



A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep



The Powder River, Sheridan County, Wyo., July 1950



Soldiers using lifesaving skills

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait – There is living evidence that the U.S. Army's combat lifesaver course and the advanced individual training for U.S. Army medics works.

A half-dozen or so military, civilian, American and allied lives were saved thanks to the well trained Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, 115th Fires Brigade.

See CLS Pg 6



Pfc. Jeremie Ressler/960th Brigade Support Battalion

HONORED SERVICE -- Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik, commander of the 2-300th Field Artillery Battalion, applauds Sgt. Dominic Hideo, left, and Spc. Natasha Nevel, center, for their work in rendering medical and fire suppression assistance to Department of Defense personnel and contractors in a two vehicle accident near their base.

This Issue:

- Soldier in the Field Pg 2
- Powder River 6 and 7 Pg 2
- Chaplain's Corner Pg 5
- Kuwaiti partners Pg 6
- Saint Barbara's Pg 8
- Flood Pg 10
- A Battery Pg 12
- B Battery Pg 13
- C Battery Pg 14
- A Company Pg 15
- Headquarters Battery Pg 17



Chef hats, officers...It must be the Thanksgiving serving line. Check out the photos on Pg. 11

Also, thanks to the 2-300th faithful and their desire to give us all of the comforts of home, the battalion has surpassed its predecessor, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, in mail received. So says the Camp Virginia post office.



"The Powder River, a mile wide and an inch deep, too thick to drink and too thin to plough."

- An old timer from Cowboys' past

Soldier in the Field:

What is your favorite winter holiday tradition?



Spc. Travis Holler,
Headquarters: Hang-
ing out with my fam-
ily, just playing
games and going up
into the mountains.



2nd Lt. Cody Dupler,
Headquarters:
Smoked ham for din-
ner, it's so good.



Pfc. Andrew Vines, A
Co.: Drinking hot
cocoa with a splash
of a little something
extra.



Sgt. Erick Ridgeway,
A Co.: I just love
Christmas and
spending time with
the wife and kids.



Spc. Cabot Peden,
Headquarters:
Watching "A Christ-
mas Story" while
decorating the tree
with the kids.

Notes from Powder River 6



Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik
"Powder River 6"

I hope another edition of "A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep" finds all of you on the Powder River Team in good spirits, knowing that we have put another month of our deployment behind us.

This is normally the season for glad tidings and good cheer. This year, all of our

Powder River Cowboys, our families and friends will be reminded that it's also the season for us to sacrifice some of what we have to give to others.

Some of our Soldiers who chose to select December as their leave block will be home for R&R around Christmas. Most will remain on mission in Kuwait and Iraq. Regardless of their location in the world, all Powder River Cowboys will give in ways that pull on our heart strings, but also make our spirits sing with the pride that comes from wearing the uniform of an American Soldier.

Our Christmas carols include the Star Spangled Banner, America the Beautiful and the Army Song, with a little Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer thrown in for good measure.

See POWDER RIVER 6 Pg 4

Notes from Powder River 7

We've had a senator, a congresswoman, and a general pay us a visit in the last month. While it was great to have them here for Thanksgiving, it was our special guests from Florida that got us pumped up in December.

Representatives from the Florida Army National Guard unit that will replace us were on site, during the second week of the month. They were here for a pre-deployment site survey. It was great to actually see some of the Soldiers that will replace us in less than four months.

Speaking of leaving Kuwait, our Soldiers continue to go on R&R leave, visiting family, friends, and loved ones.

As I talk to Soldiers, it seems that there are quite a few who made it home for the birth of a child. What a great experience to enjoy. I look back on the birth my daughter who was born in 1986, while I was stationed in Korea. She was 8-months-old before I saw her for the first time.

While I was on leave this November, she gave me the good news that I will be a grandfather. I should be able to make this one.

See POWDER RIVER 7 Pg 3



Command Sgt. Maj.
Troy Guimond
"Powder River 7"

SOLIDARITY AMONGST SOLDIERS



Master Sgt. Dorvan Roberts/2-300th Field Artillery

KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER — Soldiers with a 2-300th Field Artillery convoy escort team rally together before taking on their mission to escort supplies into Iraq.

POWDER RIVER 7 continued from Page 2

Meeting up with their new babies isn't all the Soldiers have been up to. It also seems that we have quite a few Soldiers that have been trying to make babies while on leave, which is also a good thing. If those missions were a success, they'll be home helping mama get ready for the birth with time to spare. If not, they'll have plenty of time to keep trying when we come home.

