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Transportation Soldiers Drive to Strengthen Partnership



*By Spc. Michael R. Gault
Unit Public Affairs Representative
191st Combat Sustainment Support
Battalion*

International Airport from their demobilization site at Fort Bliss, Texas.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – With big smiles, cheers, and tears of joy, families were reunited, Sunday, April 14, 2013, after Soldiers of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion returned to Utah after spending nearly a year in Kuwait.

The 191st CSSB, 'Ghost Riders', spent nine months in Kuwait managing one of the largest military equipment retrograde operations. Assuming command of support units in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, and Qatar, they oversaw multi-million dollar logistics contracts supporting

The 191st CSSB, a Utah Army Operation Enduring Freedom Reserves unit, flew into Salt Lake City

Inside this Issue:

Home Coming Photos

2

Commander's Corner

3

Advice From George

4

143rd Replaces 191st

5

Almost Home

6

Strengthen Partnership

7 - 8

Around Kuwait

9

Mr. Movie Junkie

10

New Soccer Uniforms

11

**Final
Deployment
Issue!**



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Michael R. Gault 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Home Coming Photos



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Michael R. Gault 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

**191st COMBAT
SUSTAINMENT
SUPPORT BATTALION
"GHOST RIDERS"
APO, AE 09366**

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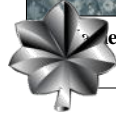
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Company**
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266th Ordnance Company
Sgt. Zuleika
Cintroncruz

421st Quarter Master
Riggers DET 4
Spc. Adrienne Vinson



James J. Groark Battalion
Commander

Ghost Riders,

You have given one year of your life for the safety and security of other fellow Americans – making the world a safer place. You made things happen by flawlessly moving critical supplies to the right place at the right time; that is not always an easy task.

My thanks to you and also to your families for their awesome support and sacrifice."

"This is Ghost Rider 6 . . . signing off the net."



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Michael R. Gault 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



John Marriott
Battalion Chaplain

“Don’t try to jump in and take over, leave your mind open to change, and give yourself time to adjust.”

Advice from George

I am going to tell you about George—or that’s what I will call him. George went on a deployment or two. While George was gone, his significant other, Susan, bought new furniture, took care of his kids, and paid the bills. Susan was the disciplinarian, accountant, coach and everything else for his children while he was gone. Both George and Susan change during the deployment.

When George first came home from the deployment, he tried being the heavy handed disciplinarian. He tried to immediately take over all the things he was doing before he left. He tried to go right back into being whom he was and doing everything he had been doing before. George said, “It didn’t work out too well.”

His attempt to be who he used to be and to be in control created a lot of friction at first. It took some time for George to realize he and Susan had both changed and they could not go back in time to who they used to be. George told me that he did not adjust to being home from his deployment until he had accepted that fact that there was a “new normal.”

George told me that it was good to be home, but he admitted he had anger issues to deal with he had not counted on. He spent a long time away from home where he was told what to wear, where to be, and what to do. Now he resented anything that resembled a schedule, regimen, or structure unless it was his idea.

During George’s deployment there was a steady pay check. He may not have always liked what he was asked to do, but he knew what to expect. George said that when he was on his deployment there were certain things at work he could control. He had processes, products, and procedures that fit the Army’s way of doing things.

Now, he was home where he did not really feel like he was in control. It was hard, sometimes, not to get into power struggles with Susan. The world of predictable clothing, food and work mixed with Army chaos was changed for civilian chaos. George said he did not realize that coming home could be more of an adjustment than leaving, but it was. George asked me to pass on some advice to those who left children and significant others behind for a deployment and are coming home.

“Don’t try to jump in and take over, leave your mind open to change, and give yourself time to adjust.”



143rd CSSB Replaces the 191st CSSB



**Story by Spc. Danielle Leach
Unit Public Affairs Representative
143rd Combat Sustainment
Support Battalion**

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The Soldiers of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion finished the relief in place and transfer of authority with Soldiers from the 143rd CSSB, before heading back home after their nine month deployment to Kuwait.

