2nd ABCT performs redeployment ops

Soldiers work hard to finish mission, return home

By Staff Sgt. Adriana Diaz-Brown

2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division

CAMP PATRIOT, Kuwait – With about 2,100 pieces of military equipment to clean, Soldiers with the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Task Force Spartan, began wash rack operations for vehicles as part of their redeployment to Fort Bliss.

The inspection of the vehicles is a requirement by customs before the equipment is cleared to leave the country.

When it comes time for such deployment–worn armored vehicles to return to the United States, a good scrubbing is in order. This is where the wash racks at Camp Patriot and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, come in.

To meet the demands of servicing thousands of vehicles, the racks are open 24 hours a day and six days a week, providing the opportunity for every vehicle within the brigade to be processed through the wash rack.

Getting the fleet from Kuwait to Fort Bliss is no easy task; it requires communication between the Soldiers and leaders of the 2nd ABCT to make it happen safely, efficiently and continuously. This is a 24-hour-a-day operation, six days a week.

“The ‘Strike’ Soldiers I have spoken with are excited about getting the job done because that is a big step to heading home. The leaders have done a great job to fight complacency, maintain safety standards and keep the right number of Soldiers on site and engaged to maintain adequate throughput,” said Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Dmyr, the brigade operations command sergeant major for the 2nd ABCT, 1st AD.

With vehicles such as heavy, expanded-mobility, tactical trucks (HEMTTs); and high mobility, multipurpose, wheeled vehicles (HMMWVs) rolled forward to the wash racks, they are required to thoroughly clean their vehicles before they are authorized to leave the country.

Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Task Force Spartan, clean a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) during wash rack operations at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait. For Soldiers to clear customs, they are required to thoroughly clean their vehicles before they are authorized to leave the country.

History:

Fort Bliss and the Battle of Juarez, June 1919

By John Hamilton

Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

June 1919 was an interesting year for the Army and Fort Bliss. World War I had ended seven months before. Thousands of Soldiers had been discharged from the Army, with many more awaiting discharge and return to their homes.

Fort Bliss was a demobilization post for this purpose, with Camp Beirne serving as the primary location for demobilization operations. Camp Beirne was a dusty, fly-blown tent camp, located where Biggs Army Airfield is now.

But all during World War I, American troops stayed on the border with Mexico. The Mexican Revolution had begun in 1910, and it was winding down in 1919. Americans stayed on border patrol duties during World War I to discourage incursions from Mexican bandits and revolutionaries, and the Punitive Expedition in 1916, the border had remained relatively quiet. Although all horse Cavalry regiments were expected to deploy to France, only two did. There was no real mission for horse Cavalry in trench warfare, but there was to patrol the long border with Mexico.

In 1919, the 2nd Cavalry Brigade was stationed on Fort Bliss. This consisted of two regiments, the veteran 7th Cavalry and the legendary 7th Cavalry. Fort Bliss was also home to the 82nd Field Artillery (Horse) and the 8th Engineer Regiment. Another remnant of the Punitive Expedition was here as well, the 461st Truck Company. Operating the M1917 Liberty truck and the 1916 Jeffery truck, the 461st carried supplies and fodder for horses. Other units manned posts along the border in El Paso, the 1st Infantry Regiment and the 9th Engineers.

Commanding the El Paso District was an experienced Cavalry officer, Brig. Gen. James B. Erwin. Erwin had commanded the 7th Cavalry in the Punitive Expedition’s fruitless chase to capture Pancho Villa and the more successful destruction of the Mexican raiders of Columbus, New Mexico.

Erwin also had substan- tial war service in Europe, commanding the 12th Brigade of the 6th Infantry Division and the 92nd Division. In 1919, he was responsible to protect the border between El Paso and Juarez.

His mission was to protect American lives and property from all threats from across the border.

In June 1919, there was a substan- tial threat. Recovering from a serious leg wound he sustained in 1916, and having successfully evaded the Punitive Expedition, Villa had again gathered Mexican revolutionaries. Erwin had led the Punitive Expedition.

In June 1919, a reorganized 7th Cavalry and 8th Engineers, along with the 9th Engineers, had gathered at Camp Beirne. This mixed force, along with Mexican revolutionaries in the Juarez and Sierrita Mountains, was a frightening sight.

Villa had again gathered Mexican revolutionaries. Erwin had led the Punitive Expedition. But Erwin was reached by a bullet from a Mexican revolutionary.

In 1919, Erwin was the commander of the 1st Infantry Division.

Erwin was dead, and the 7th Cavalry had already been sent to Europe.

