



Ft. Riley, Kansas



1st Infantry Division Support Command December Newsletter

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CSM Corner

'Steeped in Tradition, Embracing Change'



As you probably know our brigade is well underway in our transition from the 1st ID Support Command to the First Sustainment Brigade. We are becoming a stand alone, modular brigade which will support and sustain the mission wherever and whenever needed. As I like to say, we continue to be steeped in our historical traditions, yet embracing change. That change

is happening everywhere. It all becomes official on February 15 when we get a new name, crest and patch. For most of us, it's just business as usual, supporting the Army's modularity (which really means the rearranging of units so they can be easily interchanged) and our projected deployment for the summer of 2007. Let me say up front, I express my warmest Holiday greeting to you and all your family. Without you we would not be able to do the great things for our nation we are called upon to accomplish. I am proud to be your commander and wish you and yours the very best for 2007.

I'd like to write a few lines about the new, warmly received Army recruiting motto, 'Army Strong'. I like it. The reason I do is that it's important to remember how we can stay strong. One of the ways to do that is to remember the reasons we came into the Army. I was sharing these with some of our leaders recently and will pass them onto you.

One reason for joining the Army is simply for the **unique training**. There is no where else in the world you can get the kind of training you receive in Army Basic Training. Not to mention the special job skills to be learned before you get to your first unit. The discipline, the pride, the friendships - all of these are a very real benefit of staying Army Strong.

A second reason is **education**. I will never cease to be amazed at the opportunities for education the Army affords.

 What a wonderful time of the year to celebrate with our Families and Friends. This winter holiday period is important to each of us, Noncommissioned Officers and Enlisted members of the Division Support Command. As we celebrate according to our own traditions, we must make good, enduring memories with family and friends.

With the Christmas rush and many activities it's nice to take the time on our half day schedules to count on our many blessings, please spend them wisely and don't overwork unless absolutely necessary for as the Holiday season passes us we will be working heavily getting ready for our transformation from DISCOM to The First Sustainment Brigade. We would like to reiterate to family members that the DISCOM will remain committed to providing the best possible family support group.

This Holiday period is a time when Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members will travel to various destinations in the local area and around the country. DISCOM team members will receive effective safety briefings, thorough POV inspections, and know how to correctly assess and control the risks associated with their travel. Our leadership involvement is the most important control measure we can implement to protect our Soldiers and their families.

We are proud of your accomplishments. We extend our personal wishes to you and your families for a safe, joyous and very blessed holiday season.

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There are opportunities right here on Fort Riley for tuition-free classes during the day, in the evening, and on weekends. The Education Center is located right next to our DISCOM headquarters. There are programs to help pay for college or pay off college loans. There is the Montgomery G.I. Bill that pays for college after your service. Hopefully no one in the DISCOM will fail to take advantage of these great opportunities.

Then, there's the simple fact of **adventure**. While we will deploy at times in harm's way, there are other times we serve in some of the most interesting and beautiful spots in the world. Travel opportunities that accompany being in the Army can't be matched. We join to live and work outside the box and have a different view of the world because of the opportunities we've been afforded.

Fourthly, the **money**. When you take a good look at the basic pay, housing and medical benefits, leave, special pay, bonuses, educational benefits - you'd be hard pressed to find something comparable in the civilian world. Just sit back sometime and total up the financial benefits of staying Army Strong. I think you agree it's a pretty good deal.

Finally, under it all, a good reason for staying Army Strong is our **service to the nation**. We have a great nation and serving that nation in peace and war has to remain at the core of why we serve. The basic building block of selfless service is the commitment of each team member to go a little further, endure a little longer, and look a little closer to see how he or she can add to the effort.

I hope some of these ideas help you understand how we can stay Army Strong. Again, the Holidays are upon us. Stay safe.

Enjoy a well deserved rest with friends and family and see you soon.

COL Kevin O'Connell

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Signal Detachment

Yes, it's that time again, Happy Holidays! As most of you are finished with your holiday shopping, I'm sure that there are some shopping-stragglers out there. I just want to remind everyone of the on-going, immanent threat of muggers and pickpocketers while out and about finishing your last minute shopping. Please think about safety in everything you do.



Most of us will enjoy this upcoming holiday on leave, and some of us will be traveling visiting friends and family. Please take the time to plan

and prepare for your long travels so you can come back refreshed and ready for our busy schedule.

