

Iron Brigade

December, 2017, Vol. 1 Issue 1

Magazine





Iron Brigade Magazine

December 2017, vol. 1 issue 1.

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COVER: US and Kuwait personnel inspect a Kuwait Land Forces M1A2 Abrams during a unit partnership event (Photo: CPT Spencer Kelly, U.S. Army)

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Greetings from Strike 6



The Iron Brigade has arrived in Kuwait, ready and willing to execute our mission as part of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS). If not for the hard work and diligence of the brigade's Soldiers and Leaders we never would have been able to do it in such an outstanding manner. I also want to acknowledge the tremendous support we got from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the Greywolf Brigade, who we just conducted a Relief in Place/Transition of Authority ceremony with.

One of the critical missions at the beginning and end of each deployment is the shipping of vehicles and equipment. I want to acknowledge the hard work of the logistic Soldiers and leaders who have made those operations run smoothly. I also want to say job well done to those involved in the port operations. Not only did they complete their mission in a safe and efficient manner,

they were also consistently ahead of schedule. Well done to all involved.

Now that we have transitioned with the Greywolf Brigade, it is time to focus on the mission at hand. Our mission emphasizes distributed mission command in over seven countries in the CENT-COM AOR while working hand-in-hand through training events and local cooperation with our regional partners. It is through these training missions that we will develop lasting relationships with our military counterparts so that if a regional threat were to arise we would be able to work together seamlessly to deter the threat and reinforce regional stability.

As part of the U.S. Army Central, the Iron Brigade is ready to operate in one of the most dynamic and complex regions of the world. We will take part in theater security cooperation missions where we partner with our regional allies to conduct training and share best practices. One of our core missions is to partner with the Kuwaiti Land Forces and engage through theater security cooperation missions. The Iron Brigade will leverage these theater security cooperation opportunities to increase readiness and build disciplined lethality throughout the formation. Through the pursuit of excellence in the Iron Brigade's core competencies, we will assist our Gulf Cooperative Council partners while increasing the stability of the Arabian Gulf.

In addition to our partnership missions, the Iron Brigade will conduct operations in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). The mission of OIR is to support our allies in Iraq and Syria and defeat ISIS forces. This is a challenging mission, but it will showcase a highly flexible force that is well trained and equipped with the most modern weapon systems and unique mission command capabilities, this is why the Iron Brigade was chosen.

I would like to close with a word about our Iron Brigade Families, the bedrock of our success. It is widely known within the force of the many sacrifices made by the families at home when Soldiers deploy. On behalf of all of the Iron Brigade, I want to say thanks for your support and devotion--it is truly critical for us to accomplish our mission.

STRIKE HARD!



Greetings From Strike 7



In order to support mission preparedness as well as individual aspirations, readiness and the wellbeing of the Soldiers of the "Iron Brigade" is our top priority.

Now that we have arrived on the ground here in Kuwait, I wanted to say thank you to all the Soldiers and Leaders whose hard work made a difficult deployment look so easy. In addition, I want to thank not only mine but all the families and friends of the Iron Brigade. Your support is invaluable to our success.

There are a few topics that I want to address starting with Soldier readiness and how we continue to work together to make this deployment continue to be success.

There are many aspects to readiness but ultimately; it means that you are ready to do your job at a moment's notice. This comes down to little things like being an expert in your job, remaining

physically fit, taking care of your body and your mind. Everyone has a responsibility in our team. If you see someone doing something that isn't right, let them know and help them go on the right direction. That is what a leader does, and there is no doubt in my mind that the "Iron Brigade" has many great leaders. A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. Remember, it is best to tell our junior leaders what to do, not how to do it. With that said, we never let the team fail.

As the holidays get closer we would like to spend time with our families and loved ones. This year, however, our brigade will be working during the holidays. Although our family and friends will be missed, I am very proud of the troops who serve our country. Our dedicated troops continued to serve selflessly. What amazes me the most is how dedicated they are to the mission and each to one another. The Soldiers with whom I serve are always ready and motivated to get the job done.

Over the next several weeks our Soldiers will be preparing equipment, completing mandatory training, and planning future operations. I look forward to seeing the hard work and dedication of our troops as we get settled into our missions and begin the hard work of partnering with our allies.