In June 1919, the 2nd Cavalry Brigade was stationed on Fort Bliss. This consisted of two regiments, the veteran 7th Cavalry and the legendary 7th Cavalry. Fort Bliss was also home to the 82nd Field Artillery (Horse) and the 8th Engineer Regiment. Another remnant of the Punitive Expedition was here as well, the 461st Truck Company. Operating the M1917 Liberty truck and the 1916 Jeffery truck, the 461st carried supplies and fodder for horses. Other units manned posts along the border in El Paso, the 1st Infantry Regiment and the 9th Engineers.

Commanding the El Paso District was an experienced Cavalry officer, Brig. Gen. James B. Erwin. Erwin had commanded the 7th Cavalry in the Punitive Expedition’s fruitless chase to capture Pancho Villa and the more successful destruction of the Mexican raiders of Columbus, New Mexico.

Erwin also had substan- tial war service in Europe, commanding the 12th Brigade of the 6th Infantry Division and the 92nd Division. In 1919, he was responsible to protect the border between El Paso and Juarez.

His mission was to protect American lives and property from all threats from across the border.

In June 1919, there was a substan- tial threat. Recovering from a serious leg wound he sustained in 1916, and having successfully evaded the Punitive Expedition, Villa had again gathered Mexican revolutionaries.
About 3,000 Soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division participated in a 3-4 mile division run at Fort Bliss June 14, the Army's 243rd birthday. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the Continental Congress, a committee of five members, founded the U.S. Army June 14, 1775, when members authorized the enlistment of expert New England militia companies to serve the colonies for one year. Paul Revere's famous midnight ride warning of approaching British troops had already taken place April 18, 1775, and Minutemen had fought at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, April 19, 1775. Revolutionary colonists correctly expected more fighting as they established the Army, and the rest, as they say, is history. Gen. George Washington received his appointment as commander in chief June 19, 1775, formally taking command July 3, 1775. Congress went on to sign the Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776, and we officially won the war against the British Sept. 3, 1814, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The founding fathers signed the U.S. Constitution Sept. 17, 1787, and the nation adopted it June 21, 1788, when New Hampshire, the “Live Free or Die” state, ratified it and made it the law of the land.

Top left) Brig. Gen. Charles D. Costanza, deputy commanding general, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, center, leads the 1st run on the Army Birthday at Fort Bliss June 14.
(Middle left) Soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division run at Fort Bliss June 14, the Army’s 243rd birthday.
(Bottom left) Soldiers assigned to the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, participate in a run at Fort Bliss June 14, the Army's 243rd birthday.

REDEPLOYMENT

Continued from Page 1A

were muddier than others and, consequently, required more time to clean. Therefore, on a case-by-case basis, extremely muddy vehicles were allowed additional spraying time, as determined by the wash rack officer in charge.

“2/1 ABCT Soldiers, in conjunction with U.S. Customs, have worked tirelessly to prepare our vehicles for redeployment. This is one of the final operational steps to get our equipment and our Soldiers home,” said Capt. Michael Blair, officer in charge of the wash rack operations for the 2nd ABCT, 1st AD.

To maximize the efficiency of the wash rack wage, Soldiers are working around the clock as fast as they can without compromising safety. At night, Soldiers have 50 racks to work with, while during the day, they are only allowed to use 30.

Soldiers and crews work longer shifts in extreme temperatures to keep the cleaning moving. The heat during the day makes it more difficult to keep the pace, but times continue — albeit at a slower pace. Both environmental factors and safety concerns heavily into the plan for wash rack operations.

“During wash rack operations, units and personnel will perform various tasks that present unique hazards that must be accepted,” said Michael Patchus, safety and occupational health manager, 2nd ABCT, 1st Armored Division. “Soldiers will be exposed to constant noise hazards and dirty water, rigging hazards from utilizing cranes for engine pack removal and installation, and slips, trips and falls while cleaning vehicles.”

Leaders account for these hazards when conducting risk management before wash rack operations. This can take many forms, such as safety briefings, ensuring that Soldiers are wearing the proper safety gear and making sure that everyone is following correct procedures.

Despite the details and strict guidelines, Soldiers know mission accomplishment equals their return home.

These Soldiers also understand the importance of the detailed process because after they finish the initial cleaning, there is an even more thorough customs inspection. “It’s been an interesting experience to be involved with the wash rack. It allows me to view operations from a larger perspective,” said Sgt. Ra’Trell Duckworth, a combat engineer with the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd ABCT, 1st AD. “It has also been interesting to see how the balance of the desire to finish this task and get home with the efficiency required to proceed through the wash racks safely and correctly.”

