

# Gunfighter Gazette



01 June 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

## DEPLOYMENT: 07-09 kicks off at HOOD

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Soldiers of the 401st MP Company conduct weapons training at Udari Range Complex, Kuwait.

### Next month's issue

- Transition North
- Relief in place (RIP)
- Transfer of Authority (TOA)
- Baghdad Report
- Unit Address
- Platoons' Report

Deployments are an every day occurrence at Fort Hood and are a part and expected of the Army lifestyle. That doesn't make it any easier though for the families of the Soldiers and the Soldiers themselves that are heading "down-range."

The Soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company departed Fort Hood with their heads held high in the early morning hours of 15 May 2007 from Robert Gray Army Airfield on West Fort Hood. The deployment started off with a 0630 formation for accountability and weapons draw. Families, friends, loved-ones and fellow Soldiers from the rear-detachment looked on as Soldiers lined up and drew their weapons and laid out their bags for "bag-drop." It wasn't long before Soldiers loaded buses and departed for the 13th Sustainment Command (E) "Kieshnick" gym for pre-manifest. Soldiers

remained busy with last minute bag preparations making sure their carry-on bags fit into the *very small* carry on box.

But all too soon it was time to say "good-bye" to our families and then it was off to Larkin Terminal on Robert Gray Army Airfield, West Fort Hood to await the 'big bird' to Kuwait. Wheels up was supposed to be at 1615 but due to some minor mechanical delays, wheels up were shortly after midnight. Most Soldiers slept the first leg which was a lengthy 8 hours, but when the announcement was made that

they were descending into the Glasgow-Prestwick area, Soldiers awed at the impressive sight of green as we descended into the small port city which was gently nestled against a Loch...no not Loch Ness...But before they knew it, their brief encounter with the Scottish was over and they were again on their way to Kuwait City, Kuwait. A little less than 7 hours later the wheels hit on the Kuwait City International Airport runway and for most, Operation 07-09 officially began.

-SPC David Womack



## CAMP BUEHRING 101: A 401st Perspective

### "BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN"

So it's not the Ritz, but it's nice for being an isolated military base in Kuwait. Complete with air conditioned sleep tents, chapels, a couple of PX's, a state of the art gym, several chow halls, and nice MWR recrea-

tion facilities - Camp Buehring is *home* to the 401st, at least for a little while. Camp Buehring/Udairi Army Airfield are settled in the Kuwaiti desert and serve as one of many transition points for Soldiers that

are making the transition from the States to Iraq. Buehring provides many training ranges, unique theater operations classes, and even a hydraulic operated HMMWV roll-over simulator.

## **GUNFIGHTER GAZETTE**

401st Military Police Company, Fort Hood, Texas

The Gunfighter Gazette is a soldier produced newsletter designed for and distributed to the families, friends and soldiers associated with the 401st Military Police Company while deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09. The opinions in this newsletter are not those of the United States Army, the United States Department of Defense or the United States of America. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those solely of the soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company. If you have questions or comments about this newsletter you may contact: SPC David S. Womack, 401s MP CO. david.s.womack@us.army.mil mpeagle795@yahoo.com

This is a monthly publication distributed to the families care of the Family Readiness Group.

The soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company sincerely thank you for your support!

**THE OFFICIAL ADDRESS  
OF THE UNIT WILL BE  
PUBLISHED NEXT  
MONTH**

401st Military Police Company  
720th Military Police Battalion  
89th Military Police Brigade

## **GUNFIGHTER 6 SENDS Commander's Corner - CPT John W. Copeland**

As you know, the 401st Military Police Company "Gunfighters" are settled in Kuwait and awaiting our movement to Iraq. The Soldiers are doing well and acclimating to the harsh desert conditions. Tent living and close quarters coupled with tough training have brought the company even closer together.

The company participated in several training events to ensure individual and team combat readiness. Teams are certified on the new armored HMMWV, all Soldiers are trained and retrained on their weapon, and leaders are rehearsed and certified on common theatre battle drills.

The Gunfighters just returned from a three day

field training exercise off Camp Buehring in the Udairi desert. All Soldiers, Military Police and supporters alike were trained on close quarters, rapid fire shooting techniques and participated in an eight mile squad level "lane" exercise. Every squad leader performed well and reacted without hesitation. Team leaders SGT John Harris, SGT Jon Tyma, and SGT Donald Womack served as squad leaders and performed superbly. Every squad left the training a little smarter and more prepared for the upcoming mission. I continue to be proud of each and every Gunfighter.

To our rear detachment team, family readiness leaders and supporters,

and of course our family members, I send you my best and thank you for taking care of things at home. Your sacrifice is great and your job is tough.

Our time in Kuwait is coming to an end. The Gunfighters are ready to start training Iraqi Police. Our advanced echelon MSG Jeremy Keene, SGT Jeffrey Polette, SGT Tyrell Tompkins and SPC Richard Doster, as well as the 410th MP CO await our arrival to Iraq.

