



Photos by Pfc. Sean McGuire, 4th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

The 21st CSH, 1st Med. Bde., 13th ESC, redeployed 68 Soldiers during a welcome home ceremony July 8 at Fort Hood's Kieschnick Physical Fitness Center.



Captain Michael Stepp is hugged by his wife, Carol, following a redeployment ceremony inside the Kieschnick Physical Fitness Center July 8 at Fort Hood. Stepp and 67 other active-duty medical personnel returned from Iraq with the 21st CSH.

1st Medical Brigade welcomes back 68; more to come

BY PFC. SEAN MCGUIRE
4th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

The 1st Medical Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), held a welcome home ceremony July 8 inside Kieschnick Physical Fitness Center for 68 returning Soldiers.

The Soldiers fell under the 21st Combat Support Hospital for their deployment, which began in December 2009.

The Soldiers were a part of the Professional Filler System that the Army uses to fill voids in units for deployments.

The 68 medical troops were attached to the 21st CSH in Mosul, Al Asad, and Camp Speicher during their tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While in theater, they conducted Level-Three medical operations, which included trauma care and routine treatment. Upon redeployment to Fort Hood, the Soldiers dispersed back to their original duty stations.

Captain Michael Stepp's family said they were ecstatic that the 21st CSH and 1st Med. Bde. held a formal ceremony for the troops.

"I'm so happy a ceremony happened because it's my first time experiencing this. We're all so excited," said Stepp's wife, Carol, who noted that her husband has served since the Vietnam War. In 1969, she said, he got out of the Army to finish his degree and raise a family. Her husband re-entered the service in the Army Reserve as an officer during the Gulf War.

Stepp returned to active duty in 2002, at the age of 52.

"We're definitely going to go to Outback and have some juicy steaks this weekend," Carol said. "And I'm sure we'll probably have to go to Whataburger, as well, per his request."

In the coming months, members of the 21st CSH will gradually return from Iraq. The 1st Med. Bde. will see two units redeploy in the next two months, including the 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, in the next 30 days.



A Soldier stands at attention during a redeployment ceremony July 8 at Fort Hood Kieschnick Physical Fitness Center. Sixty-eight troops from the 21st CSH, 1st Med. Bde., 13th ESC returned from Iraq and were reunited with loved ones.

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