For the majority of the “Iron Soldiers” from the 2nd ABCT, their deployment is almost coming to an end and they will be on their way home. But for others, their mission is not complete until they complete the detail.

The redeployment of the 2nd ABCT from the Middle East to its home station is almost nine months in support of Operation Spartan Shield — demonstrating that the Iron Brigade can maintain readiness during these important transitions.

More than 4,200 Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers of the 155th ABCT will replace the “Iron Brigade,” and will continue to support Operation Spartan Shield’s mission of deterrence and theater security cooperation.
Convoy protection live-fire: 504th CSC practices for worst case

By Wendy Brown

FORT BLISS -- (June 21, 2018) -- Soldiers assigned to the 504th Composite Supply Company included three steps in their convoy protection exercise here June 12, building confidence with each iteration and culminating with a live-fire exercise.

Lt. Col. Asuero Mayo, commander, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, under which the 504th CSC falls, said the idea behind the exercise was to prepare Soldiers for real-world missions.

“(They have to) understand what they might walk into,” Mayo said. “They always have to plan for the worst case, train for the worst case. We do this to get our Soldiers out of their comfort zones and trust their battle buddies.”

Capt. Timothy McDonald, commander, 504th CSC, 142nd CSSB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., said Soldiers qualified on their weapons first, then mounted onto vehicles, traveled down a route and engaged targets with blank ammunition. They proceeded to a live-fire exercise for the third iteration.

“This is the culminating event,” McDonald said. “This is what will certify us, train us so that we can deploy. This is a big deal for us.”

Pfc. Bradley Gerber, a fueler assigned to the 504th CSC, 142nd CSSB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., said Soldiers improved throughout the exercise.

“The training brought together elements of the company works on throughout the year. During Sergeant’s Time Training, for example, Soldiers might learn about communications, weapons maintenance or qualify on a weapon. Gallardo said.

“It all leads up to this,” Gallardo said. “It’s not just one big class that is going to teach you everything that you need to know. It’s just a constant basis of training on a weekly basis.”

Sgt. Willie James Profit, a fueler who served as a squad leader of a dismounted fire team during the live-fire exercise, said the Soldiers on his team impressed him.

“The Soldiers did absolutely excellently,” Profit said. “When we initially started out, everyone had their little hiccups, but when the final iteration came through, I could find almost no fault in them.”

Gerber, a member of Profit’s team, said there was a reason for that – leaders took the time to work with Soldiers before the live-fire exercise.

“Every time they see an issue, they go more and more into depth, making that issue a strong point,” Gerber said.

Spc. Rachael Zepeda, also a fueler assigned to the unit, said she enjoyed the exercise.

“This is the stuff I live for. I enjoy working with the team and seeing how everything can move smoothly and how we can move close and destroy the enemy if we need to,” Zepeda said.

First Sgt. Eliana Gallardo, first sergeant, 504th CSC, 142nd CSSB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., said the training brought together elements the company works on throughout the year.

“Every time they see an issue, they go more and more into depth, making that issue a strong point,” Gerber said.

Spc. Austin Feness, assigned to HHC, 142nd CSSB, prepare a Humvee-mounted M2 .50-caliber machine gun for use in a convoy protection live-fire exercise at McGregor Range, N.M., June 12.

First Sgt. Eliana Gallardo, first sergeant, 504th CSC, 142nd CSSB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., said the training brought together elements the company works on throughout the year. During Sergeant’s Time Training, for example, Soldiers might learn about communications, weapons maintenance or qualify on a weapon, Gallardo said.

“It all leads up to this,” Gallardo said. “It’s not just one big class that is going to teach you everything that you need to know. It’s just a constant basis of training on a weekly basis.”

Sgt. Willie James Profit, a fueler who served as a squad leader of a dismounted fire team during the live-fire exercise, said the Soldiers on his team impressed him.

“The Soldiers did absolutely excellently,” Profit said. “When we initially started out, everyone had their little hiccups, but when the final iteration came through, I could find almost no fault in them.”

Gerber, a member of Profit’s team, said there was a reason for that – leaders took the time to work with Soldiers before the live-fire exercise.

“Every time they see an issue, they go more and more into depth, making that issue a strong point,” Gerber said.

Spc. Rachael Zepeda, also a fueler assigned to the unit, said she enjoyed the exercise.

“This is the stuff I live for. I enjoy working with the team and seeing how everything can move smoothly and how we can move close and destroy the enemy if we need to,” Zepeda said.

First Sgt. Eliana Gallardo, first sergeant, 504th CSC, 142nd CSSB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., said the training brought together elements the company works on throughout the year. During Sergeant’s Time Training, for example, Soldiers might learn about communications, weapons maintenance or qualify on a weapon, Gallardo said.

