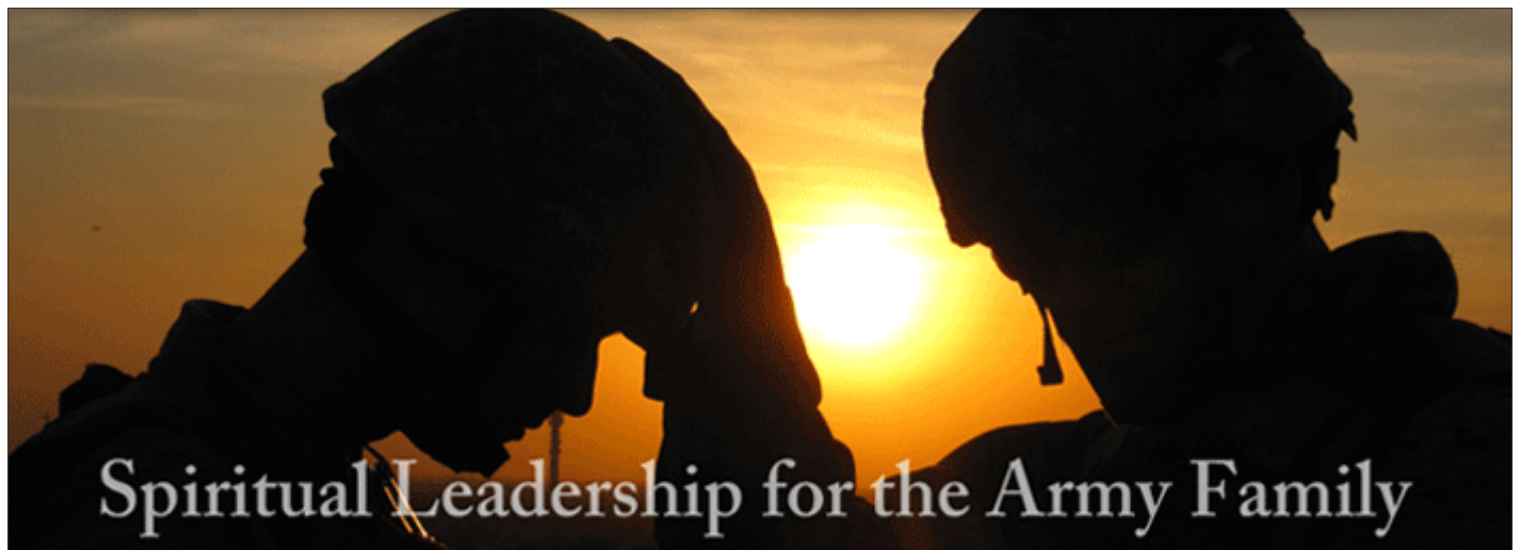
In 2007, with a new wife and child on the way, I transferred to the Army Reserve. The most important thing that the Army Reserve has given me is the ability to continue to serve and maintain a civilian career. In my civilian occupation I work as a mechanical engineer for the Arizona Public Service Company in New Mexico focusing on predictive maintenance.

Being on Camp Arifjan has given me the opportunity to focus on things outside of just the mission. Being back around active duty life has helped me get focused back on fitness; I have dropped 45 pounds with a cardio-focused exercise routine. Also, my family is from Blue Gap, Ariz., on the Navajo Nation, and I have been asked to speak on a panel Nov. 20, in recognition of Native American Heritage month.

So far, this has been the easiest deployment I have had, Camp Arifjan sure beats being stuck out in the middle of nowhere.

I'd like to say hi to my wife Leona, my son Thomas, and daughter Kailey; I love you and I'll be home soon.





Things People Can Do in Sixty Days

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Yost

What might you do in the next 60 days? It all depends on how content you are with things as they are, whether you're interested in making some changes and whether you are a more proactive or reactive person.

The first and worst answer to this question is... NOTHING. "I'm just going to be a bump on a log and get 60 days older!" That certainly is an option, but these next 60 days will never come your way again. Time is an irreplaceable commodity.

May I suggest a more aggressive approach? Consider the various aspects of your life and determine that prior to your Soldier's return, you wanted to make progress across the board. Think of these aspect of life as a pie chart with various "slices" being: spiritual, intellectual, physical, relational, vocational, financial, etc. Set some goals to get moving toward increased growth and overall life

fitness:

Spiritual: Read a book of the Bible, attend a worship service, pray daily, listen to *uplifting* music

Physical: Improve your diet to recover from workouts or resist disease, start following a proper sleep schedule and set goals for physical improvement such as a specific number of sit ups per week, walking or running a set amount of miles per week, etc.

Intellectual: Read a book, memorize something (Gettysburg Address, "I have a dream", a poem, a Bible verse...), start learning a foreign language

Social: Hand write a letter to a parent/guardian/mentor sharing your appreciation for their input over the years, talk to your Soldier about your expectations upon his/her return (big party or quiet reunion?) and ask about your Soldier's expectations. Expectations about medium and long

term?

Financial: Read Dave Ramsey, Suze Ormond, or other financial wizards on how to get out of or stay out of debt. Plan for your retirement. If you are not doing something for your retirement you are WRONG! Don't know much about finances? Ask a relative, your insurance agent, your bank or your friends with more experience

Vocational: Read books and magazines that keep you up to date in your field. What college education benefits is your family entitled to?

Rather than just being two months older...you can be brighter, better, bolder, healthier, and richer than you are today! Create a plan and put it into action! Who might you share these goals with so he/she/they can help you be accountable for progress?

With appreciation for all you have been doing during this deployment,

The 316 ESC Unit Ministry Team.

