

THE BAYONET

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 170TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

BLACK KNIGHTS EXCHANGE ROLES

JOINT OPERATIONS SUPPORT FOR BAYONET SOLDIERS

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FROM THE COMMANDER

BAYONET TEAM...

By Col. Patrick E. Matlock
170th IBCT Brigade Commander

I'd like to begin by wishing everyone a happy new year. I trust everyone has enjoyed the recent holidays, wherever they were spent.

I am glad to take this opportunity to speak to everyone at this very proud and important time for the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, as well as the Baumholder Military Community. As you read this, the Brigade's remaining deployed Soldiers are continuing operations, conducting the important tasks associated with preparing our follow-on unit, the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Ohio Army National Guard, for their mission and executing final meetings and advising opportunities with Afghan partners that will culminate a year of strongly forged bonds and partnership.

After a year of partnership and advising, the improvements made by Afghan National Army soldiers, Afghan Border Police, and the Afghan Uniform Police are significant, and their advancement as professional forces can be seen throughout our area of operations.

The Brigade's Soldiers have performed extremely well, once again, and have distinguished themselves throughout Afghanistan. The contributions our Soldiers have made to Operation Enduring Freedom have been invaluable and recognized at every level. As with the Bayonet Soldiers who have already returned to Baumholder, the rest of the Brigade returns after a successful tour, prepared to conduct a safe and healthy reintegration.

Each of our battalions has proven their unit as standard setters capable of accomplishing the most challenging tasks and missions. We're all very proud of the performance of the battalions and their Soldiers. The entire formation has exceeded expectations and executed every operation extremely well.

The work being done here, as well as the work being done in Baumholder, is setting us up for redeployment and transition back to Baumholder. As I've said throughout the deployment, the level of support from our Families has been vital in allowing our Soldiers to successfully conduct operations wherever they've been asked.

Task Force Aegis and our Soldiers in Baumholder are doing great work to prepare for the remainder of the Brigade's return. Throughout the deployment, our rear detachment has done outstanding work supporting our deployed Soldiers as well as our Family members in Baumholder and elsewhere.

Most recently, TF Aegis received 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 4th Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment and about half the Brigade's personnel back in Baumholder and assisted them through the redeployment and reintegration process, allowing Soldiers to return to their homes and rejoin their loved ones. Thanks to everyone there for the great job you continue to do.

I want to once again thank everyone for the sacrifices and hard work that make our Brigade successful each and every day. As the remainder of the Brigade concludes its mission here in Afghanistan and redeploys, I hope everyone will take advantage of the upcoming block leave periods to reconnect and spend well deserved time with friends, Families and loved ones.

I look forward to a safe and well executed return for our Soldiers. This redeployment will be another of many for Baumholder and my hope is that it will be our safest and smoothest yet.

"BAYONETS!"



B7 SENDS

SOLDIERS, LEADERS, AND FAMILIES OF THE 170TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM...



By Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston
170th IBCT Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Season's greetings to the Soldiers, Leaders, and Families of the Bayonet Brigade. I would like to extend my warmest wishes to those who spent this holiday season with their loved ones. As for the rest of us here in Regional Command North and Regional Command South, our thoughts are with you and everyday spent here in Afghanistan is another day closer to returning home. The Soldiers of the Bayonet Brigade continue to perform at an extremely high level. We have taken on the arduous task of preparing to receive the 37th IBCT. Soon members of the 37th will begin to arrive in theater and we will begin the initial redeployment of our Brigade. I am very proud of the work that the Soldiers of this organization continue to day on a daily basis.

3-4th Infantry has completed their deployment, and some of the members of 4-70th Armor have redeployed too. Both of these units did an outstanding job and represented the Brigade well. Each of these units had distinctly different missions that were difficult, but they executed all missions with ease; they are true professionals and outstanding Soldiers.

