



Snakebite

The Official Newsletter of the 116th Brigade Combat Team

Commander's Corner

by Brigadier General Alan Gayhart, Commander

Fellow Warriors, I know that many of you have gone on leave, and many more are looking forward to the opportunity to take leave and see your loved ones. Be aware that each of you has changed during this deployment, and may have a different outlook on life, than you did before deployment. You have experienced and been challenged by many things without your families, during this time. Your family has also



BG Gayhart

had a similar experience, dealing with the challenges of life without their loved ones. Due to your experiences, you may have expectations of what life will be like when you are at home. Conversely, your family, after dealing with the challenges at home without you, may also have different expectations. This is a point of conflict that each of you and your families need to

Continued on page 3

CSM Briefing

by 116th BCT Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Lewis

It seems like yesterday we were at Fort Bliss and we are half way through our deployment. I do look forward to going home and spending some time with the family. I think the days get a little longer the closer you get to going home. I know the Chaplain and the safety officer give you a brief



CSM Lewis

before you go home; you really need to pay attention to them. Our families have been through a lot just like we have and they need our support, just like we need theirs. We listen to the Safety officer every night at the BUB, and he has more statistics on vehicle

Continued on page 3

Congressional delegations visit FOB Warrior

by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq – Congressional delegations paid visits May 1 and May 8 to the leaders and soldiers of the Idaho-based 116th Brigade Combat Team at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq.

The May 1 delegation included Idaho Congressmen U.S. Sen. Larry Craig, U.S. Rep. C.L. Butch Otter and U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, as well as Secretary of Veterans Affairs, R. James “Jim” Nicholson.

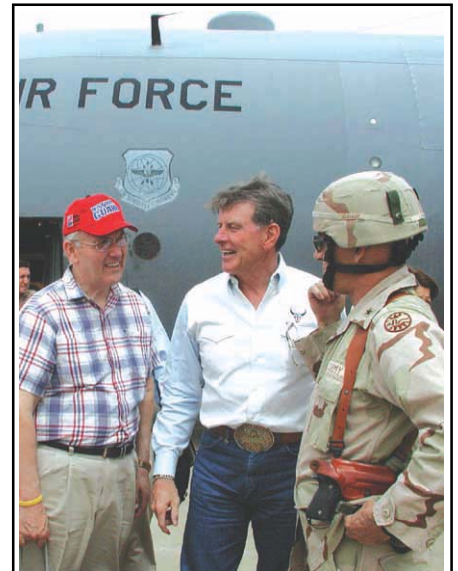
U.S. Representatives Robin Hayes of North Carolina, Tom Tancredo of Colorado, Tom Pomeroy of North Dakota, Jon Salazar of Colorado and Todd Akin of Missouri, made up the second delegation May 8.

This is the first time these delegates have visited the 116th BCT soldiers since the

unit arrived in Iraq last December.

Shortly after the delegations arrived both were given an operations and intelligence briefing and ate lunch at the FOB Warrior dining facility, where they had the opportunity to talk to soldiers from their respective states. Soldiers were allowed time to talk and get photos with the distinguished visitors. Some soldiers took advantage of the opportunity to discuss issues with the guests.

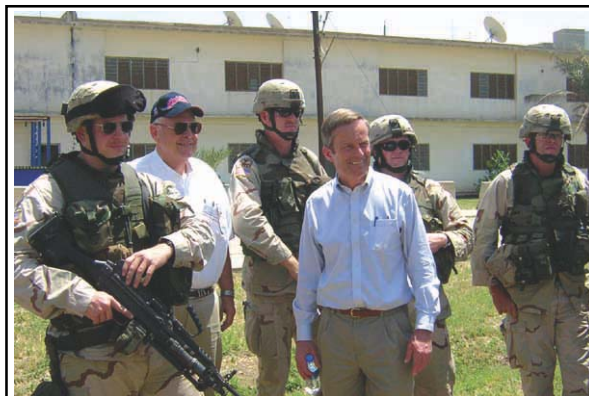
The first delegation went to visit Brigade HQ, where



Idaho Congressmen U.S. Sen. Larry Craig (left), and Rep. C.L. Butch Otter (center), are welcomed by Brig. Gen. Gayhart (right) to FOB Warrior May 1.

Sen. Craig presented a soldier with the Combat Medical Badge. This was followed by visits to HQ, 2-116 Armor, then HQ, 145th Support Bn., then

Continued on page 19



Soldiers from TF 2-116 Armor were recently visited by a Congressional delegation which included N. Car. Representative Robin Hayes (L), and Congressman Todd Akin from Missouri (R). (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack White)

Inside

Buckshot Jones ... Pg 3

Titan Heart awards ... Pg 5

Battalion Updates... Pgs 7-18

Homestate Briefs/ Iraq News ... Page 21



Snakebites is a product of the 116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office. It is the official command information publication of the 116th BCT. This publication's intent is to provide timely and relevant information to the soldiers, families and employers of the 116th BCT.



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Submission Policy

The *Snakebites* staff welcomes submissions from its readers. If you have an article and/or photo that you feel would be appropriate for this publication please e-mail it to monte.hibbert@us.army.mil or drop it by the PAO office at Bldg. 370, FOB Warrior.

Media Interview Tips

- Always tell the truth.
- Assume that everything you say will be used and attributed to you. Avoid "Off the record" conversations with reporters. If you don't want to see it in print or on television, don't say it.
- Stay in your lane; talk only about things for which you are responsible.
- Do not speculate.
- It's ok to say: "I don't know."
- Refer specific recruiting questions to your recruiter.
- If you can't answer a reporter's question, explain why. For example, if the incident is under investigation, just let the reporter know.
- Always remain calm and professional.
- Practice what you want to say in front of a mirror or a friend to become more comfortable.
- Be yourself. You have a great story to tell and your community wants to hear it!
- Discuss what you know, provided OPSEC is not violated.

*****ATTENTION MEDIA OUTLETS*****

The 116th BCT has no release authority for information about casualties or deaths. This falls to our higher headquarters. Please don't query us directly for this information. Thank you.

Kempthorne joins ride to the wall kick-off, as 116th BCT film debuts

by Mike Journey

(BOISE) - Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne joined the kick-off leg of the 2005 Ride to the Wall April 30, as part of a Treasure Valley tour culminating with the free debut of a film honoring members of the Idaho National Guard serving in Iraq.

The Ride To The Wall, raises awareness of the plight of needy and disabled veterans, POWs and MIAs and honors all veterans who have served in the defense of freedom. The ride is sponsored by the Ride To The Wall Foundation, which was created by musician and Idaho resident Paul Revere as a non-profit organization to help raise money for various veterans outreach programs.

"This is just one small way to thank veterans for all that they've done for our great nation," Kempthorne said. "We'll honor the

soldiers and the families, past and present, who've made the sacrifices needed when called to duty by their country."

Starting at Victor's Hogs & Horns, at 3110 E Cleveland Blvd., in Caldwell at 10:30 a.m., the caravan stop at downtown Boise's Egyptian Theater for the noon debut of Operation Thanksgiving, an hour-long film tribute to the soldiers and families of the 116th Brigade Combat Team, now taking part in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The ride ends at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., where it will join the annual Rolling Thunder rally on Memorial Day weekend to honor Vietnam veterans and calling for a complete accounting of all American POWs and MIAs.

The free debut showing of Operation Thanksgiving will be presented by the Ride to the Wall Foundation, the

Idaho National Guard and Governor Kempthorne. The film, commissioned by The Ride to the Wall Foundation, documents Idaho's version of a USO tour for the troops of the 116th BCT over the Thanksgiving holiday in Alexandria, Louisiana.

Seating for the film debut was limited, and available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. The film was attended by citizen soldiers, citizen airmen and family members of the Idaho National Guard. Employers of deployed Guardsmen also participated.

In addition, a "donation accepted" pancake breakfast benefiting the foundation took place at Victor's Hogs and Horns, Edmark Plaza, 3110 E. Cleveland Blvd, Caldwell. From there, the procession went to the Egyptian Theater.

Free assessment for child care needs

by Kelli Reid, Family Assistance Center Coordinator

For those families that have child care issues and would like to voice your concerns, please read the following.

Our citizen soldiers have become the leading

In Volume 5, Edition 19 of the Snakebites, in the Staff Sgt. Davis Memorial article there was a misidentification made of an individual, Lt. Col. Walsh was erroneously identified as Anthony Walsh. The Lt. Colonel's correct name is John Walsh.

force in the world today; however, with two family incomes and both parents sharing the responsibility of transporting and caring for children, quality, affordable, and accessible childcare is a must.

In order to ensure that families' needs are being met, a Child Care Needs Assessment has been developed. This brief assessment will aid us in understanding how we can facilitate this process. Please forward this survey link to your guard families and request their immediate participation. The survey is appropriate for all guard

families (deployed or not deployed) with children under age 15. The following link leads to the survey. <http://www.AdvancedSurvey.com/default.asp?SurveyID=21294> <http://www.advancedsurvey.com/default.asp?SurveyID=21294>

For more information, contact us or mailto: NGChildANDYouthProgram@mpscrc.com; Or contact Kelli Reid, Family Assistance Center Coordinator at; (208)237-3700 ext7187 (208)422-7187 DSN (208)680-2233 Cell

Army Chapel Schedule

Sunday

0900 - Catholic Mass
1100 - General Protestant Worship Service
1400 - Catholic Mass
1530 - LDS

Monday

1830 - LDS Family Home Eve. CP18, Pod 15
1900 - Praise Band Rehearsal

Tuesday

1930 - Men's Fellowship

Wednesday

1900 - Bible Study

Thursday

1930 - Bible Study

Friday

1200 - Muslim Prayer Service @ Base Mosque

Saturday

1930 - Gospel Service

Freedom (Air Force) Chapel Schedule

Sunday

0630 - Protestant Morning Prayer
0800 - Gospel Service
0900 - Latter-Day-Saints (@ the LRC)
1000 - Contemporary Worship Svc.
1130 - Catholic Mass
1830 - Protestant Evening Prayer
1900 - General Protestant Worship Service

Saturday

1900 - Catholic Mass
2030 - Lutheran Service
2115 - Rosary & Mass (DFAC)

Heroes Banquet to be held

by Kelli Reid, Family Assistance Center Coordinator

You are cordially invited to a Heroes Banquet honoring the deployed men and women of the armed forces and their families, May 18, 2005 at the Red Lion Hotel, 1555 Pocatello Creek Road, Pocatell, Idaho. 5:30 pm - Social Hour, with a silent auction. 6:30pm - Dinner. 7:30 pm - Program.

