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From the Desk of the Commander, 1244th Transportation Company, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Dear Family, Friends, and loved ones,

Well we have made it another month here in the great sandbox and are doing well. Missions have been moving along with logistical moves throughout the Kuwait Theatre. Our higher command is making every effort to maintain our operations in Kuwait. As such, the troops have been added to additional taskings to maintain operations and other necessities in and around our camp area. We are trying to keep the soldiers as close to home base as possible. Occasionally there are missions up North, however they are normally very short and force protection is such that we can handle up to a platoon size element if necessary.

We have not received any word of our return home at this time. We are estimated to complete our 120 day extension 15 Aug 04. With this information, I would caution any family member from planning vacations, cruises, etc. until you have definitive word that your soldier is back in the states at Ft McCoy. If you have already made arrangements with payments, I would suggest working with your travel agent to explain the situation of your loved one being deployed for an extended amount of time. Most agencies are very cooperative, however, if you run into a situation whereby the agency becomes difficult, please contact Mr Brown or our peacetime battalion, 309-244-7236. LTC Hall has prepared a letter just for this situation. Also, you may logon to www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov and go to Consumer Fraud to file a complaint that is investigated by A.G. Madigan's offices. This, of course, is an extreme measure. However, I do have troops that are being targeted for the fact that they are military personnel. Please do not wait until the last minute to get your particular situation resolved. Most agencies require a copy of the original orders, deployment orders, and extension orders. If you need this documentation, please contact your service member so that we can assist you in being proactive.

Some of our troops activities:

- SPC Joseph Gemayel's presentation at the FRG regarding conditions and missions while home on leave
- Movement of over 62.4 MM lbs of logistics and travel of over 8000 miles during Operation Flash during the period of 18 Apr – 2 May
- Appointment of CSM Geske as the new 733rd QM Bn Command Sergeant Major, welcome back into the fold!
- SPC Noel Calhoun won 2nd Place in the recent Chess Tournament



Our condolences to:

- the soldiers of the 1544th Transportation Co and the family of SPC Jeremy Ridlen
- the soldiers and families of the 333rd Military Police Company for their recent combat loss of one of our brethren

Well wishes, Good Health, and God Speed to:

- SGT John Files' mother recent illness
- SFC Milton Matos recent departure from Theatre for surgery at Brooke Army Med Ctr (BAMC) in Ft Sam Houston
- SGT Timothy Washington's recent departure for surgery/evaluation at BAMC
- SGT Henry Padilla's recent injury and recovery
- SPC Wesley Perkins recent return to the states for a family illness
- SPC Orlando Herrod for the recent birth of his daughter

Many thanks for recent contributions from:

- Southern Illinois Yellow Ribbon Campaign
- American Legion Ladies Auxillary, Robert E. Coulter Post #1941, Western SP VFW Post #10778, LaGrange, IL
- Cardinal Health, CP/PBDS, Manufacturing Division, McGaw Park, IL
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Sincerely,
CPT Rhonda L. Petersen
Commander

State Orders

The Illinois Department of Military Affairs issued orders in Feb03 to activate the 1244th. It was those orders that allowed our dependent family members to obtain Military ID cards for insurance, commissary and other benefits. The Family ID cards were reissued in Feb04 to continue the family coverage. The current State orders expire August 15th along with most dependent ID cards.

With our soldiers currently serving the 90-120 day extension and no clear return date in sight the State has issued amended orders for all 1244th soldiers deployed in Apr03. These orders will be mailed to each soldier's home address. The orders will allow dependents with ID cards to have them renewed with a new expiration date of 14Oct 04. The FRG Council will work with the State and our Battalion Headquarters to arrange a date for ID card renewals at the North Riverside Armory.

This date does not reflect when the 1244th will return home. It is a date anticipated to be well beyond the return, but long enough to cover all dependents for the maximum time period.

Chaplain hotline

Hotline to assist families, Chaplain hotline number: 1-800-443-2985

If you have an email address, please let us know. This information is very important to us. Contact us by emailing the FRG at frg1244tc@yahoo.com as soon as possible. In the subject box write:

Family of 1244th email address request.

Be sure to include your full name, your soldier's name, your relation to the soldier, and your phone number so we can reach you if we have any questions. Thank you so much. **AS CONFUSING AS IT SEEMS WE ARE NOW BACK ON YAHOO! EMAIL IS THE MOST EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER AND OTHER INFORMATION.**

<http://yahogroups.com>

<http://www.il.ngb.mil.1244/trans>



USO Build a Bear

Several of our families took part in the USO sponsored Build A Bear program May 15th at Navy Pier. The USO has been and continues to very supportive of the families of the 1244th. The families that participated built bears for their children or bears to be distributed to other children of deployed service members. Parking, lunch and for those interested a visit to the IMAX theatre were provided

Condolences

The Families of the 1244th extend their condolences and support to the family of 1544th member SPC Jeremy Ridle, of Clinton, IL. SPC Clinton serving in Iraq with his twin brother was killed when a truck rigged with explosives detonated next to his supply convoy.