In order to comply with the president's mandate of reducing forces in Afghanistan by 10,000 before Jan. 1, we have sent many Soldiers throughout the brigade back to Baumholder. These Soldiers completed their mission and will support the rest of the Brigade as we prepare to redeploy beginning in January and culminating with the last elements of the brigade scheduled to return to Baumholder in mid-February. A large portion of the members of the Brigade that have already redeployed did so in order to attend professional development courses. To date, these Soldiers have represented the Brigade

well, not only by graduating from a variety of schools, but setting the standard. We've had several members of the Brigade recognized as distinguished honor graduates, honor graduates and on the commandant's list. As of Dec. 18, the Brigade has sent more than 200 Soldiers to professional development schools; great job to all of those individuals. You not only represented the Brigade well but also yourselves.

The holiday period is here. And with several units conducting multiple missions, I would ask everyone to be safe and look out for each other. Families that still have their loved ones deployed may feel extra pressure because their Soldiers are not home, while other Soldiers have returned. Please continue to be vigilant these last couple of months of the deployment and through the reintegration period with regards to individual and family well-being.

I continue to circulate our entire area of operation, and I am pleased to report that all Soldiers remain highly motivated and mission focused. Col. Matlock and I are proud of the work that continues here and the work that is being done by our rear detachment back in Baumholder.

In closing, I want to thank all the family members for continuing to support your loved ones deployed by providing care packages, letters, emails, pictures, etc. It is your strength and love that compels all of us to finish our mission safely and get back to you as soon as possible.

B7 OUT

"STRENGTH, HONOR, DISCIPLINE!"



Black Knights Exchange Roles

U.S. Army Capt. Harry Centeno, the commander of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stands in formation during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Mike Spann, Afghanistan Nov. 20. Soldiers with B Battery relinquished responsibility to Ohio National Guardsmen with B Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The incoming unit will now provide security and transportation for NATO visitors and help train the Afghan National Security Force in northern Afghanistan.

**Story and photos by
Spc. Jazz Burney**
170th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP MIKE SPANN, Afghanistan - While a guidon draped motionlessly in the air, six Soldiers stood next to a platoon comprised of their replacements during a transfer of authority ceremony here Nov. 20.

Ohio National Guardsmen with B Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team assumed responsibility of security and training operations from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, attached to 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

During the last 12 months, U.S. Army Soldiers with "Black Knights" Battery helped train more than 4,200 Afghan National Army recruits at the Camp Shaheen Remote Basic Warrior Training site. They also managed civil infrastructure projects and completed

roughly 800 security patrols throughout northern and eastern Afghanistan.

"Every moment serving with you has been a pleasure. You have upheld the standards and demonstrated excellence for our [Afghan National Security Force] partners," said U.S. Army Col. Robin Fontes, the Regional Support Command North commander with NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan.

U.S. Army Soldiers with B Battery supported the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan by providing security and trans-



U.S. Army leadership stand before their Soldiers and units' colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Mike Spann, Afghanistan Nov. 20.

portation to NATO and civilian visitors.

At the ceremony, the incoming commander, praised and encouraged the remaining Soldiers of B Battery.

"It has been mentioned that we have big shoes to fill, and I agree. You have set the standard and we look forward to working in your stead," said Ohio National Guard Capt. Tom Rose, a Kent, Ohio, native, now the B Company commander.

A key focus for Rose is to become familiar with his area of responsibility, he said.

"You can train all you want but its not until you get on the ground that you see what's going on," Rose said.

Soldiers with 1-148th Infantry Battalion deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom after training at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss.

The six Soldiers with B Battery are scheduled to join their platoon in redeploying to Baumholder, Germany, in the near future.



Bayonet Soldiers Depend on a Functioning Team to Support Brigade

**Story and photos by
Spc. Jazz Burney**
170th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP MIKE SPANN, Afghanistan - In combat operations, having and managing assets on the battlefield can be a deciding factor in the success or failure of a mission. This is a reality Soldiers working inside the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's joint operations center provide 24 hours a day.

"The brigade [joint operations center] is not ran by one person, this is a team," said U.S. Army Capt. Ben Girard, a Decatur, Ill., native, now the brigade's day shift battle captain.

Composed of joint service members including U.S. Navy and Air Force, the joint operations center, or JOC, provides rapid response, supporting troops conducting combat missions.

Instead of an assault rifle or pistol, these service members fight with systems including a computer program known as Command Post of the Future.