Connecticut Army National Guard's 143rd, headquartered in Waterbury, took over the mission from the Army Reserve's 191st, based out of Fort Douglas, Utah, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 5. The 143rd will work in support of Operation Enduring Freedom under the 38th Sustainment Brigade.

Soldiers of the 191st trained their counterparts using a process called relief

in place. The outgoing unit addressed key areas with the incoming unit such as equipment training, theater unique briefings, and key leader meetings to better prepare them for the mission. The time spent with the 191st gave soldiers from the 143rd a chance to see what their jobs will entail.

"The 191st CSSB was a very knowledgeable group and were well prepared for the hand off. I believe it all went smoothly and as a result, our unit is ready to take on the task at hand," said Staff Sgt. Alicia Creighton, human resources assistant from Wolcott, Conn.

During the ceremony Lt. Col. James Groark, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Beyer, of the 191st, passed the mission responsibilities to Lt. Col. Thomas Dennis, commander, and

Command Sgt. Maj. Orlando Anderson, of the 143rd.

"I would like to thank Lt. Col. Groark and his team for an excellent RIP," said Dennis. "I want to take this opportunity to challenge the soldiers of the 143rd CSSB. Continue with the excellent work that the 191 has done. Do the best that you can and get better every day."

Command Sgt. Major Orlando Anderson said he feels his team is fully capable to take over their mission at Camp Arifjan.

"The 191st CSSB did excellent work over the past 9 months," said Anderson. "As with all Connecticut Army National Guard units that have deployed over the past 10 years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the 143rd CSSB is fully prepared and ready for the mission at hand."



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tina R. Eichenour, 38th Sustainment Brigade

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Thomas Dennis and Command Sgt. Major Orlando Anderson uncase the 143rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion colors, at the transfer of authority ceremony April 5, 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The 143rd took over the mission that 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion had preformed for nine months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

191st Almost Home



By Spc. Michael R. Gault
Unit Public Affairs Representative
191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

FORT HOOD, Texas – Army Reservists of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion arrived late night Saturday, April 6, 2013, at Fort Hood, Texas, to begin the process for their return to their families and friends after a nine month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Upon their arrival, the Ghost Riders went through the necessary steps for demobilization with only one thing on their minds – finishing up their duty and making it all the way home.

“Although the Soldiers working with us for the demob process are knowledgeable and caring about getting everything in order,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony C. Mutter of Salt Lake City, Utah. “Getting home to my kids, wife, and meeting my newborn son for the first time is my priority.”

Activities completed at Fort Hood ensured that all the Soldiers’ medical, administrative, and finance issues are taken care of, including processing all leave accrued during the last 11 months the unit has been mobilized and deployed. It also serves as the last time all 78 soldiers of the unit will be together before going their separate ways back to the civilian jobs and schools in the seven states they came from.

“While we’re here, it gives us time to reflect on the things we need to take care of and prepare for the challenges ahead,” said Spc. Jonathan R. Norman of Sandy, Utah. “But, I also can say, I look forward to going home to my wife.”



U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Phillip Stoor, 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

FORT HOOD, Texas – Army Reserve Soldiers of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion loaded on a bus after they arrived, by plane, at Fort Hood, Texas, Saturday, April 6, 2013.

The 191st CSSB, ‘Ghost Riders’, spent nine months in Kuwait managing one of the largest military equipment retrograde operations in military history.

After assuming command of support units in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, and Qatar, they and oversaw multi-million dollar logistics contracts supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, provided transportation assets on the land and sea, and ensured troops still in Afghanistan remained supplied by means of aerial delivery.

“This mission was about sustaining the warfighter across the Middle East while at the same time redistributing excess equipment back into the Army Supply supply system,” Ltc. James J. Groark, the 191st CSSB commander and native of West Valley City, Utah. “The Army is a team sport and the Ghost Rider Team made it happen every day, never yielding for the last nine months.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

FORT HOOD, Texas – Army Reserve Soldiers of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during a briefing for their demobilization process at Fort Hood, Texas, Saturday, April 13, 2013.

