



OPERATION ARABIAN PROVIDER
2019-2021



"One Team, One Fight!"

**History of Headquarters & Headquarters Company Forward, Detachment 3,
654th Regional Support Group**



Disclaimer: Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees make any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or any third party's use or the results of such use of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.

*Portions of this document may contain Copyrighted material.
Not for resale*

Daniels R.C. and T.R. Boler. 2021. OPERATION ARABIAN PROVIDER, 2019-2021: History of Headquarters & Headquarters Company Forward, Detachment 3, 654th Regional Support Group. Tacoma, WA



FORWARD!

The concept of the Army Reserve can trace its roots as a “national” or federal Citizen-Soldier force back to the French and Indian War (1756-1763) on through the Civil War (1861-1865) to the Spanish-American War (1898-1902). The U.S. Army Reserve as we know it was created in 1908 as the Medical Reserve Corps. In the National Defense Act Amendments of 1920, the federal government created the Organized Reserve to provide a peacetime pool of trained reserve officers and enlisted Soldiers. Since the end of the Cold War in 1990, and the accompanying large reduction in Active Duty forces, the importance of the U.S. Army Reserve has increased. The Reserve force is now an operational force that is ready to deploy on short notice worldwide to defend and support our country.

Find here the history of one such unit from its founding in 2019 to the completion of its overseas mission in 2021. This document fulfills the requirements to provide an Annual Command History under AR 870-5, para 4-5. For a chronology list of events during this mission please see Annex A.

In closing, my thanks to all our Soldiers and their families. Our Soldiers left the safety of their civilian lives behind to serve their country in a foreign land while their families and loved ones faced the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic alone.

THOMAS R. BOLER
MAJ, MP
Commanding

Tacoma-based Army Reserve unit deploys to Middle East for OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD



(Photo by U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Christian Dizon, Unit Public Affairs Representative, 477th Transportation Company)

TACOMA, WA, UNITED STATES

03.06.2020

Story by Maj. Maryjane Porter

364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command

SEATTLE, Wash.- Family and friends gathered to bid farewell to approximately 49 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers of HHC Forward, Detachment 3, 654th Regional Support Group, 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at a send-off ceremony at CenturyLink Field Event Center in Seattle on March 6, 2020. Detachment Commander Maj. Thomas Boler, a native of Vancouver, Washington, will deploy with his unit to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield to providing base life support for units rotating through the United States Central Command area of operation.

U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador for the state of Washington, Hon. Kurt Hardin, Col. Vince Rice, deputy commanding officer of the 364th ESC, Col. Kelly Mims and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson, commander and senior enlisted leader of the 654th RSG, respectively, were on hand to address and honor Soldiers and their family members.

On behalf of Brig. Gen. Stuart Werner, commanding general of the 364th ESC, Rice in his remarks encouraged Soldiers to look after each other, stay positive, do their job and be a family as they embark on their mission overseas.

“This mission is perhaps the most challenging thing you have been asked to do in your Army career, as some of you will be deploying for the very first time; ensure that you take care of yourselves and stay in contact with your family back home,” he said.



Col. Mims (see photo) also echoed the importance of family in the equation for the detachment to succeed in accomplishing their mission.

“We wouldn’t be here without their support,” he said, assuring family members that he and his staff stand ready and available to support them while their heroes are deployed. Mims also encouraged the detachment commander to ensure that Soldiers stay in contact with family members when mission permits.



As DET commander, Boler thanked family members for their continued love and support, and for always allowing their Soldiers to do what the Army expects of them. He pointed to Soldiers spending numerous times away from family events, kids activities, etc., to ensure they are capable and combat-ready in support of the Army and global contingency operations.

"This is what we train for. We're prepared for this mission and we're ready to go," he said, pointing to months of individual readiness and collective training to get his team up to speed. Boler also spoke to the level of experience in his formation, as many of his Soldiers have deployed multiple times in the past.

"We're one family, one team, one fight. We have experienced leaders going on this mission, who will be there to guide, mentor and support some of our Soldiers who will be deploying for the first time," he said.

Operation Spartan Shield maintains a U.S. military posture in Southwest Asia sufficient to strengthen U.S. defense relationships and build partner capacity. Units supporting OSS provides capabilities such as aviation, logistics, force protection and information management, and facilitate theater security cooperation activities such as key leader engagements, joint exercises, conferences, symposia and humanitarian assistance/disaster response planning.

