



Indianhead



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plan air
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facility set to
open
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early visit to
Camp Hovey
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December 19, 2008



Master Sgt. Donald Sparks

Tour length increases for accompanied Servicemembers serving at five duty stations across the Korean peninsula to include Pyeongtaek, Dongducheon and Uijongbu has been approved.

DoD memo lays groundwork for tour normalization

USFK Press Release

At the request of the commander, United States Forces Korea, the Department of Defense has approved command sponsorship for two new locations and an increase in tour lengths for accompanied Servicemembers permanently assigned to Korea.

The approval was granted in a memorandum signed by Dr. David Chu, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on Dec. 1 and will result in a change to the Joint Federal Travel Regulation. The services owe implementation plans to DoD by March 1.

"This was a huge step forward," said General Walter Sharp, USFK commander.

"Accompanied tours at five locations (Pyeongtaek, Osan, Daegu, Chinhae, and Seoul) will increase from

24 months to 36 months while two additional locations (Dongducheon and Uijongbu) will allow 24 month accompanied tours. Unaccompanied tours will remain at 12 months for all seven locations and 24 months for key personnel."

"This change will allow us to increase the number of Servicemembers in Korea accompanied on command sponsored tours to 4,350 using mostly existing infrastructure," said Rich Parker, USFK Director for Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment (J8). "This will enable the command to target key and critical positions for the recruitment of service members to choose accompanied tours in Summer 2009; this will keep them in place for the three years necessary to support OPCON Transfer in April 2012."

See TOURS, page 4

GPO II, 2ID co-host annual holiday concert

Story & photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda M. Lawson
Public Affairs Operations NCO

Something for everyone seemed to be the theme of the night during the 2008 Korean-American Holiday Concert held Dec. 9 at the Uijeongbu Arts Center.

The event, co-hosted by 2nd Infantry Division and the Gyeonggi Provincial Office II, presented holiday music from the 2ID Warrior Concert Band, as well as performances by popular Korean recording artists, including the Brown-Eyed Girls and reality TV star Yoon, Jong Shin.

"I've never been to a concert like this before," said Pfc. Samuel Helderman, a chaplain's assistant with the 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Fires Brigade. "I didn't know what to expect. I was really surprised."

The Warrior Band kicked off the festivities with a rousing version of "O Come All Ye Faithful," complete with horns and an all-male vocal section. The holiday music also

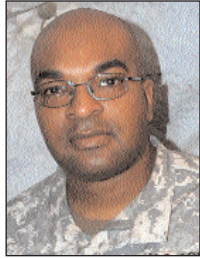
See CONCERT, page 3



The 2ID Warrior Concert Band performs holiday music during the 2008 Korean-American Holiday Concert held Dec. 9 at the Uijeongbu Arts Center. The event, which was co-hosted by 2ID and the Gyeonggi Provincial Office II, included songs to commemorate Christmas, Hannakah and Kwanzaa, as well as some popular Korean tunes.



**VOICE OF THE
WARRIOR:**
What do you want
for Christmas?

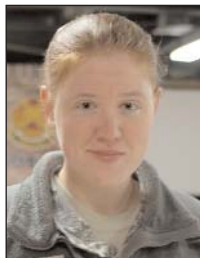


*"I want everybody to
enjoy Christmas."*

1st Sgt. Sammy Barbour
HHC, 2nd CAB

*"Spend time with
Family."*

Spc. James Heflin
4th Chem. Co., BSTB



*"A 2010 Camaro, like
the one in
Transformers."*

Spc. Jeanette Pavelka
Co. B, 602nd Bn.

"I want an ARCOM."

Sgt. Lee, Kwang Hee
HHC, 2nd CAB



*"Go home to my
Family."*

Warrant Officer James Huff
HHC 2X, DSTB

*"I want to go at least
one month without
wearing all this gear."*

Spc. Daniel Harrison
HHC, 2nd CAB



THE GIFT OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE

As she stood in front of her fifth-grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same.

