

Lightning Times

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Life "Down Range"
- Soldier Spotlight
- NCO Spotlight
- Q & A
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- Lightning 07

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Greetings from the Lightning Brigade Forward Team! I would like to begin by letting all the Families know that we have arrived to our final locations safe and sound. The Army's pitch for decades has been "It's not a job, it's an adventure." That old adage holds true for the forward team as we literally toured the world to get here. We had the

LIFE "DOWN RANGE"

opportunity to walk through the powdery snow of Alaska and view the lush green scenery of Ireland before arriving to the deserts of Southwest Asia. Despite a flight path that required 1 day, 1 hour, and twenty-four minutes of flying time to get here, we arrived at our final destination eager to get to work and settle into our new homes.

Life in Southwest Asia, at our 'undisclosed location', is better than expected. The living conditions are beyond belief, including free Wi-Fi in all the rooms, three great dining facilities that serve an array of food, Taco Bell, Arby's, Dairy Queen, Starbucks and Green Beans Coffee. All this in addi-

tion to beautiful sunshine and an average daily temperature of about 75 degrees. Yes, life here is indeed better than expected.

Although the quality of life is great, the Soldiers have been working extremely hard since arriving. Immediately upon arrival we began our transition with the 11th ADA Brigade, culminating with a Transition of Authority ceremony, symbolizing our acceptance and responsibility for the mission. We are finally settling into our new roles and adjusting to our lives for the months ahead.

I want to personally thank the Families for keeping the home fires burning.

-CPT Allen Barron

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- CSM Maddox—12 Jan
- SPC Imperial— 15 Jan
- COL McIntire—21 Jan
- SPC Longoria— 24 Jan

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- SSG Watts—25 Jan
- SSG Smith—29 Jan
- SSG Goldman—30 Jan
- SPC Longoria 2 January
- CPT Penick 4 January
- SSG Smith 4 January

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT: SPC JASON SHACKELFORD

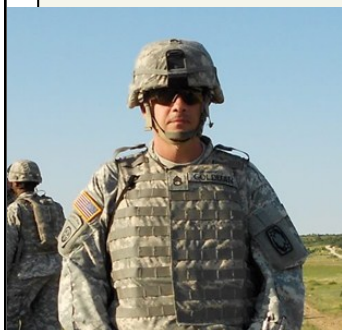
SPC Jason "Dusty-Boots" Shackelford's contributions to the successful integration of the HHB 69th ADA Brigade team has earned him this month's title of the HHB 69th ADA Brigade Soldier of the Month. SPC Shackelford blazed the dusty trail as the Advanced Party Armorer, coordinating and estab-

lish an arms room, ready to receive weapons and sensitive items upon the arrival of the main body. In addition, SPC Shackelford performed exceptionally well as the Brigade's ADVON SAMS Operator, establishing necessary accounts and reporting procedures, aiding in a seamless transition between 11th

ADA BDE and 69th ADA BDE. Congratulations and job well done! Keep up the good work!



NCO SPOTLIGHT: SSG EDWARD GOLDMAN



A big "Lightning Strike" congratulations goes out to SSG Edward "All the Way" Goldman for earning HHB's NCO of the Month Award. SSG Goldman was selected to deploy 45 days ahead of the main body to serve as 69th ADA's Torch Party representative. Upon arrival, SSG Goldman immediately went to work, developing several 69th BDE theater programs,

coordinating logistical movements, and serving as the boots on ground liaison to outgoing 11th ADA Brigade. A few of SSG Goldman's contributions include organizing housing for all HHB's soldiers, movement of HHB's equipment and personal property connexes, establishment of a forward-deployed Battery

Master Driver Program, creation of a welcome packet for each HHB soldier, and development of the concept of operations for HHB's arrival. SSG Goldman currently serves as the crew one Brigade Battle NCO. Congratulations to Mr. January, HHB, 69th ADA NCO of the month. Keep up the good work!