The Time Line

Home Station Pre-Deployment Training

The 654th Regional Support Group (RSG) was alerted on April 1, 2019 that we would be mobilized in FY'2020. The Initial Planning Conference was held in Fort Hood, Texas, in July 2019 with the 120th Infantry Brigade (Mobilization Support), 1st Army. Based on the information gained from the IPR the 654th RSG Brigade S-3 issued the unit Operations Order on September 7, 2019. Immediately work began to identify and transfer members to the newly created detachment from the RSGs down trace units.

HHC Forward, Detachment 3 was officially formed on October 1, 2019 with CPT Timothy F. Petoskey as Commander, 1LT Ke Lillah Slingluff XO and SGM Richard Daniels Detachment NCOIC. In conjunction with HHC the new detachment worked to identify the individual and collective training required for the mission. This included the development of the Kuwait Nation Briefing, identification of required distance learning courses, and scheduling and executing of tactical training such as Land Navigation and M16A2 qualification ranges and completion of the OPERATION ARABIAN PROVIDER OPORD.



Our Annual Training (AT) ran from January 14 to February 9, 2020. We designed AT to take advantage of the training facilities located at Joint Base Lewis-McCord and the presence of the computer laboratory at 1LT Victor L. Kandle Hall, U.S. Army Reserve Center. The decision to stay at 'home station' for this event allowed a majority of our Soldiers to return home each night to be with their families.

Fort Hood Training: Preparing for Overseas Deployment

The unit entered Federal Service on March 5, 2020 with Major Thomas Boler in Command, 1LT Ke Lillah Slingluff XO and SGM Richard Daniels Detachment NCOIC. The unit flew to Fort Hood, Texas on March 7th for 23 days of preparatory training and certification with 120th Infantry Brigade, 1st Army. During this period, we completed a full medical review, equipment and uniform issue, conducted weapon and vehicle rollover familiarization, and completed a culminating command post exercise (CPX) that tested our ability to execute the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP), develop competing Courses of Action, and present policy recommendations to the Battalion or Brigade Commander for approval.

Soldiers who were not destined to serve directly within one of the staff sections of ASG-Kuwait visited Fort Hood Installation offices and directorates that provided the same services that they would be required to manage. For example, Major Boler, who was to become the Udairi Range Complex OIC,

spent three days visiting the Fort Hood Range Operations Office and observing both the firing desk and range control inspection staff in action.



HHC Forward, Detachment 3, 654th RSG on 14 March 2020 at North Fort Hood, Texas.



OCP and Tactical Gear Issue



First Aid Training



Waiting to be “rolled” in the MRAP

Deployment to Theater

At the end of our time in Fort Hood the COVID-19 threat was beginning to have its impact. This meant that the local restaurants such as Bare Bones BBQ were closed, and we had a restriction of movement (ROM). We departed Fort Hood on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft on April 3 and arrived in Kuwait on April 5 (we lost a day in translation). Our flight was hosted by the 446th Airlift Wing, an Air Force Reserve unit out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord.



Bangor International Airport - Anyone have any quarters?
(SPC Merlos, MSG Roberson, MSG Smith, and SFC Teccan)

We stopped in Bangor, Maine for fuel and to allow the pilots to obtain their required eight hours of rest before flying over the Atlantic. This was the last day most of us had a chance to sleep in a soft-plush bed for the next nine months. On the way to Kuwait we had layovers in Ramstein, Germany and Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. Unfortunately for us, due to COVID-19 there was no chance to offload the plane during the layover to visit the nearby German beerhall in the Base BP/PX!



