

# Task Force 2-70 deploys to Kuwait

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FORT RILEY, Kansas— Armed and combat ready, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor proved their competence and polished skills as they set out to deploy once again.

Operation Desert Spring has become a reality for the soldiers of Task Force 2-70 as they stood in formation at departure ceremonies on the Cavalry Parade Field July 27. “We are sending these soldiers to an important training mission,” said Maj. Gen. Freddy McFarren, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley. “It will not just be training, but they will stand ready to handle what comes to them and I know that these soldiers are ready to represent their companies, post and country very well.”

Task Force 2-70 deployed to Kuwait to continue their mission of Intrinsic Action, where they will deter regional aggression, reassure the Kuwaiti Coalition partners, conduct joint/combined

assistance training and conduct essential tasks training.

“My company is fantastic and uniquely prepared for this mission,” said Capt. Anthony Lowry, commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment. “They’re dedicated and I have no doubt that they will perform to the fullest of their capabilities.”

“We have a good sprinkling of experienced soldiers from previous deployments throughout the ranks to make sure they are trained and ready to go,” said Capt. Cameron Cantlon, commander, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment. “We make sure the new soldiers who have never deployed understand where they are going and why.”

He said the task force has put together a program to ensure the soldiers can take care of their families and keep in contact with them through email, telephone or postal mail.

Family members will have access to email at the Soldier and Family Support Center 24 hours a day. Currently, the center will have agencies available for one-on-one meetings with family members regarding finances, legal assistance and other worries. According to Pearl Speer, Relocation Program manager, the Task Force rear detachment commanding element will move into the center to make things easier for families to get the service and answers they need.

“We’ll have the resources here for the family members, as a way for them

to become familiar with the safety net that’s out there,” said Speer.

However, other family members made their own plans to take care of their spouses and children.

“I plan to go back to upstate New York to stay with my parents for a while,” said Emily Varner, wife of PFC Roger Varner, Troop H, 1st Cavalry, who is deploying for the first time. “I’m scared because he’s never really been gone before except to basic training and NTC.”

At the other end, soldiers in Kuwait will have eight computers with Internet access and eight telephones with Defense Switching Network connections for morale calls. Video teleconferencing is available for some events.

“Our primary focus is the families of the soldiers,” said Speer.

A fully equipped childcare room will be available with at least one parent on site.

The center will also hold readiness group meetings and offer free child care four hours a week for E-5 and below at the center or in a Family Child Care home.

