



FIRST SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 5

Thoughts from COL O'Connell

The warming weather reminds us that in a few short months the men and women of the First Sustainment Brigade will be deployed in the fight against global terrorism and undoubtedly, it will be hotter in Iraq than Junction City, Kansas. Our primary goal is to assemble, equip and train the finest, most competent Sustainment Brigade in the United States Army before that time arrives. I would encourage each of you to hone your skills and train the very best you possibly can so that when you arrive in theater you are prepared for the mission ahead. Our team is growing daily and although some familiar faces are leaving, we have been fortunate enough to attract very competent crew of officers, NCOs and Soldiers to take their place.



COL O'Connell talks to a group of business and community leaders at the Military Affairs Committee Breakfast in Junction City.

I encourage you to maintain a warfighter ethos, starting right here at old Fort Riley. The familiar saying goes that you fight like you train, so let's all project ourselves forward a few short months and ask ourselves, "How will I perform in the fight?" Take a look at the people who work for you and ask yourself how *their* training is going. Leaders develop leaders and we need leaders!

Secondly, let's remember to continually take care of our Soldiers and their Families. I encourage you to consider the Family Retreat coming up 13-14 April at the Rock Springs 4-H Camp near Junction City. There is absolutely no cost and some great classes and fun. For you married couples with no kids, Chaplain Hayes is leading a Couples Strong Bonds Retreat, May 4-5 at the same camp. Contact the chaplain for sign-up and more information. Strong Families in the rear will make our jobs easier in the fight.

Thirdly, I can't forget our great volunteers in the Brigade. I realize a lot of people are helping and serving and have no desire for recognition, but I'd still like to say thanks to spouses and children who become part of the Soldiers' world and serve in volunteering, whether on post or off. I realize many serve in churches, community groups and individually helping people. We thank you all. We couldn't be effective without you.

Finally, we are about to move into a very dynamic environment where our Command and Control structure down-range will involve plug and play units from 18 different states and Germany. Keep your head in the game, don't settle for mediocrity and prepare to be a part of the best unit in the Army, because Soldiers like you make this unit what it is!

Sustain to Victory!

COL O'Connell, Durable 6



CSM C. talks with CPT W. about the ongoing training.

As you know we are well underway on our training for our future deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. We Noncommissioned officers would like to thank everybody, including Officers and Family members for all your patience and contributions during the many ranges and live fire exercises that have been conducted. We know that working late nights and weekends can be stressful on both the service members and Families alike, so we appreciate your understanding. It is important that whatever time you have off you spend it well. With the Easter holiday approaching we would like to wish you and your Families a happy Holiday and time off, please spend it safely and maintain a sense of awareness at all times during bar-b-Qs, swimming, boating, etc and keep in mind that small children are always curious and they tend to be attracted to the fire and the water. We want to make sure that everybody comes back safe and well rested from their weekend.



1st Sustainment Brigade
Signal Company Newsletter
Strength and Honor!

CPT N.

Hello again. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable spring break and look forward to our next four-day weekend (APR 6-9). With our deployment fast approaching, it is still important (if not more) to take the little spare time we have to be with Family and friends.



As the year goes on and the weather starts to change, we are undergoing a few changes ourselves. We've had a total of five new additions in the last few weeks as we gear up and prep for our upcoming deployment. I want to wish a hearty welcome to all of you and look forward to having you as part of the 1st Sustainment family. Along with these additions we have a few Soldiers departing from the company SGT O'G. has been serving as our supply NCO for some time now. Her work ethic and positive attitude will be missed. SGT M., SPC G., and SPC McW. have all been manning the orderly room since the beginning of this company and have done a great deal in getting this company to where it is today. It's hard to imagine working without their presence to keep all of the training schedules, paperwork, and overall positive attitude intact. Luckily we have SGT M. who was recently promoted from SPC to keep things running smoothly. Also, CPL W. was promoted from SPC. We would like to congratulate both of them on their acceptance into the NCO corps.

Signal Company, thanks for all your hard work and be safe.

Chaplains Corner



Family Retreat

"Strong Bonds for Families"

13-14 April 2007

Rock Springs 4-H Camp

12 miles south of Junction City

Raising a family is tough these days. Like walking on water. Daily routines can be overwhelming when Families are faced with long separations, relocations and deployments. That's why we're conducting a Family Retreat for the First Sustainment Brigade. Take a few interactive classes teaching parenting. Children 8 and older will participate in most of the exercises. Children under 8 will participate in activities led by adults. The rest of the time is *your* time. One overnight stay in a family room, four great meals in their dining facility. Enjoy extra activities like horseback riding, archery or just come and relax for awhile. Absolutely free, except for your transportation out. Contact Chaplain Hayes or SSG Letters and get your Family signed up. Limited to first twenty Families.

