

Our Story

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony & the Mohatt Family
Mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom: August 2005
Returned from Iraq: November 2006

Away from Home: 15+ months

Purpose

- To provide Rural Mental Health professionals information on what happens during a deployment so you can help Soldiers and their families when they return home.

Outline

- 2BN 137 IN RGT OIF 05-07 Deployment
- Soldier Changes
- Reintegration Challenges

2BN 137TH IN RGT

- Deployed OEF in 2002
- Alerted in April 05 for OIF 05-07
- Activated in Aug 05
 - 550 Soldiers
 - Ft Riley, KS –Aug 05
 - Ft Sill, OK Sept 05
 - Ft Fort Irwin, CA Oct 05
 - Camp Buehring, Kuwait Nov 05
 - 10 Forward Operating Bases in Iraq Dec 05
- De-mobilize Ft. McCoy, WI in Nov 06
- 12 plus 1 policy so BN could deploy again in 2010.

Different Deployments Similar Experiences

- Separation
- Anxiety
- Camaraderie
- Military Discipline
- Foreign Culture

Different Deployment Different Experiences

- Combat Stress
- Long Deployments
- Too much communication for a Combat Zone?
- Insurgency

Soldier Changes – Warrior and Leader Mentality

- After months of conditioning:
 - Quick, constant, important decisions
 - Adrenaline rush
 - Black & White
 - Regimented Discipline
 - Sense of importance from service and sacrifice
 - Always a leader and in control
 - Show no weakness
 - Duty is the only focus
 - Physical
 - Mental
 - Financial

Soldier Reintegration Challenges

- Feeling alienated
- No battle rhythm
- A new set of complex problems-Financial, Marital, Sexual
- Desire to remain in control, but tired of making constant decisions
- Impatient with bureaucracies and slow decisions
- Intolerant of those who “haven’t been there”
- Struggle to find importance in daily responsibilities
- Discover that “old problems” within family still exist & “new problems” have been created
- Frustration with others lack of appreciation for what we have.

Conclusion

- They all will return home and some will need assistance.

Questions?

Contact Information

LTC Anthony Mohatt

Commander

2nd Battalion 137th Infantry Regiment

Kansas Army National Guard

100 South 20th Street

Kansas City, Kansas 66102

785-220-0419

605-371-6480