

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

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-News from Camp New York, Kuwait

SJA soldiers keeping busy...sort of



LOAD UP: SPC Jon Coen prepares to take SJA soldiers CPT Keith Petty, SFC Thomas Torri, PFC Billy Brewer, PV2 George White and PV2 Traig Clements to the M16 qualification range on Thursday. *(Photo By SGT Teresa Johnston)*

LTC Christopher J. O'Brien
Staff Judge Advocate

Last night, I finally joined up with the rest of the office, arriving to Camp New York at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. I was greeted by a sea of smiles as I entered our tent—which told me everyone was doing just fine. Events last night and today confirmed all is well with your deployed soldiers.

We are still moving at a relatively slow pace as we wait for the rest of the division to deploy to Kuwait. The extra time gives folks the opportunity to find ways to keep busy (besides eating that is). The “chow” (Army slang for food) is pretty good here and the tents are pretty nice. However we have no television, no internet, and phone calls can be both problematic and expensive.

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NJ airport shows support for troops

By SGT Teresa L. Johnston

In a move that was unusual to say the least, the Newark International Airport closed an entire terminal in the early dawn of 5 March.

The reason was so that approximately 200 1st Cavalry Division soldiers could deplane and stretch their legs before the 12-hour plane ride to Kuwait.

Also unusual was that not only were the soldiers armed with semi-automatic weapons, but were also allowed to smoke inside the airport. Surprised civilians were escorted away from the

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SMOKE 'EM IF YOU GOT 'EM: SPC Rick Bassham and PFC Billy Brewer enjoy roaming the airport armed before the 12-hour flight to Kuwait. *(Photo by SGT Teresa L. Johnston)*

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This will change for the better once we get to Baghdad, but for now we have a very primitive communication infrastructure. Accordingly, most of the time at Camp New York has been spent playing DVDs, reading, sleeping, eating, and playing cards. When we get really bored, we make our own entertainment.

For example, this morning's highlight was the "field haircut." SGT Gabriel Galindo decided he needed a haircut so he enlisted the help of SFC Thomas Torri. Picture getting a haircut in a tent in the middle of the Kuwaiti desert with about 20 people providing color commentary at the same time. SFC Torri did a swell job on SGT Galindo's hair, but we all agreed he should not quit his day job. PV2 George White decided to take on the task of cutting hair and did a commendable job on CPT Michael Goba and PFC Billy Brewer. After PV2 White was finished, a fellow soldier from our G2 section arrived on the scene with his own barber kit. It turns out that he used to cut hair for a living.

All of a sudden, many more folks decided it was time to get a haircut (including yours truly). In the end, SPC Jon Cohen, PV2 Traig Clements, and MAJ Jim Teixeira also got haircuts. SPC Rick Bassham looked on with interest but decided against a haircut. PFC Kenya Lee stood clear of the haircutting event, but as always,

graced us with her infectious smile.

If you could have been here to witness the haircuts and listen to the jokes and laughter you would know that morale is high. We truly have an all-star team and I could not be more grateful. Our team here is ably led by the eternally optimistic MAJ Jim Agar and always unflappable SFC Terry Watson. Together we promise to look out for the welfare of all our soldiers.

Besides SFC Watson, SFC Torri and SGT Galindo, we have two additional NCOs who have been doing what NCOs do best, making things happen and taking care of soldiers. SGT Teresa Johnston spent part of the morning ensuring SPC Jeremiah Burch. PV2 Clements, PFC Brewer were doing well (I can report they are all doing fine. They are spending time reading and listening to music). SSG Katara Trammel (Moore) took charge to make sure our vehicles are in good operating condition.

Also here with us are CPT James Dupre and CPT Keith Petty. This is CPT Petty's first time in the field and he already looks like a veteran. CPT Dupre and his wife Yuko are anxiously awaiting the birth of their first child. CPT Larry Edell and his wife Adrian are also anxiously awaiting the birth of their first child. Larry and CPT Ryan Suerth will deploy in the near future with our 3rd

Saying Goodbye



SGT Gabriel Galindo spends a few remaining moments with his family at the Ironhorse Gym before HHC, 1CD leaves for the manifest site before deploying. (Photo by SGT Teresa L. Johnston)

Brigade Combat Team. CPT Sebastian "Woods" Edwards deploys in a day or so with the 1st Brigade Combat Team. CPT Mike Tierney is located a short distance from here at Camp Udairi. He is with our Aviation Brigade. CPT Wyndel Darville and CPT Chris Ford deployed with our 5th Brigade Combat Team earlier this week. All our captains at the brigades join the best brigade legal center personnel in the Army.

CW2 Anton Streeter, MAJ Jeff Spears and CPT Dan Everett are already in Baghdad laying the groundwork for our success when we arrive. They are all doing fine and doing great things for the office. And of course our Iraqi Freedom veterans, CPT Chris Beese and CPT Dan Estaville, are up and running in the sector of Baghdad controlled by our 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Chris

and Dan are off to a wonderful start.

Everyone is looking forward to completing our training in Kuwait so we can travel north and assume the mission in Baghdad. In the next few days we will spend most of our time at the range firing our assortment of weapons and conducting additional training. While we miss our friends and loved ones, our spirits are high. I am real proud of this super team we have. I know you are proud as well.

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terminal as soldiers came through the gate. Both soldiers and security personnel laughed as an announcement came over the public address system reminding passengers that smoking was not allowed in the terminal.