There is no cost to the families of military personnel.

Please RSVP by contacting Kelli Reid at kelli.reid@id.ngb.army.mil or by calling 237-3700. For questions or directions, please contact Kelli at this number. There are a limited amount of tickets available, so they will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Buckshot Jones

by Chaplain (Col.) John Worster

The New Testament uses an interesting word. It is AXIOS. The word is in the Koine, or common Greek, and means useful, fitting, or worthy. It comes into play when the Lord says, for example, "He who does not pick up his cross and follow me is not AXIOS (worthy) of the Kingdom of Heaven." This adjective carries with it the implication that, given the natural abilities and gifts that our loving God has given us, some serious response is required of us. Being AXIOS means that we answer the call we've received, embrace that vocation, and go where it leads. Which brings me to Buckshot Jones.

Buckshot was a little dog that actually was outweighed by most cats I've known. He was probably six or seven pounds, which made him smaller than some of the cutthroat I've caught and released in Idaho's trout streams. He was dark gunmetal gray with brown highlights and had an impossible underbite. He really needed a puppy orthodontist. The face problem though, actually made him pretty ferocious looking. Buckshot Jones belonged to some good friends of mine,

had lots of energy, liked to jump up on laps, and was pretty loving. He proved last year that he truly was AXIOS - useful, fitting and worthy.

After school last year a neighbor dog attacked Catherine, one of the little girls in buckshot's family. Her screams reached Buckshot's ears, and out he trotted into battle. When he arrived at the scene, the bad dog had already put some puncture holes in Catherine's arm, and she was fighting for her life. Little Buckshot made a violent enough attack that the bad dog let Catherine go and turned on our little hero.

I went to the hospital to see Catherine, and her parents. Buckshot died during the night of his wounds despite the great efforts of our local vet.

It really does not matter that Buckshot was only answering the great, interior, instinctual call of the wolves that were his ancestors. He really was AXIOS, to the point of the greatest of personal sacrifices. That's why we who knew him recognized that he was noble. Would that all human beings could be equally so.



Chaplain Worster

Don't Forget!

Important Dates to Remember:

21 May - *Armed Forces Day*

30 May - *Memorial Day*

14 June - *Flag Day*

19 June - *Father's Day*

21 June - *First day of Summer*

4 July - *Independence Day*

You don't want to forget your loved one's anniversaries or birthdays! Start planning now!

Commander's Corner...

Continued from page 1

recognize and be sensitive with during this homecoming.

I encourage each of you to utilize the great team of professionals that will present counseling and briefings before your trip back home. The Chaplain, JAG and Safety Officer will provide you with valuable information that can assist you in ensuring your

time with your family at home will be a safe, loving, enjoyable and relaxing experience.

Enjoy your leave and come back relaxed, refreshed and ready to finish our important mission here in Iraq.

"Warriors First"

CSM Briefing...

Continued from page 1

accidents that take our soldier's lives. A lot of these accidents involve alcohol, and

not wearing seat belts. Some of these accidents are caused by excessive speed. Just listen to the Chaplain and the safety officer for you and your family's sake. Let us all say a little prayer for the family of Timothy C. Kiser. May God take him and hold him forever as we are proud for having the opportunity to serve with him. He touched the hearts of so many and will be missed by all.

Question of the Week

What are your plans for when you go on leave?



Sgt. Jason Tibbets
G Troop, 82nd Cavalry

"I just got back from leave. My wife had a new baby boy."



Sgt. Scott Zander
HHC, TF 1-163rd Infantry

"I already went. I went jet-skiing and got a sun-burn."



Sgt. Ron Cartwright
HHC, TF 1-163rd Infantry

"I'm going to go home to seed my crops."



Spc. Cory McCauley
G Troop, 82nd Cavalry

"I've got a beautiful girl waiting back home. I can guarantee I'll be spending 90% of my time with her."



Capt. Chris Kessinger
HHC, 116 BCT

"Hopefully I'm getting engaged."

Accident avoidance and motor vehicle safety

by Maj. Bill Miller, 116th BCT Safety Officer

For some time now the Brigade Chaplain, our Staff Judge Advocate and I have been briefing soldiers as they prepare to take leave. My portion of the briefing focuses on accident avoidance and motor vehicle safety. The reason I focus on vehicle safety is 66% of our accidental deaths are due to vehicle accidents. Unless stated, the statistics I use come from the United States Army Combat Readiness Center. So, as we take our leave what can we

do about accidents? Here is some food for thought when driving.

The type of vehicle is a factor. If available, consider driving a mid- or full-size vehicle for your trips. Survey says mid and full size vehicles offer the best protection. You can check the crash protection ratings available for your vehicle from NHTSA <http://nhtsa.dot.gov> and other sources.

Not wearing seatbelts is a bad choice; not wearing your seatbelt increases chances of not surviving a crash. Please consider that

your life and your passenger's will be the ones that will suffer. Tell yourself, "I will wear my seatbelt at all times on and off duty." Click it or Ticket "it's the law." Also require all passengers to wear their seatbelt as well. If children are riding with you require them to use a child seat.

Start trips rested. Get some sleep! Drowsy driving causes at least 100,000 crashes in the United States each year, according to NHTSA reports. Fatigue impairs reaction time, judgment, and vision; decreases performance, vigilance,

and motivation; increases aggressiveness; and causes problems with information processing and short-term memory, all of which can set the stage for an accident. In fact, fatigued driving has even been compared to drunk driving in many different studies. Get a good night's sleep prior to departing on trips (6-8 hours recommended).

When traveling on predominantly Multi Lane Roads remember:

Don't tailgate or drive aggressively. Always use turn signals when changing lanes and use mirrors. Increase the

distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead to maintain traffic flow and use the 3-second rule. Avoid speeding and do not take unnecessary chances while driving.

Take rest stops. On long trips, schedule at least a 15-minute break outside the vehicle every 2 hours. If you don't stop, be alert for the signs of sleepiness: trouble keeping your eyes open, difficulty paying attention, or yawning frequently. If you notice any of these danger signs, stop periodically for a rest

Continued on page 5

Iraqi linguists receive Titan Heart awards for injuries in line of duty

by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—

Two Iraqi linguists assigned to the 116th Brigade Combat Team here, were awarded the Titan Heart April 20 for wounds received while serving coalition forces as interpreters in Iraq.

Khalil Asmail Mahmood and Goran Husain Habib received the award from Lt. Col. Robert Lytle, 116th BCT executive officer, at the Army chapel on Forward Operating Base Warrior. The Titan Heart is given

for wounds received by employees of Titan Corporation, the primary contractor for linguists to the military in Iraq. The award is analogous to the Purple Heart awarded to military members wounded by hostile fire.

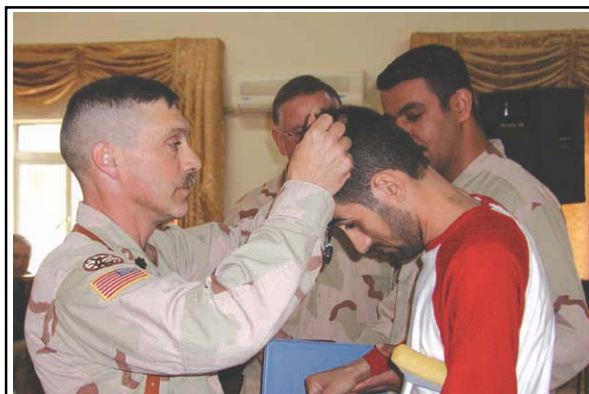
“The reason we’re here is to recognize two fine men who have sacrificed for Iraq,” said Mr. Sam Tillett, a Titan Corporation regional manager for East Iraq who introduced the awardees and gave a short history of their service.

According to Tillett, both awardees held respectable positions in their communities prior to coming to work as linguists in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mahmood was a supervisor at the Bayji power plant and Habib held a position as an electrical technician.

Mahmood was on patrol with soldiers of the 2nd BCT’s 1-27 Infantry last year when their vehicle was hit with an explosive device. Injures sustained in the blast resulted in the loss of one of his eyes and other injuries. After treatment and recuperation, he returned to work as soon as he was able. He now works for the 116th BCT’s Task Force 1-163 Infantry, who replaced the 1-27 Infantry in February.

“He never stopped work,” said Tillett. “His desire was to forget about his injury and get back to work.”

Tillett said Habib, while also working with the 1-27 Infantry last year, was the “target of an assassination at-



Lt. Col. Robert Lytle, 116th BCT executive officer, presents the Titan Heart award to Goran Husain Habib at a ceremony April 20 at Forward Operating Base Warrior for wounds received in action. (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)

tempt” when insurgents entered his home at night and shot five AK-47 rounds into his back. The severity of his wounds prevented him

from coming back to work, but he is still recuperating and is assigned to the 116th BCT.

Continued on page 10



Two Iraqi interpreters were awarded the Titan Heart at a ceremony April 20, at Forward Operating Base Warrior for wounds received in action. Pictured from left to right are Najat Qadir Mohamed (Mahmood’s wife), Khalil Asmail Mahmood, Goram Husain Habib, Hamdia As’aad (Goram’s mother) and Husain Habib (Goram’s father). (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)



Lt. Col. Robert Lytle, 116th Brigade Combat Team executive officer, presents the Titan Heart award to Khalil Asmail Mahmood at a ceremony April 20 at FOB Warrior for wounds received in action. (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)

Messages from home

To One and All at FOB McHenry; You’re ALL heroes in our hearts & minds!!! Hi Staff Sgt. T; You’re in our thoughts & prayers. Miss you bunches, love you tons, Dad & Mom.