While the stork won't be flying in any of those packages here, we've been getting plenty of care packages delivered by our friends at the post office. One unit has already received 150 boxes from home with more to come.

We greatly appreciate all the support that we have and continue to receive from the home front. We will find a Soldier for every package.

As the commander noted in his column, we wish all of you a merry Christmas. We also look forward to the new year, returning home to the families and country that we love and vowed to protect.

This holiday season I would ask that our supporters on the home front take the time to thank a veteran. It doesn't matter if it's a friend, family member, or a stranger they run into at the mall, just thank them for the sacrifices that they have endured to defend this great country of ours.

Of course, I also have to thank our families and employers too. They don't just support us, they also cover down on all of our stateside responsibilities while we're overseas.

Remember the wisdom of my third country national friend, "Happiness is healthy," especially during the holiday season. God Bless.

POWDER RIVER 6 continued from Page 2

Our Christmas dinner will have all of the fixings, and, thanks to our convoy escort teams, fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen in Iraq will also have dinners with all of the traditional Christmas fixings. The Powder River Cowboys continue to maintain their mission focus in their service to their country and state.

I wrote this column on the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Many of our Soldiers started the day with a five kilometer memorial run, marking this day in history. This day reminds me of the "Greatest Generation." Our grandparents and great-grandparents were a part of this generation of Americans that left a lasting imprint on how we honor our country and service to a greater cause.

I remember reading my grandfather's very few journal entries that he drafted while deployed during World War II. I also reflect on the many stories and conversations we had about service prior to his passing.

Those lessons, coupled with the many stories shared by all of our honored Korean War and Vietnam veterans tell a story of significant sacrifice that I like to talk with our Soldiers about regularly.

Servicemen and women who deployed in support of previous conflicts often lived in tents with no heating or air conditioning. Their contact with home came through what is now termed "snail mail," and a very rare phone call. They didn't have computers, X Boxes, video games, cable TV and large gymnasiums while deployed, and they nor-

mally didn't eat very well.

Those troops didn't receive opportunities to take 15 days of R&R leave, and their tour lengths were often unknown, many lasting 4 years. Quite a few didn't have bullet-proof vests and armored vehicles. Medicine was often times limited and medical care didn't always happen in a medical clinic. A much larger proportion of wounded warriors didn't make it



compared to today's battlefields.

I am not suggesting that our Soldiers don't appreciate all of the amenities that we are afforded in today's wars, but it does force many of us to wonder how those who went before dealt with significantly different environments and conditions.

How did they deal with being away for the holidays with such little contact with home? How did they deal with addressing the myriad of issues that arise at home while deployed? How did service member spouses deal with a 4-year deploy-

ment?

At the end of these conversations I have with Soldiers talking about Veterans of past conflicts, there are two recurring concepts that seem to help explain many of the questions. These themes are parallel and consistent with our veterans of today's battlefields. Servicemen and women always have the Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airmen to their left and right to lean on in difficult times. Secondly, our servicemen and women rely on the support of a great nation to help them maintain focus on their service and it's importance.

I thank all of you for providing the support of a great nation and state to our Soldiers and our families. I speak on behalf of all of the Powder River Cowboys when I tell you that your support significantly contributes to the well being and success of our Soldiers and their families.

I also speak on behalf of the entire unit when I tell you how much we appreciate all of the packages, cards and Christmas wishes you have sent, and for taking care of our families during this special time of the year.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and look forward to a new year. It will be a year to celebrate another mission accomplished in service to our nation and our redeployment back to America.

Powder River, let'r buck!

P.S. Tell the kids not to worry, we've got enough flares, lights and tracer rounds to make sure Santa knows exactly where we are.

Chaplain's Corner with Chaplain Randy Sawyer

As we prepare for the Christmas season here, at Camp Virginia, it's somewhat difficult to get a sense of that holiday spirit. We know that back home the towns are putting up their festive decorations, Christmas strolls and Christmas parades have probably already taken place, and as Bing would say, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."

Here, we tend to lose track of time. One day melds into another and every day brings more of the same.

Some of the soldiers are trying to create their own Christmas spirit. The PX has decorations for sale, some of our iPods

contain holiday music, and some of us even have small Christmas trees set up in our rooms and offices.

One of my favorite cartoons of the season is "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas."

