

2nd Brigade Combat
Team Forward
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Striker Torch

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EIGHTEEN

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Left: Staff Sgt. Kerry Kinlaw of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment waits to put on a Level "A" Chemical Protective Suit during a training event hosted by the 101st Chemical Company, XVIII Airborne Corp. Photo by Pfc. Jeremy Neece
Top Right: The Secretary of the Army, Honorable Francis J. Harvey (right) speaks with Capt. Jeffrey Kersey (left) from Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, during his visit at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Pfc. Jeremy Neece
Bottom Right: Staff Sgt. Jarrod Koski of Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment coaches Mr. Don DeFosset, Chairman, Walter Industries stationed at Tampa, Florida, on how to accurately fire a Barrett .50 Caliber sniper rifle during a Joint Civilian Orientation Conference near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey
Bottom: Tanks from Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment of Task Force Regulars conduct a live fire exercise during recent gunnery training held outside of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Picture by 1st Lt. Bledy Taka

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Top Left: Staff Sgt. Nathan Koedyker of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, Task Force Regulars takes aim during Squad Live Fire training in Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Bledy Taka
Top Right: Sgt. Andres Herrera (rear) reports progress as Pfc. Alexander Dye (front) uses an advanced mine detector to look for a mock cache. Both are from Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion. Photo by 1st Lt. Wesley Brooks
Bottom: A Paladin Howitzer of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment fires a 155 mm high explosive projectile during counter-fire training outside of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Raul Montano

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Top: Soldiers from 47th Forward Support Battalion conduct Convoy Logistics Patrol (CLP) training. Photo by Capt. Heather E. Jangraw
Bottom Left: Pfc. Doncarlo C. Geroche from Troop G, 1st Cavalry Regiment pulls rear security while his team performs a cordon search during Military Operations in Urban Terrain training. Photo by Pfc. Jeremy Neece
Bottom Middle: Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Conqueror, throw water on 1st Sgt. Christopher Menton during his going away party. Photo by Sgt. Charles Clawson
Bottom Right: Paladin howitzers of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment with all tubes elevated during command maintenance at the Btry. C motor pool at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Chris Rupe



Engineers Lead the Way in IED Detection

Story by 1st Lt. Dustin Gray

With Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) being the main threat against Coalition Forces in Iraq, units are trying to find better ways to counter the IED threat. Charlie Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, has led the way in IED training for Task Force Conqueror. Charlie "Rock" has continued to focus on the IED threat while using new, more realistic training devices.

Recently, Charlie "Rock" conducted a ten day simulated route clearance operation. The company was assigned a route for a ten day period in which patrols ran continuously. The three "Rock" platoons would rotate various mission times during the day and patrol for IEDs. During the training event, Opposition Forces (OPFOR) would emplace simulated IEDs along the route, conduct ambushes, and act as civilians on the battlefield. The OPFOR used several different scenarios to make the training intense and replicate situations

commonly seen in Iraq. "I feel like this is the most realistic and pertinent training we have done; we are actually training ourselves to look for IEDs and fight an ever changing enemy," said PFC Michael Ripp.

The engineers then decided to take their training a step further. The simulated IEDs they had been training with lacked true initiating devices and a realistic explosive simulation. To make their training even better, the engineers utilized a new IED simulation device. The

"I feel like this is the most realistic and pertinent training we have done; we are actually training ourselves to look for IEDs and fight an ever changing enemy."

Counter-IED and Collective Training Cell, at Camp Buehring, completed testing of the device on March 21, 2006, and approved it for use on March 24, 2006. The device produces a contained explosion to replicate an actual IED detonation and make training all the more realistic.

The first application of the device came during Sapper Stakes. Sapper Stakes is an engineer squad competition which tests each squad's

ability to perform "Sapper" tasks. 1st Lt. Tobias Watson and SSgt. Robert Best ran the IED detection lane for Charlie Company, 40th Engineers. Charlie "Rock" was the first company in theater to implement the new device into training, leading the way in IED detection.