This is for Staff Sgt. McCallum, at FOB McHenry, C Co., 116; You’re our Favorite Homegrown Hero!!!

Hi Matt/Daddy, We love you & are praying for

you & the guys each day! Stay safe & see you soon. Love you, Glory and your boys, Logan & Luke.

Daddy Kasper (Spc Carlson), We are so proud of you and miss you very much. We send you kisses and hugs every night. Hurry home! Love, your Baby girls, Laina Bug & Em Bear.

Hello Son, We are so Proud of YOU SON. Pray all is well with you. Pray for the safety of all that are over

there also and their Families. How are you? Please stay safe. All is well here..... Love you Isaac..... Mom and Dad.

This is to all the A & O soldiers in 3rd platoon with Charlie Company, 116th Engineer Battalion and to my Husband, Sgt. Nicholas Metzger, We love you very much. We are proud of ALL of you and the job you are doing so far away from home. Be safe, stay strong and focus

on the job at hand. Please know how much we all love & miss you. The days are counting down and we can not wait for your safe return home to us. Nick, we think of you and pray for you every day. We love you! God Bless! Love,

Carla & Faith.

Spc. Broesch, We are very proud of you. We miss you to the moon and back. Love from your girls!

Accident...

Continued from page 4

and, if needed, a quick nap—even 20 minutes will help. Allow plenty of time. Take a break every two hours. Remember to stop and take additional breaks when needed.

The time of day we travel is another factor to consider. Many reported sleep-related accidents and incidents were

Continued on page 17

116 BCT visited by Lt. Gen Petraeus



The 116th BCT Commander, Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart and Lt. Gen. Petraeus (3rd from R), met recently on a visit by the General to FOB Warrior.

Free summer camps for children of deployed SM

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The National Military Family Association (NMFA) and Sears, Roebuck and Co. today announced the sites for the 2005 Operation Purple Summer Camps. The camps provide unique experiences to more than 2,000 children whose parents are deployed with the U.S. Armed Forces.

The 22 Operation Purple Camps provide children from U.S. military families with fun and memorable opportunities to learn new skills for coping with deployment-related stress. The camps are funded through the Sears American Dream Campaign, a \$100 million commitment to strengthen families, homes and communities.

Operation Purple is the only summer camp program that focuses on helping kids deal with deployment-related issues and is open to children of personnel from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces ("purple" is a military term representing inclusion of all branches). Applications for the camps will be available on the NMFA web site at [http://](http://www.nmfa.org/)

www.nmfa.org/. Sears, Roebuck's funding enables children to attend the camps at no charge.

NMFA developed Operation Purple camps last year in response to the need for increased support services benefiting children of men and women serving in the Armed Forces, especially those whose parents are or will be deployed. With funding from Sears, Roebuck in 2004, NMFA conducted 12 camps reaching nearly 1,000 young people.

This year, the program has expanded to host more than 2,000 kids. NMFA estimates that more than 135,000 children are experiencing the absence of a parent due to a deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan. This statistic does not include children who have parents deployed elsewhere around the world.

"Operation Purple Summer Camps fulfill a critical need in the military community," says Candace Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer of NMFA. "We have been overwhelmed by the messages of support and gratitude we've received from children, parents, the Department of Defense, the

National Guard Bureau and Members of Congress. We are thrilled to be able to expand the program this year. Sears prides itself on serving the needs of homes and families, and our affiliation with the NMFA provides advocacy programs for the families of men and women actively serving in our armed forces," said Alan J. Lacy, vice chairman and CEO of Sears Holdings Corporation. "Our support of the summer camps enables a fabulous developmental experience for thousands of children and enriches the lives of their families."

One in four American children will grow up to serve in the military or marry a servicemember, according to the Defense Manpower Data Center, making an investment in today's military kids is important for positively affecting tomorrow's military community.

Operation Purple Camp Details - The camps, which last from five to seven days, give kids ages eight to 18 an exciting and memorable camp experience, providing tools to help them deal with the stress resulting from a parent's

deployment. Each camp is joint and "purple" - encompassing all service branches, including the National Guard and Reserve - and offered free of charge to all participants.

Interested children from military families are encouraged to apply for the camp located nearest their home. More than 30 weeks of Operation Purple camps are offered in 18 states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah), three international locations (Germany, Italy and Japan) and one unincorporated U.S. territory (Guam). A list of camp dates, sites and other information is now available on NMFA's web site. Applications will be available on April 15.

About NMFA - The National Military Family Association, a nonprofit organization, is the only national organization whose sole focus is the military family and whose goal is to influence the development and implementation of policies

that will improve the lives of those family members. The association's mission is to serve the families of the seven uniformed services through education, information and advocacy. For more than 35 years its staff and volunteers, comprised mostly of military family members, have built a reputation for being the leading experts on military family issues.

About Sears, Roebuck and Co. - Sears, Roebuck has a long tradition of support for the men and women of the armed forces and their families dating back to 1916.

Today, for qualified Sears, Roebuck employees activated for duty through the National Guard or Reserves, the company pays the difference between the soldiers' Sears, Roebuck salary and military pay and offers extended employment benefits for up to 60 months. Since 2003, Sears, Roebuck has provided NMFA with more than \$2 million to address the unique challenges faced by military families.

Idaho to hold home-coming party for National Guard

The state of Idaho is planning a party for the Idaho Army National Guard when they return later this year.

The celebration of thanks includes former governors Phil Batt and Cecil Andrus, Boise State President Bob Kustra and the CEOs of Boise's biggest and richest companies, including Micron Technology, Albertsons, Washington

Group International and both St. Luke's and St. Alphonsus regional medical centers.

Anyone wanting to help with Boise's welcome home celebration for the Idaho Army National Guard troops, please call the Boise Mayor's Hotline at (208)-384-4404 and leave your name, phone number and an explanation of what you'd like to do to help.

145th Support Battalion

Summertime is near

by *Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier, 145th SPT Bn.*

Yes sir, summer is rapidly closing in on us with temperatures already hitting the high 90's. Soldiers do not always like the heat, and tend to remove clothing while working to stay cooler. I am here to tell you we must maintain uniform discipline at all times. When working outside we must wear our blouses and helmets at all times. It's the rules we all must follow. The Division follows these rules, the Brigade follows these rules, and we must enforce the rules.

Now a mechanic may wear his coveralls, though what is underneath is a question a gentleman does



CSM Whittier

not ask and he may also remove his helmet while climbing around and over vehicles in the line of duty. But once he traipses about the area to shoot the bull and smoke, he is under the same rules as everyone else. Supervisors have some latitude in the back of semi trucks, but once again when that soldier is out and about, full uniform is the word of the day. It is hard to mow and trim the grass at midday in a helmet, sweat shirt wetter than a wet hen, but

Continued on page 19

Iraq is a country about twice the size of Idaho with a population of over 26 million. Located in the heart of the Middle East, it borders Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria. Over 40% desert, the terrain of Iraq includes large flat expanses deeply cut by rivers and wadis. Mountains rise to over 12,000 feet in the north.

In terms of weather and climate, the country is mostly dry and hot, although mountains in the north provide cooler temperatures and more rainfall. Because of the climate and terrain, natural hazards such as drought, flooding, sand storms, dust storms and earthquakes are possible. The main sources of water are the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, water bodies that are vital to Iraq yet rise in Turkey.

Water is a continuing source of conflict in the region. Vegetation in Iraq is extremely sparse with the exceptions in the northern mountains and marshy areas in the south.

Historically, this area is considered by many scholars to be the cradle of humanity. Ancient Mesopotamian civilizations, such as the Sumerians and Babylonians, contributed cultural elements that are still important thousands of years later. Over time, the area was conquered time and time again, producing diverse cultural patterns. Many religions are practiced, but Islam accounts for 97% of all Iraqis. The country includes many of the holiest shrines of Shiite Islam. Iraqis speak 23 languages with various forms of Arabic

Iraq, a quick review

by *Lt. Col. Terry Harrell, 145th SPT Bn. Commander*



LTC Harrell

dominating. Kurdish dialects are spoken by about 20% of the population, representing the differences between much of Iraq and "Kurdistan" in the north. Kurds have long been used as political pawns in struggles among Iraq, Iran and Turkey. Although Kurds and southern Shiite groups, in spite of the repression suffered from previous authoritarian regimes, continue to be active political players.

145th SB NCO of the month

Sgt. Jennie Garcia

The 145th Support Battalion is pleased to announce it's choice for NCO of the Month for March 2005. Sgt. Jennie Garcia of the 126th Forward Surgical Team was selected by a board consisting of the battalion staff of the 145th Spt. Bn. and the 126th Forward Surgical Team. Sgt. Garcia was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA, and graduated from Arroyo High School in 1998. She began Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and completed Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas as an Honor Graduate in the 91D



Sgt. Jennie Garcia, Soldier of the month, March 2005

Operating Room Specialist Course. Sgt. Garcia was assigned to the O.R. section of B Company, 21st Combat Support Hospital where she

later won the Soldier of the Year for the 1st Medical Brigade at Fort Hood. Other accomplishments include winning the title of the fastest woman at Fort Hood in a 2004 competition, has won three 5k and one 10k race since deployment, and is now known as the fastest woman on FOB Warrior. Sgt. Garcia plans on completing her bachelor's degree in Biology, attending Physician's Assistant School, and obtaining a Master in Psychology.