Transportation Soldiers Drive to Strengthen Partnership



By Spc. Michael R. Gault
Unit Public Affairs Representative
191st Combat Sustainment Support
Battalion

UDAIRI RANGE COMPLEX, Kuwait. -

Transportation Soldiers from the 47th Transportation Company, Fort Bliss, Texas, and from the Kuwaiti National Guard joined together, March 11-13, for Operation Steel Sentinel, a joint convoy exercise

This was only the second exercise aimed at fostering a continued partnership between transportation elements of the nations of Kuwait and the United States.

"After the overwhelming success of the previous exercise, Operation Steel Sword, almost five months ago, planning for Operation Steel Sentinel began immediately," said Maj. Patrick O'Leary, executive officer for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and native of Salt Lake City, Utah.

According to O'Leary, the exercise was a huge success due to the interaction between the American and Kuwaiti soldiers prior to the exercise. This laid the groundwork for a successful event.

"For the events leading up to this exercise, we built upon what was already demonstrated to the KNG. This further developed an understanding and a stronger working relationship between them and our Soldiers," said O'Leary.

For the event, both the KNG and U.S. soldiers trained together on the convoy driving lanes at the Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The forces conducted a combined tactical convoy operation utilizing both American and Kuwaiti military vehicles and personnel.

While managing the speed and convoy integrity of more than 20 military vehicles, the KNG convoy

commander used radio procedures, to coordinate both the Kuwaiti and U.S. forces to react to different challenges. Along the route, they encountered motor vehicle accidents and directed medical assets for the extraction and evacuation of casualties. They faced protestors resulting in last second changes to the convoy route to minimize threats and continue the mission.

Additionally, the participants performed a hasty recovery of a broken down vehicle with protestors still in the area.

"I am very satisfied," said 1st. Lt. Nawaf Homajin Safar, a transportation officer for the Kuwaiti National Guard and convoy commander for the event, "It felt so real and was more challenging than I had expected."

Over the course of six weeks, the Soldiers exchanged knowledge and information about convoy operations



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

UDAIRI RANGE COMPLEX, Kuwait – A convoy of military vehicles of the Kuwaiti National Guard and the 47th Transportation Company, Fort Bliss, Texas, move along a route at the Udairi Range Complex in Northwest Kuwait during a combined convoy exercise for Operation Steel Sentinel, Mar.12, 2013. Transportation soldiers from the KNG and the 47th TC teamed up for the convoy exercise near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. There, they had to work together to overcome different type of challenges that convoy operations face in today's military.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Convoy commander, 1st. Lt. Nawaf Homajin Safar, a transportation officer for the Kuwaiti National Guard, briefs a convoy mission to U.S. and Kuwaiti soldiers, Mar.12, 2013, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Transportation soldiers of the KNG and the 47th Transportation Company, Fort Bliss, Texas, teamed up for a combined convoy exercise, Operation Steel Sentinel. For the event, both the KNG and U.S. soldiers worked together on the convoy driving lanes on the *Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buehring*. Troops conducted combined tactical convoy operations utilizing both American and Kuwaiti military vehicles and personnel.

with briefings and hands-on demonstrations; reinforcing their understanding of each other's methods. This knowledge was what was put to the test during the culminating convoy event.

"I think the Soldiers on both sides learned a lot about not only how they each do things, but also, a little about each other's culture," said O'Leary.

"It was a very good experience," said Pvt. Khaled Motlik Elazmi, driver for the KNG. "Americans are hard working. When it is time to work, we work hard. When you play, we play hard. When it's time to relax, we relax and have tea. I value that."

With this partnership exercise, the Kuwaiti and U.S. forces have gained a real understanding for how each other operates during convoy operations.

"When we first started, my impression was, 'how are we going to pull this off?'" said Staff Sgt. Hazael Hernandez, assistant convoy

commander of the 47th TC,. "There was the language barrier, the different cultures and views and the way we conduct day to day business. We closed a really big gap. We can communicate better, even without saying a word now. They're great guys, some of the greatest soldiers I ever worked with."

"It was a really good atmosphere with the Americans," said Sgt. Hussein Fejham Edousri, a KNG driver. "They don't keep away information and actually spread it and teach what they know. I look forward to working with them in the future."

