



Task Force AVCRAD News



FRG Monthly Update Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot

Sat 01 December 2007

Volume I, Issue 3

TAMP Leadership:

TAMP Commander



COL James G. Young

TAMP Command

Sergeant Major



CSM Johnny F. Williams

TAMP Key Leaders:

LTC Richard P. Poole
Commander - TAMP Iraq

LTC Clarence S. Kelly Jr.
Commander - TAMP Afghanistan

LTC David W. Williams
TAMP Executive Officer

CPT Raleigh J. Murphy
HHC Commander

ISG Jeffrey A. McTeague
HHC First Sergeant

MSG Darryn W. Allen
NCOIC - TAMP Iraq

MSG David E. Biggerstaff
NCOIC - TAMP Afghanistan

Holiday Message from TAMP Commander - COL James G. Young

Greetings to all, best wishes for a peaceful holiday season!

Soldiers of TF AVCRAD are doing a fantastic job. Your attitude, sense of teamwork and ability to get the job done to the highest standard cause your reputation to grow with every action you take. Congratulations to all of you for the tremendous job you do.

The holiday period can be stressful on all of us but especially so for those who have loved ones separated by deployment. Your character and dedication to your fellow citizens and family is exemplified by the sacrifice and separation you endure. Rest assured that Task Force soldiers do all we can to take care of each other and everyone wants nothing more than to be reunited with our families back home.

TF AVCRAD soldiers are a special group of people and you have earned respect and admiration. Keep in mind that we are giving of ourselves in protecting our way of life.

Thanksgiving in the Middle East with TF AVCRAD



SGT Ronald Cockream - Machinist from Joliet, Illinois

What traditions will you miss most this year?

"I will miss turkey day with the family. At least I had a great group of people to spend it with over here in paradise."

SGT Jessica Stoops - Power Generation Equipment Repairer from Canton, Ohio

What holiday tradition do you miss most? "I miss being around the table with my family eating and laughing and talking about the funny moments and past things that happened!"

What is your favorite holiday meal? "There's no meal that I really miss or have a favorite of since I have been so far away for so long, I just miss home cooking period!"

What are you most thankful for this year? "I am thankful that being this far away that my daughter still knows me and loves me as much as she did when I was home!"



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Thanksgiving with the Troops of TF AVCRAD



SSG Sylvester Brookins (Left) - Human Resources Specialist from Jackson, Mississippi

What holiday tradition do you miss most?

“The family and thanksgiving dinner.”

What are you doing to celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

“Going to the Gym.”

What are you most thankful for this year?

“My son, and the Lord keeping him in good health.”



SGT Nelly Lamas (Above right) - Automated Logistical Specialist from Romeoville, IL

What are you most thankful for this year?

“I am really thankful for life itself, being able to wake up each morning. The opportunity to serve overseas and helping to make a difference in the world.”

SSG Matthew Deblanc (Right) - Aircraft Powerplant Repairer from Gulfport, MS

What will you miss the most this holiday season?

“I will miss my son, and the romantic times with my fabulous, gorgeously hot wife.”



SGT Jonathan “Derek” Hamby (Left) Aircraft Technical Inspector from Saucier, MS

What will you miss most about Christmas this year? “I will miss not being able to see the looks on my children’s faces (Samantha, Jake, and Nick) when they see all the wonderful gifts that Santa left. Plus, not being there to explain to my children the meaning of giving to those families that need extra help during this time of year. I ill also miss my wife, Amy, my hero.



SGT Thomas Wulffe (Left) - Aircraft Electrician from Bradley, Illinois

What are you most thankful for this year? “My family and friends, and my other family that I am here with in Kuwait, that is the AVCRAD.”

SGT Daniel Jimenez (Right) - Avionics Mechanic from Aurora , Illinois

What are you most thankful for this year?

“I have my family and friends who love and support me while I've been over here.”



SPC Anthony Vicha (Below) - Aviation Operations Specialist from Woodridge, Illinois

What are you most thankful for this year?

“I'm most thankful this year for life, friends and family.”



CPL Kristopher Gaylord (Right) - Avionics Mechanic from Long Beach, MS

What are you most thankful for this year?

“The opportunity to deploy with the AVCRAD”.

What will you miss most about Christmas this year?

“My family and a home cooked meal.”

Forward Progress -Task Force AVCRAD in Balad



The motivated, dedicated, and hard working members of TF AVCRAD in Balad take time out of their busy schedule to pose for a group photo during reenlistment day. The technical expertise of the Balad team is universally respected and considered by many to be one of the finest aviation maintenance units in Iraq.

Leadership by Example



TAMP Iraq Commander, LTC Richard P. Poole supports his troops during the volleyball tournament, as his NCOIC, MSG Darryn Allen and Liaison Officer, CW5 Robert Wilcox look on.

Congratulations from the entire Task Force to LTC Poole and Mrs. Poole on the birth of their new baby daughter on 15 Nov 07.

(MWR) Morale, Welfare, and Recreation in TAMP Balad



The "One Ways" in action



The "Average Joes" conduct a hasty AAR

Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq holds several volleyball tournaments each month. The members of TF AVCRAD in Balad have fielded two teams, the "One Ways," and the "Average Joes." Both teams have been competitive in the tournaments and hope to win one soon.