Other candidates for the NCO of the month included Sgt. Helgeson of C Co., 145th Support Battalion.

means the country could double in size in 25 years. Today, roughly 40% of the population is under age 15. Demographic statistics indicate that Iraq's population is worse off than their neighbors in terms of

Continued on page 19

"Know the enemy, know yourself and your victory will never be endangered. Know the ground, know the weather and your victory will then be total." --

Sun Tsu

145th Support Battalion

145th SB Soldier of the month

Spc. Jeremy Poland

The 145th Support Battalion is pleased to announce its choice for Soldier of the Month for March 2005. Spc. Jeremy Poland of B Company, 145th Spt. Bn. was selected by a board consisting of the 145th battalion staff and the 126th Forward Surgical Team.

Spc. Poland was born into the military, as his father was on Active Duty with the Air Force. Most of his life has seen him moving from one Air Force Base to next, and finally ending up at Mountain Home AFB where he graduated from High School. Spc. Poland joined

the Idaho Army National Guard in 2001 as a 63W.

He attended Basic Training at Fort Knox, KY, and AIT at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD. He has completed the Primary Leadership Development Course and is Combat Lifesaver qualified.

Spc. Poland's supervisors describe him as dependable and a pleasure to have in the company. He has improved shop operations with his work ethics, pride in work, and giving of himself to others.

Spc. Poland is married to Kendall Poland with daughter Tyra in Mountain

Home, Idaho.

Other candidates for the Soldier of the Month included Spc. Mcalpin of C Co., 145 Support Battalion, Spc. Michael Hagan of A Co., 145th Support Battalion, and Pvt. 1st Class David Lane of the 126th Forward Surgical Team.

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

Team Raider

by Lt. Alexander Carey, Raider Commander

Every week the seventeen soldiers who form Team Raider travel the roads of northern Iraq to deliver food, fuel, mail, maintenance parts, personnel, and a variety of other supplies to their comrades in arms located in outlying FOBs. The Team is composed of soldiers who previously came from a variety of sections but are now working together as one team to accomplish a common mission. They are usually accompanied by a few other soldiers in the battalion who volunteer to

help with the CLP when needed. The Raider soldiers have come to know the routes they travel in Iraq, just as well as ones they used back at home. They organize, load, and provide security for the weekly combat logistics patrols, or CLPs as they are commonly known, so that the units at our other FOBs have the basic resources to conduct other combat operations.

Our travels begin at the FOB and through the city of Kirkuk. For a few tense minutes we are immersed in traffic, crazy drivers, busy markets, and rough roads. Once outside of the city the

scenery changes, and while still alert, it is also apparent that we drive through some of the nicer regions of Iraq. As our convoys take us through what use to be the autonomous region of Kurdistan, we notice the people are happy to see us. The busy city is replaced with vast farmland or tall mountains. We usually receive smiles, waves, and friendly horn honking from other drivers on the road. A constant, while driving through towns, are little kids rushing to the road with happy faces and thumbs up signs. We have seen some interesting events while driving through these areas to include a bike race, weddings, a New Years celebration, people celebrating the election results, and plenty of donkeys and cows venturing into the highway. We have seen the positive sign of the growing role of the Iraqi Security Forces in the Kirkuk region. More and more we see the tan pickup trucks of the Iraqi Army, with AK bearing soldiers riding in the back patrolling the roads. Occasionally, our convoys will be joined by an Iraqi police escort, and even once, a CHiPs

like motorcycle cop led the way for a few miles while we were traveling out east. Although, we were comfortable with our up-armored HMMWV and its .50 caliber machine gun leading the way, the gesture was symbolic of the ISF and coalition forces working together.

As to date Team Raider has run more than 40 convoys without serious incident and consistently delivered much needed items to our outlying FOBs and the battalion retrans site. The continued success of these convoys comes from the hard work of the Raider

NCOS and soldiers. Each week they devote hours to convoy preparation with vehicle maintenance, weapons maintenance, and loading of supplies. Although the previous battalion trained Raider on its CLP mission and provided a good foundation to work from, the Raider soldiers sought to make improvements on their own and not simply maintain the status quo.

As the days go by the challenge for Team Raider becomes fighting complacency as we get into a

Continued on page 19



The members of Team Raider pause for a picture with local Iraqi children somewhere in downtown Kirkuk.



TF 1-148 Field Artillery

TF 1-148 FA conducts Medical and Dental Assistance Visit

by Capt. Heidi Munro, C Co.,
145th Support Bn. Physician's
Assistant

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq – Coalition forces came together with local Iraqis April 11-12 to provide healthcare to two villages in the Dibis, Iraq area by conducting a Medical and Dental Assistance Visit (MDAV).

The MDAV was a humanitarian mission organized by Capt. Travis Weiszhaar, physician's assistant (PA) for Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery. Weiszhaar began planning this event several months ago, by first identifying an area of need.

"We did a number of patrols to different villages, talked with the Mukhtar and local leaders and enlisted the help of local healthcare professionals," said Weiszhaar. "Two sites in particular were found lacking in access to basic health care, and identified as ideal locations."

The two day MDAV was held April 11 in the Arab village of Abu Karja, and April 12 in the Kurdish village of Shahal.

"The event was quite successful," said Weiszhaar. "Over 350 medical and dental patients were seen."

Treatment was provided for acute illnesses and injuries, arrangements were made for the chronically ill, and referrals were made for specialty consults and surgery. Childhood immunizations were administered, and blood was screened for malaria. In addition, dental hygiene instruction was provided to about 80 children.

Professionals supporting the visit from the 116th BCT Medical Team also included Capt. Heidi Munro, PA, and Capt. Jeffrey Kesling, dentist, both from C Co., 145th Support Battalion. Iraqi professionals included two physicians and two dentists from the Dibis area. Additionally, there were medics and dental technicians, nurses, lab technicians, and administrative staff from the 116th and the local community.



Capt. Jeffrey Kesling, a 116th Brigade Combat Team dentist, teaches a group of children proper dental hygiene procedure during a medical and dental assistance visit to Abu Karja and Shahal, Iraq. (116th BCT Photo)

"The majority of medications were provided as donations by clinics and hospitals in the Pocatello and Rexburg area, as well as the Dibis clinic," said Weiszhaar. "There were also many gift donations from anysoldier.com, and the 'Beanie Baby Brigade.'"

According to the providers, the MDAV proved to be more than just medical care. It provided a demonstration of diversity and cooperation in many areas.

"The Badger and Outlaw teams of the 148th FA provided security in conjunction with nearly 80 Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police," said Weiszhaar. "Together they reconned the area, provided quick reaction force (QRF) for medical staff, transported patients to the site, and provided crowd control and inner security."

Combined forces did all the set up for the event, as well as a "hands across the desert" clean up afterwards. Over the course of two days, the American soldiers worked closely with the Iraqi military as well as both

Arab and Kurdish men, women and children.

Capt. Erick Wiedmeir, Forward Operating Base Dibis commander, was pleased with the outcome.

"Overall, it was a success for combined operations between our medical team and theirs and our security forces and theirs," he said. "It was also good to see the interaction between the Kurds and the Arabs. I would like to see us do this more often".

According to MDAV participants, local leaders and a media crew were on site as well. Capt. Weiszhaar was interviewed by a Kurdish

news station. When asked, "Why do you do this?" he replied, "There are areas that are in need of health care. This is an opportunity for local providers and coalition forces to come together to provide basic health care, identify chronic problems, and provide education. It is our hope that every Iraqi individual, especially the children, have the opportunity to receive quality healthcare as this country continues to recognize and respect the many needs of its great citizens."

This event was the fifth major assistance visit for the 116th BCT. Similar smaller events have been ongoing, particularly in area of operations (AO) West with the 1-163rd infantry battalion.

Providing medical support to the Iraqi people is part of the 116th BCT's mission in Iraq which also includes establishing security, assisting Iraq's new government, supporting economic development and facilitating communications.



Capt. Travis Weiszhaar, a physician's assistant with the 116th BCT's TF1-148 FA, plays with an infant while proud parents watch during a medical and dental assistance visit to Abu Karja and Shahal, Iraq. (116th BCT Photo)



Capt. Travis Weiszhaar, a physician's assistant with the 116th BCT's TF 1-148th FA, is interviewed by an Iraqi TV station during a medical and dental assistance visit to Shahal, Iraq. (116th BCT Photo)

TF 2-116th Armor



CSM Henry Chin, of TF 2-116 Armor (Center), poses with CSM Hellinger of the Multi-National Task Force-Iraq (MNF-I) (Left), and 42d ID CSM Fearnside (Right), during a recent visit to FOB Warrior.

2-116 Armor Youth Group's summer camp

by Tanya Chin, TF 2-16th
Armor FSG Coordinator

As many of you may know, the youth group is booming. We took 74 kids to the Annual Snow Bash in February and a great time was had by all. Along with the rapid growth of the programs comes a need for additional youth leaders and volunteers in all areas, as well as a need for larger youth participation levels on the planning committees. Out of the 74 kids that attended the Snow Bash, fewer than 10 were actually involved in the planning committee efforts to ensure that all were able to attend. We desperately need kids to help plan Summer Camp. If you do not live in the Western area or are unable to attend, please let us know if you would like to be included via e-mail. We want to include all who would like to participate.

E-mail me @
tanya.chin@id.ngb.army.mil

The Youth Summer Camp is in the planning stages. Some areas are working very hard to ensure

that they are participating in the fundraisers being provided by the State. Please remember that if you would like to attend camp for FREE, you need to talk to your area leader about earning your way through the fundraisers provided. If your area is not participating, please contact me directly so I may assist you in getting the fundraising products!

The cost for camp this year will be around \$115.00 if you would rather pay. All who participate in the fundraisers will be first to attend for free. If there is any money left it will be first come first serve after those who have been actively helping with the fundraisers and planning committees. Please remember that the registration period ends June 1, 2005—no exceptions. I am expecting a record turn out, so hurry; there will be many new things during camp with the same great friends we have enjoyed for many years.

