Rise and shine, First Team

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Deville and fellow noncommissioned officers and Soldiers of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) conduct physical training before the sun comes up Oct. 24 at Fort Bragg, N.C. For more photos of the 1st TSC, find them on Flickr.

The Black Jack Express is an authorized digital, command information publication published in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1, for members of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater).

It is published periodically by the 1st TSC Public Affairs Office at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Circulation is through email and the internet via DVIDS.

Contents of the Black Jack Express magazine are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army or this command. Unless otherwise indicated, all photos are U.S. Army photos.

Editorial input comes from the PAO staff as well as staff directorates and sections within the headquarters.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army.

Questions, comments or submissions for the Black Jack Express should be directed to the editor at 910-643-4343 (DSN 593), or by email at 1stTSC@gmail.com.
Come celebrate with us Nov. 21 at 11:30 a.m. at 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade's Dining Facility (behind Blackjack Physical Fitness Center). Artifacts from local Indian tribes will be displayed. For more information, call 910-643-8571.

“Native Pride and Spirit: Yesterday, Today and Forever”
Greetings First Team! The holiday season is upon us and it provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the past year and anticipate the new year that lays ahead. For our Soldiers, family members and civilians at home station, it also brings many opportunities for travel and fellowship with their friends, family and coworkers. For our deployed Soldiers and Civilians, I offer my heartfelt appreciation for your efforts in contributing to safety, security and prosperity around the world. You are proof that the dedication, professionalism and operational excellence of the 1st TSC remains unparalleled.

The holiday season is among the busiest of travel seasons on American roadways. Be careful when driving in inclement weather and take extra precautions with your travel plans. The Travel Risk Planning System (TRIPs) is a useful tool to help identify travel risks prior to your journeys during the holiday season and can help to reduce or eliminate the chance of an accident while driving. In the month of November many of us will celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving; keep an eye on the weather as it is also the time of the year when weather and road conditions frequently change. December is National Drunk Driving Prevention Month; stay mindful of the dangers of alcohol consumption – never drink and drive!

This is a season when people are thinking more of others than themselves and a festive spirit permeates our daily lives. Decorating homes, offices, living quarters and other work areas is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Be cognizant that these same decorations, and the associated temporary wiring utilized, may increase chances of a fire.

There are many transitions taking place in Kuwait and Afghanistan in the first quarter, and as you know, many injuries happen within the last and first few months of deployments. Don’t take unnecessary risks because everyone is anxious to return home from a deployment. Even reintegrating with loved ones carries risk; be mindful of the possible threats to safety and use risk management for on and off-clute activities.

As you enjoy time with your loved ones, please take a moment to reflect on our deployed Soldiers and Civilians who will not be with their loved ones this holiday season. The start of the new year is a time of reflection, revelry and renewal; may each of your holidays be filled with the joy and the spirit of giving, travel and celebration. No matter how you celebrate, do it safely. Please know that each one of you is important to your family, the 1st TSC Team and the Army Team!

First Team! Army Strong!

DARRELL K. WILLIAMS
Major General, USA
Commanding
A time to remember: Blackjack 7's holiday message for the First Team

COMMENTARY BY
COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
NATHANIEL J. BARTEE

As we approach the holiday season, many of our Families are anxiously waiting to welcome their Soldiers home while at the same time many Families will soon be seeing their Soldiers off as they prepare to deploy. We have so much in our great country to be thankful for, more than could ever be expressed in words. It is especially important during this season that we take a little time out of our days to reflect on what is truly important; family, loved ones and friends, no matter how far apart we are.

I would like to thank all of our dedicated men and women who have answered the call to duty and sacrificed time away from their families to serve our country. I would also like to thank our Army Families for their support and their service. Without them, we could not do what we do.

For those of you who are redeploying, don’t become so focused on the 300 meter target that you miss the 50 meter one. We want to make sure everyone comes home safe and comes back to us after the holidays, refreshed and ready to resume the mission.