Volleyball is just one of the many MWR events held at Camp Anaconda to sustain a high Soldier morale. Sporting events in the combat zone provide a positive atmosphere for the limited free time available to the TF AVCRAD Soldiers in Balad, Iraq.

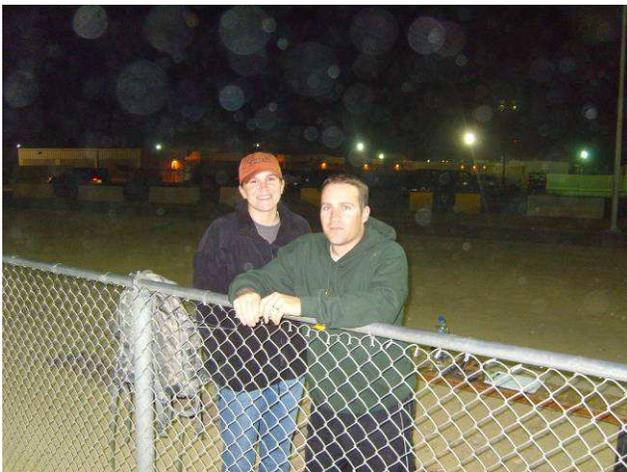
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TF AVCRAD Teams gain respect - Softball Team wins first playoff game



The teams of TF AVCRAD are gaining respect at Camp Arifjan. The football team trounced its opponent last game by a score of 39 to 6. (Above Left - Team Captain SPC Anthony Vicha awaits the snap from SSG Jason Johnston). (Above - Members of the TF AVCRAD basketball team confer to discuss strategy). (Left - SGT Christopher Johnson connects for a key hit in the first round of the softball league playoffs as the rest of the AVCRITTERS look on. The TF AVCRAD team was victorious in the opening round and advanced to the next level.

Teamwork, Cooperation, and Selfless Service



SGTs Shauna and Dean Bruce exemplify the meaning of teamwork and selfless service that is common among TF AVCRAD Soldiers.



There is no "I" in "AVCRAD". Both on the field and in the shops, the troops of TF AVCRAD have exhibited a tremendous capacity to work together to find solutions and achieve common goals.

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."

Babe Ruth

Awards and Recognition



Congratulations to SGT Carl Fricke and SPC Adam Meyer. (Above Left and Right) Both Soldiers were awarded the Army Achievement Medal (AAM) for their outstanding performance in support of TF AVCRAD Retrograde Operations. SGT Fricke and SPC Meyer contributed to the overall retrograde team effort that saved the Army several million dollars in October 2007. This amount of cost savings set a new standard for retrograde operations in TF AVCRAD.

Congratulations to SSG Jason Johnston. (Left) SSG Johnston received a safety impact award for his contribution to the electrical safety program in the quality control section. Safety impact awards were also given to SSG Matt Jones (not pictured) for his contribution to Port Operations safety, and SGT Julie Anne Myers (not pictured) for her contribution to the overall TF AVCRAD Safety and Environmental Compliance programs.

“Rocket Man” SGT Christopher McDermott - The Fastest Man on Camp Arifjan



On Thanksgiving day, November 22nd, SGT Christopher McDermott won his fourth consecutive 5K race with a jaw-dropping time of 16 minutes and 50 seconds. SGT McDermott has increased his speed and lowered his run time in every race to date. The annual “Turkey Trot” was Camp Arifjan’s most successful running event on record, with over 930 registered participants competing in the race.

Reenlistments in Kuwait

Congratulations to SSG William Bishop and SGT Hector Casas. Both Soldiers reenlisted for the maximum of 6 years with the TF AVCRAD Family and the Illinois Army National Guard.

TF AVCRAD Executive Officer, LTC David Williams administers the oath as SSG Bishop and SGT Casas swear true faith and allegiance to the United States Constitution, and to oppose all enemies, foreign and domestic.



Promotions

TASK FORCE AVCRAD Congratulates the following Soldier:

Promoted to Specialist E4:



Mark J. Swiderski



Mark Swiderski is promoted to SPC E4 by TAMP Balad Commander LTC Richard P. Poole.

LTC Poole complimented SPC Swiderski, saying "I think SPC Swiderski is doing a fine job and he is a hard worker."

Reenlistments

IN BALAD

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who have elected to remain with the Army National Guard and Task Force AVCRAD family.



(Above Left Picture) (From Left to Right)

SSG Michael C. Welch, SSG Michael J. Casey, SSG Harold W. Compton, SSG Dennis H. Tillery, and SGT Tanya L. McDonald proudly raise their right hands swear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution while reenlisting for another 6 years with the Mississippi Army National Guard. TAMP Balad Commander LTC Richard P. Poole (not pictured) presided over the ceremony and administered the oath.

The TF AVCRAD Newsletter is constructed by CW3 Dan Lieber.

Submit your story to daniel.lieber@us.army.mil

TF AVCRAD Photographers are SSG Robert Martin, SGT Rim Sabir, and SGT Omar Martinez.