"[Command Post of the Future] is a tool to facilitate the collection and sharing of information to create a common operating picture," said Maj. William Higgins, a Mifflinville, Penn., native, now the 170th Infantry Brigade chief of operations.

The team also functions as advisers to the brigade's subordinate units' individual job specialties, more commonly known as shops.

There are roughly 10 shops that provide information ranging from personnel statistics, intelligence reports, medical evacuation capabilities and aerial fire support.

The experience level of soldiers working in the JOC varies from seat to seat. For some, this is their first combat deployment. The majority, however, uses previous combat experience as a point of reference to both mentor and provide as-



U.S. Army Capt. Christopher Stachura, the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team current operations officer, walks up the steps of the brigade's joint operations center at Camp Mike Spann, Afghanistan Nov. 16.



U.S. Army Sgt. Stephanie Spurs, a logistics non-commissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, at the brigade's joint operations center at Camp Mike Spann, Afghanistan Nov. 16.

sets to their comrades on the battlefield.

"We used to go out everyday for like 10 hours, patrolling in my first deployment. Now that I'm here I remember what it was like and can better provide

whatever is needed for soldiers to accomplish their mission," said Sgt. Antonio Perez, a Houston native, now the brigade battle non-commissioned officer.

The team credits their success to constant internal communication throughout the day. It is common to hear conversations of a Soldier's upbringings, previous deployment memories, that day's physical training workout, to the latest sports highlights. All is open game for these Soldiers who work out of the "big plywood room," Girard said.

To speed up their reaction time to battlefield activity, soldiers rehearse collecting and communicating information around the stadium-seating inspired operations center.

"We pride ourselves on having never missed a medevac request," said Girard.

To better inform the brigade commander about the battalions, there are soldiers who serve as liaison officers. These liaisons keep in close contact with the battalions and collect information to produce an accurate picture of their units' operations.

Earlier this year, field artillerymen fought through an increase of insurgent activity, which resulted in the lives of three Soldiers taken in combat.

"[Troops-in-contact situations] are hard because we see the information as it's happening. We look for [identification numbers], to see if it's one of the Soldiers we may know," said Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Anderson, a Cochran, Ga., native, now the 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery liaison officer.

In times of enemy fire or roadside bomb attacks, this team remains professional to ensure that a bad situation doesn't turn worse.

"Those are my Soldiers, they're like my family. Just like anything I'm protecting my family by giving them what they need when they need it most," said Anderson.



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Christopher Payne, the senior adviser with Imam Sahib District Advisory Team, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, meets with Afghan Police Officers Dec. 17.

170th Brigade Shifts to Security Force Assistance Teams

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Christopher Klutts

170th IBCT Public Affairs

JOINT COMBAT OUTPOST FORTITUDE, Afghanistan - On an outpost in northern Kunduz province, no larger than a baseball field, U.S. Army Soldiers with 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are immersed in partnership. The closeness they share with the Afghan Uniform Police's Imam Sahib District Headquarters was not always so. It was a relationship formed through dependence; the Soldiers received water for showers from a well on the policemen's side of the compound.

The police passed buckets of water to Soldiers through a hole in a barrier separating the headquarters from the outpost. The hole was replaced with a door after an agreement between the district's chief of police and the U.S. commander. Since then, the two forc-

es have shared much more than water.

As they prepare to redeploy to Baumholder, Germany in early 2012, Soldiers with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment have more than home on their minds. They, and the rest of the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, have adopted a new organizational structure composed of security force assistance teams.

The brigade's teams advise Afghan police at the corps, provincial and district levels across Regional Command North to improve their tactical and administrative processes. As the International Security Assistance Force continues to transfer responsibility to Afghan forces, 170th soldiers like the B Company "Bushmasters" have changed their focus as much as their title.

"For the [Afghan Uniform Police] to sustain the progress they've made, they need to be independent. They're not ready yet, but they're on the way. And that's what

[advising] is all about, getting them ready," said 1st Lt. Christopher Payne, a Louisville, Ky., native, now the senior adviser with Imam Sahib District Advisory Team, one of two advisory teams with B Company.