However, that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard. Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad, red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first-grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners—he is a joy to be around. His second-grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle.

His third-grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest, and his home life will soon affect him, if some steps aren't taken. Teddy's fourth-grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school.

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in heavy brown paper from a grocery bag.

Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my mom used to."

After the children left, she cried for at least

an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded.

By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best teacher he ever had.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer—the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.

The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing.

Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you, Mrs. Thompson, for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference."

— Author unknown

Indianhead

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Taylor Morgan, 21D Commander Maj. Gen. John W. Morgan III's daughter, stands during applause following a performance with the flute section.



Children perform "Twinkle, Twinkle little Star."



The Brown Eyed Girls, a Korean pop group, perform for the audience.

CONCERT

from Page 1

included music commemorating Hannukah and Kwanzaa, as well as more modern tunes such as Harry Connick Jr.'s "It Must Have Been Ol Santa Claus."

The band even featured Taylor Morgan, 21D Commander Maj. Gen. John W. Morgan III's daughter, who joined the flute section and helped play "Christmas Eve in Sarajevo." However, the highlight of the evening for many were the Little Santas, a Korean children's choir who sang traditional Christmas carols while the band played.

"They were so cute," said Pvt. Leah Gillis, of 4th Chemical Company, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

After a short intermission, the entire mood of the event changed from a holiday celebration to a pop concert, co-emceed by Korean

recording artist, J and Korean actor Park, Cheol.

"We hope this concert will be a musical mini-vacation," they told the near-capacity audience, which included Korean families as well as Soldiers. "We know you've lost so much and sacrificed so much for us, so this is our thanks to you."

This year's format was a first for GPO II. While last year's holiday concert featured only the 21D Warrior Band performing holiday music, this year's event offered more of a combination of musical tastes.

Part of the reason for this, according to Jinnie Bae, of GPO II, was because the annual concert originally scheduled for October at Camp Red Cloud had been cancelled.

This year's concert went off without delay, and the change in format wasn't lost on the Soldiers.

"It was better than I expected," Gillis said.



Soldiers applaud one of the performances during the the 2008 Korean-American Holiday Concert held Dec. 9 at the Uijeongbu Arts Center.

New CIF operations saves 2ID time

By Jim Cunningham

USAG-RC Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division will no longer waste an entire day when they need to trade out, return or pick up equipment from the Central Issue Facility. A new location will open in building 2603 behind Casey Lodge in the near future.

"When we moved the CIF to Camp Stanley it did solve many of the logistical situations we were having at the time," said Dale Raffield, USAG-RC CIF manager. "Inbound Soldiers now have an easier job getting their organizational clothing and individual equipment."

No sooner than the CIF moved to Camp Stanley did they realize they needed some kind of facility remaining in USAG-Casey for the Soldiers who

needed to exchange or return and pick up different or new equipment.

"The location at Camp Stanley works out great for the inbound Soldiers, we are next door to them," Raffield said. "The problems start when we have a heavy demand for equipment and run out of those items. When this happens, Soldiers deployed to Casey, Castle and Hovey must make the trip back to Stanley to do their business here. Having to make the trip will take them away from their duties for a full day."

The new CIF facility will be a direct exchange facility, which means, if a Soldier has something that is damaged, or needs exchanging, they can come to the new CIF and exchange it directly, explained Raffield.

"When a Soldier arrives and we are out of an item he needs, we will send the item to the CIF

facility on Casey where he can pick it up," Raffield said. "He will no longer have to make the trip to Stanley."

The new facility will not be open every workday, only Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

For a Soldier to complete a direct exchange, their unit supply needs to coordinate with CIF on Stanley by the close of business on Thursday for pick-up on Monday, close of business on Monday for a Wednesday pick-up and close of business on Wednesday for a Friday pick-up.

"We are always looking for new constructive ideas," Raffield said. "This is a growing business and along with a growing business comes growing pains, but we are open to suggestions. If there is something Soldiers or supply units see we can improve, we will be happy to listen and make changes to improve our service."