During Sapper Stakes, April 11-15, 2006, each of the nine squads in Charlie "Rock" patrolled a route and cleared it of IEDs. The patrol routes each contained six hidden IEDs, with the new device being the last one along the route. When a vehicle drove by the device, it was detonated by 1st Lt. Tobias Watson from several hundred meters away, providing a real explosion. "The sound of the explosion, the fire, and the shock wave provided a realism that we had never encountered before, it helped the IED threat become a reality for me," said PFC Aaron Bybee.

IED training is one of the major focuses of the military. The Army continually strives to improve IED detection training and the implementation of this new device is a big step forward.



Third Squad, First Platoon, Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Conqueror, has a simulated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explode during the route clearance lane of Sapper Stakes. Photo by 1st Lt. Timothy Erwin

2nd BCT Participates in Civilian Leaders Conference

Story by Capt. Mary King

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, recently participated in an event designed to show civilian leaders how Soldiers are training to fight the War on Terrorism, and to give civilian leaders a better understanding of the military. The Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC), sponsored by the Department of Defense, organized the event which brought leaders of American industry, investment, and academics to Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) Sword and Dagger. Soldiers and military leaders from throughout the Kuwaiti area were enthusiastic about demonstrating their professionalism and knowledge to distinguished civilian leaders from around the United States.

The trip to FOB Sword began with a presentation from Lt. Col. Christopher Ballard of Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) operations, who outlined the challenges facing Soldiers in Iraq. After viewing video clips of Soldiers conducting operations in Iraq, Lt. Col. Ballard entertained questions about the necessity of split-second decisions, intelligence gathering, and situational awareness. He said that Kuwait offers many training opportunities to Soldiers. Mr. David Ellwood, Dean of JFK School of Government, said that this trip touring various military installations has "shown me how professional military folks are. I'm most impressed with how quickly the military is adapting. Men and women in uniform are all inspirational, especially after seeing for myself how tough the mission is." After the presentation, the guests had a chance to view several displays of military equipment.

Soldiers were able to demonstrate the use of and answer questions about the latest advances in equipment in both medical and combat technology. Some of the equipment included the Military

Tracking System (MTS), the First Action for Shock and Trauma (FAST) 1 Emergency Fluid Replacement System, the latest in night vision optics, along with the newest additions to the Interceptor Body Armor (IBA) and the combat uniform. Sgt. Bryan Guilloty, a medic in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of Task Force Regulars, was offering emergency medical support to the Soldiers and civilians participating in the JCOC event as a precaution. He said, "It lets us know people from the outside care about what we do here... not only do they see what we do from the outside, but they can come see some of the inner-workings of how we make things happen." Many guests showed surprise at the high level of knowledge Soldiers had at all aspects of their jobs.

"Everybody's really upbeat, everyone has a great attitude, some of these systems are very complicated and I'm surprised at how professional and well trained you all are; like the men and women flying helicopters, they're just kids!" said Dick Beard of R.A. Beard Company, a commercial real estate investment firm in Tampa, Florida. The JCOC group then went to take a safety class from NCOs of Task Force Regulars, and fired M4 rifles, the Barrett .50 caliber, and M14 rifles. After the civilians drew their IBAs and Kevlar helmets, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Rainer and Staff Sgt. Anthony Buchheit, both of Co. C, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. of Task Force Regulars instructed a small group on the use of the M4. "We are giving you a crash course on the fundamentals of firing that every



Staff Sgt. Nathan Koedyker of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment of Task Force Regulars with David Mitchell, Secretary of Delaware's Department of Safety and Homeland Security, after going on a brief ride on an M1A1 Abrams tank at Forward Operating Base Sword near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Soldier learns in basic training," Buchheit said to the group. Along with firing various weapon systems, the group was able to ride on Bradley fighting vehicles and M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks. After a 10 minute ride on a Bradley, Ms. Lisa Renstrom, President of the Sierra Club, said,