Remember to also look to the battle buddies to your left and right, know your Soldiers and know yourself. Don’t be afraid to ask someone if they need help and don’t be afraid to tell someone if you need help.

Remember, we still have Soldiers continuing to serve in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Inherent Resolve.

To those of you who are coming home: Welcome back! And to those of you who are departing, I know you will continue to accomplish the mission, lead by example and make the First Team proud.

First Team!
A season of change
First Team units transfer authority in Kuwait, Afghanistan

Marines from Company B, 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., transfer authority to 252nd Military Police Company Soldiers based out of Cleveland, Tennessee, Oct. 13 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. During their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Co. B, 2nd LEB was augmented by 361st and 374th MP companies. Brig. Gen. Daniel Mitchell, deputy commanding general, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) presided over the ceremony, praised the work of the Marines and said he knew the 252nd MP Co. was ready to take over and succeed.

252nd MPs receive custom welcome from 2nd LEB Marines

Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Colletta, 1st TSC Public Affairs

Providers assume sustainment mission in Kuwait

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The 3rd Sustainment Brigade’s colors were unveiled at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 14, marking an official transfer of authority and another milestone for the Fort Stewart, Georgia, based unit.


The 3rd SB’s arrival to Kuwait denotes the unit’s sixth deployment since 2002, but will be markedly different from its most recent when it headed support, sustainment and retrograde operations throughout three regions in Afghanistan.

“The 3rd has provided support for service members in combat theaters time and time again. While Kuwait is not a combat zone, the sustainment mission is unique and ever changing,” said Brig. Gen. Daniel Mitchell, deputy commanding general of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater). “You are the Soldiers who provide the warfighter what they need to win and make our forces and our allies successful on the battlefield.”

Coston said that his team is ready to begin their mission.

“Each of our subordinate units wears a different patch, but we’re all united for a single purpose— to sustain the Soldiers,” said Coston.

For more photos visit the Providers on Flickr!

Command Sgt. Maj. Lenard Summers, left, 3rd Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major, and Col. Anthony Coston, right, 3rd SB commander, unfurl the brigade colors at a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 14 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.
Wranglers take over sustainment

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS CHRIS BRIDSON
4th RSSB PAO

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – The 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) uncased its colors and assumed authority from the 10th Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division during a ceremony at the Regional Command-East Joint Operations Center Flag Poles here Oct. 28.

“Today, we embark on another historical journey as the 4th Sustainment Brigade transitions to the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade and builds on the legacy left by our brothers and sisters,” said Col. Timothy D. Luedecking, 4th RSSB commander.

Missions of 4th RSSB include the initial standing up of Forward Logistical Bases across Afghanistan, continued retrograde and closure of current Forward Operating Bases, de-scoping of enduring bases throughout the CJOA-A, and redeployment and sustainment operations.

This was the sixth deployment overall for the outgoing Muleskinner Brigade who are heading back home to Fort Drum, New York, after nine months.

“It is most fitting that the 10th Sustainment Brigade closes out as the last sustainment brigade executing tactical sustainment operations in Afghanistan,” said Col. Willie Rios III, 10th Sustainment Brigade commander. “Since (the former) 10th Division Support Command deployed to Afghanistan in the first days of Operation Enduring Freedom in December 2001, this marks the fifth deployment to Afghanistan and sixth overall in the past thirteen years.”

During the deployment, the brigade conducted more than 680 convoy escort team operations, driving more than 46,000 miles throughout Afghanistan. The brigade successfully closed more than 60 commodity and service redistribution sites, including six supply support activities, two ammunition supply points, seven ration sites and 13 Army post offices.

After applauding the Muleskinner Brigade for their help and professionalism in the transfer of authority process, Brig. Gen. Flem “Donnie” B. Walker, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general welcomed Luedecking and the Wrangler Brigade to BAF.

“Although we bid farewell to a great command team and a superb Army unit, the Army always gets it right and replaces them with another outstanding unit,” said Walker. “The Wranglers have an unmatched reputation and are a model Sustainment Brigade - and there is no doubt in my mind that they are ready for this challenge.