Operation Quarantine

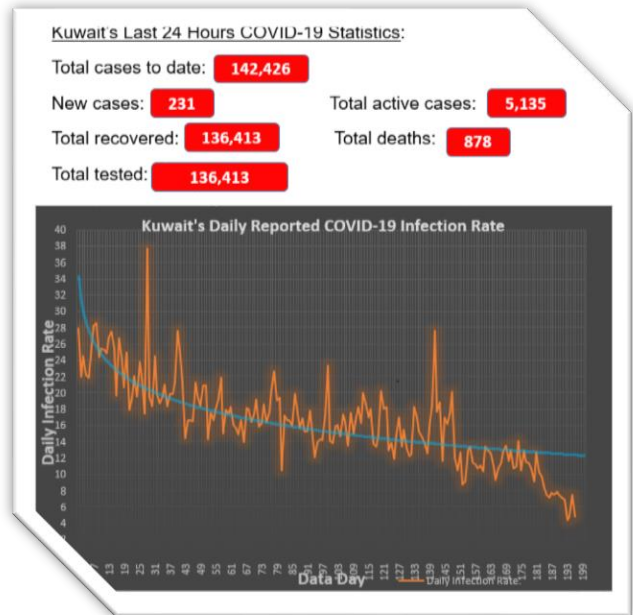
On arrival to Kuwait, we offloaded the plane, turned in our weapons, and were immediately taken to Camp Arifjan for a 14-day quarantine and time of Zen prior to moving to our assigned duty locations on April 19th. Below is an example of the “uniform of the day” on Day 2 (SPC Friday, SFC Teccan and SGT Andres) vs. Day 13 (SPC Harris, LT Mruk, SFC Teccan, SGT Brodt, SFC Ehret and SFC Selchert).



Current Operations

During our time on station, we experience the COVID-19 pandemic, the threat of Iranian aggression and the occasional weaponized drone and missile alert as Iran and Houthi rebels in Yemen harassed Saudi Arabia. These events ensured that we remained vigilant and focused on our mission throughout our deployment.

Iran begins expansive annual war games amid tensions with U.S.



Nasser Karimi, The Associated Press - 09.10.2020

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's military Thursday began an expansive annual three-day exercise near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, state TV reported, with the maneuvers taking place amid heightened tensions between the Islamic Republic and the U.S.

Units from the navy, air force and ground forces are participating in a nearly 2 million-square-kilometer (772,200-square-mile) area of the Gulf of Oman. State television said Iranian submarines and drones were being deployed.

State TV aired footage of the launching of various short range surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles and of jet fighters and airborne troops descending on vessels including a submarine. One of the missiles hit a drone from a mock enemy.

In July, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard fired a missile from a helicopter targeting a replica of a U.S. aircraft carrier in the Strait of Hormuz in an exercise aimed at threatening the U.S. In January, a U.S. drone strike killed a top Iranian general at the Baghdad airport and Tehran responded by firing ballistic missiles at American forces in Iraq.

In other news, Saudi Arabian military sources reported that Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces (RSADF) intercepted and destroyed a weaponized drone targeting civilian areas in Najran on Thursday, September 10. The drone is suspected to have been launched by Yemeni Houthi rebels. It remains unclear if the drone was intercepted and destroyed over Saudi or Yemeni territory. There are no immediate reports of casualties or damages. Further cross-border attacks are possible in areas close to the Yemen border over the near term.

Future Operations

Upon completion of our assigned mission on or about December 19, 2020, the 654 HQ FWD DET 3 will redeploy to Fort Hood to conduct Demobilization (DEMOB) and Reverse Soldier Readiness Processing (R-SRP) tasks for administrative, medical, and other out-processing activities required prior to release from active duty.

The Command Team at the completion of mission included Major Thomas Boler, Commander; CPT Eric Kim, XO; and SGM Richard Daniels, Detachment NCOIC. The unit was released from active Federal Service in January 2021. The Detachment will form for the last time in Tacoma, Washington on 27-28 February 2021 for awards and a welcome home ceremony.



Our Mission

HHC Forward, Detachment 3

Our unit consists of 49 Soldiers mostly drawn from the 654th RSG headquarters company in Tacoma, Washington. Additional Soldiers were transferred in from as far away as California, Florida, and Texas. We deployed to the State of Kuwait to provide base operations support, administrative, and logistical support to Service Member while ensuring security of personnel and facilities on assigned base camps.

While assigned to U.S. Army Central Command, HHC Forward was OPCON to Army Support Group-Kuwait and was fully integrated into their organization. While on station we made up 25% of their HHC total strength; filled over 90% of the key staff positions in the Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) at Camp Buehring; and over 50% of key staff positions at Brigade.