R & R leave mission

by Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin

Rattlers, you have worked hard, and continue to prove that the Guard Soldier is an essential force in the fight. I'm proud to have the opportunity to serve with you at such an historic time.

Since last year in July 2004 our families, friends, and employers have seen the role of the guard change dramatically. We're not on tanks and not training in the OTA, we are here in Iraq fulfilling urban operations.

You have done everything asked of you and served with honor, distinction and selfless commitment which has made you an enormous asset to the United States and its Army. Again, thank



Sgt. Maj. Chin

you for your call to duty, day in and day out.

I count on NCOs to continue to discipline and focus on the missions ahead. We are approaching the half way point, and we can't allow our NCOs or their soldiers to let their guard down now.

I depend on leaders to work harder, enforce all standards, and thoroughly inspect soldiers to ensure they meet the Army standard. In addition, thousands of people

see our soldiers each day; let's make the first impression one of a fighter.

As you walk alone in the PX or DFAC areas and see someone that doesn't meet the army standards, stop them and help them out. It's our responsibility as NCOs.

It is the same for safety issues too. We must do the PCIs & PCCs. We must do risk assessments every time we get ready to go out that gate. If we don't take this seriously we are endangering our soldiers. We will work together and continue to meet the challenges together.

I have confidence in our NCOs to do the right thing, lead by example. SINE MORA.

2-116 gives food to orphanage

Recently, TF 2-116 AR visited a local orphanage to deliver food purchased with donations. The money was raised during a battalion fundraising barbecue.

The food allotted by the Government to the orphanage is not enough to last the month, so money was collected by TF 2-116 donations and a barbecue,

which was used to purchase the food. Six bottles of concentrated orange drink, one bottle of pineapple juice, one bottle of pineapple juice, five large chickens, two cans of chicken, four cans of tuna, four cans corned beef hash, three cans of olives, two cans of mushrooms, two cans of peas and nine large bags of assorted cookies were purchased, all for \$60.



Food bought with donations raised by a TF 2-116 AR barbecue, was delivered to a local orphanage.

Titan Heart awards...

Continued from page 5

"I remember his determination to fight through these injuries and live," said Tillet.

During the award presentation, the award citation was read aloud as the awards were hung around the neck of each honoree by the 116th BCT Executive Officer Lt. Col. Lytle. The citation reads that the awards are for "wounds received in action in the Republic of Iraq."

"We have over 4,000 Iraqi linguists that work daily," said Tillet. "It takes a lot of courage and bravery to do what they do."

TF 2-116th Armor

2-116 soldiers receive CSM coins

Six Soldiers were presented the Command Sergeant Major's coin recently, by Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin.

Spc. Bingham, Alpha team 4th squad scout platoon, goes above and beyond to ensure his vehicle is in perfect order before every mission, his Track Commander (TC) never has to tell him to clean the window, it's clean before each mission and during a mission.

Spc. Salcedo demonstrated his technical proficiency as the platoon medic by assisting soldiers assigned CTT first aid tasks,



Spc. Salcedo was recently presented a CSM coin by Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin for exemplary performance as platoon medic.

thus ensuring that the standards were met and the training was performance oriented and driven. He was

selected as a trainer for the Battalion Combat Lifesaver course conducted on April 15-16. Spc. Salcedo has



These Soldiers from HHC, TF 2-116 Armor were recently recognized for their efforts in combat, combat support and combat service support. (Left to Right), Spc. Barajas, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin, Spc. Archer and Spc. Johnston. (Staff Sgt. Brower not present)

taken a personal interest in the health of each soldier in the platoon and continually ensures that

every soldier has prompt, effective and efficient medical treatment when needed.



CSM coin, Spc. Bingham, Alpha team 4th squad Scout Platoon. Spc. Bingham goes above and beyond to ensure his vehicle is in perfect order before every mission

TF 2-116 Armor Soldier of the Month

Spc. Bearden exemplifies the meaning of 'Team Player'. He continuously looks out for the wellbeing of his peers, always offering advice or pointing out strengths to maintain. Spc. Bearden volunteers to participate in all missions and details.

He is an excellent role model for his squad and platoon. Spc. Bearden is the epitome of the 'can do' attitude. He exemplifies the Warrior Ethos and is a credit to his unit and the 116th Cavalry Brigade.

Spc. Bearden resides in Idaho with his wife and their two children.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin congratulates Spc. Bearden upon selection as TF 2-116 Armor Soldier of the Month for April, 2005. He presented Spc. Bearden with a CSM Coin for his performance.

TF2-116AR assesses condition of Pediatric Hospital

An assessment by TF 2-116 Armor, of Qudos Pediatric Hospital was completed on February 23. The hospital is currently slated for a project that will provide a new structure that will accommodate 100 additional beds, doubling it's current capacity. The hospital is the only pediatric hospital in the governorate of Kirkuk. The 116th BCT and TF 2-116 AR are concerned with the welfare of the children of Iraq, and will continue to work with the



Moms have a bed next to their child's at the Qudos Pediatric Hospital.

Director of the hospital to assure the needs of the Kirkuk pediatric population are being met.



An Italian company recently donated 10 incubators to the Hospital, but it is still in need of significant equipment to provide the specialized services children often require.

TF 2-116th Armor

Operation fix-it repairs hospital equipment

Donations of medical equipment are a common occurrence by many NGO's and others, yet these donations come with no training for maintenance or

repairs for the local medical technicians. This shortsightedness results in equipment lasting for only a short amount of time without sustainability.

Our goal is to provide assistance to local Iraqi hospitals by collaboratively working with their technicians to repair medical equipment. The goal is to not only repair the equipment, which will have a large impact on the Province of Kirkuk, but also to provide sustainable skills to the local Iraqis, so they will be able to maintain and repair their own equipment in the future.

Army, Air Force and local Iraqi technicians worked collaboratively in an attempt to fix equipment at Kirkuk General Hospital. Much of this equipment has been non-functional for some time. It will take more than one visit to finish the project.



Spc. Gorgas and SrA Cagel work on the x-ray machine at Kirkuk General Hospital, as an interested party looks on.



Spc. Gorgas and SrA Cagel become familiar with the operation and condition of the hospital's equipment.

2-116 Commentary - Bio-waste control

This pile of biohazard waste was discovered outside of Kirkuk General Hospital, according to Capt. Schroeder, a medical officer of TF 2-116 Armor. Unfortunately, the hospital employees chose to flush the needles and other waste down the drain.

While we need to work on getting new hospitals and buildings for Kirkuk, it is of vital importance to provide them with the tools and skills to deal with the simplest of tasks like biohazard waste control. Fixing this problem

would have significant effects on the overall health of the province of Kirkuk.

Kirkuk is receiving a large sum of money for healthcare, with the current plan to build a new hospital, yet without the proper infrastructure all they will have is a new building continuing to provide substandard care. The goal for that money should be to improve the basics like biohazard waste, before jumping into a large, while more visible product like a new hospital.



This pile was in the middle of the parking lot where anyone, including young children could have encountered it.

TF 3-116th Armor

Promotion

Sgt. Maj. Garry Black

1st Sgt. Garry Black of HHC, TF 3-116 Armor was promoted to Sergeant Major effective April 1, 2005.

He was pinned by Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Brooks in an open air ceremony conducted Sunday April

24 at the HHC Command Post on FOB Warrior, Iraq.

After the completion of the deployment Sgt. Maj. Black will transfer to the 1249th Engineer Battalion as their new Command Sergeant Major.

Black joined the Oregon Army National Guard in February of 1995 as an Infantryman in Lebanon, OR.

He continued his progress through the ranks with F 1-82 CAV,



Lebanon, Oregon, before volunteering to deploy as the 1SG for HHC, TF 3-116

Armor. He resides in Oregon with his wife and his step daughter.



TF 3-116th Armor

Symbols

by Lt. Col. Dan McCabe, commander, TF 3-116 Armor

Iraq is a land of symbols; almost too many to count. Each one holds meanings that we need to understand and add to our rucksack of knowledge when we deal with the local leaders and average citizen.

Some may seem innocent like flowers for Kurds, baby blue paint for Turkomen, black garb and face coverings for Shi'a women, long uncut mustaces for the men of the Kaki religion. Some have hidden meaning, known only to the few followers of the faction that develops it – but like Masonic symbols in the West, they give their followers comfort and a psychological lift. Some like the long beards and man dresses of the Wahhabists seem sinister and threatening to us and bring up our guard instantly. All mean something and all need to be watched for by us as we go about on our daily patrols and meetings.

Some symbols we seem to understand right away, like flags. We have the stars and stripes and everyone knows it is the symbol of the United States. It has been a conscious effort on the part of our National leadership to keep this away from the eyes of the Iraqi people in an effort to focus them on their own symbol. They have the Iraqi Flag with the three stars and the red, white and green and it

should be the only symbol displayed on government property in Iraq (symbols on private property can be displayed openly and as part of freedom of expression, as long as it has not been banned by the Iraqi Government).

But unfortunately it doesn't stop there, because there are also flags that display Kurdistan with a sun burst in the middle of the colors of Iraq's flag; it looks innocent enough but in reality it can be a tar baby for Coalition Forces; especially here in the Kirkuk Province, where the stated claims of the Kurdish parties is to reclaim Kirkuk as the Jerusalem of Kurdistan. Of course this goes against earlier agreements under the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL) and specifically Article 58 that must be resolved by the National Government in Baghdad. When Turkomen and Arabs see this flag cropping up on overpasses or on government buildings, it sets off a storm of protest and escalates tensions amongst all ethnicities and heightens the potential for violence. So we go out and make them take down or paint over flags where we find them and smooth over the situation because we are seen as the neutral party and we have a moral imperative, a legacy of the war, to work towards creating peace and understanding of what cooperation can do for



LTC McCabe

these groups. But it's hard sometimes to understand their fixation with these symbols and just how much it means to them.