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Left: A squad from Task Force Regulars illustrates the function of each Soldier within an eight-man Infantry Squad to the members of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) while visiting a training range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Middle: Pvt. Kurtis Gamble of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment demonstrates how Soldiers eat MREs to Carol Garrison, President of University of Alabama at Birmingham, at Forward Operating Base Sword during a conference designed to let civilian business, financial, and academic leaders interact with members of the military. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Right: Sgt. Robert Kernan of Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of Task Force Regulars instructs Ms. Lisa Renstrom, President of the Sierra Club, on how to fire an M4 during the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference where civilian leaders visited Forward Operating Base Sword, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Run-Away Doc

Story by Sgt. Timothy Wilder

Some people will tell you to exercise to stay healthy, while others will tell you to eat a balanced diet. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery's Physician Assistant, Capt. Michael Garcia is responsible for ensuring the Soldiers of the Iron Thunder Battalion maintain a healthy lifestyle. He exhibits proof of its benefits through "runnership" by example. While his primary responsibility is to help Soldiers stay healthy, he makes a point of showing them how it is done. At 45 years old, he is nearly the oldest Soldier in the Battalion, but proves that age has nothing to do with maintaining athletic performance and health.

Capt. Garcia thinks running is his weakest event. "I run as much as I can, but I find myself running no more than anyone else, about two to three hours a week." Capt. Garcia runs around a ten and a half minute two mile on the Army Physical Fitness Test. "I do the occasional interval run to improve my speed, but not much more than that." Capt Garcia used his same techniques for competing in the 1988 and 1989 Iron Man competition in Hawaii, a grueling endurance test consisting of a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a marathon of 26.2 miles, and closing with a 112 mile bicycle race. "When you are competing in a ten and a half hour competition, speed is not an interregal part of it. It comes down to heart more then anything else."

A distance runner by training, Capt. Garcia was a triathlete at Stanford University, and competed in professional triathlons afterwards. In the Army, he still maintains a high level of competitive fitness, by competing in every race he can. Since being deployed to Camp Buehring, Capt. Garcia has competed in five of the races that Morale, Welfare, and Recreation has sponsored here since November of 2005; including the March 19th Camp Buehring marathon. "I didn't do so well in the marathon. I didn't do enough training in the end. It's hard to run on Camp Buehring. A person can only take so much of the same [sand] berms day after day.

In 1998, Capt. Garcia was accepted to be a part of the US Army's "World Class Athlete" group, a unit that dedicates itself to training for the Olympics. Sadly, he was unable to complete the branch transfer. "I still have the acceptance letter from the officer in charge of the unit." Capt. Garcia considers it to be one of the highest points of his Army career.

Capt. Garcia uses the All Army Triathlon Team, the Army Ten Miler, five and ten kilometer fun runs to keep himself in top shape for the next event. Through it all, he gives the Soldiers of 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. a display of what dedication to physical fitness is all about every day.



Capt. Michael Garcia of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, trains by running 2-3 times each week. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

REMEMBER OPERATIONAL SECURITY!!

Remember Operational Security...When you or a family member talks about ongoing operations, or spreads rumors, you never know who might be finding out what your unit is doing. Do not discuss Troop Movements, Strengths, Weaknesses, Locations or Plans. The Enemy is always trying to figure out what we are doing, and by spreading rumors or discussing operations, you may be giving them those pieces they need to figure out our Operations.

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Staff Sgt. Anthony Buchheit of Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of Task Force Regulars instructs Mr. Steve Gill, a radio talk show host with WTN 99.7, Nashville, Tennessee, how to safely fire an M4 during the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference visit to a training area near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

"I'm just in awe of this! I'm totally into noise since I arrived with you all; it's all about the noise, and ear

plugs!"

Many participants of the JCOC program left the 2nd BCT with a better appreciation and understanding of the lives of deployed Soldiers. Ms. Anne Crews, Vice President, Government Relations, Mary Kay Incorporated, said, "As a free American, I really respect everything our military has been doing. I have a much better understanding of the men and women in uniform and I was so impressed with equipment training, and coordination of services. I'll do everything I can to support the military and their goals when I take [this knowledge] back home." Soldiers who interacted with the JCOC members were thrilled to meet industrial and financial leaders of America, and leave a lasting impression.