TOURS

from Page 1

Servicemembers assigned to locations with limited facilities will be required to sign a memorandum acknowledging the exact services available at the installation prior to acceptance of Command Sponsorship.

As USFK moves forces to Camp Humphreys and expands infrastructure and services, this will allow the command to eventually increase the number of Servicemembers here with their families in command sponsored billets from about 2,135 today to about 14,250 when Tour Normalization is completed.

"It was critical that this request was approved because it codifies the Department of Defense's commitment to tour normalization for Korea," said General Sharp. "We are going to do this right. This means that we will increase the number of service members coming over with their families on command sponsored tours as we are able to upgrade infrastructure and services. Our goal is to reach the point when the majority of U.S. service members can bring their families to Korea and stay for normal three-year tours."



Sgt. M. Benjamin Gable

Reporting to the Board!

Sgt. Kerwin Googdad, a Multiple Launch Rocket System crew member with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, from Camp Casey, reports to Command Sgt. Major Peter Burrowes, 2ID command sergeant major, during the division level NCO, KATUSA and Soldier of the Quarter Board, held at Camp Humphreys, Dec. 12. During the board, Googdad, a native of Guam, was asked questions from each of the seven command sergeants major, ranging from Army regulations, to unit insignias and also physical fitness components.



Hey Soldier!
Lose your ID card?
Whose side are
you on?



It's an Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Thing!

WARRIOR NEWS BRIEFS

2ID 92nd Commerative Cookbook

A 2ID cookbook is now in the works to commemorate the Division's 92nd anniversary.

The cookbook committee will collect the recipes, create a cover, and choose photos.

Submissions must be made through your unit Family Readiness Support Group by Jan. 15, by filling out a recipe form that includes the recipe, as well as the Servicemember's name and unit.

All recipes must have personal, original names, and be clearly understood.

For more information on submission requirements, contact Jo Ann Golden by phone at 736-5469 or email at joann.golden@us.army.mil.

ESL Class Available

Army Community Service is offering an English as a second language class at the Casey ACS classroom. Classes are available every Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Also volunteers would be appreciated for teaching Korean as a second language at ACS - Casey and Red Cloud.

For more information contact Joseph Lee at 730-3032.

Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders

will be at Camp Casey Dec. 29.

The cheerleaders will be at the Casey USO at 2:30 p.m. They will be performing at Carey Gym at 7 p.m.

For more information contact Sophia Lim at 730-4813.

Ski Resort Trip

Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation are sponsoring a ski trip to Kangwon Land High 1 Ski Resort Dec. 27.

Kangwon has a total of 18 slopes and five chairlifts.

The resort is also equipped with the nation's largest casino, golf course, hotel, condominium, theme park and more. Transportation fee is \$25 and Ski/Lift/Snowboard rental is \$60,000.

Sign up today at your local Community Activity Center to reserve a seat.

African Culture Center

The Casey USO is sponsoring a tour to the African Culture Center Dec. 27.

The tour consists of visiting the African Culture Center, going to Home Plus for shopping and going to Outback Steakhouse for lunch.

Transportation fee is \$20 and \$12 to enter and see the show. The Bus will depart at 9:30 a.m. and return at 4:30 p.m.

Cut-off for signing up is Thursday.

Holiday Volleyball Tournament

The Camp Red Cloud fitness center is hosting a Christmas holiday volleyball tournament Dec. 26 and 27.

There will be sign up sheets posted at the CRC Gym up until the day of the event.

There is no entry fee to participate. You need to come with a team, at minimum six players and the most is 11.

A coach is also required to play in the tournament.

For more information the CRC fitness center at 732-7757.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance

A Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance is scheduled for Jan. 16 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Commanding General's Mess on Camp Red Cloud.

All are invited to attend this event.

Indianhead's next issue will be available Jan. 16

Due to the holiday scheduling of this publication's printing facility, the next edition of the *Indianhead* newspaper will not be distributed until Jan. 16, 2009.

