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1AD Public Affairs Office

2nd Bde. departs for Kosovo

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany - Instead of the usual holiday fare, Thanksgiving weekend was marked by tearful goodbyes as soldiers from 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade, based in Baumholder, deployed to Kosovo for the KFOR 2B rotation. Families and friends ventured out in the early morning hours, braving cold rain to bid farewell to the departing soldiers.

Approximately 4,500 soldiers, most of whom are assigned to 2nd Brigade, began deploying in early November for the Dec. 17 transfer of authority in Kosovo. The soldiers include those assigned to 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; 47th Forward Support Battalion; 501st Military Intelligence Battalion; 141st Signal Battalion; and HHC, 1AD.

The 2B troops replaced 1st Brigade, 1AD soldiers who deployed in June and returned to their home bases in Friedberg, Hanau and Giessen in December.

The 2B task force is commanded by Brig. Gen. Kenneth Quinlan. The soldiers will serve as part of a multi-national force that will continue to build a secure and stable environment in the Kosovo region. The soldiers will work to maintain the safe and secure environment for all Kosovars.

The 2B soldiers are scheduled to redeploy in June.



photo by Spc. Rebecca F. Deuel

Taking a moment to update a few last minute notes, a soldier from 2nd Bn., 6th Infantry reconnaissance team waits in the Mountaineer Gym in Baumholder to depart for Kosovo on Nov. 24.



photo by Spc. Rebecca F. Deuel

Spc. Leah Hicks, a communications specialist with Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, heads out of the motorpool to march with her company to Mountaineer Gym in Baumholder for departure briefings. The medical company moved out to Task Force Falcon in the wee hours of the morning on Nov. 28.



photo by Cpl. Gregory Withrow

Loved ones of 1st Bn., 501st Aviation, Task Force Dragon, pass out bagged lunches and final good-byes and well-wishes to the troops as they move out to the buses waiting to transport them to their flights to Kosovo. Task Force Dragon soldiers departed Hanau late at night on Nov. 30 after a heartfelt departure ceremony.