Contact Chaplain H. at 785-210-5714

Upcoming Event

4-5 May

"Couples Strong Bonds Retreat"

Rock Springs 4-H Camp

HHC 1st Sustainment Brigade

Combatives PT is fun!



PFC K. takes down SGT J.



SGT R. observes and offers guidance to PVT S. as she performs a move on SPC McK. during Calmatives' Training at the King Field House.



From the HHC Commander

First of all, I would like to wish 1SG S. a speedy recovery as he is home for a couple of weeks on convalescent leave, recovering from an illness. Please get well soon, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Meanwhile, the Knights have been very busy becoming proficient on our weapons systems, receiving and training on new equipment. We have conducted several deployment training requirement classes, Simulated Combat Logistics Patrols, a Convoy Live Fire Exercise at Range 8, and weeks worth of Combatives training taught by our very own, SGT J., from our Personnel Security Detachment Section. I would like to take this time to thank SFC W., who is our resident Range Safety Officer and Officer in Charge for many (most) of our ranges lately. Great Job! Thanks to all who have made our training a success: SSG Z., SSG M., SSG C., SGT S., SGT T., SSG McG...I could go on....Thanks for making it happen.

I hope everyone enjoyed Spring Break and had the opportunity to relax and unwind a bit with their Family and friends. Please continue to enjoy the warmer weather, all of the activities and programs the area has to offer and be safe. Although we are all busy with multiple tasks remember to take it easy and find the right balance.

CPT W.

Knight 6

“On Blast”

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who were promoted: SSG C. to SFC, SGT G. to SSG; SPC McG. to SGT; PFC H., PFC V., PFC S., PFC H., PFC G., PFC N. to SPC.



PFC S. promoted to SPC

Welcome to our new Soldiers and Families: SGT R., SFC C., SFC B., PFC McC., SSG G., SFC S., SGT C., CPT H., MAJ A., SGT K., PFC B., PFC J., SPC K., PFC T., SGT McD., 2LT R.

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 6-9 April | Training Holiday |
| 12 April | Brigade Volunteer Recognition Award Ceremony |
| 12 April | HHC 1 st SB FRG Meeting 1800 at the Soldier and Family Readiness Center |
| 16 April | Post Volunteer Recognition Ceremony |
| 18 April | Days of Remembrance Luncheon at Riley's 1145am |

HHC Family Readiness Group Corner

Hello to all! Here are some happenings in our surrounding area. There is a lot of good information on the Fort Riley Website.

To celebrate the Month of the Military Child, School Age Services will be hosting a complimentary Pancake breakfast for the Fort Riley community from 8 to 10am, on April 14, 2007. The Pancake Breakfast is free and open to the Fort Riley community. For additional information contact 785-239-9220/9225.

K-State Open House. Saturday, April 14, 2007 9 A.M.-3 P.M.

K-State Invites Fort Riley Families to Learn More about its University.

Visit the Hospitality Tent - Outside the K-State Student Union, west of Bosco Plaza. Meet K-State students; Talk with campus representatives; Walking and shuttle tours of campus; Entertainment - Air Force ROTC parade, Kansas City Marching Cobras drill team performance, and much more....Prize drawing. Additional information about the open house can be viewed at: <http://consider.k-state.edu/openhouse/> Additional information about K-State serving Soldiers and their Families can be viewed at: <http://consider.k-state.edu/admissions/military.htm>

FAMILY CARE TEAM TRAINING

When: Thursday, 5 April 2007;
1830-2030 hrs (6:30-8:30 pm)

Where: ACS Bldg., Room #30

Who: Attendees: Anyone interested in being a Care Team member or interested in learning about the program.

See you all at the next HHC FRG Meeting...there is a lot of good information we'd like to disseminate to all!

Looking for a home?

The Housing Services Office (HSO) has partnered with the Junction City Board of Realtors and the Manhattan Association of Realtors to provide Fort Riley Soldiers and their Families with information regarding the home buying process. This Free-No Obligation Service offers information on the availability of homes for sale in the Fort Riley area. This Realtor presence at the Housing Services Office serves as an informational resource. They are here to assist you in the process of settling into your new surroundings quickly and efficiently. Volunteers will be available to answer your questions and provide information on the following: Home Purchasing, Where and how do I start?; Mortgage Application Procedures; Current Interest Rates; Various loan types; The local housing market. Monday - Friday 1pm - 5pm, starting April 16, 2007. HSO is located in Carr Hall, 45 Barry

Neighborhood Nights

Fort Riley's Youth Sports & Fitness will be hosting several upcoming Neighborhood Nights for communities on post, beginning April 10. The evenings will include games, door prizes and fun and energetic sports designed for the entire family. Neighborhood Nights will begin at 6pm and continue until 7:30pm each evening.