We all know how the old Grinch slithered into Whoville, nabbing the decorations, presents, and food, hoping to prevent the dreaded holiday from taking place. To his surprise, all the people in Whoville came out of their empty homes on Christmas morning, singing and celebrating.

He finally came to the realization that the Christmas spirit wasn't depend-

ent upon the trappings and the "things," but rather on the true reason for Christmas...the birth of the Christ Child.

This Christmas season, I hope and pray that we all can come to that same realization. Yes, the decorations and the songs and the snow all help to set the mood, but it's not imperative that we have those things.

That first Christmas, so many years ago, had none of the finery, none of the comforts that we now hold in such high esteem.

The Christ Child came to earth in the lowliest of places and was swaddled in rags. Yet, hallelujah, how



the angels sang, the star shone, and nobility bowed down. That little life lived to perfection, provided the greatest gift to mankind...salvation to all who believe...eternal life with our Father in Heaven.

Perhaps when we dwell on this, it becomes a bit easier to sense the spirit of Christmas, even here in the desert.

Merry Christmas to you all from Camp Virginia. May God Bless you and grant you His mercies in the coming year!

A Congressional Thanksgiving



CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait — U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis and Sen. John Barrasso, stop by Camp Virginia for a surprise Thanksgiving Day visit with Soldiers from the 2-300th Field Artillery Battalion and the 960th Brigade Support Battalion. The pair ate with the troops and participated in a town-hall style meeting with the Wyoming Army National Guard Soldiers.

Pfc. Jeremie Ressler/960th Brigade Support Battalion

CLS continued from Page 1



Pfc. Jeremie Ressler/960th Brigade Support Battalion

HUMBLE HEROES — Sgt. Dominic Hideo, left, and Spc. Natasha Nevel, right, stand as their actions to help save lives involved in a car accident in Kuwait are described to fellow Soldiers and U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lumiss, of Wyoming, on Thanksgiving.

In just a few months, two sets of Powder River medics were dispatched to accidents requiring extrication, of which one required medevac by air. A third incident involved 2-300th Soldiers trained as combat lifesavers who happened upon a fatal car crash.

All of the wrecks were within less than an hour from their home base at Camp Virginia, in Northern Kuwait. Two of the wrecks were T-bone types of crashes, the third appeared to the Soldiers as a head-on collision. All of the Soldiers reported their training immediately turned into lifesaving action.

Spc. Natasha Nevel, of Sheridan, Wyo., and Sgt. Dominic Hideo, of Saipan, both assigned to A Company, 960th Brigade Support Battalion, attached to the 2-300th, rolled out of Camp Virginia a little after 8 a.m., on Nov. 19. The normally rou-

tine drive to a nearby base quickly turned horrific.

Nevel could see the cloud of smoke in the distance. Then she could see the wreckage. One car was overturned. Another vehicle surrounded by a small crowd of local police and military.

“As soon as I put the vehicle in park it was like an immediate adrenaline rush where everything that I had been trained to do just kicked in,” she said. “Like everything that I did was something that I learned in combat lifesaver class. I guess I was just doing what I was trained to do, that’s how I look at it.”

Combat lifesaver (CLS) teaches first aid skills that go beyond a normal basic first aid course. CLS certified Soldiers know how to begin intravenous saline drips and treat wounds often found on the battle-

field. CLS certified Soldiers are authorized to use special first aid kits with all of the new tools they’ve been taught to use.

In this case, both Soldiers were CLS certified and carried one of those kits in their vehicle. Nevel grabbed it and made her way to the handful standing around.

“I said ‘Hey, I have a CLS bag, let me see what I can do to help this situation,’ and (one of the spectators) just kind of looked at me, stumbled back and walked off,” she said. “So I just continued to do what I had to do, grabbed the fire extinguisher and went to help.”

Nevel began checking to see if the victim, a Department of Defense contractor, in the upright vehicle was conscious.

“That’s when I noticed the front of the vehicle caught fire,” she said.

MEDICS continued from Page 6

See MEDICS Pg 7

“So I ran back up to my vehicle where I yelled at Sgt. Hideo that it’s on fire and grab the fire extinguisher.”

Nevel said she caught a hold of one and rushed to smother the flames. Once out, she resumed treating the patient for cuts and shock.

The private said the view of the other car didn’t escape her or her sergeant. They triaged the victims and decided to focus their efforts on the one victim they knew they could help. She said the bodies of the two other victims were pinned in the wreckage, preventing the pair from administering aid.