As we deploy north, my thoughts are also of my own family. Claire and Nathaniel, I love you and miss you both. You are the foundation that makes what I do possible.

*"Always First! Gunfighters!"*

## **GUNFIGHTER 7 First Sergeant's Corner - 1SG Clayton J. Sneed**

Greetings to all the Gunfighters and Gunfighter Family members supporting their Soldiers on the home front. As I write this article, the unit has been here for almost two full weeks preparing for its third rotation to the Southwest Asia theater of operations since combat operations began in March 2003.

We have been busy since we landed, continuing in an effort to get every Soldier trained up for the "big push" north.

Right now the company is at Camp Buehring, Kuwait and has access to plenty of MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) facilities. Soldiers' living areas are within walking distance to a brand new PX, several

AT&T phone centers, an Internet Café, and one of the nicest gyms in Kuwait. Soldiers have access to a food court which offers a Taco Bell, Pizza Inn, Burger King, Panda Oriental, and even a Baskin Robbins - all of which are a vast improvement to the living conditions of other 401st deployments. The Soldiers are also residing in hardwood floor tents with air conditioning and shower trailers just a few feet away. The A/C is a welcome relief from the already scorching afternoon temperatures.

Soon the company will make its move forward into Iraq to relieve its sister company - the 410th MP CO. This can be a stressful time for Soldiers and families as they both wait in

anticipation for what is Iraq. The Soldiers, Team Leaders, Squad Leaders, and Platoon Leadership are showing remarkable spirit and motivation to our coming mission. Soldiers are taking opportunities to reflect, prepare, and train and are still performing above and beyond what is expected of them.

To all the family members back home, I cannot thank you enough for supporting your Soldier during this deployment. You all are true heroes. And to my wife Elsa, you are my hero and make everyday worth it. Until we are all together again, keep us in your prayers as you will be in ours.

*Gunfighter 7 out.*

## Rear Detachment Commander Round Up MSG John M. Arceneaux

Two weeks have gone by since the Soldier's of the 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police (MP) Company took off from Fort Hood, TX. I can only imagine the emotions you are experiencing as your loved ones headed off to a foreign country to serve their country, separated from those they love. I salute each individual Family member for selflessly supporting their Soldier and the sacrifices made by allowing your Soldier to proudly serve in the United States Army as a "Gunfighter" in the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company.

Know that your Soldier has trained hard and is prepared for the journey ahead and will be taken care of by their leadership and fellow Soldiers as they conduct their mission while deployed. Allow me to be the one to take care of you by keeping you informed or assisting you when everything else has failed.

I am honored to be the Rear Detachment Commander and look forward to serving the Spouses, Family and friends of the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company during this deployment. I hope we

can come together and formulate a bond that will allow us to learn, laugh, share, and cry as a Family, the "Gunfighter Posse", the experiences yet to come while the unit is away from us.

## Local Area Businesses Donate Items for 401st MP Company Send Off

Several local area businesses were gracious enough to provide the decorations and other materials utilized to provide the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company with a burst of color and tons of sugar.

The FRG and the Rear Detachment would like to recognize the following individuals / businesses for their support:

### Decorations:

Cathy Kohn - Clayton Homes - Nolanville, TX

Lucy Skivin - Freedom Jeep/Chrysler - Killeen, TX

Luv Homes - Killeen, TX

### Toys and Books:

Walter Kitchens - Bel-Tex Thrift Store - Belton, TX

### Doughnuts:



Left: Home of the "Gunfighters" dressed and ready to wish the unit farewell in the hopes of a safe return.

Below: PV2 Tiffany Rivers and her parents enjoying the refreshments in the FRG room.

HEB - Harker Heights, TX

ShIPLEY Doughnut - Killeen, TX

WalMart - Killeen, TX

Soldiers from the Rear Detachment spent their Sunday afternoon of 13 May hanging streamers from the building, cleaning the unit area and preparing the FRG room as their way of showing their appreciation for the Soldiers and Families of the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company.



CPL Mary Schultz on decorating the building.

"It showed genuine respect for the Families as well as for the Soldiers deploying."

## SOLDIERS CORNER

The Soldier's perspective on Kuwait:

"It's very sandy, but an experience I'll never forget." - SSG Steven Mondello, 2nd PLT.

