

Company C, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation (GSAB)



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T H E Family Readiness Group

Camp Beuhring
Kuwait

August
2012

From the Commander

GREETINGS FROM KUWAIT!

Major Mark Stevens

Charlie Company Family and Friends-

Hello Maine and Oregon! August is more than 50% complete. I am amazed at how fast the month has gone by. We have been kept quite busy since the last newsletter and there is much more on the horizon. No major issues to report, just busy doing what we do... help our patients, fly and maintain our aircraft, and manage the day-to-day obstacles. The pace has been busy but relatively constant which certainly helps make the days go by quick.

One of the highlights for the unit over the past month includes the design of our unit deployment patch (pictured to the right). This drawing was created by CW2 Able G. and was quickly transferred to T-Shirts, Patches, Presentations, etc. For those of you wondering why we are "Witch Doctor MEDEVAC," it's because that is the call-sign we were given after we arrived in theater. A cool drawing that was approved by the unit almost unanimously.



Another highlight was an historic medical transfer (at least for Charlie Company!) between one of our aircraft and a marine V22

Osprey. We do lots of “Tail to Tail” transfers with other Blackhawks but this is the first one done with a V22. Luckily nobody was seriously injured as it was only a routine transfer but having a big V22 out there was pretty cool.

Overall everyone is doing fine and we appreciate all the support we have received from everyone back home. I’m so pleased that soldiers from both states have come together as one and created a truly cohesive unit. As I’ve said before, I believe some long term friendships are developing.

As I talk to soldier’s its apparent that they would much rather be home with you but they understand the situation and continue to make the most of it. There are people completing college courses, NCO professional development courses, learning to play guitar, working out at the gym, and much more. I think I speak for everyone when I say that although we are here and doing the best job we can, home is where our hearts are – whether its Maine or Oregon.

Have a great remainder of the summer and take care of one another as we are taking care of your loved ones. School is right around the corner for the kids and maybe some much needed relaxation time for the parents! Remember, if you need anything from me, simply get with Mr. Libby and he will coordinate. All the best-

-MAJ S

From the First Sergeant

Hello everyone back in Maine and Oregon. I hope you are all enjoying your summer in your respective corners of the country. We still have a lot of hot weather left here, but we have made it through the worst of the summer weather. Getting up when it is 84 degrees seems cool to us now!

Everyone has been doing a great job over here so far. All of our Soldiers have been willing to pitch in and help wherever or whenever needed to support our mission. Each hour of flight training involves many man hours of maintenance and planning to ensure that we have safe and meaningful missions. Thankfully, the majority of our flying has been training missions and not actual medevacs with injured or ill patients.

We have had many requests for our crews to train other units in the safe loading and unloading of patients on our aircraft. We call these classes “medevac 101”. The units we train really have enjoyed the training we have provided and every chance we get to practice our skills only helps us get better. To date we have trained dozens of units and over 500 Soldiers.

Our work pace has allowed for some of our junior Soldiers to attend a school called Warrior Leader’s Course (WLC). During WLC, Soldiers learn the fundamentals of leadership. To pass, students must demonstrate competence in 14 different skills. This is a required program of training in order for soldiers to progress in their careers. We are very fortunate that the course is held right here on Camp Buehring!

As I have said in previous newsletters, the Commander and I continue to be impressed the way the personnel from Maine and the personnel from Oregon work together. It is inspiring to see how we all work side by side to accomplish missions. We have truly come together as one. As always, we are all looking forward to completing our mission and getting back home to see all of you.

All my best,

Brian Clark, 1SG

From the Rear Det.

Friends and Family of the Unit:

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. Here in Maine, we had a beautiful summer. I have not seen a weather report from Kuwait this deployment, having said that I can venture a guess and say, hot, sunny, and sandy. It's awesome to hear how busy the group is keeping themselves, even if it is self propelled.

We held our Yellow Ribbon Event on August 4th in Waterville. The event was held at the Alford Youth Center. All things considered this was well attended and received. I was pleased with the outcome and got great feedback from those in attendance. The kids were spoiled rotten with a giant pool, game rooms, rock climbing wall and an inflatable's room that would be the envy of Richie Rich. Food was catered to us by Subway and this event cost the unit nothing. Thank you to all of you who attended, I hope you got something out of the day.

The next day, August 5th, the Rear Detachment hosted a family day at the Army Aviation Support Facility. This was a bit scaled back from events past, but still a great day. Families of both the Rear and Forward elements attended and were treated to burgers and dogs and general tours through the facility. Families were also able to get their eyes, and hands, on the new toys down at the facility. Thank you to our hard working FRG Committee members for all of their help in making both these events possible.

Our next FRG meeting will be held at 1:00pm on Saturday September 8th. As always we will be discussing past and future events. Fundraising will also be a hot topic as we try to buffer our bank account for care packages, and family events to come.