Hideo and Nevel were recognized for their actions on Thanksgiving Day with a commander’s coin from Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik, commander of the 2-300th, in a ceremony attended to by U.S. Sen. John Barrasso and Rep. Cynthia Lummis, both representing Wyoming.

Nevel plans to attend nursing school at the University of Wyoming after this deployment.

Medics roll in

Just as Nevel and Hideo were in the right place at the right time, two groups of 2-300th medics on two different days found themselves in similar situations.

“We weren’t expecting to have to go to a car accident at all, and we just pulled together and when we got there, we just jumped in and did what we needed to do,” Spc. Travis Holler, a 2-300th medic who responded to one of the T-bone accidents.

Holler, of Sheridan, and fellow medics Spc. James Lopez, of Buffalo, Wyo., and Sgt. Louie Bagorio, were on their way back from an all-night mission in Iraq when they were dispatched to provide medical support for a weapons qualification range. They barely were situated at the range when they were briefed about a nearby accident and asked to respond.

What they rolled up on was a mix of military and civilian vehicles. “There was one patient lying on the ground and there was one patient in a softside Humvee that appeared to be T-boned,” Holler said.

Bagorio, from Honolulu and on loan from the Hawaii National Guard, went to work on the patient on the ground, already suffering from shock. Lopez said he joined Holler and a small group of people trying to help the victim pinned in the vehicle.

“I was keeping the guy stable

from the side and I was directing them,” he said of the efforts to free the victim. “They had a tow chain and they were yanking it by hand, hooking it on to pieces and trying to pull it by hand. I was telling them which pieces to pull so that it wasn’t yanking on him until I could get in and really assess his (injuries).”

The trio stayed until the last patient was flown to a treatment center by helicopter.

For Lopez, this was the second time he was called to action for a roadside wreck, following a weapons range event while making his way home. Lopez and his partner, Pvt. Alex Carmody, of Sheridan, rolled up on the accident. Lopez said Soldiers who left the range earlier already pulled the victims out of the vehicles.

“We got out and worked together real good as a team. Each of us kind of worked an area,” Lopez said. “We hooked him up to the oxygen and everything and got him stabilized.”

While the medics deal with unplanned and often unwanted situations, their schooling is designed to ensure step-by-step reaction – no hesitation, no questioning their ability.

PERFECT ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCORES	PERFECT ARMY MARKSMANSHIP SCORE M4 RIFLE
Spc. Eli Lilley, B Btry, Laramie, Wyo.; Sgt. Zachary Dalin, B Btry, Greybull Wyo.; Spc. Blake Hampton, B Btry, North Platte, Neb.; Sgt. Kenneth Hicks, A Btry, Casper, Wyo.; Pfc. Joseph Ojeda, A Co., Torrington, Wyo.; 1Lt. Amy Henry, A Co., Rock Springs, Wyo.; Spc. Trevor Panasuk, A Co., Douglas, Wyo.; 1Lt. Dexter Nakamoto, A Co., Honolulu.	Staff Sgt. Mike Clancy, B Btry., Lander, Wyo.; Spc. Kenneth DeGraw, B Btry., Marbleton, Wyo.; Spc. David Vanderpool, Headquarters Btry., Basin, Wyo.; NOTE: weapons qualifications are ongoing.
Powder River Let'r Buck!	

Order of Saint Barbara's Military Dinner Camp Patriot, Kuwait, Dec. 5

The Order of Saint Barbara is an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery. Both U.S. Marine and Army field artillery along with their military and civilian supporters are eligible for membership. The order is managed by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and two levels of recognition exist...The order links field artillerymen of the past and present in a brotherhood of professionalism, selfless service and sacrifice symbolized by Saint Barbara. — From the U.S. Field Artillery Association's website, www.fieldartillery.org.

**Photos By 2nd Lt. Christian Venhuizen,
2-300th Field Artillery (Pages 8-9)**



(Top Left) 115th Fires Brigade commander Col. Rich Knowlton, congratulates Master Sgt. John Zorbas, of Headquarters, 2-300th Field Artillery upon his induction into the Order of Saint Barbara. (Top Right) Sgt. 1st Class Durward Jones, of C Battery, accepts his cup of Artillery Punch, as part of the induction ceremony. (Bottom left) the inductees to the Order of Saint Barbara, from the 2-300th are, from left, Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Gillespie, Jones, Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Phillips, Capt. Rory Williams and Zorbas. (Above) Williams, proves he completely drank the concoction. The brew included various nonalcoholic liquids and solids.