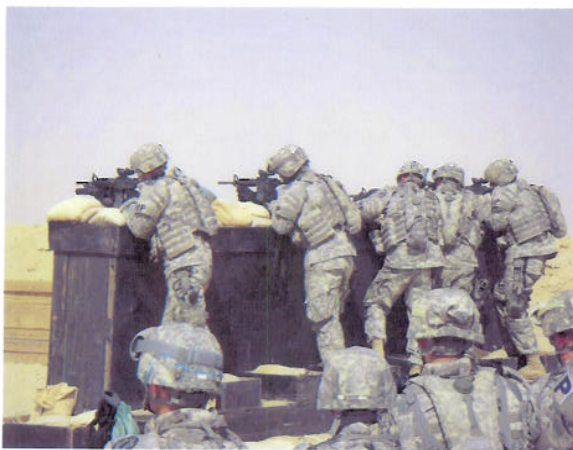
"The sand in my hair, the sun in my face, such good cheer, I love this place!" SPC Ian Nielson, 1st PLT.



**ABOVE:** SOLDIERS EXPERIENCE A 540 DEGREE ROLLOVER IN THE EGRESS TRAINER, A MODEL OF AN M1114 ARMORED HMMWV WAS SUPPORTED ON HYDRAULICS AND ALL SOLDIERS WENT THROUGH A ROLLOVER SIMULATION. **RIGHT:** SGT LUCAS FROM 2ND PLT SPORTS THE NEW MODEL MI6 (MADE COMPLETELY OF STYROFOAM!) - THE STYROFOAM WEAPONS WERE USED IN SIMULATION ON THE ROLLOVER. **PHOTOS:** SPC WOMACK

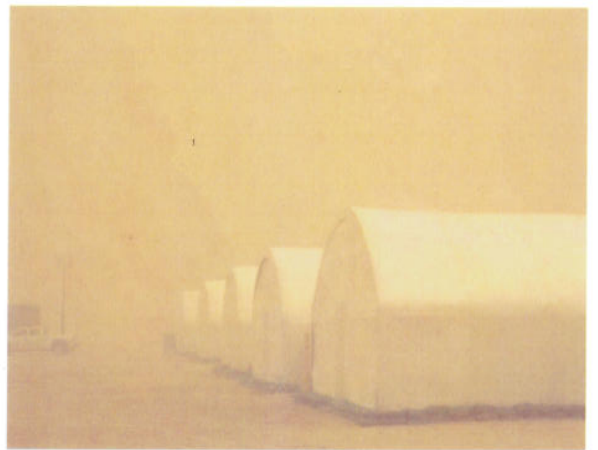


**LEFT:** Camel crossing - most local civilians own herds of camels. This was a familiar site around Camp Buehring. **RIGHT:** Soldiers prepare for convoy training.



**LEFT:** At the Entry Control Point live fire range, Soldiers practice their shooting skills. **RIGHT:** A dust storm hits Camp Buehring with full force, spitting up sand and dust.

Photos: SPC Womack





# YOUR SOLDIERS



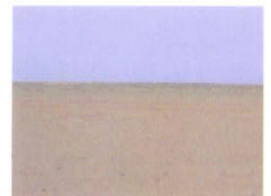
**ABOVE:** HEADQUARTERS "WORKHORSE" PLATOON.  
**BELOW:** 2ND "PUNISHERS" PLATOON. PHOTOS: SGT BREESE



**ABOVE:** 1ST "WARFIGHTERS" PLATOON.  
**BELOW:** 3RD "HOOLIGANS" PLATOON. PHOTOS: SGT BREESE



# IN KUWAIT



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**"Always First"**  
Supporting the  
Gunfighter Posse:

# JUNE 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>28 May</b> Summer Pool Season Opens @ Ft. Hood				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Killeen 125th Birthday @ Civic Center
<b>3</b> Killeen 125th Birthday @ Civic Center	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Saturday Get-Away contact Ft. Hood CDC @ 287-8029 for more information
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> FRG Meeting @ Lane Volunteer Center, 6:30 p.m.	<b>14</b> FLAG DAY 	<b>15</b> Riata Roundup Rodeo @ Lampasas	<b>16</b> Riata Roundup Rodeo @ Lampasas
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## Kid's Corral

### Helping the Parent that Stays Behind

Article by OSD Staff, [www.militarystudent.org](http://www.militarystudent.org)

#### FRG Fund

##### "Dollars and Cents"

- Balance - \$1,012.50
- Expenses - \$0.00
- Funds Added - \$0.00
- Budget Items - None scheduled

When one family member leaves everyone else has to do extra work to make sure the home runs smoothly. You will probably be expected to do extra chores around the house until your mom or dad returns. Sometimes it helps to volunteer for extra chores – that way you know that you were a huge help when your parent was deployed! Some examples of extra chores you may need to do are:

- Setting the table
- Doing the dishes
- Taking out the garbage
- Taking care of pets
- Cleaning your room
- Helping to pick up after younger brothers or sisters

Remember that you have what it takes to handle being separated from your parent – and an important part of that is helping out with extra chores. If your mom or dad gives you so many chores that you have no time for school or fun, explain the situation to them and try to work out something that will work for both of you.



Chore Charts available at [www.handipoints.com](http://www.handipoints.com)