Even though the Soldiers are

working long hours, we want to let the families know that Camp Buehring has much to offer. Our Soldiers have the opportunity to breathe easy during an afternoon or weekend, depending on the mission. In addition there are many opportunities to improve themselves as well.

When it comes to recreation, the United Service Organizations Inc. (USO), a nonprofit organization that provides entertainment, such as karaoke night, bingo, painting, and many more. Also, there are two movie theaters on camp. There's a stage for concerts, a Baskin Robins and a Starbucks coffee that, yes, has Wi-Fi. I almost forgot to mention the alterations shop, a the gift shop, the barber shop and the jewelry shop.

For Soldiers who want to spend their off duty hours on self-improvement there are several choices. The education center offers college level classes and opportunities for professional development. Our Soldiers have the opportunity to go to the gym and maintain a good physical and mental condition. Anything from CrossFit, spinning, yoga among others.

Camp Buehring may not be all the sights and sounds, but it's where the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 1st Armored Division will call home for the next nine months.

STRIKE HARD!

IRON BRIGADE takes the reins in Kuwait



Commander of the 2nd ABCT.

Task Force Spartan is a unique, multi-component organization, made up of active Army and National Guard units, rounded out by U.S. Army Reserve support units.

Task Force Spartan is comprised of five brigades, which provide fire support and maneuver capability to the region while training alongside numerous partner nations to improve interoperability and cohesion.

The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) took over responsibility for the Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) mission from 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Camp Buehring, Kuwait Nov. 19, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony.

The ceremony marks the end of a nine-month deployment for the 'Greywolf Brigade' Soldiers from Ft. Hood, Texas. It also marks the beginning of a new challenge for the 'Iron Brigade' from Ft. Bliss, Texas.

The transition of authority began with the casing of the 3rd Brigade colors, and the uncasing of the colors of 2nd ABCT.

"For the Greywolf Brigade command team, I have been privileged to serve with you," said Maj. Gen. Victor Braden, 35th ID Division Commanding General. "To Col. Lombardo, CSM DaGraca, and the 2nd

Brigade Combat Team, I look forward seeing you build upon Greywolf's success," Braden added.

Operation Spartan Shield is a combined forces contingency operations within the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) with the responsibility to deter and react to possible threats within the region. In addition, OSS seeks to partner with several countries in the gulf region for security cooperation and assistance.

"It took a tremendous amount of effort to collectively build the readiness for the 'Iron Brigade', and we are honored to join the ranks of ABCTs to serve under Task Force Spartan," said Charles Lombardo,



1-1 CAV Deploys to Kuwait

After months of long days spent at the range, extensive field training, and a rotation at the National Training Center (NTC), 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment has deployed and is getting settled at Camp Buehring, Kuwait as part of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR).

The Squadron came out of the NTC strong and confident, and is hitting the ground running with the tasks it has been given to tackle during this deployment. The deployment is scheduled to last nine months, with the Squadron and Brigade expected to return around August 2018. This is a historic moment in the long history of the Squadron, as it has not deployed for more than ten years.

During this deployment, the Squadron will be involved in contingency, deterrence, and advise-and-assist operations alongside the other Battalions in the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team. The Squadron will be spending its time showing a ready-to-help U.S. presence in the Middle East, as well as conducting training with partner nations with an emphasis on building their capacity to provide for their own security.

In addition to contingency operations, the Squadron is focusing efforts on drivers training, vehicle

maintenance, and weapons qualification, ensuring its personnel and crews are trained and ready on their equipment. In a matter of weeks, the Squadron has shot two High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) gunneries qualifying 31 crews and has executed five

