



Dragons land in Kuwait

Story by MAJ Kirk Luedeke
Photo by SFC Robert Timmons

CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT- The Dragon Brigade arrived in Kuwait this week for what is the final phase of preparation and training before the Soldiers will move north into Iraq for the next year.

The 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is temporarily located at Camp Buehring, an installation north of Kuwait City, near the town of Udairi, which serves as a staging base for all units deploying north into Iraq. Thousands of U.S. Soldiers have used Camp Buehring as a gateway into Iraq since the war began in 2003, a requirement for all troops to receive one last certification and check of personnel, training and equipment before entering the combat theater.

The camp contains many amenities for Soldiers including three post exchanges, telephone centers, two internet cafes and Morale, Welfare and Recreation centers. Soldiers also have access to financial and religious services as well as a newly built gymnasium.

The brigade's leaders and Soldiers have had the opportunity to draw additional equipment, test fire weapons systems and conduct important training to enhance the overall readiness for the coming mission in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Dragon Soldiers have come together and worked closely as a team, conducting daily physical training and various combat skills and tasks, honing the edge that was begun during the brigade's first year at Fort Riley.

Although the days spent at Buehring is only a fraction of the overall deployment timeline, the Dragon brigade has made the most of the opportunities here, and are prepared to make the move into Iraq when the time comes.

Buehring offers comforts, brings Soldiers closer to loved ones

As close to home as one can get, Camp Buehring offers Soldiers amenities to help bridge the distance between them and their loved ones thousands of miles away in the States.

Camp Buehring, once known as Camp Udairi, has been a temporary home to thousands of Soldiers as they prepared to head north in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Over the years the base has grown exponentially. In 2004, it had one Post Exchange, one MWR facility, one Internet

café, a Burger King, Pizza Inn and a Green Beans coffee shop. Today it has three PXs, two coffee shops, two Internet cafes, two chapels all within easy walking distance of new tentage.

The camp even has new tents that are not flammable like the kerosene treated ones of years gone by.

Though still sparse in comparison to life at Fort Riley, the Camp offers just enough to help the Soldiers train and live in relative comfort.



SSG Robert Driscoll, with Company D, 610th Brigade Support Battalion unloads rucksacks after his flight from Fort Riley Kan. Feb. 9.

Soldiers prepare to roll over

Story, photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team have been conducting Humvee Egress Assistance Training(HEAT) in preparation for their mission in Iraq.

The training takes place in a facsimile Humvee designed to safely show Soldiers what a rollover would be like on land, in water, and under fire.

The vehicle spins over multiple times, after which the occupants must exit the Humvee and secure the perimeter.

The training takes place under regular conditions as well as while receiving fire, during which the Soldiers can only exit the vehicle to one side.

Spc. James White, an imagery analyst from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th IBCT, said the training is fun, but at the same time, it is very informative.

“I’ve never been in a Humvee rollover before,” said the Lindenwold, N.J., native. “It was interesting to see the world from a different angle, literally.”

Before jumping in the simulator, the



SGT Joshua Cookson, with HHC, 4iBCT, gets an up close view of what a roll over would be like from the gunner’s seat during a roll over.

Soldiers received a class on the dangers of rollovers, how to prevent them, and the proper procedures in the event of a rollover.

Pvt. James Byrd, an operations Soldier with HHC, 4th IBCT, said the training was the most fun training he’s ever had, but he also felt it would keep him from panicking in a real-life situation.

The Soldier from Dallas, said he felt those that kept a calm head seemed to perform better in the simulator.

Dragon Brigade Soldiers are in Kuwait in the final stages of preparation for movement north in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Rangers hone war fighting skill

Story, photo by PFC Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait -- The Rangers of the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment conducted a final weapons tune-up at Range 6 outside Camp Buehring yesterday.

The range exercise, conducted on a sunny desert day, was the final one the unit will



PFC Christopher Beem fires his weapon at Range 6 Feb. 10.

participate in before entering Iraq.

Pfc. Christopher Beem, a sniper with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-16 Inf., said conditions at the range were good.

With Iraq in the near-future, Beem said he did not change his approach to the range at all.

“It’s just another day doing the Army thing,” the Soldier from Cambridge, Ohio, said.

The only notable difference, Beem said, was the sand of Kuwait opposed to the snow of Kansas.

Pfc. Clarence Copeland, a medic with HHC, 2-16 Inf., agreed.

“The range wasn’t that different,” said Copeland, a native of Delhi, Calif. “I approached it the same as any range at Fort Riley.”

While the purpose of the range was to zero the sights on their weapons, ensuring the accuracy of their rifles, the Rangers demonstrated their collective attitude of getting their job done no matter when or where.

MOMENTS IN TIME

Camp Buehring

CPT (Chap) Douglas Brown, 610 BSB, hunts for his rucksack after arriving at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



SGT Shelby Dreier, Troop C, 1-4 CAV, hands a M240B machine gun to SPC Andrew Eubanks, Trp. C, 1-4 CAV after arriving.



SGT Shelby Dreier, 1-4 CAV, unloads a duffel bag after arriving at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

PFC Joshua Everett and PFC Stephen Richardson, both of HHC, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry practice their combative skills during down time at Camp Buehring.



SFC Benjamin Bundy, with 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery works in the battalion TOC.



Top: SSG David Charleston, with 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, instructs his class on the workings of the new M1151 Humvees they were training on.

Left: PFC Brent Musleve, with 1-4 CAV, climbs on top of the M1151 Humvee during preventative maintenance checks and services Feb. 9. Before the troopers could drive the new vehicles they first had to do a complete PMCS on the vehicles – some of which had only been driven 50 miles.

Trained to drive

The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry and Company D, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, received training on M1151 Humvees Feb. 9. The vehicles are the latest version of the venerable truck which contain the latest improvements in armor, crew comfort and communications. “Some vehicles here have only 50 miles on them,” said SSG David Charleston, the class instructor.

Kicking in doors



Above: Troopers from 1-4 CAV practice a four-man stack prior to entering a mock building.

Right: SGT Joseph Bergen helps PFC Corey Knecht up after he cleared a stoppage during room clearing drills.

With time at a premium, members of 1-4 CAV trained on room clearing techniques. Dragon Brigade Soldiers have been training on driving vehicles, roll-over drills, weapon firing techniques, and how to defeat improved explosive devices.