Sgt. Derrick Keller of Co. C, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt of TF Regulars remarked, "They were very friendly, supportive, and interested in what we do. They seemed more interested in the people behind the uniform and knowing about us personally." Mr. Joseph Abruzzo summarized his experience at FOB Sword, saying, "We've seen very brave men and women prepared to engage all over the world... It takes amazing courage, enthusiasm, and commitment. Soldiers are a terrific inspiration to people back in the States."



Sgt. Richard Guynes (left) and Spc. Dustin Wisdom (right) of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, coach Mr. Benjamin Chereskin, the Managing Director of Madison Dearborn Partners of Chicago, Illinois, on firing the M14 silenced sniper rifle during the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

My Readiness CARE Team

By Kelsy Husted

Choose your plan, your way.

That's the idea behind Army Community Service's My Readiness Team (MRT) and Casualty Response (CARE) Team program. The program, introduced in April to Baumholder units, is an individual personal readiness planner developed by family members. The MRT helps family members cope when a variety of circumstances may arise.

"The strength of the MRT lies in its simplicity," said Kathy Ledbetter, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder ACS director. "We should all have a plan to make sure our families are cared for in the event that we aren't able to [care for] ourselves."

The CARE team concept, introduced at several stateside locations, was recently adopted by the 1st Brigade Combat Team in Friedberg. "Lynda MacFarland, 1st BCT senior adviser, and the group in Friedberg have worked very hard to bring this concept to 1st Armored Division and V Corps," said Lauren Scurlock, 2nd BCT senior adviser.

The Baumholder CARE program incorporates the My Readiness Team component. Intended to be a platform on which decisions are based, the MRT helps ensure a family's wishes are carried out when there is difficulty personally accomplishing tasks. The personal readiness plan identifies friends the family would like to come assist in time of need.

"It is a fact that emergencies and tragedies do occur. One way to help alleviate additional stress during that time is to have a plan in place. I believe that the MRT and CARE team concept is an excellent tool to use to develop that plan," said Gloria Ruhnke, 47th Forward Support Battalion family readiness support assistant.

In the event of a family illness, the MRT can be

activated by the family member. The MRT is comprised of four or more individuals including an emotional support person, a gatekeeper, a meal coordinator, and a child care provider who work together to assist the family as needed.

"Discussing the issues with family and friends to be included in the MRT is important. That part of the process is what empowers the individual before he or she is in the middle of a stressful situation," said Ruhnke.

"They can be assured of surrounding themselves with supporting and capable individuals. It also makes it easier on the caregivers by consolidating all pertinent information they might need," she said. "I recommend it for everyone."

In the event of serious injury, illness or death the family member can call on the MRT or call for help in the form of a CARE team. A family member may select his or her own CARE team. All training will be provided. Or, a CARE team of trained, mature and screened volunteers will be selected. The CARE team consists of a gatekeeper, a meal coordinator and a child care provider. Responsible for screening calls and visitors, the gatekeeper also assists in home matters.

When a garrison team is selected, volunteer child care is arranged for the family. The Baumholder Protestant Women of the Chapel organization coordinates meals. "The most effective thing about the program is that the family member is selecting his or her own team members. They are contacting their team members ahead of time to let them know what function they would like them to provide in case of an emergency," said Jackie Wilmot, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry family readiness support assistant.

"The readiness teams and CARE teams are for

everyone in the community, not just for families of deployed service members. I'm excited about it because now, at the garrison level, anyone may have the paperwork ready for his or her own readiness team and may take advantage of a CARE team," said Scurlock.

The intent of the MRT is to provide immediate assistance for a short period of time, 48-72 hours. Depending on the circumstances, the MRT could be used for intermittent periods for a longer period.

"The beauty of this plan is that the family has a role in who would be contacted to come to their aid in the event of an emergency. This also lifts a role which the FRG has historically filled," said Scurlock.

"I think the last memorial ceremony gave the spouses a sense of urgency. Unfortunately, it took that to get people's attention. From an operational and administrative standpoint, it is very sound and I think it will be effective," said Capt. Marv King, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry rear detachment commander.