The 1st SIG DET has been busy by sending Soldiers to be trained at various new equipment training events. We also have had SPC J. comeback from Warriors Leader Course; where he graduated with high honors on the Commandants List, congratulations and great work.

We have also sponsored a family through the "Adopt a Family Program" under the Flint Hills Community Breadbasket Food Network. Our Soldiers' contributions provided this family a great amount of clothes and toys that they might otherwise not have. A great amount of work and coordination had been done for this to be successful. Thanks to SPC McW. for your hard work coordinating this event and to the SIG DET for your contributions; you have made a difference.

Before the month is over, we are wishing SSG D. and SPC C. a happy birthday.

I thank the SIG DET for all your hard work. Please be safe and enjoy yourselves this holiday. I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CPT N.

Chaplains Corner—Chaplain H. and SSG L., the Unit Ministry Team, wish everyone in DISCOM a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! If there is any way we can be of assistance during the holidays, please let us know. Chaplain H. can be reached at 785-210-5714. God bless you all.

FRG Hello again! We are almost there, the clock is ticking, the year is almost over, but there are still some activities you shouldn't miss before it ends. For instance, Irwin Army Hospital is still offering flu shots on Dec 20th from 8am - 1130 am and Dec 21 from 1:00pm - 3:30 pm. Protestant-Traditional/Blended, Main Post Chapel on 6 Barry Ave will have their Christmas Cantata, Dec 17 at 10:30am and a Candle Light Service on Dec 24 at 7:00pm. The Gospel Service at Morris Hill Chapel on 5315 Jackson St. on Dec 31 will be having a New Year's Eve Watch Night. Morris Hill Chapel Catholic Services will be offering a Christmas Vigil Mass on Dec 24 at 4:30pm. St Mary's Chapel will have their Christmas Day Mass Dec 25 at 9:00am. The Manhattan Jewish Congregation located on 1506 Wreath Ave, is having a Hanukkah potluck on Dec 16 starting around 5:00pm for additional information call 785-456-6909.

If you're not going home for the holidays you don't have to stay home alone, Rally Point is having a New Year's Eve Party, party favor, champagne toast, music & dancing to welcome in the New Year for more information call 239-5434, or party at Custer Hill and farewell the year, for additional information call 239-4366.

Child and Youth Services Instructional Classes: SKIES Unlimited offerings. Contact the Central Enrollment Registry (CER) officer at 239-4723/4847/9478 for additional information and to make appointments to register.

DISCOM Family Readiness Group (FRG) wants to wish you the best holidays ever and a wonderful year to come, enjoy, be happy, and keep safe, remember we are here for you.

P.S. If you feel left out, don't, contact me with your information at 787-667-0910 and I'll keep you informed.

H Remember that **Sleipnir** was a magical eight-legged steed which derived from Norse mythology and was considered the greatest and swiftest of all horses. As the Greek god Odin depended on the Sleipnir to bear him Greetings Fellow Knights,

H First and Foremost....*How ya feeelll?*

C This month has not only been exciting but rewarding as well. We had the pleasure of promoting two soldiers:

SSG H., SPC F. who also reenlisted to stay with the mighty **Sleipnir (pronounced *Slept-Ner*) Brigade.**

Several Soldiers received a commendation medal for their service and will be starting another chapter in their lives: SPC L., SPC M., SPC R.

Several Soldiers appeared before the promotion board and were successfully recommended:

SGT (P) M., SGT (P) H., SGT (P) M., SPC (P) T., SPC (P) S.

Several Soldiers received a Certificate of Appreciation for their outstanding support during the Company Halloween Party:

PV2 L., PFC M., SSG C., PFC J.

Last but not least I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you and your family members for making the Christmas party a great success. I especially would like to thank our FRL (Mrs. R.) and the FRG...Good Job! For those that were not able to attend you missed an abundance of fun, food, and family. And as we prepare to go into the Holiday Season let us not forget to always remain vigilant of our surroundings and to think safety first.

*over sea, through the air, and to and from the land...*the Army will depend on the Sleipnir Brigade to Sustain to Victory!

Top Knight

FIRED UP!

Some important dates

Winter Holiday 23 Dec-- 3 Jan

Half Day Schedule starts 20 Dec-- 2 Jan

MLK JR 15 - 16 Jan

Elementary Day 9th Feb

Spring Break 19 - 23 March

Good Friday 6 April 07

Professional Day 14 May 07

Photos from DISCOM Christmas Party, December 15 at the 4-H Activity Center in Junction City.