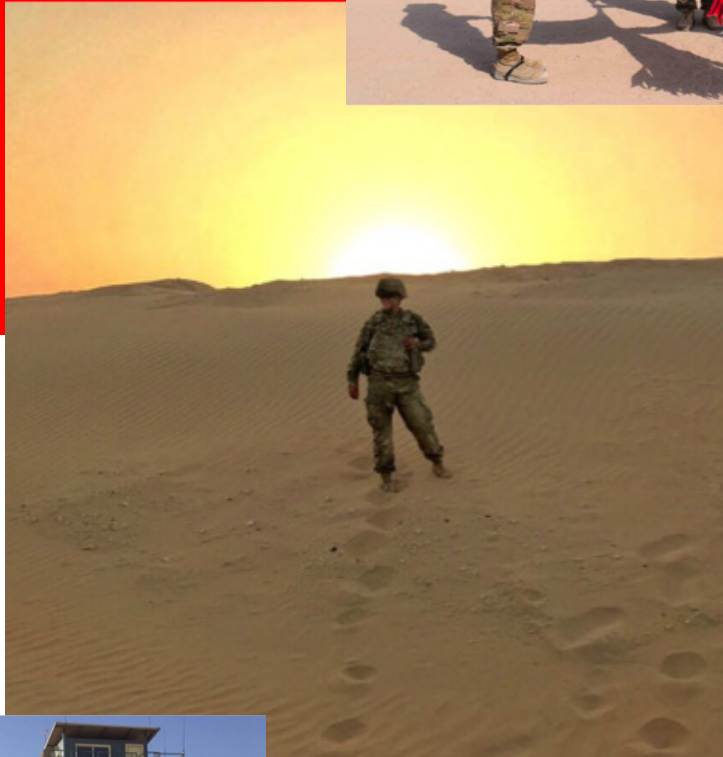
mission command operations and logistics training. Prior to departing, the Squadron also worked hard to

ensure its families were well taken care of during these nine months by hosting a Deployment Readiness Fair. At the fair, representatives from the Family Readiness Group (FRG), Legal

Office, Finance, Tricare, Red Cross, and many more came and informed Soldiers and their Families of the assistance available to them while their Soldier is deployed. Since the Squadron departed, the FRG has done an incredible job organizing events for the Soldier's families such as a Family bowling event, Meet and Greets, a Gift Wrapping Fund raiser and a Thanksgiving Family Potluck.

The Rear Detachment Soldiers at Fort Bliss have also been working very hard to maintain operations back at the Squadron Headquarters and have just completed Troop property inventories and a Barracks room clean up. 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment is more than prepared to work, communicate and fight as a team, and is ready to execute a challenging and highly important mission.

Courageous and Faithful!



pistol and rifle ranges, re-qualifying hundreds of its Soldiers. Ranges and gunneries will remain a focus throughout the deployment to ensure the Squadron's lethality!

There has also been a large focus on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) training, medical certifications, such as Combat Life Saver,

1-35 AR On the Ground



The Conquerors of 1-35 AR Battalion assumed responsibilities as the Mobile Response Force to TF Spartan during Operation Spartan Shield 17-18. Critical to this mission is the readiness of personnel, equipment, and training with a mindset to deploy anywhere in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

Leading the Conquerors are the Battalion Commander, LTC Alexis Rivera-Espada, and the Command Sergeant Major, CSM Roger Hankins. The battalion leadership established priorities to drive the success of the battalion during Operation Spartan Shield. These priorities include MRF Readiness, Partnership and Theater Security Cooperation, and Conqueror University. These priorities capture the current events and operations the Conquerors will accomplish during their deployment.

The first priority of the battalion is the TF Spartan MRF. In order to achieve readiness, the Conquerors are conducting 24 hour maintenance operations, these operations include. Semi-Annual Services and Technical Inspections, we also assisted 2ND ABCT in moving equipment from the Port of Shuaiba to Camp Buehring. With all vehicles, equipment, and personnel on the ground, 1-35 AR will begin training. The battalion will execute a tank gunnery through the month of December to certify all tank crews for the MRF.

In addition to the gunnery, the compa-

nies will sustain their lethality on small arms through EST and live fire qualification ranges on the M9, M4, M249, and M240. Using the Military Decision Making Process, the battalion staff supports operational readiness for the MRF by preparing the battalion to deploy anywhere in the CENTCOM AOR by land, sea, or air.


One final aspect for readiness is the focus on personnel. The battalion leadership places the morale, welfare, and health of the Soldiers above all. The battalion Chaplain resourced several MWR Tours to Kuwait City for the Soldiers in November and December. Additionally, CSM Hankins briefed Soldiers at the education center on all resources and activities available to the Soldiers on Camp Buehring. With the holiday season coming up, leadership at all levels will ensure Soldiers have the time and tools to stay in touch with loved ones back home. To further support the Families, the Rear Detachment Company at Fort Bliss continues to support FRG events to include a Trunk-or-Treat in October.