SOLDIERS Q & A

Question 1: What was your first impression when you got off the plane?

SGT Cabrera: It's going to be hot here and here we go again.

SPC Thomas: I fell asleep on the last leg of the trip, and suddenly woke up and sand was everywhere! This is really the desert. Movies don't lie.

Question 2: What do you think of your living quarters?

SGT Cabrera: Nice, comfy, a little personal space away from work.

SPC Thomas: It's not that bad. Compared to some of the stories I've heard about caves and things, it's pretty good. Especially since my room is right next to the internet router.

Question 3: What's your favorite thing to do when you're not working?

SGT Cabrera: Skype, Facetime with my family and get my body right working out.

SPC Thomas: Basketball and lift weights.

If you have any questions you'd like for Soldiers to answer or there's a Soldier in particular you want to answer the next round of questions, let us know!

Send them to:
HHB69ADAFRG@gmail.com

And they will forward it to us!

BRIGADE COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings from somewhere in Southwest Asia! As we settle into our new roles and responsibilities, I'm proud to report that the members of this hand selected staff are excelling in performing their duties and responsibilities. The "forward

team" is very excited about launching a new chapter in our unit's proud history. With that said, our strength lies in the strong foundation of "Team Main" that continues to take of business at Fort Hood, which allows us to stay focused on the downrange mission.

The demand for air and missile defense capability is growing rapidly and globally. Unfortunately, the threat of aerial attack and enemy surveillance is real and present. Our coalition partners and Allies rely on our skilled

ability to provide Theater Air and Missile Defense protection of their select critical assets. That is our job, our core competency, and WE will "Guard the Skies" from these threats!

In closing, I challenge the entire Lightning Brigade "not to count the days, but rather to make every day count." Again, we appreciate the support from the many Family members that keep the home fires burning. Thanks for all that you do!

Guarding the Skies, Lightning Strike!

COL Randy McIntire
Brigade Commander

BDE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Greetings to all in the Lightning Strike Nation! We are getting settled over here in the CENTCOM AOR and adapting very well to our mission. This is a very challenging and exciting time for the Air Defense Branch and the Lightning Brigade is at the tip of the spear. All of our Soldiers are dedicated to mission accomplishment and are proud to be a part of this team. COL McIntire and I are certainly proud to lead such a professional group of Warfighters during this

time, which we believe will be called "The Year of the Air Defender".

I'd like to echo the Commander when I say it's important to not fall into the trap of counting down the days till we get home. It's more important that you make the most of your time and make every day count.

I want to say a big "Thank You" to all the family members and the Brigade Main back at Ft. Hood for all the support which allows us to focus on our very important mission.



Guarding the Skies, Lightning Strike!

CSM William Maddox
Brigade CSM

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

69TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE



Soldier's Name (no rank included)
69th ADA BDE
APO AE 09309-1221

**"GUARDING THE SKIES, LIGHTNING
STRIKE"**

We are always looking for ways to communicate with our Families and improve morale. We will begin our monthly morale VTCs to provide Soldiers and Families with an additional method of communication. We will host the first VTC on 23 February 2013. Four Families will have an opportunity to participate, all receiving a 15 minute block of time. For the Families to participate, they will have to attend the VTC from the Brigade Headquarters, located at the Ranch, Fort Hood, TX. Please contact CPT Allen with any questions. If you have any questions or concerns, I ask that you continue to communicate with the HHB/69th ADA BDE FRG at HHB69ADA-FRG@gmail.com.

TO THE FAMILIES

I want to personally thank all of our Families for your support and dedication. Without you, we could not be the Soldiers that we are, let alone perform at a high level each day. Thank you for keeping the home fire burning as I know that is no easy task. We look forward to the day that we will return home. Until then, please continue to support your Soldier so that he or she can fulfill their obligation to our great country.

NO FEAR ON EARTH!



Birthday Boys complete with their cake!