Getting to Know SSG Samuel Orsini

I'm Staff Sgt. Samuel Orsini from Ambridge, Pa. and currently deployed as a member of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) G1 personnel section. I'm with strength management, which means I keep total accountability of the movement of all Soldiers under our command.

I joined the Army Reserve in July 2006 because the Army has always been in the Orsini family. My father is currently a Staff Sgt. with the 112th Stryker Brigade and has deployed to Iraq and my uncle Donald Orsini is a retired lieutenant colonel with multiple deployments to Vietnam as an infantry Soldier and earned the Distinguished Service Cross.

The most memorable thing the Army has given me is the good relationships you establish with people. I recently went to Qatar for the relationship enhancement single Soldier training sponsored by the unit ministry team and ran into my best friend from basic training. I haven't seen him in over seven years; it was mind blowing to run into someone I knew there. I think that's always a

memorable thing for me, you never know when or where you'll run into people again in the Army.

The most important thing the Army has done for me is teaching me to stay level headed. It has also given me a source of professionalism and helped me structure and develop my self in the civilian world as well. That source of professionalism has helped keep me on the right path and helped me set goals for my future.

So far, this deployment has been good and steady, although it has been picking up a bit lately. During my free time I have a pretty regimented schedule. I got to the gym for three and a half hours. Now that's not all pumping iron, that's shower and sauna time also. By the time that's done I go to sleep, get up go to work and do it all again. This helps make the time go by and I get something out of it, so that works. I also got to open mic night from time to time. That helps give me a little bit of an artistic release every now and then. I'm just trying to stay focused and dedicated, trying to set a good role for all my peers.

I'd like to give a big shout out to all my family and friends back home and go Steelers!



Getting to Know SFC Corey Stevick

I'm Sgt. 1st Class Corey Stevick from Howell, Mich. and currently deployed as a member of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) command group section. I work for Lt Col. Robin Stephens-Trubiano the secretary general staff as the command group operations non commissioned officer, taking care of the day-to-day operations for the Soldiers in our section.

I joined the Army Reserve in February of 1999 because I wanted to be in the military for quite some time. When I was 16, I took the ASVAB test and thought I would like to join the Marines. My parents gave me an opportunity to go to college first, so I took that. After being in college I didn't know what direction I wanted to go so I joined the Army Reserve.

The amount of traveling I've gotten to do while in the Reserve has been a great and memorable experience for me. I've been to Korea, Africa, Germany, Puerto Rico, Cuba and now Kuwait. Also, being promoted to the rank of sergeant first class is something I'll never forget. My wife pinned me in front of the whole battalion in August of 2010 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. After she pinned me she leaned back and punched me as hard as

she could, that surprised everyone including me.

The most important thing the Army has done for me was teaching me humility. Being humble has given me a foundation to realize to put people first and I think that I've really benefited from that.

This deployment has been great and I've really enjoyed it. I'm very proud of being able to serve with this unit, it's a great group of people. I achieve a lot working in the command group but my true commendations go to the Soldiers I work with.

I have to say, Lt. Col. Stephens has kept me busy, I never have a lack of things to do, which I think is great because it passes the time away. I think that if you're not busy you gotta find work. Sometimes it's hard to follow through on that but there is always something that needs to be done.

I get ample time to take care of a lot of other things too. I work out quite a bit, I'm trying to complete my Catholic confirmation, I have done some religious programs during the week like the Truth Project and I go to mass a couple times a week. It's actually really nice. One of the big benefits I've found being here is I'm able to take advantage of my time and get closer to God.

I'd like to send my love to my wife Kathryn, my son Juystise, my mother and the rest of my family. I'll be home soon.





Col. Justin Gubler, Army Central G35, pins Maj. William Brine with his newly achieved rank.



316th ESC Commanding General Brig Gen. Bud R. Jameson Jr. pins Maj. Charles Querriera with his newly achieved rank.



316th ESC Commanding General Brig Gen. Bud R. Jameson Jr. pins Maj. Lori Volden with her newly achieved rank.



Lt. Col. John Dowling pins 2nd Lt. Brian Ricco with the rank of first lieutenant during a promotion ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Nov. 5.



316th ESC Commanding General Brig Gen. Bud R. Jameson Jr. pins Capt. Travis Michael with his newly achieved rank.



Sgt. Michael Weston was promoted to staff sergeant Nov. 21. He dominated the promotion ceremony like he dominates on the basketball court.



316th ESC Commanding General Brig Gen. Bud R. Jameson Jr. pins 1st Lt. Sydney Smith with his newly achieved rank.



316th ESC Commanding General Brig Gen. Bud R. Jameson Jr. pins 1st Lt. Samantha Yeager with her newly achieved rank.

316th Promotions and Reenlistments



The newly promoted Sgt. Caroline Shaw was pinned during a flight on a Blackhawk helicopter above the Kuwaiti coastline Dec. 30, 2012.



Sgt. Bedelle McQueen receives the oath of enlistment from Maj. William Brine during her deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Staff Sgt. Garry Holcomb takes the oath of enlistment from Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Beard during a deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Spc. Michael M. Thompson, Spc. Stephen J. Cygnarowicz and Sgt. Timothy J. Jarosz take the oath of enlistment from their company commander, Capt. Bronwyn Odhner during their deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Thank you for all of the submissions. Keep them coming and maybe your photo will be featured on www.facebook.com/316thESC or www.flickr.com/photos/316thESC

If you would like to submit a photo or other content please e-mail it to:
adam.r.stone.mil@mail.mil or peter.j.berardi.mil@mail.mil

Please submit your very best photos and on the subject line please put Photo of the Month.

Thank you again for your submissions and readership, it is greatly appreciated.