Partnership and Theater Security Cooperation are essential to the National Security Strategy as the battalion represents the nation through training exercises and key leader engagements. 1-35 AR's goal is to diligently work with Kuwaiti partner forces and other security forces in the region to expand their capabilities. The battalion will conduct several

joint exercises in the countries of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. Additionally, 1-35 AR is inviting the Kuwait Staff College to visit during battalion level training and work with Kuwait BDEs.

To maintain the knowledge and experienced gained from Strike Focus to Operation Spartan Shield, the battalion started Conqueror University to teach, train, and assess Soldiers, Staff, and Leaders on fundamentals and standards. Each month will focus on one pillar of readiness. Conqueror University incorporates classroom education, leader professional development, and capstone events.

1-35 AR demands professional excellence of its leaders, with these initiatives, the conqueror battalion will be ready to fight and win. The battalion is preparing a Sergeant Audie Murphy selection board to prepare Conqueror NCOs for the challenging and prestigious award.





1-37 AR: Abrams Standards

1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armor Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division has boots on ground in Kuwait. Throughout October, the Bandit Battalion marked another important point in its well-traveled history as they deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

The Bandits transitioned from Decisive Action Training at the National Training Center to a rapid deployment in support of Theater Security Cooperation Exercises throughout the Middle East. The Battalion is spread far and wide, with forces conducting various training and security missions throughout the year in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, UAE, and Iraq. The Bandits stand ready.

Bandit Battalion came out of the gates running; rapidly jumping into training. The robust ARCENT Readiness Training Center (ARTC), located at Camp Buehring, provides all the training resources a Combat Arms Battalion could hope for, and the Bandits have wasted no time in putting them to use. All Companies have been making ample use of the Engagement Skills Trainer, a simulation system that enables Soldiers to hone their marksmanship skills in a low-cost, low-impact environment. In addition to utilizing the ARTC, the

Bandits have immediately made use of the surrounding Camp Buehring Training Area.

From 10-11 November, 2017 Cobra King planned, resourced, and executed a Land Navigation Exercise in order to familiarize Bandit Battalion Soldiers to the surrounding landscape, train them on basic soldiering skills, and acclimate them to the new environment. Soldiers were divided into fire teams and issued five points to locate within three hours utilizing nothing more than a compass, a map, and a standard-issue protractor. This event set the standard for future training exercises and highlighted key points of emphasis and attention, during the planning and resourcing of follow-on training events, while the Bandits are at Camp Buehring.

Axemen and Banshee companies have been working hard ensuring their tanks are fit to fight upon receiving them from port. Additionally, Axemen is working hard planning an M320 Range for the Battalion while Banshee

prepares to execute an M67 Grenade Range. Cobra King now look forward to basic and advanced M4 Qualification Ranges, which will set the stage for further exercises including Team Live Fire and Squad Live Fire Exercises.

The upcoming month for the Bandits will be no less ambitious. In conjunction with Team and Squad Live Fire Exercise conducted by Cobra King, Axemen and Banshee Companies will be conducting Gateway to Live Fire Training, utilizing the Advanced Gunnery Training Systems located at Camp Buehring to simulate gunnery scenarios from the turret of a mock M1A2 Abrams tank. 1-37 AR has rapidly adapted to the new training environment and will continue to uphold the driving mantra of Bandit success,

"Abrams Standards."



RAMS RIP IN



At Camp Patriot, Kuwait Rams have officially replaced the Beavers. On 7 November 2017, LTC Brock and CSM Lopez of the 3rd Engineer Battalion transferred authority of the SECFOR-South Kuwait mission to the Soldiers and leaders of the incoming unit, the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion. The unique posting of TF RAMS highlights the importance of partnerships and unique opportunities between US and Kuwaiti forces here at the American post on Kuwait Naval Base.

LTC David Noble and CSM Sean McGlensey welcomed the Soldiers of the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion and applauded the history and strategic importance of 15 years of US missions managed through Camp Patriot. In addition, the command team recognized the missions of the signal and military intelligence companies providing support at the brigade headquarters and the Route Clearance Packages further deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. LTC Noble presented

the outgoing commander with both the American and US Army Engineer Regimental flag flown over the camp the previous nine months - along with a plaque thanking the 3rd Brigade Engineer Battalion for their unfaltering dedication to the mission.