“It all leads up to this,” Gallardo said. “It’s not just one big class that is going to teach you everything that you need to know. It’s just a constant basis of training on a weekly basis.”

Sgt. Willie James Profit, a fueler who served as a squad leader of a dismounted fire team during the live-fire exercise, said the Soldiers on his team impressed him.

“The Soldiers did absolutely excellently,” Profit said. “When we initially started out, everyone had their little hiccups, but when the final iteration came through, I could find almost no fault in them.”

Gerber, a member of Profit’s team, said there was a reason for that – leaders took the time to work with Soldiers before the live-fire exercise.

“Every time they see an issue, they go more and more into depth, making that issue a strong point,” Gerber said.

Spc. Rachael Zepeda, also a fueler assigned to the unit, said she enjoyed the exercise.

“This is the stuff I live for. I enjoy working with the team and seeing how everything can move smoothly and how we can move close and destroy the enemy if we need to,” Zepeda said.
EARLY CLOSEOUT SALE OF THE 2018 RAM TRUCKS

1363 AIRWAY • 779-0100

THE ALL NEW 2019 RAM IS HERE!

2018 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB ECO DIESEL

$10,000 OFF MSRP

YOUR CHOICE! $259/MONTH

TJ23243, CJ1801, CJ109 84 PAYMENTS OF $259 AT 4.30% APR. 30% DOWN.

2018 DODGE JOURNEY SXT

$5,000 OFF MSRP

2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT

$5,000 OFF MSRP

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA LX

$2,500 OFF MSRP

INcredible! $299/Month

STK# T28243, C8181, C8109 84 PAYMENTS OF $299 AT 4.30% APR. 30% DOWN.

2018 JEEP COMPASS RENEGADE

THE ALL NEW 2019 DURANGO SRT-8 IS HERE

2018 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE

2018 JEEP WRANGLER 2DR

$3,000 WITH MILITARY REBATE

2018 JEEP WRANGLER 4DR

$2,500 OFF MSRP

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHALLENGER IS HERE!

2018 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE PLUS

$5,000 OFF MSRP

2018 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 4x4

$299/Month

STK# T28089. 84 PAYMENTS OF $299 AT 4.30% APR. WITH 30% DOWN.

ALL PRICES PLUS TAX AND LICENSE. ON APPROVED CREDIT. GOOD DAY OR AD ONLY ALL DISCOUNTS FROM DICK POE. ALL REBATES ARE FROM THE MANUFACTURERS. RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. PHOTOS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE.
By Staff Sgt. Kelsey Miller
1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st AD Public Affairs

As training exercises such as Iron Focus and a rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, approach, the “Ready First” brigade has been conducting internal exercises to ensure Soldiers and leaders are prepared for the challenges ahead.

In keeping with these plans, the 501st Brigade Support Battalion held a brigade support activity field training exercise in the Muleskinner Logistics Support Area at Fort Bliss June 5-8.

“The intent of the training was to establish a brigade support activity set up, to test our capability to support the brigade when it comes to realistic training,” said Capt. Michael Ntumy, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 501st BSB, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. “This will be happening regularly to ensure readiness.”

As Soldiers from the battalion set up their equipment in the area of operations, they were faced with scenarios such as direct and indirect fire attacks from a notional opposing force element and simulated chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks.

The Soldiers were required to be in full kit, which included all of their military gear and a CBRN protective mask, Ntumy said. Approximately 400 Soldiers from the battalion were hit first with a simulated indirect fire attack that tested the ability of the unit to secure the perimeter of their area of operations and conduct accountability, after which designated clear teams investigated the area and assessed the threat level.

Furthermore, the Soldiers received a bigger challenge when several smoke bombs went off around the perimeter simulating a chemical attack.

There was a simulated chemical attack that required them to put on their protective masks. When the attack happened, the CBRN specialists assessed the situation and determined the level of protective gear to be worn, which was only the protective mask, Ntumy said.

Once the “all clear” was given, after about an hour, the Soldiers were able to get back to their everyday tasks. Company B ran the entry control point and conducted simulated wheeled vehicle recovery, while Company A handled the distribution of supplies such as fuel and water. Company C handled simulated medical evacuations.

“This was our first time out as a battalion,” said Capt. Christopher Maksimowski, commander, Company A, 501st BSB, 1st SBCT, 1st AD. “This has been the biggest opportunity to work with the rest of the battalion on our battle drills.”

Not only did the Soldiers participate in the exercise, Army civilians from the Army Field Support Battalion, also known as the BLAST team, provided logistical support.