Army Support Group-Kuwait

Army Support Group-Kuwait (ASG-KU) reports directly to ARCENT. Their mission is to implement the Defense Cooperation Agreement on behalf of U.S. Army Central with the Kuwait Ministry of Defense. ASG-KU operates as the Base Operations Support Integrator and security coordinator for all Army operated bases within the State of Kuwait to include Camp Arifjan, Camp Buehring, Udairi Range Complex, Camp Patriot on the Kuwait Naval Base -and sites at Kuwait City International Airport (APOD) and the Port of Shuaiba (POD). In addition, ASG-KU supports the onward movement of Service Members into Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

U.S. Army Central Command

U.S. Army Central Command (ARCENT) currently functions as America's land domain experts in the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia - providing continuous oversight and control of Army operations throughout the region. ARCENT is located at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina with a forward element at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. It is the echelon above Corps for the Army component of CENTCOM, US Central Command, whose area of responsibility (AOR) includes Southwest Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Geography of the State of Kuwait

The State of Kuwait is located at the far northwestern corner of the Arabian Gulf. It borders Iraq to the north and west, Saudi Arabia to the south, and the Arabian Gulf to the east. Kuwait is 17,820 square kilometers in size, approximately the size of New Jersey. At its most distant points, it is about 200 km (120 mi) north to south, and 170 km (110 mi) east to west. Kuwait's area consists mostly of desert with some coastal wetlands in the northeast bordering Iraq and the Arabian Gulf. The country's highest point is an unnamed hill that peaks at 1,003 ft. (306 m) and its lowest point is at sea level.

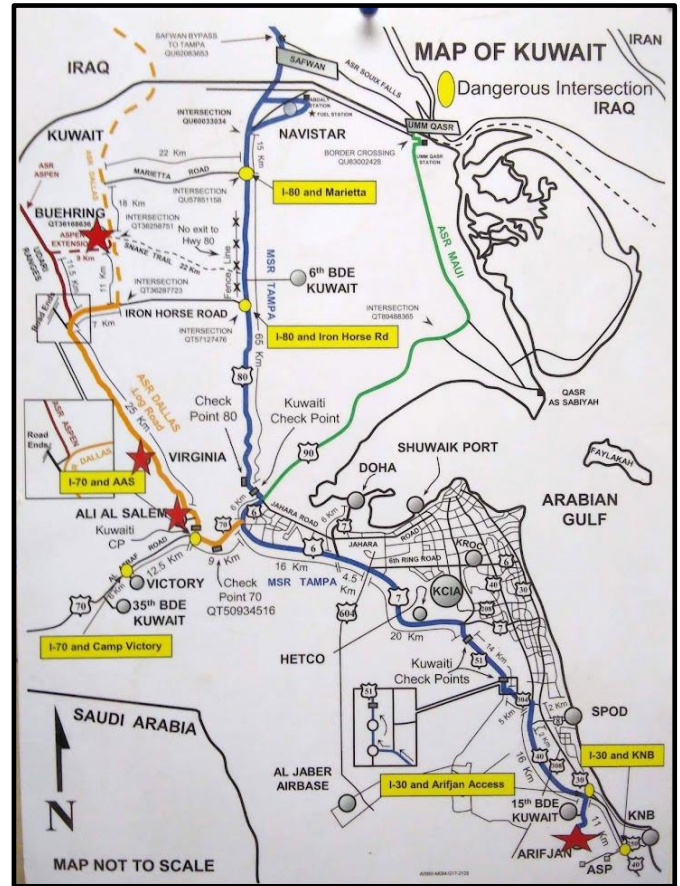
The modern political history of Kuwait began in the early eighteenth century when a number of families of the Bani Utub section of the Anaizah tribe migrated from central Arabia, settling eventually in Kuwait. Once in Kuwait, they established a self-governing political unit in 1756. The Emir of the State of Kuwait is the monarch and head of state of Kuwait. Since 29 January 2006, Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (see photo) held the title until his passing in September 29, 2020. On September 30th his son Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was named as Emir.



Kuwait is a constitutional emirate with a semi-democratic political system. From 1918 to 1961 Kuwait was a British protectorate. Britain recognized Kuwait's independence in 1961. Their political has an elected parliament with key government officials appointed directly by the Emir.