Payne and his Soldiers have transitioned from a traditional infantry platoon structure, maintaining a modified security element for patrols and administration. But as advisers, they work in two-man teams to improve Afghan police in the areas of intelligence, logistics, maintenance, administration and training, and rule of law.

In Kunduz province, 1st Lt. Christopher Payne, a Louisville, Ky., native, now the senior adviser with Imam Sahib District Advisory Team, meets with Afghan police officers Dec. 17. Nesting a noncommissioned officer and a junior-enlisted Soldier with an Afghan police counterpart has yielded closer cooperation than the two forces had experienced earlier in the year. When they arrived to the outpost, B



Company Soldiers were "more partners than advisers" who'd often directly participate in security operations, Payne said.

But as Payne and his Soldiers become more deeply entrenched in the practices of their counterparts, they've become advisers in ethics as much as in technique.

The new B Company is behind the scenes, and its predominantly combat-trained Soldiers have gained new skills like intelligence analysis and paperwork administration. They've learned to navigate a foreign bureaucracy to show the Afghan police how to navigate their own.

The Cow Eater

"Why are you going to arrest me? I'm going back in the house, to eat cow," said Spc. Trevor Darland. The Afghan policeman who was to notionally detain Darland laughed but did not give up. His comrades were watching. According to the scenario laid out by the U.S. trainers, Darland had eaten all the cows in the village. He must be brought to justice.

Sgt. Alton Farr, a Tampa, Fla., native now a rule of law adviser with Imam Sahib District Advisory Team, directs an Afghan policeman during a training session at Joint Combat Outpost Fortitude Dec. 18. "Humor is always a good way to teach," said Darland, a San Diego native, now an assistant rule of law adviser with Imam Sahib District Advisory Team.

Darland and his supervisor, Sgt. Alton Farr, both infantrymen, teach police at Imam Sahib the Afghan Uniform Police Code of Conduct and how to integrate its values into their duties as patrolmen.

"It seems basic to us," said Farr, a Tampa, Fla., native, who is on his fourth combat deployment. "But to them, its eye opening and ground breaking stuff."

Darland and Farr learned about the police force's code of conduct and patrol tactics from Dutch police mentors at Forward Operating Base Kunduz in October. Since then, they've incorporated scenario-based training into modules sanctioned by the Afghanistan Ministry of Interior.

Farr said a normal classroom setting does not provide the police an opportunity to learn by making tough choices without consequences. The scenarios allow growth from experience and also bring out hard questions: Should I shoot someone if

they pull a knife? What do I do if a fellow soldier runs away during a firefight?

During the case of the mysterious cow eater, Darland pulled \$100 cash from his pocket and offered it to the policeman in exchange for his freedom. A training session that started with patrolling in different formations around Fortitude had evolved into a lesson in bribery.



U.S. Army soldiers with Imam Sahib District Advisory Team, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, walk to the Afghan Uniform Police's Imam Sahib District Headquarters Dec. 17.

An Afghan policeman searches Spc. Trevor Darland, a San Diego native, now an assistant rule of law adviser with Imam Sahib District Advisory Team, during a training session at Joint Combat Outpost Fortitude Dec. 18. "It's not just standing out there guarding a bank or roughing up the Taliban," said Capt. Vincent Bernatis, a Broomfield, Colo., native, now the 2-18 Infantry Battalion rule of law adviser. "That's just a small part of it. And [Darland and Farr] have done a good job of taking an abstract concept and showing how it applies to the guys on the street."

A Dry Tank

Staff Sgt. Julio Latorre, a Panama City, Panama native, now a maintenance adviser with the Imam Sahib team, said he works hand in hand with the team's

logistics adviser to help the police manage their equipment. The relationship between maintenance and logistics is always close but more so for the Afghan police.

One of the advantages of the team's collocation with their counterparts is that issues don't take long to surface, said Capt. Camden Jordan, a Harrodsburg, Ky., native now the B Company commander.

Outside the company's dining tent, an Afghan police officer told Latorre he was having problems with a generator. He wore 2-18 Infantry Battalion's crest over his breast pocket. He said that even with fuel, though he had none, the generator wouldn't start.