Order of Saint Barbara's military dinner cont'd



(Left) Capt. Matthew Berry, Headquarters, 2-300th Field Artillery, surveys the U.S. Army transport ship serving as the host site for the Order of Saint Barbara's military dinner. The event included live music and food. (Top Left) 2-300th commander Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik, standing, takes a look at the cigar being enjoyed by B Battery, 2-300th, commander Capt. Fred Nasredine. (Middle) 2nd Lt. Cody Dupler, Headquarters, 2-300th, enjoys a smoke after dinner. (Below) Sgt. Maj. Phillip Pyzyna, left, of Headquarters, and Capt. Glenn Nicholson, of C Battery, 2-300th, take in some of the festivities during the event.



A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep is a publication of the public affairs office of the 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery Regiment. The publication is an authorized publication. The views and opinions expressed in *A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep* are not necessarily those of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 2-300th Field Artillery public affairs officer. *A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep* is a monthly publication.

All contributions, questions, comments and suggestions should be submitted via e-mail to: christian.venhuizen@us.army.mil. All materials submitted will be screened for security, accuracy, policy, clarity and space.

Battalion Commander: Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik
Public Affairs Officer: 2nd Lt. Christian Venhuizen

**Photos By Master Sgt. Dorvan Roberts,
2-300th Field Artillery**



Water
water
every-
where

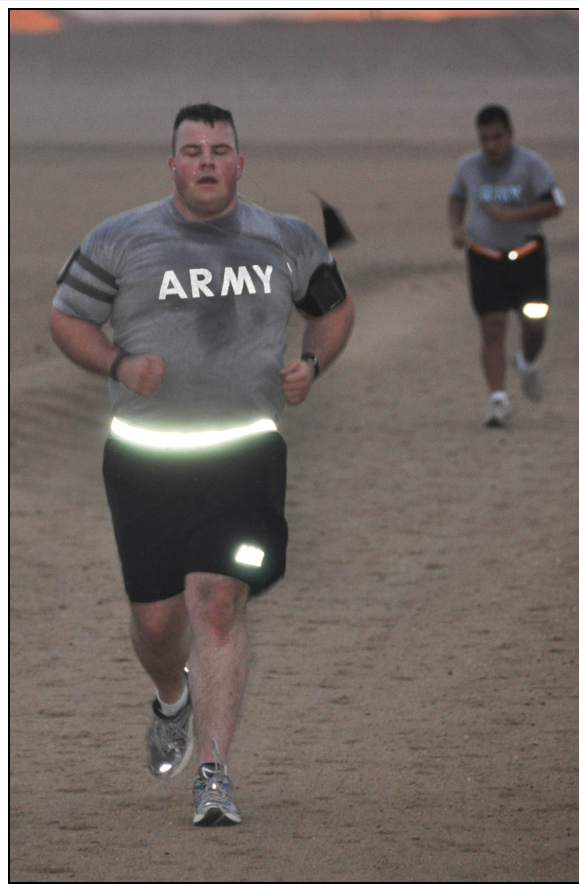
**CAMP VIRGINIA,
Kuwait** — Several days
of steady rain in the first
week of December re-
sulted in flooded tents,
water pouring over bar-
ricades and many pond
sized water puddles left
for Soldiers to navigate
to work, to dine, and to
play at the USO and
morale, welfare and rec-
reation facilities.



Thanksgiving fun

**Photos By Pfc. Jeremie Ressler,
960th Brigade Support Battalion**

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait — Soldiers from the 2-300th Field Artillery participate in a variety of Thanksgiving Day festivities. Starting bright and early, Soldiers like Pvt. Matt Tetzlaff, of A Battery, top right, and 2nd Lt. Ed Cromwell, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, bottom right, take part in a five kilometer run around the camp. Other events include traditional meals. Those meals were served by select commanders and staff at Camp Virginia, including the command team from B Battery, Capt. Fred Nasredine, below left, and 1st Sgt. Robert Butz. Other 2-300th Soldiers were more than content to eat the turkey and trimmings, to include pumpkin pies, ice cream and cheesecakes. A table full of 2-300th Soldiers, bottom left, finish their festive meal.





A Battery

BOHICA (Because of Honor I Choose Alpha)

From Capt. Kevin Messamer, commander, A Battery,

Welcome to Lake Virginia! At least that's what the sign should have read.

