

Farewell, kudos to the 70th Medium Truck Detachment

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-- On December 9, 2006, the 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron and the Army Joint Logistics Task Force 57 said goodbye to the 162 Airmen of the 70th Medium Truck Detachment (MTD) II. Major General Thomas D. Robinson, 377th Transportation Support Command, presided over the Transition of Authority Ceremony held at the Camp Arifjan Chapel Auditorium. Colonel Don S. Cornett, 336 TC Group Commander spoke to the gathered audience and praised the 70th MTD II accomplishments, their high level of readiness, standards and discipline that "speaks volumes regarding the dedication to duty and professionalism of the Airmen of the 70th Medium Truck Detachment. Throughout their deployment they have shown nothing less than the highest commitment to the core values of the Air Force – integrity, service, and excellence."

The combat Airmen of the 70th Medium Truck Detachment arrived from 38 different active duty Air Force bases and 9 unique Air Force specialties to train at the Basic Combat Convoy course at Camp Anderson-Peters in San Antonio, Texas in April 2006. After 46 days of Air Force and Army training, the 70th MTD arrived in theater in May 2006 as a cohesive unit of combat convoy warriors. Led by Captain Joseph Barber, the "Scorpions" of the 70 MTD

hit the road running and first crossed into Iraq on May 25, 2006, one day after arrival. Since then, they have been heavily relied on, operating through two different surge periods with crews receiving sometimes as little as 24 hours

180, Joint Logistics Task Force 57, and their own Air Force chain of command. A record-setting unit, they racked-up more miles than any other Air Force convoy line-haul unit to date with over 5 million miles traveled, and their contribution

world. They deployed the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the 1-172 Stryker Brigade's Rapid Deployable Packages, and the 10th Mountain and 4th Infantry Divisions in order to help quell the violence in Iraq.

During their deployment, the Scorpions endured 14 IED attacks, 19 Small Arms attacks and 13 complex and Rocket Propelled Grenade attacks. Three Airmen received the Purple Heart, 24 earned the Combat Action Badge for direct enemy contact, and 111 vehicle operators and 15 mechanics were awarded the Army's Driver and Mechanic Badges for their earned and sought expertise.

Chief Master Sergeant Tony Killion, the Scorpions Detachment Chief stated that they were also the lead unit for many improvements throughout the Joint Logistics Task Force 57 as well as the AOR. They were the first Medium Truck unit to field the Duke Warlock system, an IED jammer, while their Airmen improved conditions at FOB Scania by transporting and setting up tents and air conditioning units for use by all transient military units. Their mechanics and operators worked to find a viable fix for the M915 truck rear cab mounts that were recently on display for the Secretary of the Air Force.

Their attention to detail and professionalism allowed the detachment to maintain an operational readiness rate of 97% throughout the deployment and they never missed a mission due to non-availability of resources.

We wish them well.



Major General Robinson, 377th TSC, awards Captain Joseph Barber, 70th MTD Commander with the Bronze Star.

of rest between missions.

The Airmen quickly established themselves as a premier convoy line-haul unit; despite the fact they were an in-lieu- of unit operating in an unfamiliar Army system. During their tour they received numerous accolades from 828th Battalion, Logistics Task Force

helped the 586 Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron earn the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award.

The Airmen of the 70th MTD completed 203 deployment, redeployment, and sustainment line-haul missions in Iraq and Kuwait, traveling over some of the most dangerous roads in the