Add to this scenario other symbols like the Turkomen Flag of the ITF (Blue with a white crescent moon and star), or the flag of the IMT, or the red flag with crescent and sickle of the Kurdistan Communist Party. Keep adding in the Religious Flags of the Sunni and Shi'a Arabs, the Assyrians, and so forth, and you begin to understand the complications involved in this country – and all of them have adherents who cling to these symbols as hard and fast as we do the American Flag. What becomes a pitfall for us, the tar baby, is when we become immune to their presence and shrug them off as not really important in the bigger scheme of things. This is a dangerous attitude and one where the tar baby comes to dance. By letting these symbols stand on public ground, it becomes de facto acceptance on the part of the CFs, and in some cases it goes further if we let it. We can become unwitting participants in their

Information Operations campaign.

I'll give you an example where the IO campaign becomes kinetic and not just passive; where the stakes got ratcheted up in order to gain an advantage from us using flags as symbols. I personally got caught up a while back in a situation that shows to what lengths these factions will go to link us to these symbols in an effort to give legitimacy to their cause.

In this case it was a seemingly innocent opening of a new primary school in a Kurdish area that was built to give the school children in the area a good place to learn – what a great opportunity to show our good intentions and gain a little IO leverage for our brigade! This event was just like several others celebrated over the last few months, with one exception; the parties wanted to show the CF's celebrating with the flag (the symbol) of Kurdistan.

The event started well with the cutting of the ribbon opening the school; just after we had walked the celebration area to ensure it was clear of just such symbols. However, between the few minutes when the TPT team assigned to the unit cleared the area and the actual ribbon cutting, the party functionaries put up Kurdistan flags in the courtyard and then there we were in the picture. This was truly and IO ambush. Add in the cute kids singing

praises (literally) for Kurdistan and the speeches by the KDP and PUK, all caught on film and digits courtesy of the local Kurdish press, and what should have been an IO footnote for us, became a big event for the Kurdish parties. Moral of the story; always watch the people you are dealing with and assume they will use you and their symbols to make the case for their cause.

While this might seem an extreme example, the real lesson learned here is that the use of symbols means a lot to people who have been starved for something to believe in during the Saddam years, and they will use you whenever they can and use your passive or active acceptance of these symbols to try and legitimize their efforts. Just like OPSEC concerns, the IO concerns weigh just as heavily in this AO and symbols are a great way of getting their message out. This is why it is very critical for us to be ever vigilant in maintaining a neutral face and to enforce the idea of a universal Iraqi symbol and not that of any particular party, especially in places where they should not be.

Bottomline: Symbols are important here and people can get hurt for them if we aren't careful. Keep your eyes and ears open and don't become a pawn in someone else's game.

TF 1-163rd Infantry

On counter-mortar patrol with 2nd plt., C Co., TF 1-163 Infantry

by *Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer*

FOB MCHENRY, Iraq— Suddenly, the all-too-familiar sound of an enemy rocket whizzing overhead was heard. The tower quickly identified the location from which it was fired and two high explosive artillery rounds were fired in response.

Even though the location was known and the artillery fired, soldiers arrived in the area to find that the mysterious “rocket man” had escaped them.

Soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team’s Task Force 1-163 Infantry are working hard each day to deter, find and

capture enemy insurgents who fire rockets or mortars at their base. They regularly patrol areas identified as potential firing positions. Such was the case April 7, when the Montana Army National Guard’s 2nd Platoon, C Company, TF 1-163 conducted a counter-mortar patrol in

the countryside near Hawijah.

“This is a pretty simple, easy patrol,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Wood, the patrol’s non-commissioned officer in charge. “We normally patrol the streets of Hawijah.”

At the northern tip of the Sunni triangle,

Hawijah is known to be a hotbed of insurgent activity. Last April insurgents here went head-to-head with coalition forces in clash now known as the “Battle of Hawijah.” That battle is one reason regular patrols scour the area.

Continued on page 15

TF 1-163 Infantry trains Iraqi Army

by *Spc. Jacob Eaton, TF 1-163rd Infantry*

FOB MCHENRY, Iraq— Sgt. 1st Class Brian Weishaar waited anxiously in his humvee as he prepared to take his platoon in to the Iraqi city of Hawija. Traveling into the city was nothing new for Weishaar or any of the members of his 1st platoon of Company C, Task Force 1-163 Infantry. But this mission was unlike most. This day, his mission as Platoon Leader of 1st platoon, was to lead a dismounted anti-insurgency patrol, which included not only his platoon, but members of the Iraqi Army as well.

The platoon rolled out of the gates of their Forward Observation Base through the city, stopping at the Iraqi Army compound, located in the heart of the town. “We hadn’t given any previous notice to the IA that we were planning on doing a patrol with them that night,” Weishaar said, “I informed their commanding officer that I wanted one of his squads to go out with us and they were ready to roll in under 15 minutes. I was impressed.”

Staff Sgt. Todd Tryan had been selected by Weishaar to lead the Iraqi Squad that evening. “At first I really wasn’t sure what to expect from these guys,” Tryan explained, “I work with my squad everyday – I know everyone’s abilities. I know that I can trust them to be there when I need them and know they have the skills to succeed in any situation. Working with the IA, I was a little uneasy at first,” Tryan confessed.

As a fail safe to ensure his safety, Tryan was assisted that night by Staff Sgt. D. J. Chapman. However, as the patrol moved through the city any doubts Tryan may have had were soon erased. “As they moved, I was really impressed with the abilities of the Iraqis,” Tryan said, “They had the basics down, they were fully aware of the weight of the situation and knew how to react. I was thoroughly impressed with their soldiering skills.” For Tryan this was a night to see the results of several weeks of hard work paying off. “We’ve spent a lot of

time training the IA, so this was a great opportunity to see the results of all that work paying off on the battlefield.”

The combined effort snaked throughout the city to provide a security presence to the local population and reduce the maneuver abilities of anti-Iraqi forces operating in the area. “We talked with several locals,” Weishaar said, “mostly just letting them know we were there, and asking if they had seen any suspicious activity in the area.”

Despite the success of the patrol, operating a multi-national force is not without its problems. According to Weishaar the single largest problems facing him and other leaders on the ground that operate in a combined effort with the Iraqi Army, is the language barrier. Working with a translator is never easy. However, Weishaar felt that the Iraqis understand what they are being taught. Equipment is another issue that faces these combined efforts.

SSG Tryan’s Iraqi squad was unable to differentiate him from the rest of the group. This problem was quickly solved by Tryan. “I put a red chem light in my right cargo pocket, and a blue chem light in my left, that way my guys on the right new to look for a red light and my guys left, a blue light.”

Weishaar’s mission was part of a new focus for Task Force 1-163 Infantry, the Montana based National Guard unit. “We’ve basically been tasked to train an entire army battalion in six months,” said Capt. Mark Sauvageau, the commanding officer of the Task Force’s Company C. Elements of Task Force 1-163 Infantry are working with the Iraqi Army to train them in every aspect of military operations.

The training started with the best and brightest of the Iraqi Army, employing a widely used US Army tactic called, train the trainer. This is a system in which US forces train Iraqi’s, who then teach their fellow soldiers the newly learned skills. According to Sauvageau

and Company C’s 1st Sgt. Garth Flint, the training starts at the very basic individual level and eventually working up to squad, platoon and then company level training. The soldiers of Company C work with members of their Iraqi sister company 4 days a week, for 4 weeks. At the end of the 4 week rotation a new crop of Iraqi soldiers is incorporated into the program.

Cramming such a heavy training schedule into such a short time period may seem to present a challenge, but it does not deter Sauvageau or his troops. “We are use to tight time constraints in the Guard. We always have a lot of training to try to get in during a drill weekend. You just have to make it happen. This is no different.” Sauvageau remains quite optimistic that his troops are up to the task. “Being a National Guard Unit, our guys bring in a lot of outside experience we can put to use here. We have trained teachers, coaches, tradesmen, managers... guys from all different walks of life that have a wealth of knowledge we can draw from.”

Counter-mortar...

Continued from page 14

“The Hawijah area has a history of instability,” said Staff Sgt. Larry Dunlap, 2nd platoon sergeant, who was also on the counter-mortar patrol. “We want to be sure we don’t have a repeat of last year’s hostilities.”

The region around Hawijah is also believed to have housed up to two full divisions of Saddam’s military during the height of his dictatorship, and some of those former regime elements are believed to be fostering current insurgent activity

in the area, including the rocket and mortar attacks on coalition force bases.

Once the patrol exited the FOB and crossed a bridge the patrol continued along a tree line and out into the countryside, consisting mainly of grain fields and irrigation ditches.

“Out here is where we think they launch from—out in these fields,” said Dunlap, motioning toward some grain fields to the left of the patrol.

While no insurgents could be seen emplacing or firing rounds that morning, evidence of recent related activity abounded. At one point

the patrol halted at a suspiciously fresh burn spot in the middle of the road and carefully recorded it’s location for reporting to higher headquarters.

As the patrol was driving through an area used as a garbage dump, one of the vehicles identified a casing for a 50 millimeter mortar lying in the debris.

“The people here told us that people come and shoot things here and then leave,” said Dunlap. “We’ve got some pre-plotted locations in areas that aren’t populated in case we identify that they are firing from this area.”

As the patrol wove its way through the maze of dirt roads and fields, there were some surprises to be had. Several times the patrol had close encounters with animals, including sheep, water buffalo and dogs. The patrol also passed through some small villages and was greeted alternately by waving children running toward them or the typical motionless stares of their parents and grandparents.

“The only ones I recognize over and over are the Iraqi Army guys,” said Dunlap when asked whether he recognized any of the people seen in passing. “I think you just don’t let your guard down enough to get to know them.”

Pvt. 1st Class Jevin Scaggs, Dunlap’s driver, also replied as to whether he recognized anyone.

“Me, on the other hand, I see the same people every day,” he said jokingly, eyeing

Dunlap and the others in the vehicle.