“...The Wranglers will lead this mission setting the standard for discipline and mission accomplishment living by our motto, “Just get it done the Wrangler way,” said Luedecking.
Financial Sustainers answer the call

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Soldiers of the 266th Financial Management Support Center based out of Kaiserslautern, Germany, held a transfer of authority ceremony with the 469th Financial Management Support Center based out of New Orleans Oct. 4 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

During the ceremony, the 469th FMSC assumed responsibility for theater financial management operations from the 266th FMSC.

Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams, commanding general, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), presided over the ceremony and praised the accomplishments of the 266th FMSC Soldiers and also talked about the importance of their mission.

“As we all know, combat operations are costly, with that comes fiscal responsibility and financial management. Someone has to oversee those funds and ensure they are appropriated and managed correctly,” said Williams. “Thankfully, in our arsenal, we have units like the 266th and 469th FMSCs.”

Col. Thomas Seelig, director of the 266th FMSC, praised the officers and non-commissioned officers of the 266th, and said they engaged in a lot of rapid learning as soon as they hit the ground.

“Success in Army financial management is a team sport,” said Seelig, emphasizing the importance of having a cohesive team.

“Our officers and NCOs all stepped up and gave an all-star performance,” he said.

Col. Matthew Sims, director of the 469th FMSC, thanked the 266th for their dedication to the mission and said he looks forward to building on their success.

“Because of their good efforts, we’re hitting the ground running,” said Sims.

Williams noted that the 469th FMSC was preceded by an outstanding reputation and voiced confidence they would successfully pick up where the 266th FMSC left off.

“You will build upon that reputation by once again answering your nation’s call as you have always done. You have the mission. You know what to do. Get it done,” said Williams.

For the latest professional development tools, click here.
Desert medics pass baton in Kuwait

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1st LT. ISRA PANANON
3rd Medical Command Deployment Support

The 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support) Operational Command Post (Forward) held a transfer of authority ceremony Nov. 5 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to congratulate Detachment 7 and welcome Detachment 12.

Detachment 7 provided support to 25 rotating subordinate medical units and personnel consisting of more than 1,000 service members and civilian contractors throughout U.S. Army Central’s area of responsibility.

Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams, deputy commanding general-sustainment, U.S. Army Central, served as the keynote speaker and thanked the Soldiers for their support to the warfighters.

“Thank you for taking care of these great Americans and for providing outstanding medical support to our service members in Afghanistan, Kuwait and the entire U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. You have made a significant difference; enhancing our medical readiness and saving lives,” said Williams.

A major visit

Maj. Eden, a combat stress dog stationed in Afghanistan, visits 401st Army Field Support Brigade Soldiers Oct. 1. Combat stress dogs are used to help prevent and control the stresses of living in a combat zone by providing comfort and relaxation through physical interaction with Soldiers and civilians.

For more photos of Maj. Eden and his visit with the 401st, click here.
In addition to rolling stock, the 401st Army Field Support Brigade manages the turn-in and re-distribution of non-rolling stock.

Did you miss the First Team Veteran’s Day shout outs during the NFL Game Day Morning Show? We’ve got you covered!

It’s CMRE Cross Fit Time!

Watch U.S. Soldiers, deployed to Egypt, take part in a Force Skills Competition against 10 other nations also assigned to the Multinational Force and Observers. The competition included an obstacle course, 3K run, CLS, I.E.D. recognition and rifle marksmanship.
A DAY IN THE LIFE

Cpl. Darron McGlothin
1st Theater Sustainment Command
CBRN NCO and Team Leader
4/3 Cavalry Regiment
Task Force Sinai

"I joined the Army to start a foundation for the rest of my life."

"This is a unique job because you must be vigilant at all times."

Pfc. Brian Bartz
1st Theater Sustainment Command
MFO Tower Guard
4/3 Cavalry Regiment
Task Force Sinai

Meet Pfc. Bartz
He is a Cavalry Scout assigned to 4/3 Cav and a Missouri native. He serves as a tower guard on the Multinational Force and Observer’s South Camp and supports the main mission of the MFO by Observing and Reporting. Manning tower 3, Bartz is considered one of the most important lines of defense for South Camp. Bartz has been in the Army for 1 1/2 years and joined to better himself.

