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

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