Scaggs’ jovial personality also came through when the patrol accidentally drove up some poor farmer’s private drive and had to turn around. While he was turning around and as the parents stared, he quickly opened his window and handed a bag to the farmer’s children and drove away. “I just gave them a little bag with some kisses, hard candy and little kids’ toys,” he said. “The bag says ‘Smile, Jesus Loves You’ on the outside.”

Toward the end of the patrol, a hasty traffic control point was set up near a small village to randomly search a few vehicles coming and going from the area.

“Sometimes we do find a vehicle with four guys in it, so we pull them over,” said Dunlap, explaining reasons they may do non-random searches. “Vehicles flying down dirt roads are also suspicious.”

After searching a few vehicles randomly, the patrol was ended when they were called back to the FOB to prepare for the next mission.



Sgt. 1st Class Larry Dunlap records the location of a suspicious burn spot in the road while conducting a counter-mortar patrol in Iraq, while Sgt. Morgan Nelson overwatches from the gunner’s turret. (Photo by Capt Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)



A couple of water buffalo stare at a passing counter-mortar patrol April 7 in the countryside near Hawijah, Iraq. (Photo by Capt Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)



This little girl will soon be the unwitting recipient of a bag of goodies from Pvt. 1st Class Jevin Scaggs. Scaggs gave her the goodie bag during a counter-mortar patrol April 7 near Hawijah, Iraq, as her parents and older siblings looked on. (Photo by Capt Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)



Sgt. 1st Class John Wood discusses the patrol’s next move with Staff Sgt. Allen Hunt, while Staff Sgt. James Zimmerman and Staff Sgt. Larry Dunlap stand by during a counter-mortar patrol April 7 near Hawijah, Iraq. (Photo by Capt Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)

TF 1-163rd Infantry

TF 1-163 mess section keeps soldiers at FOB McHenry fed

by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB McHENRY, Iraq—Mess section soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 1-163 Infantry are making much more than meals here, they're making friends and providing structure to the day for hundreds of soldiers supporting the task force mission.

The fourteen-Soldier mess section works in two shifts and feeds both a breakfast and afternoon meals. The afternoon shift prepares for the next day's

breakfast and the morning crew prepares for the afternoon meal.

"Right now we're cooking for hundreds of people," said Sgt. Keith Fredricksen, a mess section shift lead non-commissioned officer. "It's like Groundhog Day—you always come back to the same thing."

While the daily grind of cooking can be monotonous, the daily meal cycle provides structure in the lives of soldiers whose lives are filled with so many other things that are unpredictable.

"The whole FOB is focused on us," said Fredricksen. "No one remembers when we open the doors early—only when we open late."

Between having soldiers tasked for regular chores like guard duty and having some section members gone on leave, each shift averages five dedicated mess section personnel and three to seven soldiers assigned to kitchen patrol (KP). These crews provide the food, drinks, smiles and clean dishes to soldiers as they dutifully clear weapons, wash hands and file into the chow line twice daily. They also come up with some pretty good cuisine, considering that they have to come up with menus from whatever the supply truck hauls in.

"We work with what comes in on the trucks. It seems like we get a lot of chicken," said Fredricksen. "These guys are pretty creative. We've got some good cooks here. We do get a lot of compliments."

Fredrickson was quick to point out that they work with

the equipment they brought with them and are strict at following stringent safety procedures in preparing food.

"Our equipment came right out of the MKT," he said, referring to the mobile kitchen trailer assigned to his section.

"We have to cook everything to certain temperatures."

Working in a kitchen day in and day out can be tiring, but mess section Soldiers do find ways to have fun on the job.

"Where do I start," said Pvt. 1st Class John Ray III, a member of the section. "I think the funniest thing is when we

had a water fight and someone ended up getting dumped in the sink."

While having fun on the job can make the day seem brighter, it is clear that the TF 1-163 mess section fulfills an important and serious role in keeping the gears turning for the soldiers at FOB McHenry.



Soldiers serve breakfast in the kitchen at FOB McHenry, Iraq. (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)



Sgt. Keith Fredricksen (right) visits with Sgt. Chalermchai Mann in the kitchen at FOB McHenry, Iraq. Both are members of the 116th Brigade Combat Team's TF 1-163 IN mess section. (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)

B Co., TF 1-163 Infantry takes to the air

by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—Coalition infantrymen recently traded in their Bradley fighting vehicles and up-armored humvees for Army Blackhawk helicopters as part of a nighttime combined raid with Iraqi Army soldiers to round up insurgents near Zaab, Iraq.

The 116th Brigade Combat Team's B Company, Task Force 1-163 Infantry in conjunction with Soldiers from the 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade conducted a combined air and ground assault raid intended to net insurgents loyal to Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi. Bravo Company, TF 1-163 Infantry was assigned the air assault mission, while Iraqi Army soldiers conducted a

ground assault to capture various Mukafera cell leaders.

"Neutralizing the Zaab area of Jihadist activities is critical to maintaining local support for the coalition," said Spc. Vincent Luparell, a B Company, TF 1-163 Infantry soldier, who participated in the air assault phase of the mission. "Issa Abdullah

Continued on page 19



Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, B Company, Task Force 1-163 Infantry (Chalk 7) pose for this shot before their first combat air assault mission with their supporting combat aviation crew. (Photo by Spc. Tyler Egosque, B Company, TF 1-163 Infantry)

TF 1-163rd Infantry

Message from Griz Six

by Lt. Col John Walsh, 1-163rd INBn.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every family member, for their tremendous support of their loved ones who are deployed from the 1-163 Infantry to Iraq. I also want to wish all of the Task Force mothers a very Happy Mothers Day!

I know that many of you hear from your deployed Soldier often and are well aware of the significant contributions our Task Force has made from the moment we arrived in Iraq. Our Soldiers have never let up, always putting their efforts wholeheartedly into ensuring steady, dramatic progress is made every day for the freedom loving people in Iraq.

During our time in Iraq, I have spoken with literally every soldier in the Task Force. I can honestly tell you, that every Soldier I have talked with has told me that they know the mission they are performing is

making a huge difference for the Iraqi people. It is my hope that you share in the pride of your deployed loved ones performing their mission everyday. It takes tremendous commitment to put service to country above self, and I am extremely proud of each and every one of our Task Force GRIZ Soldiers. These Soldiers continue to demonstrate their commitment every day.

While your Soldiers are serving selflessly on the front lines of the Global War on Terrorism, each of you is making huge sacrifices on the home front that are very much noticed. Because of your commitment to making sure the home front is taken care of, your loved ones can remain focused on their assigned mission. Our deployed Soldiers know that you are staying positive and providing constant encouragement to them while they are deployed. As you know we are asking much more from our National Guard



Lt. Col. Walsh

Soldier's and family members than we have in several years and I ask that you stay strong for your deployed loved ones who need your support now more than ever.

Our Task Force is an integral part of operations in Iraq, and we honestly believe that we are making a huge difference for the progress of a democratic Iraq. I know we will sustain the high standard of performance during this critical time for the Iraqi people.

When our Task Force Soldiers return home, we will stand tall knowing that we helped set the conditions for a free, secure and stable Iraq. We will also feel tremendous pride knowing we were able

to see the dreams of the Iraqi people become a reality: Live in a democratic society that is free of a brutal dictator.

I ask that you share that same pride and sense of duty. By your support you too are making a huge difference for the Iraqi people during these historic times. After watching the reaction of the Iraqi people following their democratic presidential elections in January, I can tell you first hand that it was a powerfully tangible example of success. We witnessed and participated in one of the most remarkable days in the history of the Iraqi people. The Iraqi elections were hopeful and uplifting.

I would also ask you to remember our 3 fallen Task Force comrades; SFC Robbie D. McNary, SGT Kevin D. Davis, and SPC Timothy C. Kiser who have given their full measure since December 2004 in our mission to bring freedom and liberty to the good people of Iraq. We mourn their loss

and they will never be forgotten. We continue to pray for each of them and their families.

We will honor their sacrifice by completing the Operation Iraqi Freedom III mission to the highest standard. The Soldiers of Task Force GRIZ are resolute and steadfast. There is no doubt in my mind that we will successfully complete this mission. We understand that we are part of something very big. The sacrifices of so many remind us all that those we memorialize today, both past and present, did not die in vain. Indeed, freedom will always be worth fighting for.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your constant support of your deployed Soldiers. Your sacrifice is noticed and felt everyday throughout Task Force 1-163d Infantry in Iraq. Men Do Your Duty!

Accident...

Continued from page 5

clustered in two periods of the day, which are also the most risky—midnight-0200 and 0400-0600. Someone driving between 0400 and 0600 was 13 times more likely to have a sleep-related accident than someone driving between 1000 and 1200, or 2000 and 2200.

What can we say about alcohol? "Don't Drink and Drive," it's the law. Do not drink and drive. Alcohol-related incidents involving

soldiers, Fridays through Sundays are elevated when compared to Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Be cautious when traveling on weekends or holidays. Plan trips around high risk days and holidays if possible.

What about night driving? You are at greater risk when you drive at night. Drivers can't see hazards in the dark as quickly as in daylight, so they have less time to respond. Drivers caught by surprise are less able to

avoid a crash. The risks of night driving include problems with the driver, the roadway, and the vehicle. Use your headlights (low beam or high beam) between the hours of sunset and sunrise. Low-beam headlamps are effective only for speeds up to 20-25 miles per hour. You must use special care when driving faster than these speeds since you will be unable to detect pedestrians, bicyclists, and others. High-beam headlights can reveal objects up to a distance

of at least 450 feet and are most effective for speeds faster than 25 miles per hour. Don't use high-beam headlights within 500 feet of oncoming vehicles. If you are behind other vehicles, use low beams when you are within 300 feet of the vehicle ahead. When leaving a brightly lit place, drive slowly until your eyes grow used to darkness. If a vehicle comes toward you with high beams, flash your headlights to high beam and back to low beam once. Don't look directly

at oncoming headlights. Instead, watch the right edge of your lane. Look quickly to be sure of the other vehicle's position every few seconds. Drive as far to the right as you can if a vehicle with one headlight comes toward you. Do not out drive my headlights. Remember, drivers can't see hazards in the dark as quickly as in daylight, so they have less time to respond.