Weather

Kuwait has an arid climate with huge temperature differences. In summer, average high temperatures range from 108 to 118 °F; the highest ever temperature recorded in Kuwait was 54.0 °C (129.2 °F) at Mitribah on 21 July, 2016 -the highest recorded temperature in Asia and the third highest in the world. The summers are long, punctuated by dramatic dust storms in March and April. By the end of October the hot weather is over, and colder winter weather sets in, dropping temperatures to as low as 21 °F at night with daytime temperatures between 50–63 °F. In this time, there are brief but strong thunderstorms. Precipitation occurs from October until April (mostly in November). Rainfall in the nation varies from 2.95 to 5.91 inches a year.



The Cast

The Key Players

POSITION	LOC	NAME	RANK	Cell	Email
ARTC SUPPLY SPECIALIST	CBKU	ANDRES PEDRO H.	SGT	Contact the Author for unredacted version at richard.c.daniels.mil@army.mil	
HHC HR SPC	CAKU	BAEZ RUTH E.	SGT		
DRM BUDGET OFFICER	CAKU	BARTLETT GRACE L.	CPT		
RANGE OPS OIC	CBKU	BOLER THOMAS R.	MAJ		
CHOPS (S3)	CAKU	BOSTICK KATHERINE G.	CPT		
BN S1	CBKU	BOUCHIE DANIEL A	1LT		
DIS ADMIN/QNET COR	CAKU	BRODT BRYAN E.	SSG		
BASE DEFENSE NCO (S3)	CAKU	CAMBRONERO CAMRYN J.	SGT		
PLANS OFFICER	CAKU	CELIS JOSE E	MAJ		
FORCE PRO OIC	CBKU	CHALK CHRISTOPHER A	1LT		
IT SPECIALIST	CBKU	CRITES SETH D.	SGT		
RNG OPS SAFETY/TRAINING OFFICER	CBKU	DANIELS RICHARD C.	SGM		

CUOPS OFFICER (S3)	CAKU	DARAPHET PAKHAYSITH	CPT		
DIS GARRISON SUPPORT NCOIC	CAKU	EHRET ANTHONY R.	SFC		
S6 NCOIC	CBKU	ENGLISH JONATHAN L.	SGT		
DPW Construction and Work Order QA	CBKU	ESPOSITO TREVOR J.	SGT		
SR SUPPLY SGT	CBKU	FRANKLIN MICHAEL D. JR	SFC		
INFO SYS SPEC/RTO (S3)	CAKU	FRIDAY GANNON C.	SGT		
CHIEF, AT/FP SECTION (S3)	CAKU	GLOVER ETHAN J	CPT		
HUMAN RESOURCES SGT	CBKU	HARRIS CHARLOTTE R.	SPC		
FUOPS OFFICER	CBKU	JOHNSON, TREVOR L	CPT		
DPW HOUSING NCOIC	CAKU	JUSINO ANDREA J.	SGM		
S4 OIC	CBKU	KIM ERIC J	CPT		
PLANS ASSISTANT (S3)	CAKU	KNOX CRYSTAL D.	SGT		
DPW Facility Maintenance NCO	CAKU	LESTER DANIEL C.	SPC		
HUMAN RESOURCES SPC	CBKU	LOWMAN LAREE V.	SPC		
DOL CHIEF, OCS	CAKU	MAENG JAMES I.	MAJ		
DOL CONTRACT OFFICER	CAKU	MARBLE BRIAN J.	MAJ		
BASE OPERATIONS OIC	CBKU	MCKNIGHT ANTONIO J.	1LT		
DIS-N BSB NCOIC	CBKU	MENDIOLA SHANNIQUA	SPC		
CMD GRP ADJUTANT	CAKU	MERLOS JOSE A.	SGT		
OPERATIONS SERGEANT (S3)	CAKU	MIN, DAE H.	SFC		
DOL CONTRACT OFFICER	CAKU	MINEAR NATALIE O.	MAJ		
HHC XO	CAKU	MRUK AMANDA T.	1LT		
S2 ANALYST	CAKU	MUNOZFIGUEROA ERIKA S.	SSG		
ARTC LOGISTICS NCOIC	CBKU	PATTERSON DANIEL G.	SFC		
CUOPS OFFICER	CBKU	PIERSON, TROY F.	CPT		
FORCE PRO NCOIC	CBKU	RIEDHAMMER ROMONA F.	SFC		
SR FORCE PRO NCO (S3)	CAKU	ROBERSON DERRICK A.	MSG		