Latorre and Spc. Robert Snoots, a generator mechanic and Latorre's assistant adviser, asked the officer questions as if diagnosing the generator as a patient.

"They should make it a law to sell generators in pairs," said Snoots, a Frederick, Md., native. "A backup is vital."

Latorre said the generators have been an ongoing problem for the Imam Sahib police. Inherited from another unit, they're not on the policemen's official property book. Without being on the property book, the police can't order replacement parts. And that's where the logistics adviser comes in.

In addition to teaching the police classes, Latorre and Snoots identify items missing from the property book while assisting the policemen with maintenance checks. They give descriptions of missing or damaged items to the logistics team who work with the district police's logistics officer to update the book. But the process takes time and patience.

"But that's why we're here, to help them fix their system. To help them make things happen," Latorre said.



U.S. Army Sgt. Alton Farr, a rule of law adviser with Imam Sahib District Advisory Team, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, directs an Afghan policeman during a training session Dec. 18.



Soldiers with 589th Signal Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team pose with care packages sent by students at Ernest Ward Middle School in Walnut Hill, Fla., at Camp Spann in December.



Spc. Heidi Machev, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, hugs a girl at Mazare Sharif Children's Support Center Jan. 8.



Soldiers with 24th Brigade Support Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team train for the SFAT mission, November 2011.



Spx. Donnel Mosby with 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team shakes the Latvian president's hand and receives an award for greatly supporting Latvian troops in Afghanistan in November.



Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in the serving line at the new dining facility in Forward Operating Base Kunduz Dec. 25.



Soldiers with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stand in formation during their end of tour awards ceremony Oct. 11.



Pfc. Vincent Sodano with 4th Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team retires the colors from Combat Outpost Tabar on A Company's final day at the outpost in December.



1-84TH FA HQ



40TH EN HQ



HHC 170TH HQ



24TH BSB HQ



2-18 IN BN HQ



3-4TH IN BN HQ



470TH BN HQ

FROM THE FORMATION

Want to see your photo in the next Bayonet? Submit a .jpg to the 170th IBCT Public Affairs office at christopher.klutts@afghan.swa.army.mil

Christmas for Thunder Soldiers

Story and photos by
1st Lt. Jessie Moreno

1-84 Field Artillery Battalion

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GRIFFIN, Afghanistan - There is holiday cheer in the air, and MERRY CHRISTMAS signs hang everywhere. Miniature, small and medium trees were lit in offices, the chapel and the dining facility for all to see. The Soldiers of 1-84 Field Artillery didn't have a white Christmas - not a speck of snow on the ground - that did not dampen the holiday spirit of the Thunder family. Christmas night was filled with music and talent from a few brave Soldiers willing to perform on stage.

The Talent Show was kicked off by the Battalion Commander reading a Soldier's version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," followed by

Pfc. Jason Hunter, Sgt. Donal McCrary and Pvt. Levi Koch who performed "The Star-Spangled Banner." The talent portion included a stand-up comedy routine by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tulio Morales, a guitar solo by Koch, lip-sync karaoke by Pfc. Dehn "Chan Chan" and Spc. Kenzie Fuller, and a dancing routine by 2nd Lt. Eric Felix.

Also, Indian Trio performed a native Punjab dance. And last but not least, there were two very talented singers who rocked the house. Hunter and McCrary both impressed the crowd by belting out a few covers of musical greats to round out the talent show. At the conclusion of the talent show, the best performance was decided by applause from the crowd and McCrary took the win in a tight battle between with Hunter. Following the talent show was the Christmas Grande Finale.

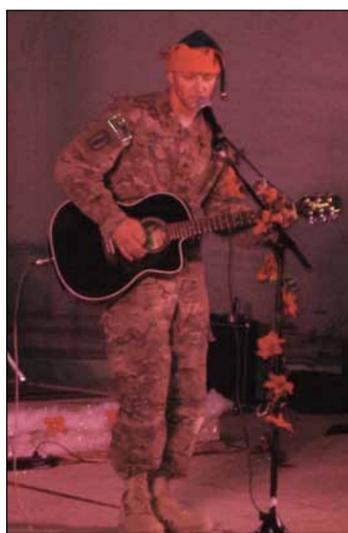
Soldiers on FOB Griffin were given the great pleasure to experience a performance by the



The Royal Norwegian Marines Brass Band performed some beautiful holiday music.