"With MRT, we've provided the vehicle for Soldiers and families to assess and act as they desire. We can't control the mission requirements or the length of deployments, but we can control who does what in the event that we are unable to meet our responsibilities. Capable, confident, competent families make it possible for Soldiers to focus on the mission and return home safely," said Ledbetter.

For more information on the MRT and CARE teams or to design your individual MRT, contact your unit's rear detachment or ACS at mil 314-485-8188.

SHOUT OUTS!!



SFC Leonard of Co. B, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. has been blessed with the arrival of his second Grandson, Jeremiah Jayden who was born in Seattle, Washington on Friday April 14th at 1251. Jeremiah was 7lbs 10 oz and was 20.2 inches long, at birth. He joins his big brother Joshua Justin who is 3 1/2 y/o.. So Congratulations Grandpa! The boys can hardly wait to have you hold them in your arms. And as Joshua says, GO ARMY! Love, Cheryl



Left: Rosie Springfield displays her face painted during activities at the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment's Easter party held in Baumholder, Germany. Photo furnished by 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment Family Readiness Group

Right: A spouse and a young boy make cards for their deployed Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team at a Family Readiness Group event in Baumholder, Germany. Photo furnished by 2nd Brigade Family Readiness Group



47th FSB Hosts Kuwaiti Partnership Visit

Story by Maj. John Kuenzli and Photos by 1st Lt. Patrick Warren



Left: Leadership of the 47th Forward Support Battalion with members of the Kuwaiti military logistics element during the Kuwaiti Partnership visit at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Right: Capt. Donnie Kluck (left foreground), Executive Officer of Co. A, 47th Forward Support Battalion, delivers his convoy safety brief to members from Co. A, while Kuwaiti officers carefully observe and listen to the brief during a demonstration at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by 1st Lt. Patrick Warren

Recently, the 47th Forward Support Battalion (FSB) hosted a Coalition Forces Land Component Command and Kuwaiti Partnership visit. Fifteen officers from the Kuwait Army Support Command came to see the 47th FSB for a day in action at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Lt. Col. Sam Casmus, Central Command Liaison Officer, brought the Kuwaiti team to Camp Buehring. Col. Al Ra Samof, the Kuwaiti unit's head logistician, led the visiting Kuwaitis, consisting of several support battalion commanders, operations officers, and supply officers.

Through the course of the day, the partnership visit afforded Kuwaiti and U.S. officers the chance to discuss the many similarities and differences of logistics support methods and missions. One major difference noted was that U.S. support unit missions tie into supporting agencies in the continental U.S., where there is full maintenance, medical, and transportation support elements ready to fight anywhere in the world. The Kuwait Army logistics is able to focus on very short lines of communication and incorporates industrial and commercial capabilities at

very close reach, with quick response. The two forces also share similarities in methods of maintenance and supply practices.

While some of the Kuwaiti officers spoke excellent English, others utilized the assistance of Arabic interpreters. Everyone seemed to succeed in productive discussions as they made introductions at the 47th FSB's headquarters, observed Soldiers in training, and had lunch with Command Sgt. Major Lester Stephens and all of the 47th FSB officers.

While visiting Company A, the Kuwaiti contingent observed Combat Logistics Patrol training. Commander of Co. A, Capt. Brian Cozine, explained the training event to the visitors, and Capt. Donnie Kluck, the Company Executive Officer and convoy commander, gave the convoy brief. Staff Sgt. Teddyboy Monton introduced the guests to NCOs performing Pre-Combat Checks (PCCs) and Pre-Combat Inspections (PCIs) critical to the successful preparation of every Soldier participating in the CLP. The Kuwaitis took particular interest in the protective posture of the individual Soldier equipment and the armored

vehicles that were preparing for the convoy.

Capt. Andrew Brandon, the Company B Commander, introduced the Kuwaitis to his direct support maintenance team and their operations. Capt. Dave Kretz, Co. B's Shop Officer, explained the various capabilities resident in the maintenance company, and Chief Warrant Officer Bud Wills represented the technical expertise provided in support operations.