Recently we have been getting a view of how extreme this desert can be. One month it's over 100 degrees and you're sweating your butt off, and then the next month you're bundling up and trying to stay dry.

I think most of the Soldiers prefer the cooler temps and moisture even though it can be an adventure trying to keep living areas dry. It's amazing how difficult life becomes when you have to navigate around puddles just to take a shower, or utilize the little boys' room!

Missions are still going well and all the Soldiers are finding ways to keep busy. Weightlifting, reading, taking online classes, and watching movies still top the list of favorites, but many Soldiers are starting to look at school, employment, and other activities they will be engaged in once we return.

The countdown to our return is well underway for even the most superstitious of troops. We have checked the block on Halloween and Thanksgiving, and are now ready for Christmas.

We appreciate all the care packages that have arrived from various organizations and loved ones, and are find-



Photo Courtesy A Battery

RIVER CROSSING — Spc. Troy Ross tries to get back to his tent after a shower.

ing it difficult to find room to hold all the gifts that everyone has sent. It is difficult to go into any operations center throughout the battalion and not notice how much support we have.

By the time most of you have received this letter, we will have met with a representative of our replacements and they will be on the verge of leaving for their mobilization site. There are a lot of rumors floating around about when we will return, but we are still on track for being home no later than mid-April. We have also started planning our Yellow Ribbon drill several months after

our return, which will allow everyone to get back together with their friends and fellow Soldiers for some limited training and a lot of craziness.

We are pleased to inform you that Sgt. Williams, who was involved in an accident in September, is recovering fantastically. Spc. Black has also made a full recovery and is back to his normal ornery self! They are both missed and we keep them in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to reuniting with them.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for all the support you have given us and we are constantly thinking of home and those we love. May God bless all of you throughout this Christmas season and we look forward to seeing you soon! BOHICA

B Battery



ThunderCats

1st Sgt. Robert Butz, battery first sergeant, B Battery

To the families, loved ones and friends from across the waters, Bravo Battery is once again excited to say hello. The Soldiers of Bravo have surpassed yet another month here in Kuwait, and, as always, performed like warriors.

One thing Soldiers here can always count on is continuous change. Some changes are for the better and some, well not so much, but each change we encounter is another change moving us closer to returning home.

The hot dry temperatures earlier this year are now passed and will be the future of our replacing unit. For us, we will enjoy the Wyoming lifestyle of heaters, extra clothing and, occasionally, wet weather gear. We've seen our first major rain storm this last month. Just like the summer heat was extreme, the rain didn't hold back either by showering down over two and half inches of rain

in a 36-hour period.

During this last month we engaged in a couple significant morale boosting events. One of these events was being able to occupy the small arms range and allow our Soldiers to qualify with their individual assigned weapon. The second event was the start of the Commanders' Cup competition, with football being the first event.

The Commanders' Cup is a program in which all of the batteries compete against each other in different events, under a point system. As of this newsletter, Bravo Battery is leading the way in points based on three categories. Our current average Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) score is 223 out of 300 possible points, 18 points above second place. In Texas Hold'em, we placed second, but come-on now, it's a card game.

Our football team has, well they have taken the



THUNDERCATS FOOTBALL

reins as Football Champions. Bravo Battery ran for points, while the rest of the battalion ran for cover. We racked up 141 points in four games while giving up only 53 to the not so fortunate ones. Bravo went undefeated in the Commanders' Cup Football event. In the end, hard work and dedication separated the winners from the jokers.

As a side note, the medics would like to thank the Thunder Cat football team for giving them the opportunity to practice on a few stitches and a couple of sprained ankles.

I personally want to thank all of those who have supported us through prayers and other support means such as packages, letters, and gifts. Your steadfast contribution to our country and its Soldiers is not and will not ever go unnoticed by the men and women in the fight. We deeply appreciate all of you and what you have done for us.

From all of the Thunder Cats forward this holiday season we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas.

—“Thunder Cat 7”



Wardog Bite

1st Lt. Michael Kingman, platoon leader, C Battery

Hello again from Camp Virginia, Kuwait. Another month has gone by, and every day is one more day closer until the Soldiers from Charlie Battery are safe at home. November has come and gone, Thanksgiving is over, and we are all excited now that the holiday season is upon us.

November was a busy month, with plenty of events, including the start of the Battalion Commander's Cup competition. The Commander's Cup is a battalion-wide Olympics, with the different batteries competing against each other. The winner receives a trophy and plaque presented by the battalion commander, and a coin presented by the battalion's command sergeant major.