Shades of Green Reopens

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL - More retirees and their families can exclaim "I'm going to Disney World," thanks to the recent expansion of Shades of Green Armed Forces Recreation Center on Walt Disney World Resort. With the reopening, the resort has more than doubled in size with the addition of 299 rooms to the previous 287. Shades of Green is adjacent to Disney's Palm Golf Course and just outside the gates of Mickey Mouse's famous house. Guests are provided transportation to all Walt Disney World attractions and early entry into select venues inside the Magic Kingdom. Self-supporting and operated with non-appropriated funds, Shades of Green is reserved for active duty and retired members of the uniformed services, Reserves and National Guard, as well as active and retired DoD civilians and their families.

Room rates are based on rank and range from \$70 to \$225 per night for a standard room and \$82 to \$119 for a poolside room. For room reservations at Shades of Green, call 888-593-2242 or fax to 407-824-3665. The hotel's direct number is 407-824-3400 and fax is 407-824-3460. An online reservation system is coming soon. Reservations are accepted up to one year in advance. Six to eight months in advance are traditionally is required to secure a room. Holidays and long weekends tend to get booked a full year in advance.

Birthdays

Congratulations to the following soldiers that have **BIRTHDAYS** in the month of June;
 CORRAL, DANIA AVILES, CARMELO COOKSEY, LEONARDO VILLANUEVA, JOHNATHAON GOLDEN, WAYNE WALTON, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, JASON



Coming Events

FRG Council Meetings Every third Wednesday, 7PM at the Armory, Open to all, next meeting **June 8th**.

May 28th-31st, Kane County Cougar Baseball game, Geneva. Free admission with a Military ID.

June 4th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. 733rd QM Battalion representatives are scheduled to answer questions.
Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

June 21st, 7:05PM 1244th Night at Joliet Jack Hammer Baseball Game, Joliet. Ticket & food package \$4.50, contact Carol May for reservations (630-637-1946)

June 25th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. 733rd QM Battalion representatives are scheduled to answer questions.
Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

July 9th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. 733rd QM Battalion representatives are scheduled to answer questions.
Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

July 17th, Time TBD Family Picnic, at the Armory Details to be available.

July 25th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. 733rd QM Battalion representatives are scheduled to answer questions.
Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Acontecimientos Que vienen

Las sesiones del Consejo de FRG cada tercer miércoles, los 7PM en el arsenal, se abren en todos, reunión siguiente de Junio el 8.

Noche de la pizza de junio 4to, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. 733rd Los representantes del batallón de QM programar contestar a preguntas. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

De junio el 21, 1244th noche de los 7:05PM en el juego del béisbol del martillo de Joliet Gato, Joliet. Paquete \$4.50, carol mayo del boleto y del alimento del contacto para las reservaciones (630-637-1946)

Noche de la pizza de junio 25to, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. 733rd Los representantes del batallón de QM programar contestar a preguntas. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

Noche de la pizza de julio 9, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. 733rd Los representantes del batallón de QM programar contestar a preguntas. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

De julio el 17, comida campestre de la familia del tiempo TBD, en los detalles del arsenal a estar disponibles.

Noche de la pizza de julio 25, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. 733rd Los representantes del batallón de QM programar contestar a preguntas. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

Joliet Jack Hammer's 1244th Night

The 1244th will have a night at the Joliet Jack Hammer's Baseball game, Monday June 21st. Game time is 7:00 PM, when the Jack Hammer's play the St Paul Saints. The Jack Hammer's and the FRG Council have worked together to arrange a package for our families. Our package will include ½ price box seat tickets, a hot dog and a Pepsi for each person, this will be a the **total price of \$4.50 each**.

To assure that we have sufficient tickets for our families, we need to know exactly how many people plan to attend. Please contact Carol May (630-637-1946 or clmay@wowway.com) no later than **June 7th** to confirm your seats at the ball game.

We will attempt to have a National Guard bus from North Riverside to the game and back but at this time that is **not** confirmed. Details will be provided later to those planning to attend.

Driving Directions and Parking:

Free parking for Silver Cross Field is located in various parking lots along Jefferson West of the Ballpark, including the courthouse and Metra parking lots. On Scott. North of Jefferson both the Bank One parking deck near Scott and Van Buren and in the City of Joliet parking deck at Scott and Clinton. Another City of Joliet parking deck, located on Ottawa at Van Buren, is available for free parking. Free parking is also available at all City of Joliet parking meters on game days.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

FROM I-80 – I-80 from either East or West to Chicago St. (Rt. 53) North (Exit #132B). Chicago North to Washington (Just after the railroad viaduct). Right on Washington, follow the above parking directions and/or signs to parking.

FROM I-55 – I-55 from either North or South to I-80 East. I-80 East to Chicago St. (Rt. 53) North (Exit #132B) Chicago North to Washington (Just after the railroad viaduct). Right on Washington, follow the above parking directions and/or signs to parking.

The FRG Council and Committee Chairs;

Leader:

Bob Brown,
(630) 393-1413
blkbt7@aol.com
soldier, Greg Brown

Secretary:

Theresa Lemmer,
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theresalemmer22@hotmail.com
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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/frg1244tc/>

See us at:

We're on the Web!





1244th Transportation Company

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