At lunch, the officers of the 47th FSB escorted the Kuwaitis through a busy dining facility and exchanged questions and answers regarding cultures, education, military professions, and other topics. After a successful and talkative lunch at the dining facility and a short break for their prayer, Capt. Martin Reidy, Co. C's Commander, and the medics of Co. C, showed their capabilities by demonstrating a medical test by extracting a casualty with a suspected spinal injury from a vehicle.

At the end of the day, the Kuwaiti contingent invited the 47th FSB leadership to visit the Kuwaiti military support command in order to return the hospitality of the 47th FSB.

Fire and Maneuver: Warriors Develop Small Unit Leadership

Story by 1st Lt. Andrew Nowak and Photos by Staff Sgt. Daniel Carrillo



Spc. James Onwuka of Company B, 1st Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment watches over his shoulder as he guides his Humvee backwards before the Task Force Regulars Squad Live Fire Exercise.

Fire Exercise or CALFX.

During its recent CALFX, Company B intended to build upon the foundation from previous squad level training events. The scenario presented to the squad leader involved a patrol being tipped off to an enemy hideout in a nearby village and then having to clear the village of enemy forces. The squad would be transported to a dismount point by a section of Humvee or Bradley

and civilians in the same room, thus allowing them to practice good target identification.

By putting in some quality hours in the desert heat, Company B's squads took a step forward in their readiness to tackle any potential mission that might come their way. In the words of Staff Sgt. Paul Joseph, 1st Platoon's Weapons Squad Leader, "You have to train as you fight, and if you're in a situation where you can't use the Bradleys for support, the weapons squad needs to be ready to assume that role."

Company B of 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment recently conducted a series of live fire exercises helping the Company Team develop its small unit leaders to better accomplish the mission. The company first executed team live fires, and quickly moved on to firing exercises for its squads. Each live fire exercise worked a different echelon of the Company Team – all events were ultimately geared toward a final Company Combined Arms Live

Fighting Vehicles. After dismounting, the squads were engaged by small arms fire from the village. Using all available cover, the squad leader maneuvered his fire teams to assault the enemy positions. Squads also had the opportunity to enter and clear buildings, and were confronted with combatants



From near to far Sgt. Raymond Agan, Pvt. Tony Swinehart, Spc. Frank Wilkins of Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment prepare to lay down suppressive fire during the Task Force Regular Squad Live Fire Exercise.

What You Need to Know About the UCMJ

Part 3: Inside Courts-Martial

By Capt. Joel Cummings

A court-martial has many players. A trial counsel is the military lawyer who prosecutes Soldiers for violations of the UCMJ. The military judge is usually an experienced lieutenant colonel or colonel in the Judge Advocate General Corps. Every accused is entitled to a Judge Advocate defense attorney free of charge whose sole job is to defend Soldiers in court. The convening authority (commanding general) picks the best qualified people in the unit to be the court members (jury). The court members are called "the panel." The accused (defendant) can also have a civilian lawyer at his/her own expense. The accused decides whether to be tried by a judge alone or by a court with members (jury). The accused, if enlisted, has a right to request enlisted members on the panel.

Once the convening authority refers the charges to a court-martial, the charges are formally served on the accused. Once the charges are served, the trial can begin no sooner than three days for a BCD Special and five days for a general court-martial. If the case is complicated, the trial may be delayed in order to give adequate time to prepare and arrange for witnesses. Sometimes either side may ask the judge to resolve certain issues in a "motion." Motions are sometimes resolved in special court sessions (motions hearings) before the trial.

The military trial or courts-martial has two parts. The first part is to decide whether the accused is guilty or not guilty. The second part, if the accused is found guilty, is to decide what the punishment will be.

At the first part of trial, the accused will either plead not guilty, guilty, or guilty of some lesser included offense. A guilty plea, if providently made, is the strongest form of proof known to the law. The UCMJ requires the accused to prove to the judge that he is in fact truly guilty. This is called the "providence hearing." If the accused fails to admit full guilt or the judge finds the possibility of a defense involved, the judge finds the accused not guilty. When a judge refuses to accept a guilty plea it is called "improvident." Even if the accused wants to plead guilty to get a favorable deal, the judge does not have to accept a less than provident guilty plea. The accused may also plead not guilty to all the charges and rely on his right

to have the government prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

After the pleas, if any issue of guilt remains, the court martial members are "impaneled" unless the accused waives the right to a panel (jury). The panel, if used, is questioned to insure their impartiality in a process called "voir dire." After voir dire, the panel is sworn and instructed on their function and duties.