Charlie Battery had a rough beginning, losing our first flag football game, but we were able to buckle down and win all of our remaining games. 1st Lt. Steven Merkley took the lead in coordinating and coaching our team, putting together a winning combination. Thanks to the young guys, we were able to recover from our initial performance and secure second place.

Spc. Ashley Woundedarrow was the most outstanding player as his cat like quickness and precise passing were too much for competition. Sgt. Brant Knight represented the battery in poker, placing third. Presently sev-

eral Soldiers are involved in volleyball. It's been a pretty rough game as Spc. Georgia Torres suffered a sprained ankle. Never the less, Charlie Battery is looking good, hoping to come out on top, and take home the battalion commander's trophy when it is all said and done.

Early in the month our soldiers were visited by several Governors from states represented by Soldiers in our unit, including Georgia's Gov. Sonny Perdue, and Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal. A few of our Soldiers had an opportunity to eat lunch with the governors and their delegation. Governor Freudenthal was able to visit with many Wyoming soldiers on his trip, including our own Sgt. William Burbridge, Spc. Craig Brown, and Pvt. Austin Brookwell. These soldiers gave the governor a quick tour of their daily ride, a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle that they use on their missions, guarding the many convoys of supplies into Iraq.

The holiday season has officially started here as well with the arrival of Thanksgiving. Charlie Battery welcomed the arrival of the fall season by eating Thanksgiving dinner together. It was a rainy and foggy day,



Pfc. Jeremie Ressler/960th Brigade Support Battalion

CONNECTED — 2nd Lt. Marcus Neiman poses with U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis, left, and Sen. John Barrasso, both from Wyoming, visiting Camp Virginia on Thanksgiving.

and some were still tired, having just arriving from a mission early that same morning. However, the food and fellowship made up for the sour weather.

The dining facility was also in the full swing of the spirit of the season, presenting a full on holiday meal. The meal was excellent and included all the traditional foods and trimmings you would find at your grandmother's house. The chow hall was also decorated in the same extravagant fashion as the dinner. There were several ice sculptures as decorative food creations. The dining facility staff is very artistic, and can carve some amazing things out of a watermelon rind.

We send our well wishes for a Happy Holiday Season. On behalf of C Battery, thank you for all the care packages. All of us appreciate the generosity.



Notes from Alpha Company, 960th Brigade Support Battalion



TURKEY DAY — 1st Lt. Amy Henry, A Company platoon leader, waits for her plate of Thanksgiving Day eats at the Camp Virginia dining facility. Soldiers were provided a full Thanksgiving meal.

Pfc. Jeremie Ressler/960th Brigade Support Battalion

Happy Holidays from A Company, 960th BSB! November was an event filled month.

For Thanksgiving, we received a visit from two of our three U.S. Congressmen, Sen. John Barrasso and Rep. Cynthia Lummis. They toured Camp Virginia and had Thanksgiving Dinner with the troops at the camp's dining facility. The Dining Facility people did a great job of creating a very festive atmosphere.

After dinner, Barrasso and Lummis met with all of the troops for a "town hall" meeting. Two Soldiers from A Company, Sgt. Dominic Hideo and Spc. Natasha Nevel were recognized for their heroic actions, helping victims involved in a vehicle collision.

The pair quickly extinguished a fire that resulted from a collision near our camp, keeping the victims from further harm. They also administered first aid and helped with the rescue efforts.

See A COMPANY Pg 14

Paniolo Pride

Here in 3rd Platoon we have a saying, given to us from our Hawaiian counterparts, called "Paniolo Pride." The word "paniolo" means cowboy in Hawaiian, and we set the tempo when it comes to the pride of the Cowboy State.

From performing a mission without a single failure, to building a relationship with our fellow brothers-at-arms, we strive for perfection and tame it with our determination and willpower.

We do our best to hold monthly BBQs which have become an all-time favorite for both us and the Hawaiians, as they have broadened our horizons on many different levels. Our platoon gatherings can go from conversations about heritage and lore to language and cultural mannerisms. This has been therapeutic on many different levels, helping Soldiers leave behind some is-

sues that we all deal with on a daily basis.

Separation from friends and family for both the Wyoming and Hawaii Soldiers is a mountain of stress that weighs down on us all. However, through our events focusing on camaraderie, we have found ways to help every individual focus on morale, mission, and ultimately the success of a mission with the highest standard.