DPW BASE HOUSING OFFICER	CAKU	ROBINSON ETHEL A.	MAJ		
DIS COR/ADMIN (SAFETY)	CAKU	SELCHERT STEVE A.	SGT		
S2 Officer	CBKU	SHADE STEFAN A.	CPT		
BATTLE CAPTAIN (S3)	CAKU	SLINGLUFF KE LILAH H	1LT		
BN MAINT OFFICER	CBKU	SMITH MICHAEL R.	MSG		
BSB/S3 NCO	CBKU	TECCAN ANGEL G.	SFC		
DOL OCS NCOIC	CAKU	WALKER MARK S.	SFC		
DIS DEPUTY DIRECTOR	CAKU	WETMORE, SASHA C	1LT		
BASE OPERATIONS NCOIC	CBKU	WINCHESTER NICHOLAS A	SSG		
DIS-N BASE SVCS OFFICER	CBKU	WOLFE ANDREA M.	CPT		

Guest Appearances (did not deploy)

CPT Timothy F. Petoskey, Commander/Chief AT/FP	MSG Todd F. Stevahn, Force Protection
SPC Shyah L. Isotalo, KDOC RTO	CPT Anna M. Squires, Assistant S3
SGT Nathan A. Riley, Host Nation	CPT Stacey A. Shrives, FUOPS
CPT Carolos D. Ruiz, Battle Captain	CPT Michael J. Kylo, Battle Captain
SFC Joshua R. Duval, SR Force Pro NCO	CPT Andrew B. Roberts, Force Protection
MAJ Scott M. Peterson, Contracting Officer	



Award Presentation at AJ
(SPC Baez & Harris)



Is there anyone out there?
(SGM Daniels)



T-Wall Artists at work
(SPC Lowman & Harris)

Planning our Flights to Kuwait (1LT Bouchie, MAJ Celis, SFC Patterson, SFC Riedhammer, 1LT Mruk)



CPT Celis - NBC Qualification at Fort Hood



Supporting the 5K Turkey Trot (SPC Lowman & Harris)



Lt. Gen. Terry Ferrell, U.S. ARCENT, presents coins to SFC Ehret and SGT Brodt



Awards Ceremony at the HHC Field at Camp Arifjan (SFC Friday, MAJ Robinson, SGT Ehret, SGT Crites)



The Easy part of the ACFT (SGT Baez, grader)

Annex A – Chronology of Events

1. Timeline of operations and road to war.

Dates	Description
April 2019	Receipt of WARNO from 364 th ESC
14-19 July 2019	Initial Planning Conference
29 August 2019	Receipt of Unit Mobilization Order
7 September 2019	OPERATION ORDER 20-005 (ARABIAN PROVIDER) Published by 654 th RSG
8-11 October 2019	White Cell Site Visit, Fort Hood, TX
12-24 October 2019	Pre-Deployment Site Visit, ASG-Kuwait
15-17 November 2019 (BA)	MMRE and SRP II
16-17 November 2019	Mid-Planning Conference Call
14-15 December 2019 (BA)	Position Assignment Counseling & Mission Briefing
10-13 January 2020	Yellow Ribbon, Anaheim, CA
14 January – 9 February 2020	Pre-deployment Training (AT), JBLM
5 March 2020	Start Title 10 Orders; Farewell Ceremony, Seattle, WA
7 March – 4 April 2020	Mobilization Station, Fort Hood, TX
6 April 2020 – 19 December 2020	Kuwait
19-24 December 2020	Post Deployment, Fort Hood, TX
24 December 2020	Travel Home
21 January 2021	End of Terminal Leave

2. End dates for pre and post deployment training may change based on the train to standard principle.

3. Soldiers with medical issues resulting in a medical hold at Fort Hood will fall under the control of 1st Army until completion of medical evaluation and release to home of record.



We almost made it to the place where you don't want to go.



HHC Forwards T-Wall at Camp Buehring located adjacent to the Camp Headquarters. Left to right are the unit artists: SGT Esposito, SPC Harris, and SPC Lowman.