The staff of the *Indianhead* wishes you and your Family happy holidays and a prosperous New Year.

Movies

Camp Casey

Show times: Fri.-Sat. 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., Sun. 3, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., Mon.-Thur. 7:30 p.m.

December 19...Four Christmases
Max Payne
December 20...Four Christmases
The Secret Life Of Bees
December 21...The Express
Max Payne
December 22...Four Christmases
December 23...No Showing
December 24...The Secret Life Of Bees
December 25...No Showing
December 26...The Day The Earth Stood Still
Body Of Lies
December 27...The Day The Earth Stood Still
The Secret Life Of Bees

Camp Red Cloud

Show times: Fri.-Sat. 7 & 9 p.m., Sun. 6 & 8 p.m., Mon., Tue. & Thur. 7 p.m.

December 19...Australia
Max Payne
December 20...The Secret Life Of Bees
December 21...The Express
December 22...Max Payne
December 23...The Secret Life Of Bees
December 24...No Showing
December 25...Four Christmases
December 26...Four Christmases
December 27...Pride And Glory
December 28...W
December 29...Body Of Lies
December 30...Pride And Glory

Camp Hovey

Show times: Sat.- Sun. 3:30 & 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m.

December 19...The Secret Life Of Bees
December 20...Body Of Lies
December 21...Four Christmases
December 22...No Showing
December 23...The Express
December 24...No Showing
December 25...The Day The Earth Stood Still
December 26...Pride and Glory
December 27...Body Of Lies
December 28...The Day The Earth Stood Still

Camp Stanley

Show times: Sun- Mon. & Thu. 7 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m. & 8 p.m., Wed. & Sat. 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

December 19...Flash Of Genius
Eagle Eye
December 20...Australia
Body Of Lies
December 21...Australia
December 22...Quarantine
December 23...No Showing
December 24...The Day The Earth Stood Still
December 25...Lakeview Terrace
December 26...Max Payne
The Secret Life Of Bees
December 27...Four Christmases
The Express
December 28...Four Christmases

Camp Humphreys

Show times: Sat.- Sun. 3:30, 6:30 & 9 p.m., Mon.-Tues., Thur.-Fri. 6:30 p & 9 p.m.

December 19...Four Christmases
December 20...Four Christmases
December 21...Beverly Hills Chihuahua
Four Christmases
December 22...Max Payne
December 23...Max Payne
December 24...Nothing Like The Holidays
December 25...Nothing Like The Holidays
December 26...The Day The Earth Stood Still
December 27...The Express
The Day The Earth Stood Still
December 28...The Express
The Day The Earth Stood Still
December 29...The Secret Life Of Bees
December 30...W

CHAPEL SERVICE TIMES

Camp Red Cloud

Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday
Catholic:
11:30 a.m. M-F
9 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA
7 p.m. Sunday
COGIC
12:30 p.m. Sunday

Camp Casey

Stone Chapel
Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6:30 p.m. Tuesday

Memorial Chapel
Gospel:
11 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6:30 p.m. Tuesday

West Casey Chapel

Protestant:
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Catholic:
12 p.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6:30 p.m. Thursday
LDS:
2 p.m. Sunday
Jewish:
6:30 p.m. Friday

Camp Hovey

Hovey Chapel
Catholic:
9:30 a.m. Sunday
Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday

Old Hovey Chapel
Bldg. 3592
Orthodox:
10 a.m. 1st and 2nd
Sunday

KATUSA:

6 p.m. Tuesday
Crusader Chapel
Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday

Camp Stanley

Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
Gospel:
12:30 a.m. Sunday
Catholic:
11:30 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
7 p.m. Tuesday

Camp Castle

Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6 p.m. Tuesday

Camp Jackson Auditorium

KATUSA:
9 a.m. Sunday

Points of Contact: USAG-Red Cloud:

732-6073/6706
CRC Catholic:
732-6016
Hovey Chapel:
730-5119

Memorial Chapel:

730-2594
West Casey:
730-3014
Stanley:
732-5238

Humphreys:

753-7952
Castle: 730-6889
LDS: 730-5682

Soldiers treat orphans to early Christmas



Story & photos by
Sgt. Leith Edgar
Editor

Santa came a little bit early to Warrior Country this year. In addition to colorfully wrapped gifts, Father Christmas brought two troop carriers, a tank and a HMMWV. The military vehicles and toys were for the Soldiers hosting 58 special guests.