We would officially like to welcome our Oregon Families to this Newsletter. For now I will be forwarding this newsletter to an Oregon soldier, who will in turn, forward it on to his list of families. I welcome any of you who read this to contact me for any reason.

I woke this morning to that cool crisp morning air we always start to get in mid August. This reminds me that school is just a week away for some. It also brings to mind the Staples commercial, where the Dad is riding the shopping cart through the store, like a skateboard, with a giddy look on his face. Following dad and the shopping cart are the kids with shoulders and head slumped. The music in the background is "It's the most Wonderful Time of the Year". I hope I did the commercial justice; it really gets me every time I see it. There is a reason for this detour of mine. If anyone needs school supplies, the States Family Program has boxes of the

stuff in Augusta. If you don't live close to Augusta, let me know what you need and we can figure a way to get them to you.

Remember that my office is always open to any and all of your needs. No matter is too small or routine. I am here for you. Take care and be safe.

Mr Tj Libby
Rear Detachment

One More Thing. Our Unit overseas has just received two Keurig K-Cup coffee machines. This was in response to their terrible plight of having to walk almost a mile to and from the chow hall. Along with the machines were 10 boxes of K-Cups for about 150 all together. This was all made possible from Moral Welfare & Recreation (MWR) funds. If you have been struggling to send quality care packages to your soldier, here is your answer (if they are coffee drinkers). K-Cups can be found at almost every retail store around. Dunkin Donuts released a line this past spring, but you can only buy theirs in their stores. Wal-Mart tends to be the cheapest, along with SAM's club and Target. Happy shopping.

From the FRG

Hello Everyone!

I hope you have had a wonderful summer, I can't believe school is right around the corner! It was great to see many of our 126th families at both the Yellow Ribbon event and the rear detachment family day. It was a good opportunity for us to all catch up, as well as meet other deployed families from other units. As Mr. Libby commented, the Yellow Ribbon team did a great job putting on a fun day for our families. I also want to take a moment to thank Jodi G. for all her hard work in gathering items for door prizes for both family days.

September 8th will be our next FRG day at the armory. We will be holding our parent support meeting at 12:00 for those parents who have children at home and would like to talk about the ups and downs of the deployment for their children. At 1:00 we will hold our FRG meeting; one of the big items on the agenda is planning our Christmas party, as well as brainstorming fundraising ideas.

We are continuing to hold a bottle drive with the goal of sending care packages to the unit. Currently, we have an account at the Brewer Redemption Center where you can drop your bottles off and they will add your donation to our account "Bottles for Troops". Please let your family and friends know about this, as we hope to be able to shower the unit with lots of goodies! If you have any items you would like to donate to the care packages, or would like to include a note or letter please bring them to the September FRG meeting or mail them to the armory. At the September meeting we will be seeing what we have for donations so far and begin to put together the care packages, with a goal of mailing the care packages at the October meeting.

We are continuing to sell unit t-shirts, and are also selling red support our troop t-shirts, for red t-shirt Friday. We have also begun selling Yellow Ribbon car magnets that say "I support the 126th MEDEVAC". If you are interested in purchasing any of these items please email me at: 126frg@gmail.com

As always if you need anything, please don't hesitate to email me. 126frg@gmail.com
Thanks!

Heather Trainor
126frg@gmail.com

Important Contact Info.

Remember, if you are a Maine family and need any information or assistance, these are the folks you should contact in this order!

1. Mrs. Heather Trainor – Family Readiness Group Leader
126frg@gmail.com
2. CW2 Todd Libby – Rear Detachment, Title 10
207-620-2280
3. 1LT Cliff Trainor – Rear Detachment OIC (Officer-In-Charge)
207-430-5336

Other Helpful Numbers:

- 24 Hr. Hotline 1-888-365-9287
- AAFEES...Augusta 207-626-4123
- AAFEES...Bangor 207-990-7233
- American Red Cross 1-800-427-0009
- Chaplain 207-430-5898/5899
- Chaplain 24 Hour Careline 207-620-6009
- Commissary Bangor 207-990-7752
- Commissary Brunswick 207-921-2990
- Child and Youth Services Coordinator 207-430-5773
- Deployment Cycle Support Services, Director 207-430-5770
- Family Assistance Center Manager 207-430-5780
- **Family Assistance Center 24 Hour Hotline 1-888-365-9287**
- Family Program, Director 207-430-5777
- Family Readiness Assistant 207-430-5779
- ID Cards/DEERS (Camp Keyes) 207-626-4387

- Judge Advocate General (JAG) 207-626-4271
- Military One Source Consultant 207-232-8710
- Military One Source 24 Hour Hotline 1-800-342-9647
- Transition Assistance Advisor 207-430-577

A highly motivated, experienced, and serious crew.



Here is a fun game

Guess Who: Is not in compliance with AR 670-1 (WEAR AND APPEARANCE OF ARMY UNIFORM)



A Marine patiently awaits direction from the crew during Joint Training (MEDEVAC 101)