Check the weather the day prior and the day of traveling. Checking the

Continued on page 19

C Company, TF 1-163 Infantry

In Memoriam Spc. Timothy C. Kiser

A memorial service was held here at FOB McHenry recently, for Spc. Timothy C. Kiser, a member of C Company, 116th Engineer Bn., who was lost in action on April 28, 2005.

The memorial service was conducted by Chaplain (1st Lt.) Ream, before the entire unit as well as Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd ID

Melendez and Spc. Holtz.

A recorded rendition of "Amazing Grace," was played, performed by Spc. Kiser himself.

After the reading of scripture by Staff Sgt. Rossbacher, Chaplain Ream led all those gathered in the memorial prayer. 1st Sgt. Kish then conducted the roll call for C Company,



Spc. Timothy Kiser

Army as a Combat Engineer (12B), in 1986 and served for two years.

He then went on the road as a long distance contract truck driver, started a family and lived the American dream.

Due to recent international terrorist events, Spc. Kiser's desire to serve escalated to the point of enlisting in the California National Guard in August 2003 in order to become a medic and fulfill his desire to serve and help people.

Before he could complete his medic training however, he was activated

on November 29, 2004 and deployed under his previous MOS as a combat engineer. He arrived in theater on January 1, 2005 and joined C Company, 116th Engineers on February 19, 2005.

Spc. Kiser quickly breached the close-knit group of the Grangeville Platoon to become one of the family. This was largely because of his mature

people you just have to ask, "why?" He had a great family, successful career and a big desire to help others. But as you speak to the soldiers that were in his vehicle on that fateful day, the unanimous con-sensus is that Spc. Kiser's efforts were responsible for main-taining control of that vehicle until it came to a stop.



A Soldier of C Company, 116th Engineer Bn., placing Spc. Kiser's dogtags along with his boots, rifle and kevlar, on the stand.

commander, Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, 116th BCT commander, Lt. Col. John Walsh, commander of TF 1-163rd Infantry and several brigade staff members.

The ceremony began with the silent bearing of Spc. Kiser's boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags by C Co. 116 Engineer Bn. soldiers where they were placed for presentation on a platform.

The eulogy was delivered by 1st Lt. Stitt, which was followed by heartfelt remarks from 1st Lt. McDonald, Staff Sgt. Hall, as well as Spc.

followed by the firing of volleys, the 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps. His fellow soldiers came before the presentation platform, where they then passed and saluted, paying their final respects to a friend, a fellow soldier.

Spc. Timothy C. Kiser was born February 5, 1968 in California. He enlisted in the United States



Spc. Bagley of C. Co., 116th Engineer Bn., stands beside the picture of Spc. Timothy Kiser, the driver who brought their vehicle to a safe stop.



Soldiers of the 116th Engineer Bn. salute one last time a hero in their midst, Spc. Timothy Kiser of C Co.

professionalism from being his own boss for several years and his friend-making personality that just seemed to attract loyalty and friendship.

Because of his age, maturity level and life experiences he was seen as a role model and mentor to those he was close to, including his CHU mates, fellow squad members and many others throughout the company.

Spc. Kiser was one of those

Spc. Kiser's self-sacrifice ended as he had lived his life, by placing others before himself. That was the kind of man he was and the kind of man all will remember him for being.

At this time, he has been submitted for a Bronze Star medal as a result of his actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He will also be awarded the Close Combat Badge.

He is survived by his wife Rhonda, stepdaughter Danyelle, stepson Kyle, son Jordan and son Austin.

Iraq Review...

Continued from page 7

life expectancy, nutrition and infant mortality.

Health is a concern not only for the Iraqi people, but also any that enter the country. A variety of diseases and hazards plague the region, malaria, typhoid, tuberculosis and cholera are the most prevalent.

Iraq presents a difficult diplomatic and military situation for the world. Physical and environmental challenges are real and cultural diversity raises questions of loyalty and support, should hostilities continue through the region. The 5,000 year history of the "land between the rivers," of Mesopotamia, has shown that armies conquer and are conquered. Governments rise and fall, but we are here now. In the name of democracy and freedom for all, the future in Iraq will not continue to follow the same script.

Summertime...

Continued from page 7

we have reasons to stay in uniform.

Sunburn is one reason we keep covered, insects and the DBC another, and even modesty may be a factor for some, but rules are rules. We can look back to Fort Bliss when we had to wear the Easy Bake Ovens day in and day out. This is a cake walk compared to that. You want to stay cool, go to the pool. It is open at 0600 in the morning for your pleasure, but do not get sunburned too badly. That would be considered destruction of government property, and subject to another one of those infamous 15-6 investigations. You know you would end up on sunburn check at the pool as a duty for not using sun block with an SPF of 500.

Takes to air...

Continued from page 16

Hamid and his band of thugs have been loyal to Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi for too long."

While most members of B Company had trained and flown on helicopters before, there were some who had not. For Spc. Lee Butterfield this was a first.

"I don't like to fly, so I was scared. But I loved it and would do it again," he said after the mission.

Spc. Luparell was glad that his platoon had some practice runs before doing it for real.

"Dismounting the Blackhawk must be done

properly and after a few run-throughs, we were excited for the ride," said Luparell. "After waiting in standby, the mission presented itself and how quickly the ground beneath us disappeared as we flew into the night sky."

According to participants, this was B Company's first air assault mission. The advantages of an air assault raid may not seem obvious to the untrained, but military leaders were excited by the advantages.

"The Blackhawks quickly moved the elements to the objective without alerting possible insurgents along the road networks," said 1st Lt. Chad Schopp, B Company's

second platoon leader. "In an area of operations as large as Task Force 1-163's, speed and surprise are important."

According to reports, the raid resulted in the capture of several individuals considered high value targets by Iraqi and coalition forces and was executed without complication.

"Task Force 1-163 conducts many combined operations with the Iraqi Army and will do even more in the future as responsibility is shifted to the Iraqi security forces," said Schopp. "But until then, Bravo Company can take the fight to the enemy in any way necessary."

Accident avoid...

Continued from page 17

weather prior to departure will help you anticipate bad weather conditions, but actual conditions might be different from the forecast. Always be prepared to take the appropriate actions for the weather you actually encounter. Contact your

command if the weather changes and causes a delay. Check the weather before during and returning from trips. Always be prepared to take the appropriate actions for the weather actually encountered.

Inspect your vehicle before you travel. If you are not comfortable with vehicle maintenance have your vehicle inspected prior to trips.

Last, make sure the medication you are taking will not affect your driving. Make sure you check your medication before operating your vehicle. Read the label before operating your vehicle and follow directions. Inform your chain of command when taking over the counter medications.

Team Raider...

Continued from page 9

routine. However, there is nothing routine about operating in a combat zone and each day is game day. We have been fortunate to date, having had smooth convoys without considerable enemy interference. Still, we prepare for the inevitable day when the enemy decides to test us and we are forced to use our battle drills and deal with serious adversity. Until that day we will do everything possible to prepare ourselves so we can deal with any situation we might encounter, accomplish our mission effectively, and go home safely.

Congressional...

Continued from page 7

to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation/PX area and lastly to the DFAC for dinner.

"The people of Idaho want to let each and every one of you know how proud we are of what you're doing here and how very thankful we all are for your sacrifice. Maybe I should tell you that I think the Governor is planning a big party when you all come home," said Senator Craig.

The second delegation after lunch, was transported to TF2-116th Armor to visit with soldiers there. They were treated to an outdoor display and a briefing on Patrol Preparations. They asked soldiers questions about the M-16A1 Rifle and were shown how the Explosives, Ordnance and Demolitions robot works.

"We're here answering the needs of the troops. Congress is interested in what our soldiers need here", said Rep. Jon Salazar of Colorado. "We also want to thank all of you for your service to the greatest nation on earth."

Honor Our Military Day



When: Sat., May 21
7-10:30 p.m.

Where: Julia Davis Park to Capitol Park
Idaho State Capitol Steps

Why: To support all military currently serving.

NO COST!

Schedule: 7:00 Rally at Julia Davis Park, behind tennis courts
7:30 Paul Fredrick's, Channel 2 news will announce march to Capitol Park
8:30 Honor Guard Posting of Colors
Pledge of Allegiance
9:00 Meet at Capitol steps, Presentations of Hero Packs to selected Military Kids
9:30 Invocation - Chaplain Moore
9:45 Candlelight Vigil
10:00 Military Kids will end in song
"God Bless the U.S.A."

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, those requesting reasonable accommodations need to contact Ada County five days before the class at 377-2107.

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tues</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thurs</i> | <i>Fri</i> |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab | 2 Madden/ Dominoes 2000 | 3 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000 | 4 Darts Tournament 1900 Spades 2000 | 5 Cinco De Mayo BINGO 2000 | 6 Blackjack 2000 |
| 8 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab Shuffleboard 2000 | 9 Halo 2/ Dominoes 2000 | 10 Texas Hold'em/ 8-Ball 2000 | 11 Darts Tournament 1900 Spades 2000 | 12 Ping-pong 2000 | 13 Hip Hop Night 2000 |
| 15 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab | 16 Madden/ Dominoes 2000 | 17 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000 | 18 Darts Tournament 1900 Spades 2000 | 19 Ping-Pong 2000 | 20 Bazaar 1200-2100 |
| 22 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab Blackjack 2000 | 23 Halo 2/ Dominoes 2000 | 24 Texas Hold'em/ 8-Ball 2000 | 25 Darts Tournament 1900 Spades 2000 | 26 Casino Night 2000 | 27 Country Night 2000 |
| 29 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab | 30 Madden/ Dominoes 2000 | 31 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000 | | | |



Rec Schedule May 2005

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