Indian Trio performs a native Punjab dance.



Sgt. Donald McCrary rockin' the guitar

Royal Norwegian Marines Brass Band. As our close partners here in Farya b province, the Norwegians were happy to share this talented band which was touring northern Af-

ghanistan during the holiday season. They expertly performed many familiar pieces. "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," "Hallelujah," "Cinderella" and "Snow White" theme songs and a multitude of Christmas favorites such as, "Let It Snow" and "Winter Wonderland." It was an impressive finish to a fun night and a little something special for all of the U.S. Soldiers, international service members and contractors that had to call Griffin home for the holidays.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tulio Morales shows off his inner comedian, G-rated style.

Holiday Readiness

Story and photos by
Rachel Dooley

Family Readiness Support Assistant

This year, the 170th IBCT Family readiness groups have had just as much to celebrate as they have to prepare for. Since October, Family readiness groups across the Brigade welcomed home Soldiers at more fourteen different Welcome Home Ceremonies, to even include one on Christmas Eve. Along with welcoming home Soldiers, FRGs have been making sure that their Soldiers still deployed have a wonderful holiday season and that the FRG members celebrate too.

Welcoming home Soldiers is more than a ceremony at the Hall of Champions. Months before Soldiers are due to return, members of Task Force Aegis and FRG's begin preparing for their arrival in various ways.

"The Family Readiness Groups of the 40th Engineer Battalion have been busy reading the barracks for the return of our Soldiers," said Michelle Mims, the 40th Engineer Battalion Family readiness support assistant. "From moping to dusting and making beds, our family members have been working hard to ensure our Soldiers come home to clean rooms, and even a little home asked love."

Family members with 40th Engineer aren't alone in the clean-up process. Almost all the FRGs from across the Brigade have been getting to work making "welcome home" signs, goody bags and deep cleaning barracks.

Many Soldiers with the 170th IBCT have already redeployed to Baumholder, but many are still forward deployed and the FRGs are making sure they're not forgotten during this Holiday season. Amaryllis Diaz the 24th Brigade Support Battalion Family readiness support assistant, explained how their FRG has readied the Soldiers downrange for the holidays.

"24th BSB Family Readiness Groups

made sure that forward deployed units could celebrate with making snow men, putting up Christmas trees, and receiving stockings from the great organization Stockings.org," she said.



ley, the 1-84 Field Artillery Battalion's Family readiness support assistant.

With all the attention paid to sending goodies downrange and welcoming home Soldiers, many might think that the FRGs wouldn't have time to celebrate the Holidays themselves. But, these multitasking groups don't forget celebrating the Holidays with their Soldiers, friends, and families here at U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder. "We did a holiday party for all of our families and Soldiers here and Santa dropped by to hear what kids young and old wanted for Christmas," said Paige Vlieger, the Brigade's headquarters and headquarters company Family readiness group leader.

Santa Clause made several appearances this holiday season with the Family readiness groups; he also came out to visit Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4-70th Armor Battalion at their holiday meeting and party.

"HHC 4-70th AR had another successful FRG meeting for kids and spouses on December 6, 2011. We discussed redeployment with the Highlander kids and fight club with the spouses thanks to our amazing ACS folks. Even Santa dropped in to give out certificates and candy to our amazing Soldiers and Families. The kids loved to get their picture taken with Santa; even our biggest kids! It was just another fun filled, little messy, meeting," said Sarika King, the Family readiness group leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4-70th Armor Battalion.

The holiday season is always a busy time of year for anyone, but the FRGs of the 170th IBCT took this season in stride. FRG members have dedicated themselves to not only spreading Holiday cheer, but also making sure everyone is welcomed home. The FRGs of the 170th IBCT are continuing to do what they do best, and that is readying and taking caring of Soldiers and their Families. For that, we tip our hats to these fine volunteers.



Soldiers with 1-84 Field Artillery Battalion received stockings donated by www.stockingsforsoldiers.org from their company first sergeants. The stockings were filled with goodies to give the Soldiers a little holiday cheer while away from family and friends.