Facebook

Task-Force-Sinai-Best-in-the-Desert
That's a wrap: First Team Soldiers complete exercise with 13th Sustainment Command

FORT HOOD, TEXAS - Soldiers from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)’s command staff completed their final training exercise, Unified Endeavor ’15, in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Kuwait in December.

The 10-day exercise, which concluded Oct. 24, consisted of several simulated scenarios that challenged the staff’s ability to work through different situations they may encounter during their upcoming deployment.

The 13th SC(E) will assume the mission augmenting the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater)-Operational Command Post, the forward command headquarters of the senior logistics command for U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility.

The 1st TSC-OCP executes operational sustainment support, conducts Coalition/Joint Reception, Staging, and Onward Movement, redeployment, retrograde, and re-posture of forces, materiel, and sustainment infrastructure in order to support ongoing operations throughout the CENTCOM AOR.

During the deployment, the 13th SC(E) will be augmented by a group of organic 1st TSC Soldiers, making up about 25 percent of the man-power for the forward deployed command.

During the exercise, several 1st TSC Soldiers traveled to Fort Hood from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“This exercise proved a valuable opportunity for our Soldiers from both 1st TSC and 13th SC(E) to work together and generate a bond that will benefit us once we arrive in Kuwait,” said Col. James Hooper, distribution management chief, 1st TSC, who will serve as the 1st TSC-OCP chief of staff in Kuwait. “It will benefit the whole staff to integrate together in a garrison environment prior to our Soldiers arriving in theater.”

Lt. Col. James Morgan, the officer-in-charge of the 13th SC(E)’s personnel management section, said that it has been a great experience with integrating the 1st TSC personnel into his section.

“This is our future team,” Morgan said. “We were able to blend together flawlessly and learn each other’s traits and personalities, which will enable us to hit the ground running in Kuwait, avoiding much of the initial team-building process while we’re learning our new roles in the 1st TSC.”

Hooper said he looks forward to the deployment and working together with the combined team.

“I think we all gelled together well,” Hooper said. “It will be an exciting mission integrating all the pieces together and creating one cohesive team between the 13th SC(E) and the 1st TSC, both in Kuwait and back in Fort Bragg.”

Capt. Edla Nieto (right), essential personnel services officer, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), works alongside Capt. Mbukoyo Butler, strength management officer, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Oct. 23 during 13th SC(E)’s final training exercise prior to their upcoming deployment to Kuwait.
CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Senior leaders from 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and 3rd Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, met with Kuwait National Guard Sustainment Command leadership, Oct. 30, at Camp Tahreer, Kuwait.


During the meeting they discussed their experiences, best practices and issues they have encountered during sustainment operations in Kuwait. U.S. service members were given a tour of the Camp Tahreer maintenance facility where they had the opportunity to see warehouses, workshops, vehicles and equipment used by the KNG.

The KNG Sustainment Command conducts maintenance of tactical and non-tactical vehicles as well as supporting KNG units throughout Kuwait. The 1st TSC and 3rd Sust. Bde. provide sustainment for U.S. and coalition forces throughout U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility in southwest Asia.

First TSC and 3rd Sust. Bde. have conducted several bi-lateral exercises and exchanges with the KNG’s Sustainment Command, learning more about their respective techniques in sustainment operations. The commands plan to conduct more exchanges in the coming months.
Thank you for reading. Have a safe and happy holidays!

Achieving cultural change to stop sexual assault.

Change happens when Soldiers and Civilians at every level take the lead to Intervene, Act, and Motivate their peers to prevent Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in our Army. That change is happening now.

The Army will forever be a values-based community, and we must remain committed in protecting our most precious assets—our people and our values.

I AM Strong,
I AM Army Strong, and So Are You.


Loyalty  Duty  Respect  Selfless Service  Honor  Integrity  Personal Courage