Following the ceremony, Soldiers and leaders returned to their newly assumed duties on Camp

Patriot. Completion of the unit's arrival into theater and relief-in-place operations with their outgoing counterparts finalized the Ram's first deployment in over five years. Leaders celebrated the following weekend with activities that included a command dinner at the RAMS dining facility, a hail and farewell for arriving and departing key leaders, and a battalion sports session with the battalion staff and command teams. The first TF RAMS hail & farewell was conducted aboard a US Army barge derrick crane in the KNB harbor. This vessel was particularly fitting because of its nature as an enabling

vessel that the US Army utilizes for port operations, much like TF RAMS is an enabling organization for the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. TF RAMS also welcomed the Cobra Company 1-35 leadership during the ceremony aboard the vessel.

TF RAMS now stands prepared and capable to continue all tasks required of the SECFOR-South mission, garrison command of Camp Patriot, and enabling the brigade with signal and military intelligence companies. LTC Noble collected the officers and NCOs of the battalion together and challenged them to continually handle every potential scenario with a Ready, Accountable, Mastery, and Stewardship (RAMS) mindset.

Battering Rams! Enabling the Brigade!

4-27 FA Thunders Again

It has been an exciting time in the Thunder Battalion since the last M109A6 Paladin left the Rotational Unit Field Maintenance Area at the National Training Center (NTC) in early September until now in mid-November as the Strike Brigade completed the Relief in Place and Transition of Authority with 3/1 CD at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Upon our return from NTC, the Battalion continued to build mission readiness and combat power for the deployment through training and Soldier readiness. Training focused on individual and crew served weapons ranges, and culminated with a Field Artillery Table VI gunnery ensuring our Paladin crews remained certified to provide lethal fires in support of operations in the Middle East.

Soldier readiness included validating deployment readiness, and ensuring a proper closeout of our battalion footprint and barracks. Soldier readiness also involves our families, and the Battalion set conditions through the establishment of our rear detachment and a second Family Readiness Town Hall. The establishment of our rear detachment provides a link between the battalion forward and our families at Ft. Bliss ensuring our communication systems and processes keep families informed and provide timely and accurate information.

The Family
Readiness Town Hall

brought all the installation agencies who support families and Soldiers into one location to provide information on the services each agency offers. The town hall also provided Soldiers and families with a glimpse of what life is like for Soldiers on Camp Buehring. Lastly, the Battalion conducted a St. Barbara's Day Ball, which provided an opportunity to celebrate and thank the Soldiers for their hard work and dedication leading up to the deployment.

As the Battalion moved into theater, platoons from all three firing batteries, the radar sections of headquarters battery, and maintainers from our forward support company quickly transitioned into theater in providing lethal fires and target acquisition in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. After completing

a RIP with the "Steel Dragons" of 2-82 FA, the Soldiers of the Thunder Battalion have assumed fires in support of Marines and Army forces battling ISIS.

The remainder of the battalion established our footprint at Camp Buehring setting the conditions for future operations to include training at echelon and Theater Support Cooperation exercises. Condition setting included receiving our equipment from port, establishing the Battalion and Battery Command Posts, planning of training and partnership exercise support, and maintaining our equipment fleet.

There is no doubt the hard work of our Soldiers and leaders has laid the foundation for a successful deployment in support of the 2nd

Brigade, 35th Infantry Division, and U.S. Army Central. During our time in theater, the Iron Thunder Battalion will remain committed to supporting our higher headquarters in deterring aggression and strengthening partnerships within the Gulf region.



Regulars Join Operation Spartan Shield

The Regulars arrived and took Camp Buehring by storm, rapidly flowing in and assuming responsibility. The transition from 2-7 CAV "Garry Owen" to 1-6 IN "Regulars" was fast and furious with Regular Soldiers working around the clock to complete an ever growing list of requirements. Regulars are not just moving containers, equipment, and building manifests to project forces forward into the fight; but with multiple promotions and reenlistments the Regulars continue to take care of Soldiers and improve the force daily. In their down time, the Regulars enjoy an expansive USO, two movie theaters, and an impressive MWR organization that offers numerous events and activities to keep Soldiers engaged and physically fit. Cultural trips to Kuwait City are available and Soldiers can participate when the pace of transition slows to steady state operations.