In the spirit of the holidays, 48 orphans and leaders from the Po Wa Orphanage Center of Pocheon, participated in a Squadron Holiday Party Dec. 14 at Camp Hovey's Iron Triangle compliments of the Memorial Chapel, and the Soldiers of 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment and Company D, 302nd Brigade Support Battalion.

The event was specifically designed for the six to 16-year-old orphans. More than just a trip to see Santa, the children also enjoyed an American meal at the Triangle Club, took in a performance by the Memorial Chapel Choir, sang holiday carols, watched a demonstration from the 21D Tae Kwon Do Team and used military vehicles as a playground.

However, Santa was the center of attention. The children crowded around the gift bearer who sat next to a traditionally decorated tree and handed out presents. After waiting patiently to be called, each child stood in front of the white-bearded man, often bowed upon receipt of the mystery inside a box before running away to tear away packaging.

Although it was the children who received the most toys, it was the Soldiers and KATUSAs who were given the best gift, said Sgt. Shin, Joon Ho, a senior KATUSA with Troop B, 4-7 Cav.

"It seems like we gave something, but actually we're receiving from them," said Shin, who thought the experience served as a reminder of

what is important to him. "I forget the importance of my Family. Through this time I realized how important my Family is to me."

The other gifts Soldiers and KATUSAs received from the children were their smiles, said Sgt. 1st Class Frank Howard, platoon sergeant, Troop B.

"The greatest thing that I saw was the smiles on these children's faces. They saw that these Soldiers were very receptive to them. That, in and of itself, was monumental, is irreplaceable and can never be changed," Howard said.

The event's primary organizer - Capt. Tony A. Hampton, squadron chaplain, 4-7 Cav. - said it wasn't just the children who were in a festive mood.

"To see the joy in the children's, Soldiers' and KATUSAs' hearts gives me the faith and hope to continue doing my job as a chaplain in the US Army. It is just a blessing. It is a feeling beyond what anyone could ever feel or imagine: the joy we feel from helping the children," Hampton said. "This is true ministry. This is what it's all about. This is the trueness about being a good neighbor."

Despite the language hurdle the Soldiers and children were able to overcome it, thanks to the KATUSAs who interpreted for the event. They acted as liaisons between the children and Soldiers, in on case helping a child request a Korean song from Howard, who was the event's DJ, Howard said.

"I think the best part of the day was breaking through the language barrier," he said. "It's important because our whole mission (here) is to promote togetherness: show the Korean people compassion, understanding and our sense of appreciation for their culture."

Shin said the event was equally beneficial to the children and Soldiers.

"I think it will help (the Soldiers) to understand Korean people and culture," Shin said.

"(The children) can see what the US Army is doing here. Some (Korean) people hate the US Army, but they don't know exactly what they're doing here. Through this time the children can see the importance of the Soldiers here. They can see the mutual relationship between the US Army and the ROK Army."

The event, like all good things, came to an end. Yet the occasion was just one of many events between the children and Soldiers. Since their 14-month relationship began, the Soldiers visited the children to hand out toiletries, teach the center's 79 children English and share a BBQ dinner.

Hampton said the Squadron Holiday Party was just the latest in a series of quarterly \$3,000-plus projects for the children.

Not only do the Soldiers organize finance the quarterly projects, they also fund renovation projects for the center, Hampton said.

"We have adopted this orphanage and we have risen over \$11,000 this past year," he said. "We will go to the orphanage in the spring to continue our restoration project, and spend time with the children."