"Being deployed this time of year is always hard, and the Family readiness groups of 1-84 FA are working hard to make sure Soldiers have a little holiday joy in Afghanistan," said Justin Ris-



Chaplain's Corner



By Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Dunn
170th IBCT Brigade Chaplain

As we all prepare for redeployment, I am constantly reminded of what we have waiting for us on the home front and I am reminded of the verse - yep, Word of The Day time - Taken from Luke 12:48

... To those that much is given much will be required.

Basically, I am reminded on a daily basis of the many blessing we have as Americans, and I wanted to say thank you to all our supporters. The Bayonet Pantry received almost \$60,000 worth of love / care packages. You made our job so much

easier! Yes, the Soldier's job is to stop the bad guys but also to befriend and create trust with the Afghans, and you helped more than you will ever know!!

So many times I watched the Soldiers take the simple gifts of love and support you sent them outside the wire and hand them out to children and families. Then there were the gifts that went above and beyond the call of duty; gifts for hospitals, orphanages, schools and day care centers.

The children of this generation that witness the U.S. and coalition Soldiers helping them, their families and friends will remember those acts of compassion well after the 170th IBCT is long gone. What we do here today we pray will have

long lasting implications.

We are certainly blessed - and you, our supporters and loved ones are our most precious blessing!

We will never be able to express to you our deepest heart felt gratitude for the love, prayers and support you provided us with - we found in them the strength we needed to carry on!

We are almost home - keep those prayers coming for us and for all the Soldiers that will continue to carry the torch after we leave.

Much Love and Respect!

- Chaplain Steve Dunn



Post Deployment Health Assessment

By Maj. Stephen Harper
170th IBCT Brigade Surgeon

I wanted to take my opportunity in this issue of "The Bayonet" to discuss post deployment health assessments, PDHAs, that we are currently conducting in theater.

The PDHA is designed to be done no earlier than 30 days before the redeployment date and no later than 30 after the redeployment date. As you are probably aware from having completed your own, the process entails a self reported medical history with an emphasis on deployment related injuries and then an interview with a provider to discuss those concerns.

The PDHA is not a comprehensive head-to-toe physical exam, but we do strive to discuss every concern that a Soldier may have and come up with a plan for how we will care for those issues when we get back to Germany.

The plan may involve watchful waiting and following up with the unit physician assistant, or PA, at sick call, or may involve a referral to a specialist depending on the specific clinical scenario.



Just because you may not recommend a consult does not mean that we are not taking your injury or illness seriously. While we have been away from access to advanced medical care for some time now, we still must follow sound clinical decision making and that may mean conservative treatment followed by several months of physical therapy before we can justify ordering a Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRI, study on that chronic knee pain.

Regardless of where you may be at in your treatment, performing the PDHA in theater, as we have been, is definitely giving us a jump start on your medical care in that we can start treatment or order consults if required rather than waiting for you to get back from your block leave. Of note while we cannot actually place the consults to the electronic medical

record from downrange, when you go through post-deployment processing, the medical providers at the health clinic will be reviewing the PDHA's and inputting the consults.

How you can help us, is by being completely honest about what is bothering you, whether it is an anger and anxiety issue or a chronic orthopedic complaint. We can evaluate your situation and make sure that you get started on the right path. What else we will need from you, is to follow up on our recommendations. Perform the physical therapy, get the laboratory and radiographic examinations that we order (making sure to follow up with your unit PA afterwards), and schedule any specialty consults that we have ordered.

If you forget to mention something or if something else comes up after you have completed the PDHA please see your unit PA during sick call, make an appointment with primary care at the Baumholder Health Clinic, or if it is not too urgent you will get another chance to discuss your deployment related health concerns at 90-180 days after redeployment during the post deployment health reassessment.

The Bayonet News Team

170th IBCT Commander
Col. Patrick Matlock

Official 170th IBCT Website
www.170infantry.army.mil

Please forward all submissions, suggestions and concerns to
Staff Sgt. Christopher Klutts at
christopher.klutts@afghan.swa.army.mil

170th IBCT Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston

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