As part of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS), the Regulars are supporting missions in Iraq and other nations throughout the region. Alpha Co. "Gun Fighter", Bravo Co. "Bushmaster", and parts of HHC are provid-

ing security forces for various missions in Iraq in support of the fight against ISIS and the development of US partners throughout the region. There are also members of the battalion in Saudi Arabia supporting their operations through an Advise and Assist capacity.

The Regular Forward Support Company (FSC), India Company, worked tirelessly to consolidate all of the 1-6 IN equipment. Moving an entire mechanized battalion of over 200 vehicles and millions of dollars of equipment over eight thousand miles from Fort Bliss Texas to Camp Buehring Kuwait is a monumental task. Despite all the challenges, India Company is building combat power every day while supporting operations across the region.

Charlie Co. "Kraken" is attached to 1-35 Armor "Conquerors" for the duration of Strike Brigade's Operation Spartan Shield deployment. As part of the 1-35 Armor "Conquerors" mission, Charlie Co. will participate

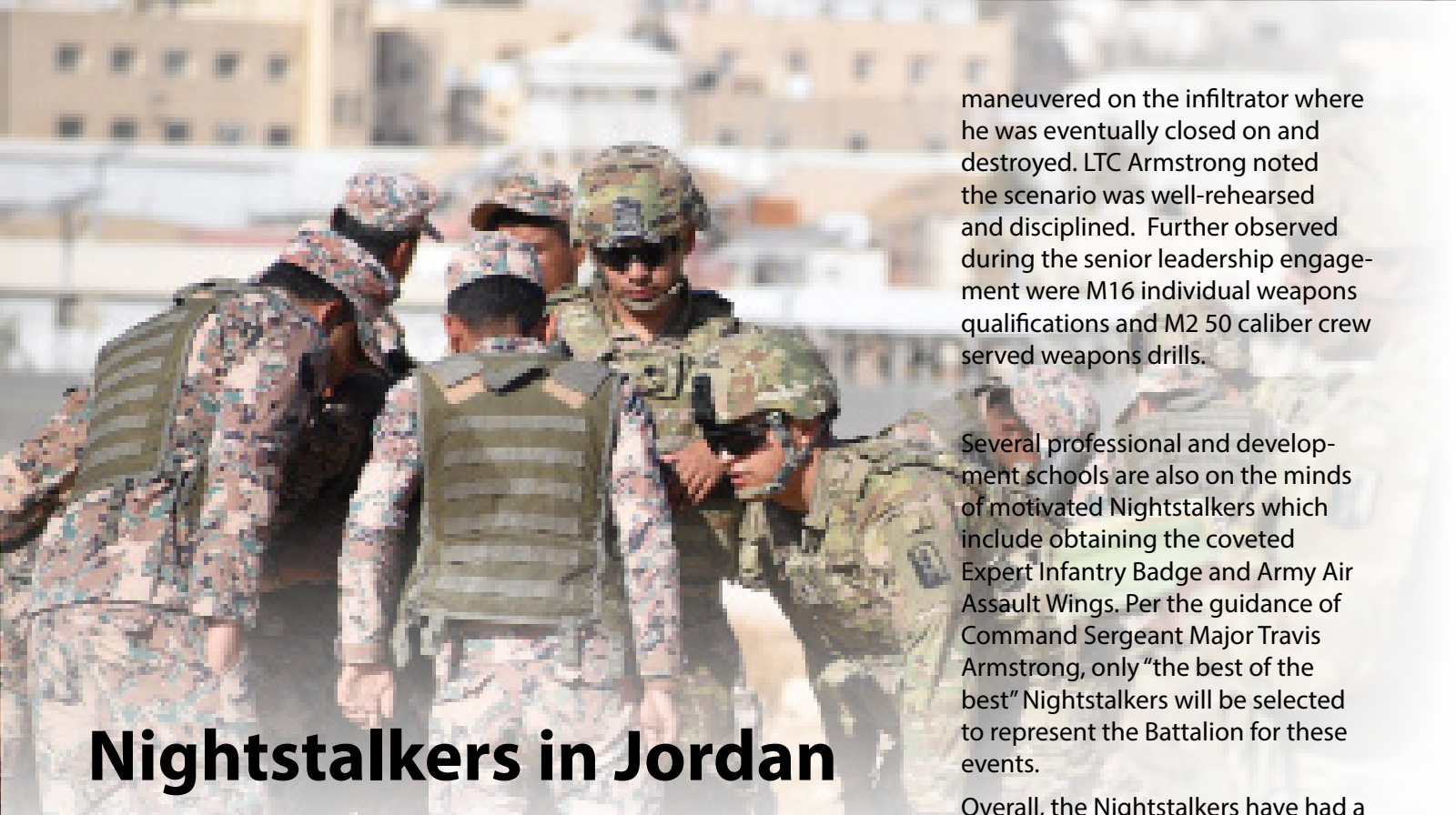


in various training exercises and Operation Spartan Shield requirements. Kraken Soldiers are already developing a good name within the Conqueror family and representing the Regulars well across the Strike Brigade.

In addition to all these requirements, the battalion will partner with several Kuwaiti brigades to conduct training and exercises. From small arms training to combined arms maneuver training, we will be able to sustain the valued relationship with our Host Nation and build their capabilities as a fighting force.

Regulars, By God!





Nightstalkers in Jordan

1-184th Infantry Battalion "Nightstalkers" hail from California, Headquartered in Modesto, California. The Nightstalkers are California's oldest Infantry Battalion, tracing its lineage to the mid-nineteenth century. The Nightstalkers have participated in several campaigns and engagements including World War I, World War II, the defense of Kosovo, and the Global War on Terrorism. Commanded by LTC Phillip "Joel" Armstrong, the Nightstalkers motto of "Let's Go" has consistently set the Regiment's rhythm of success and standards of excellence in training and worldwide deployments.

Currently, the Nightstalkers are conducting a training and partnership mission with the Jordanian Armed Forces, with the decisive effort located at the Joint Training Center, Jordan. While mobilized, the Nightstalkers continue to enhance joint partnership capacity by training side by side with their Jordanian Armed Forces partners.