“Readiness starts in our everyday life,” Ntumy said. “It should be muscle memory if you come into contact with the enemy. This is the first time we have done such a practice. They did great when it came to forming a new team and unit cohesion. This was a good starting point.”
Spcs. Austin Ross and Mbadinga Mbadinga, shower, laundry and clothing repair specialists with the 947th Quartermaster Company, U.S. Army Reserve, from Amarillo, Texas, work together to complete map-reading tasks during the unit’s annual training at Fort Bliss June 6.

947th QM Co. trains for real-world missions

By Maj. Brandon Mace
4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

It takes all sorts of units conducting all sorts of missions to ensure the U.S. Army Reserve is ready to respond in the case of a large-scale conflict. Throughout June, the 947th Quartermaster Company has conducted a training exercise at Fort Bliss to ensure they are ready to do their part.

The 947th QM Co. has been identified as one of the U.S. Army Reserve’s Ready Force X units, which are capable of mobilizing quickly. Capt. James Dunn, the commander of the unit, said the exercise simulates the actual mission the unit would conduct if called upon.

“The event of a large conflict, some RFX units will mobilize through Fort Bliss to ensure they are ready to do their part,” Dunn said. “The 947th will arrive at Bliss 25 days prior to the first RFX units arriving. We will set up support services, mainly laundry and bath services and be ready to support those units deploying.”

Beyond this exercise, the 947th QM Co. has assisted units in their real-world deployments. Since March 2018 the unit has supported the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, in their deployment.

“We have been able to support approximately 5,000 troops,” Dunn said. “The troops of the 947th have worked tirelessly to provide the best support possible to those preparing to deploy.”

Sgt. Jacinto Ponciano, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 974th QM Co., participated with the unit throughout the exercise. His primary duty has been moving equipment through the central receiving and shipping point. While there have been challenges, the unit pulled together to make the mission happen.

“We have had a lot of new Soldiers and had to ensure effective training on equipment,” Ponciano said. “We overcame this obstacle by leaning on experienced Soldiers to instruct and oversee those in need of further instruction.”

He said this kind of training is great for the unit, providing an opportunity for Soldiers to train in their specialty and cross-train. It is also a great proof-of-concept for the real-world mission they must be ready to complete.

“It’s annual training like this provides Soldiers with more hands-on experience with the equipment and tasks needed to perform their jobs effectively,” Ponciano said. “Battle assembles are good training but nothing beats actually performing your job duties.”

The 947th QM Co. is a part of the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). The command is made up of Soldiers, civilians and their families in units headquartered throughout Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. As part of America’s Army Reserve, these units are trained, combat-ready and equipped to provide military and logistical support in any corner of the globe.

By Spc. William J. Litz
U.S. Army Reserve

July 25, 2018 •  FORT BLISS

Photos by Spc. William J. Litz / U.S. Army Reserve

By Spc. Emmanuel Brito
974th Quartermaster Company, U.S. Army Reserve, from Amarillo, Texas, move equipment during the unit’s annual training at Fort Bliss June 9.
More than 500 used cars, trucks and SUVs to choose from!

- **$16,798**
  2015 MINI COOPER S 4DR, HARDTOP, Stk#F2B56021

- **$17,497**
  2007 CADILLAC ESCALADE AWD, Stk#FG228459

- **$20,797**
  2017 GMC TERRAIN SLE, AWD, Stk#H6113381

- **$22,997**
  2017 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB, 4X4, Stk#HT532600

- **$23,497**
  2017 GMC CANYON CREW CAB, SLE, Stk#H1163627

- **$26,995**
  2017 HYUNDAI AZERA, Stk#HA5372004

- **$33,997**
  2017 FORD FOCUS RS, STAGE, Stk#H117178

- **$34,998**
  2015 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LIMITED, Stk#FS060326

- **$36,997**
  2014 RAM 2500 4WD, MEGA CAB, LARAMIE, Stk#EG299737

- **$20,797**
  2017 FORD FOCUS RS, HATCH, Stk#H4121718

- **$22,997**
  2017 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB, 4X4, Stk#HT532600

- **$23,497**
  2017 GMC CANYON CREW CAB, SLE, Stk#H1163627

- **$26,995**
  2017 HYUNDAI AZERA, Stk#HA5372004

- **$33,997**
  2017 FORD FOCUS RS, STAGE, Stk#H117178

- **$34,998**
  2015 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LIMITED, Stk#FS060326

- **$36,997**
  2014 RAM 2500 4WD, MEGA CAB, LARAMIE, Stk#EG299737