As the months have went by, our bond has grown stronger and stronger, solidifying our relationships. There is talk of Wyoming soldiers even going to Hawaii and visiting, and vice versa with the Hawaiians coming to Wyoming. Our relationships and morale are tight, our mission fail proof, and our dedication is unparalleled. Bear witness to "Paniolo Pride."

— Spc. Matthew Johnson

A COMPANY continued from Page 13

For their actions they were awarded a Battalion Commander's Coin from Lt. Col. Brian Nesvik, the 2-300th Field Artillery Battalion's commander, and a coin from Barrasso. It was nice for our Soldiers to have the support and recognition of the senator and the congresswoman, who were here representing all of our friends and family from home.

Several Soldiers from A Company were invited by their Command to spend Thanksgiving at the Hilton in Kuwait City. They had a variety of activities to choose from, anything from a spa treatment, to simply sitting back and watching the latest movie premier. There was also an abundance of foods and treats for the Soldiers to enjoy. Everyone who went said it was a fun day spent in a very luxurious atmosphere.

Many Soldiers from the battalion spent an evening at Camp Arifjan listening to Aaron Tippin in concert. They got a chance, before the concert, to get autographs and meet the band. The Soldiers also had the opportunity to have their pictures taken with Tippin. His patriotism was a great moral boost for the Soldiers.

A Company reached the 500,000 mile mark, for number of miles traveled while performing missions! That's a lot of miles, and a lot of Soldiers moved safely through Kuwait and we're still going!

Enjoy your Holidays!

— Sgt. 1st Class Julie Wilkes



Photos Courtesy A Company

MANDATORY FUN DAY — Soldiers with 1st Platoon, A Company, enjoy the pool at a nearby Air Force Base, left, cook-out, and bond together as a group, top.

This past month we have experienced a lot of change within 1st Platoon, everything from the missions we conduct to the people in our platoon.

With all the change the Soldiers are keeping a positive attitude and continuing to show that we are professionals. Whenever we have a slow day we make it a mandatory fun day.

Most of the Soldiers don't like it when they are told they have to go, but, after they start, everyone has fun. It breaks up the monotony and gets people to do something they may not normally do.

We have done fun things like go swimming, play softball and barbeque – which I like the best. The Hawaii National Guard Soldiers can really cook some great food, and it is something everyone looks forward to.

One good way to think of the time we have remaining on the deployment is two more holidays and we are home. Holidays are a hard time for all of our Soldiers being away from home, however the support from family and friends will get everyone through the holiday season and home soon.

— Sgt. 1st Class Robert Hanlon





Let'r Buck!

Capt. Troy Wacaser, commander, Headquarters Battery



SPECIAL DELIVERY — 2-300th postal carriers were forced to use buses when the volume of mail increased for the holidays. Thanks to Sheridan and other Wyoming residents, the Soldiers will have more than a few surprises to unwrap this year.

of Soldiers is what makes it all worth it.

We've also seen evidence of our extended families back home. Make that several bus loads of evidence. Seriously, we are now using minibuses to haul mail from the post office to the battalion area and on to the batteries. We were alerted, then immediately began receiving the fruits of the labor of our families and friends in Sheridan.

We are tracking more than 150 packages for individual Soldiers from just the community. That doesn't include all of the packages from family members, friends and efforts organized by the Wyoming National Guard. The outpouring of support is almost overwhelming and definitely appreciated.

Like most units, we have some Soldiers that frequently receive mail throughout the deployment and we have Soldiers that have received little more than their own packages of supplies they couldn't pack on the plane, so they mailed to themselves while on leave. The holiday boxes will not be left unopened.

From all of us at Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Merry Christmas to you, Happy Hanukkah, and we'll see you in 2010.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery has been very busy this past month. We have our normal everyday events like Soldiers running mission, tracking missions and working to keep trucks mission ready. Yet, over the holidays it is a different time here.

Our mail has increased significantly and the Soldiers seem to miss home just a little more.

This brought up something I think is amazing with the family of Soldiers that we have here. No matter what one of us is going through, with over 140 members of the battery and over 600 members of the battalion, there is someone that is going through the same thing we are. We have cre-

ated bonds here that will last a lifetime.

This family



Pfc. Jeremie Ressler/960th Brigade Support Battalion

HUNGRY — Pfc. Derek Paxio takes down a turkey leg served up during Thanksgiving dinner.