The Nightstalkers hit the ground running on November 4th, conducting a professional and effective RIP/TOA with the 1-148 Infantry Battalion.

Following the Transfer of Authority (TOA), the Nightstalkers have been engaged with their Jordanian counterparts, conducting training ranges at a rapid pace. Training includes sniper instruction, M203 Grenade Launcher instruction and live fire, M2 .50 caliber night live fire, Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), and Call for Fire instruction. Additionally, a detachment of Nightstalkers assumed security operations at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base and the King Abdullah Special Operations Training Center, contributing to increased stability in the CENTCOM AOR.

The 11th Border Guard Forces were visited by Nightstalker senior leadership that included LTC Armstrong. Senior leaders were given a firsthand account of the capabilities of the 11th BGF. A border infiltrator scenario was conducted under the careful observation of the 11th BGF Commander, LTC Zakaria Ababna. During this scenario, a mounted Quick Reaction Force consisting of two vehicles with multiple passengers set up as a Support by Fire unit. A highly motivated squad of Jordanians, using light infantry bounding techniques,

maneuvered on the infiltrator where he was eventually closed on and destroyed. LTC Armstrong noted the scenario was well-rehearsed and disciplined. Further observed during the senior leadership engagement were M16 individual weapons qualifications and M2 50 caliber crew served weapons drills.

Several professional and development schools are also on the minds of motivated Nightstalkers which include obtaining the coveted Expert Infantry Badge and Army Air Assault Wings. Per the guidance of Command Sergeant Major Travis Armstrong, only "the best of the best" Nightstalkers will be selected to represent the Battalion for these events.

Overall, the Nightstalkers have had a demanding first two weeks. With the training pace and tempo set, the 300 meter target is Operation Eager Lion 18. Eager Lion 18 is the premiere multi-national, joint-service training exercise conducted in the third quarter of the year. Although the exercise is several months away, the Nightstalkers continue their pursuit of excellence by improving their fighting position each day through tough, but realistic training.