The trial counsel and defense counsel may make opening statements about what they believe the evidence will show. Then, the trial counsel (prosecutor), calls witnesses and brings in evidence to try to prove guilt. The defense counsel is given a chance to cross-examine these witnesses. The trial counsel can never call the accused as a witness. Panel members are permitted to take notes and ask questions of all witnesses throughout the trial.

Defense then gets a chance to call their own witnesses and put in their evidence. They do not have to do anything and the accused doesn't have to testify. If the accused chooses not to testify, his silence cannot be used against him. If the accused does testify, that testimony can be used against him and the trial counsel can conduct cross-examination. After the defense finishes putting on evidence and calling witnesses, the trial counsel can put on rebuttal witnesses or evidence. Rebuttal evidence tries to counter the defense case.

After both sides have put on all the evidence, the lawyers for each side get to make a closing argument. The trial counsel tries to convince the court that he put on enough evidence to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The defense counsel then tries to show where the prosecutor is wrong or failed. The lawyers also summarize the evidence before the court and tell how the law applies to the facts. The trial counsel makes two arguments, before and after the defense counsel, because the government has the heavy burden of proof. If there is a panel, the judge then instructs the court members of their responsibilities and advises them of what the law is. The court members deliberate in private and decide by secret written ballot whether the accused is guilty or not guilty of the charges. Deliberation on findings by the court members (or judge if no

panel) may take several minutes or it may take hours.

If the accused is found guilty of anything, the sentencing part of the trial begins immediately. In the civilian criminal justice system, the sentencing proceeding is held days later. In the military sentencing system, the prosecution introduces matters in aggravation and evidence of rehabilitative potential. Matters in aggravation are evidence that shows the severity of the crime. The trial counsel may also put in evidence of the accused's lack of rehabilitative potential (opinion testimony, previous Article 15's or derogatory information in Army records).

After the trial counsel is done, the defense counsel will submit mitigation and extenuation evidence. The evidence in extenuation shows that the offenses were not very serious. The evidence in mitigation shows that the accused is a good Soldier or other reasons to have merciful punishment. The military rules of evidence are relaxed for the accused at this point. Usually the defense can present to the court whatever information they think is needed for the court members or judge to decide on a fair punishment. The accused may testify under oath, make an unsworn statement, say nothing at all or let the defense counsel make a statement on the accused's behalf.

After the defense puts on evidence in extenuation and mitigation, the trial counsel can put on rebuttal evidence. The rebuttal must focus on countering what the defense just introduced.

Next, the lawyers make their closing arguments about what the sentence should be. If there is a panel, the judge instructs them on their responsibilities and the law. The court then closes to deliberate or decide the proper punishment. The panel (or the judge if no panel) deliberates on the sentence just like the deliberation on the issue of guilt. In any court-martial, no punishment is a possible option.

After deliberation, the sentence is announced in open court. Before court is closed, the accused is advised of his post-trial and appellate rights by the military judge. If the sentence includes jail time, usually the accused is taken directly to jail.

Next time we will discuss the appeals process.

Chaplains Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Anthony Horton

Ever drop the ball trying to juggle your family life and work? So have I. So how do you live life by your priorities instead of the pressure of the moment? That choice becomes easier when we understand who we are and for what we're really living.

As the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris drew closer, Bill Havens was faced with that hard, but easy choice. Havens was a member of the U.S. four-man canoe team that was favored to win the gold. But as the Olympics approached, it became clear that his wife was going to give birth at the same time.

Should he go to Paris or stay home? What would you have done? Though his wife insisted that he go for the gold, Havens withdrew and stayed by her side.

As things turned out, the canoe team won the gold and the baby came late. Havens would have

gotten home in time to see the baby arrive. People called it a shame, but Havens had no regrets.