The following communities will have Neighborhood Nights on the below dates:

*April 10 - Ellis Heights *April 17 - Main Post *April 24 - Peterson Place *May 1 - Colyer Manor

*May 8 - McClellan Place *May 15 - Warner Heights.

For additional information about the upcoming Neighborhood Nights, contact Youth Sports & Fitness at 785-239-9223.

THE BRIGADE IN TRAINING



SSG B. watches as SGT C. fires his weapon.



SPC S. takes the wheel of a Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer.



SPC C. fires a virtual 50 Cal at the VCCT facility.



PFC F. attends the Standard Army Ammunition System class here on Fort Riley.



SPC E. inspects the barrel of a 50 Cal .



COL O'Connell addresses the crowd at MAJ C.'s promotion



Newly promoted CPT N. attends MAJ C. promotion ceremony.



A proud father-in-law pins of MAJ C.'s new LTC rank.



Newly promoted LTC C. is surrounded by loved ones at his promotion ceremony.

24 TRANS / 2-2 HET NEWS



Last minute route instructions to his team.



High speed NCO makes the rounds before departure.



One last nap before we go.



I'm just happy to be here.



I'm with him!

Train and Train some more.....

A message from the Rear Detachment Commander

Greetings to all the Soldiers, Families, friends of the Brigade. I want to start off by letting you know that the rear detachment cadre are hard at work to ease the deployment transition for all parties involved. We are in the process of standing up and aiding the FRG's in training and set up. It is important that I take this time to place emphasis on some areas that Soldiers and Families need to be tracking. Family/ Soldier questionnaires are vital to maintaining a good flow of communication. All the FRG's will be updating their respective phone tree, please ensure that you have filled out the Family/Soldier questionnaire with up to date and accurate information. Ensuring that family readiness groups are trained and families are supported is top priority. There will be numerous training opportunities for Families and Soldiers in the upcoming months and I encourage everyone to attend any training that they think might be beneficial to their Family, and or the unit. A few examples of these classes are the Family Care Team training that provides the unit with internal volunteer assets to aid Families in case of any emergency. Financial readiness is another class that will be offered to help Families budget, understand military benefits, and make financial plans, while equipping them with an arsenal of financial advice to help them before, during and following the deployment. We will also be scheduling legal evenings so that Soldiers and their spouses can have time with legal representatives to formulate important documents such as a specific power of attorney, short term, long term care for children and a living will. These are all important documents that can prove to be valuable to Families and should be done with much thought. Again, I cannot place enough emphasis on the fact that Families need to ensure that they are either a part of the FRG or in communication with the FRG so that they can be fully aware of all the agencies and assets available to them. The bottom line is that we are here to support the Soldiers and Families of the Brigade for the long haul and we will execute our mission in a professional, competent, and respectful manner. Please feel free to contact your FRG representative and advise them of any other classes or concerns you may have that we need to address.

Sustain to Victory!

CPT H., Rear Detachment Commander

Iraqi Cultural Awareness

Do you truly understand the Iraqi culture? Success in Iraq will be achieved by having respect for their culture and building relationships. To respect their culture we must first educate ourselves in it.

Iraq has a rich cultural history dating back to the Sumerians, thought to be the first advanced civilization on earth.

The family is the most important social unit in Iraq, and family loyalty is one of the most important values. Honor, both personal and family, is also very important. It is considered a disgrace to speak badly about a family member, or tell non-family members about bad things that have happened in the family. A family consists of all related kin, and can include hundreds of people. Rural families live with or near each other, while urban families stay closely connected through other means. It is a serious disgrace for a woman (and her family) to have an intimate relationship outside marriage, and can sometimes necessitate killing her to "wash" the shame away, restoring family honor.

Iraqis are very generous & loyal, and very polite to their friends. If a friend asks for a favor, it is considered very rude to say no. It is taboo to wish bad luck on someone because it might come true. While having a conversation, it is rude to turn one's foot out (or on the table) so that the sole is facing the other person. The left hand is used for sanitary purposes, therefore, it is never used when eating – aside from using forks and knives.

Regardless of cultural heritage, life for most Iraqis, both rural and urban, centers around Islam. They visit the mosque on Friday for the weekly reading of the Koran and prayers, and they observe religious holidays. To understand how to live in Iraq and help Iraqis move in the directions they need, we must know their culture and how it is different than ours. Winning the " hearts and minds" comes through understanding the people, our mission and how we can accomplish our goals simultaneously providing a better future for the Iraqi people.

MAJ W., Brigade S-2