47th BSB: Medical Readiness

As the 47th Brigade Support Battalion establishes itself in Kuwait, the battalion prioritized medical treatment support for the Brigade, ensuring medics were some of the first Soldier's on ground in country. Charlie Company, the Brigade Support Medical Company (BSMC), leads the Combined Aid Station on Camp Beuhring. Charlie Company consists of 77 Soldiers that provide medical support in multi-functional areas to Soldiers across the Brigade. The wide range of medical specialties include Physician Assistants, Behavior Health Specialists, Dental Specialists, a Physical Therapist, Radiology Technicians, Combat Medics, Laboratory Specialists, and two doctors of varying specialized fields.

The Combat Medics in Charlie Company go through Advanced Individual Training to become a health care specialist with expertise in emergency medical

treatment. During the initial Reception, staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (RSOI) operations at Camp Beuhring, the Combat Medics assisted in the daily tasks of at the Combined Aid Station. The Medics assess and provide feedback on the patient's symptoms to the Battalion Providers, and instruct the Patients on the recommended treatment plan. Daily, the Combined Aid Station sees an average of 85 Soldiers in 2-1AD a week.

2-1 AD has a particularly active physical therapy program, headed the Brigade Physical Therapist CPT Camacho, who is passionate about helping Soldiers who are recovering from injury to strengthen, improve function, and gain range of motion. Soldiers suffering from musculoskeletal pain are referred to CPT Camacho from their respective BN providers. In order to enrich the knowledge

of combat medics and spread the use of physical therapy care and techniques across the BDE, CPT Camacho has implemented a program within the 2-1 that is unique in the Army. He is currently cross training Combat medics from every BN to be able to utilize physical therapy to treat their patient's injuries. According to, CPT Camacho the Brigade Physical Therapist, "My goals are to help Soldiers become independent in managing their musculoskeletal pain" said Capt. Roy Camacho, Brigade Physical Therapist, Company C, 47th Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. "Also, to train Combat Medics in 2-1AD in methods to assist their Soldiers pain management and rehabilitation. I will start with 40th Engineer Battalion". This innovative cross training program and the increase use of physical therapy techniques will result in shortening the time Soldier's must remain on profile and increasing our overall combat readiness.

Charlie Company is able to function in any operational environmental as they can evacuate any specialty or emergency patients as needed. The Evacuation Platoon supports 2-1AD Soldiers, by providing movement to a larger facility at Camp Arifjan, for specialty care that is not available on Camp Beuhring but is available.

With the help of Charlie Company's efforts, the Brigade is able to increase Soldier mental and physical readiness and ensure the success of the brigade's mission, supporting Operation Spartan Shield.





Port Operations:

Behind the scenes of the Iron Brigade deployment.

After a long trip starting in Ft. Bliss, up loading at the Port of San Diego, the Iron Brigade's vehicles and equipment finally reached the Port of Shuaiba, Kuwait. The operation to download several different ships and move to the brigade's final area of operations involved most of the personnel in the Brigade and several weeks of hard work.



Thanksgiving Message

In September 1620, British citizens boarded the Mayflower and set sail from England carrying 102 men, women, and children, along with their hopes, their convictions, and their dreams. Crossing the Atlantic took 66 days and claimed two lives. Storms drove them from their intended location of Virginia to Cape Cod.

During the following winter, inclement weather, the scarcity of food, and illness threatened their existence. They labored hard erecting homes and planting crops; and they lived harmoniously with their Native American neighbors who had helped them survive. Harvest was in. By today's standards, they had very little. But they were grateful to God. They gathered around a table with their Native American guests for our country's first Thanksgiving meal.

Our first president, George Washington, recommended a day of public thanksgiving and prayer. He said the purpose of his Thanksgiving Proclamation was to "acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor."

During the Civil War Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday to be celebrated each November. He knew that thankfulness and recognition of God's kindness could heal the nation's wounds. He wrote: "It has seemed to me fit and proper that [the gifts God] should be . . . gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. . . [We] fervently implore . . . the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

These three historical periods are linked by a common theme. In life's many challenges, we can find opportunities to be grateful. Thankfulness has sustaining power that at all times we must look to God and give thanks.

Chaplain Troy Blan



Iron Brigade Thanksgiving

Throughout the Iron Brigade area of operations, Soldiers took time to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday by taking part in a special meal provided by each of the area dining facilities.



Iron Brigade Thanksgiving