By the way, did I tell you that Havens had a son in 1924? His name was Frank and twenty-eight years later Frank cabled his parents a message from Helsinki, Finland, where the 1952 Olympics were being held. The cable read, "Dad, I won. I'm bringing home the gold medal you lost while waiting for me to be born."

You see, Frank Havens had just won the gold medal for the United States in the same canoe race that his father almost won in 1924.

In Psalm 15, the writer says that we keep commitments to our own hurt (Psalm 15:4). But for the pain of keeping our priorities, God gives us a peace of mind that can't be bought at any price, not even with gold.



A Word From the TMC

With temperatures consistently in the 100°-120°F range, it becomes critical to remain hydrated. With that in mind, here are a few tips from the Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) to stay safe in the heat:

- Water consumption is essential for general health and avoidance of complications arising from dehydration.
- Fluid consumption containing high sugar loads are NOT recommended for high stress climatic conditions.
- Excess water consumption will lower electrolyte concentrations in the blood & degrade physical performance. To estimate adequate water intake, be aware of the volume & color of urine production. Note the 'yellow spot test' which indicates more fluid intake is required to yield a clear urine color.

Typical daily water volume consists of about two liters for adequate water consumption for non-stressful activity.

- High work load, low humid, hot conditions will require four to six liters of water daily. High humidity, hot conditions will require more cooling effort than additional consumption of water, due to the poor evaporative conditions that exist with humid conditions.
- DO NOT allow yourself to develop thirst; hydrate regularly, but not excessively. Thirst sensation is a late expression of your body and indicates that you are already behind on fluid replacement.
- Conditions of pure water loss do not require replacement with saline. It requires water replacement. AVOID salt tablets. Drinks such as Gatorade are acceptable, but water, even if it is not cold, is the best hydration agent available.

Upcoming MWR Events

Sunday, 21 May 2006

SPA DAY @ Events Tent
1200: Scrabble Tournament @ Palms
1500: Dominoes Tournament @ Palms

Monday, 22 May 2006

1930: Phase 10 Tournament @ Oasis
2200: Operation Hardwood Preliminary Round @ Camp Arifjan Zone 1 Gym

Tuesday, 23 May 2006

1930: Ping Pong Tournament @ Rec. Center

Wednesday, 24 May 2006

1730: Weekly Fun Run @ Zone 1 Green Beans
1930: Madden 06 Tournament @ Palms

Thursday, 25 June 2006

1200: Brown Bag Po-Ke-No @ Oasis
1930: 8 Ball Pool Tournament @ Rec. Center

Friday, 26 June 2006

BAZAAR (in front of Events Tent)
2000: Gong Show @ MWR Stage

Sunday, 27 June 2006

BAZAAR (in front of Events Tent)
Movie Trivia @ Movie Tent
1300: Chicken Wing Day BBQ @ MWR Stage
1500: Checkers Tournament @ Oasis
1700: 100 Reps Competition @ Gym



Left: Spc. Matthew Griswold from 2nd Platoon, 501st MP Co. competes in the Apollo Night Talent Show sponsored by MWR and 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Spc. Griswold won the competition, winning \$200. Photo by Pfc. Evan Richardson
Right: 1st Sgt. Frederick Whitehead, from HHC, 40th Engineer Battalion, keeps the audience entertained with his dancing at the Apollo Night talent show sponsored by MWR and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Photo by Pfc. Evan Richardson

What Do YOU Think?

“What is a benefit to being deployed, and why?”

Questions and Photos By Pfc. Jeremy Neece



2LT Seth Norman
Co. B, 47th FSB

Being able to see places I've never seen before.



SPC Marcus Lindquist
Btry. C, 4-27 FA

It helps me pay off my student loans with the money.



PFC Nicholas Orvik
HHB, 4-27 FA

It made me realize how easy I had it as a civilian.



SPC Brian Vasquez
HHC, 1-6 IN

Making America safer.



SPC Raul Montano
Btry. C, 4-27 FA

It builds character and makes you appreciate things more.

Next Week: “What would you do to improve safety in the Brigade?”



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**We are looking for any type of submissions to include:
letters, articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs.**

If you would like a copy of this issue please contact your Battalion UPAR

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