"In the end, the time I have spent working with the KNG has, by far, been the best experience of this deployment for me, and will be some of the fondest memories I take away from my time in Kuwait," said O'Leary.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Transportation soldiers of the Kuwait National Guard and the 47th Transportation Company, Fort Bliss, Texas, relax and discuss events that took place during the convoy exercise, Operation Steel Sentinel, Mar. 12, 2013 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The training event took place on the *Udairi Range Complex lanes near Camp Buehring, Kuwait*. The soldiers had to work together to overcome different types of challenges that face convoy operations in the military.

BOOTS ON GROUND: Around Kuwait



First Lt. Ashley Ehasz (left), 4th Battalion of the 501st Aviation Regiment, provides a brief to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler, during his visit to Kuwait March 28. (U.S. Army photo/Courtesy) ([... Read more](#))



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. iJaesin Wiggins single arm snatches 95-lbs at CrossFit Spartan Shield on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, March 1, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Kerri Brantley/Released) ([... Read more](#))



Sgt. Ryan Beckmann, infantryman, Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, fires a grenade with the M320A1 grenade launcher during weapons training at Udairi Range, Kuwait, March 6, 2013. Soldiers assigned to 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Reg. and 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st ABCT, 4th Inf. Div., conducted weapons proficiency training at Udairi to reinforce their battle readiness. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Ingram, 1st ABCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.) ([... Read more](#))



U.S. Soldiers with the 38th Sustainment Brigade, situate cargo netting on pallets of operational supplies to deliver to troops in Afghanistan March 8, 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The pallets contain crab legs packaged in dry ice, nutritional supplies and meals ready to eat. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tina R. Eichenour/Released) ([... Read more](#))



MR. MOVIE JUNKIE

BY SPC. MATTHEW JOHNSON
HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST
191ST COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

Oz the Great and Powerful – Rated “PG”



This prequel to the all time classic film, The Wizard of Oz, explains the origins and rise of fame for the hero wizard. This film combined humor and special effects to make for an entertaining movie experience. There were random plot line inconsistencies which caused some mild irritation, but overall, this film was a decent movie, earning 3 out of 5 stars.



Parental Guidance– Rated “PG”



This new to DVD film, starring Billy Crystal and Bette Midler, was a fun filled family comedy about two grandparents trying to be included into the lives of their 21st-century grandchildren. This film is a good reminder of the comedic skills of Billy Crystal., and only contained a handful of slow filler scenes. Overall, this film earned a 4 out of 5 stars.



Bachelorette— Rated “R”



This film, about three high school friends that had been asked to serve as the bridesmaids in a less popular friend’s wedding, is a shining example of a film that shows all of the best parts in the previews. Even the all star cast wasn’t able to salvage the wreckage that is this movie. The combination of random events, unfinished plotlines and forced crude humor all contributed to this film’s generous 1 out of 5 star rating.



HAPPY SOLDIERS

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Army Reservists of the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion welcomed the Soldiers of the 143rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Waterbury, Conn., who are their replacements, Mar. 27, 2013, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Michael R. Gault 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

New Soccer Uniforms



IBISHKEKL, Kyrgyzstan — In a small town sixteen young soccer players from the Nizhanchuisk Orphanage leaped in the air with joy after receiving their soccer uniforms.

Capt. Charles Idle, an officer for the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and Kevin and Jayme Groark, of World Wide Technology and family members of the battalion commander, Lt. Col. James Groark, recently provided uniforms for the Nizhanchuisk soccer team. This is the first time in the history of the orphanage that the team will have uniforms.

Idle has served as the Focus Group Leader for the orphanage since September 2012. His dedicated work as a volunteer is part of the Manas Area Benefit Outreach Society. MABOS is an organization dedicated to improving the lives of the Kyrgyz people through various local charities, orphanages and hospitals.

BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|------|------------------|---------|
| Spc. | Justin Kelleher | Apr. 6. |
| Spc. | Connor O'Farrell | Apr. 7 |
| Spc. | James Moses | Apr. 9 |
| Spc. | Joseph McGrath | Apr. 29 |

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“Ghost Riders, Out Front!”