As the event ended, the leaders of the center presented photos of the facilities before and after renovation.

"Thank you for coming and sharing this time with us. God bless you and we will come and see you soon," Hampton said in a closing prayer. "We thank you for this day."



Children sit in the turret of a HMMWV while a Soldier from 4-7 Cav. talks to them.



A Soldier with 4-7 Cav. helps a child out of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The children used the four military vehicles as a playground.



Santa Claus presents one of 48 children with a wrapped gift. Every child received two gifts and a book.

A child from the Po Wa Orphanage Center of Pocheon, clings to a gifts received during the Squadron Holiday Party Camp Hovey's Iron Triangle Dec. 14. The event was organized and funded by the Memorial Chapel, and the Soldiers of 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment and Company D, 302nd Brigade Support Battalion.



As some aircrews with 2-2 perform maintenance checks on their aircraft, (left) others return from the day portion of the two-day air assault training which integrated both US and ROK air power, Dec. 10, at Camp Eagle. The mission called for the US and ROK Army alliance to perform both day and night air assault training on consecutive days. Even though the night portion of the exercise was canceled due to weather, the mission was a success as the two forces planned an integrated mission with varied air assets in a complex environment

Air assault planning, training 'in the works' for 2-2



Pvt. Patrick Rise, a crew chief with Co. C, 2-2, performs pre-flight checks before his aircraft taxis the runway in support of the day and night combined air assault with US and ROK alliance forces, Dec. 10, at Camp Eagle.

Story & photos by
Sgt. M. Benjamin Gable

2nd CAB Public Affairs

The stated mission for 2nd Battalion (Assault), 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, is to conduct air assault and general support aviation operations in support of 2nd Infantry Division. The mission currently at hand: Plan and conduct a simulated day and night air assault with integrated ROK and 2ID units on consecutive days.

It was a sizeable task for one of the more undersized battalions on the peninsula, who resides on a tiny airbase, nestled among towering mountain ranges and the remarkably broad Han River.

Nicknamed "Wildcards," the battalion is admittedly understaffed and undermanned. But they continue a high op-tempo training agenda and live by the maxim, "Against all odds."

This combined air assault training with allied ROK units would be the first of its kind in many years.

The planning began with an air-mission brief for the combined air assault training at Camp Humphries. Lt. Col. Mathew Lewis, Commander of 2-2, and Lt. Col. Jung, Hyung Goo, commander of 601st ROK Aviation, as well as elements from 4-2, 3-2 and the ROK 213th Aviation, poured over planning slides Dec. 5, concentrating on every aspect of the enormous task. No minute detail was left to chance; the group even stopping to synchronize their watches to the second.

After planning the mission, several pilots, both US and ROK, trained briefly on

the AVCATT, located near the briefing room. The AVCATT, or Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer, is a mobile training system, which allows pilots to train collectively and rehearse missions.

The day portion of the air assault training, which took place Dec. 9, was met with adverse weather conditions. Lewis and co-pilot Capt. Tae Kim, a planning officer with the same unit, left early to fly the routes and ensure weather would not be a problem.

The 601st Aviation, 2-2's sister unit which is located further north, were weathered in, however, and had to cancel their part of the mission. The 513th though, as well as all US helicopters participating, did perform their "dry runs" and successfully returned to their bases.

Dec. 10, the day set aside for the night portion of the mission, brutal winter weather grounded the "Wildcards" and their sister units completely. No aircraft were allowed to fly their mission as winds and rain played too much of a factor, and caused every flight to be canceled.

Even though the "crawl" phase of this mission was not fully completed, it was still a success.

According to Capt. Adair Cox, a platoon leader with 2-2, "Planning such a large mission with so many moving parts and integrating our ROK allies is a success in itself."

The "Wildcards" and its sister ROK units are planning to continue their efforts in air assault training. There are currently plans to participate in the "walk" phase of this exercise in the coming months by introducing more detailed tactics and utilizing air assault qualified Soldiers from within the battalion's ranks.