



Snakebite

The Official Newsletter of the 116th Brigade Combat Team

116th BCT and Dibbis celebrate transition

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

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—In the first move of its kind, coalition forces officially transitioned full security op-

erations of Forward Operating Base Dibbis to the Iraqi Army at a special ceremony today in Dibbis, Iraq.

The historic move marks the first step in the coalition

and Iraqi government's larger plan to transition full responsibility for security and stability operations to Iraqi forces at military installations across the nation. The Dibbis ceremony was the first of its kind in Iraq.

"This proud day marks the first step in the transfer of many military posts throughout Iraq from coalition control to Iraqi control," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, commander of the 116th Brigade Combat Team, during his speech at the ceremony. "It signifies that the Iraqi Army is ready."

The ceremony was attended by approximately 200 dignitaries and civilians who witnessed the raising of the Iraqi flag over the installation, a ribbon cutting and turnover of keys from U.S. Army Capt. Erick Wiedmeier, commander of the 116th BCT's B Battery, Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery, to Iraqi Army Maj. Yawar,

Commander's Corner

by *Brigadier General Alan Gayhart, Commander*

Fellow Warriors, During our mission here in Iraq, we have been extremely successful in hunting down and removing many terrorists and terrorist cells within the province. We have uncovered and destroyed tons of munitions and arms that could be used against us or innocent Iraqis. Our enemy continues to react to our attacks, and adjusts his TTPs to counter our success. We must always be alert and

situationally aware of our surroundings. Do not become complacent. What we did successfully yesterday or how we conducted our mission previously may not work today. The enemy continues to adjust to counter our successes. Look out for each other and never take anything for granted. Know the rules of engagement thoroughly and



BG Gayhart

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Maj. Gen. Anwar speaks at transition ceremony where control of FOB Dibbis was passed to the Iraqi Army May 31.

CSM Briefing

by *116th BCT Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Lewis*

I was reading through some poems that kids had written in schools from the Boise area, and I was amazed at the support they give us as soldiers. One poem stuck in my mind and touched my heart, and I would like to share this with you. The poem was written by Jessica Schroath of Centennial School, in Boise, Idaho. All the poems were great, and they all said

thank you for risking your lives so they can be free.

I hope this gets back to Jessica, so she is aware that we, as soldiers, appreciate her and all the students that sent us letters. It makes us feel

good to know we have the support of the people in our communities. Remember to keep Sgt. John Ogburn, Staff Sgt. Virgil



CSM Lewis

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commander of the Iraqi 4th Division's 1st Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, the unit now in charge of the base and security operations in the area.

"There used to be abusing and torturing going on in

this building before 2003, but after April 2003 this building became an example for freedom," said Iraqi Army Maj.

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Children from the Dibbis community performed at the transition ceremony where control of FOB Dibbis was passed to the IA.

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Snakebite

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.

Locals allowed to visit cemetery and shrine on FOB Warrior

by Cpt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq- Coalition religious and governmental officials allowed visits by family members and worshippers to a cemetery and newly-renovated shrine located on Forward Operating Base Warrior May 21.

Approximately 15 individuals with family members buried at the cemetery visited the shrine dedicated to Imam Sultan Saqy, a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, located on the FOB. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Worster, 116th Brigade Combat Team chaplain, and Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Toney Vick, 506th Air Expeditionary Group chaplain, were among coalition religious leaders who accompanied the group during the visit.

Community members requested permission to enter the FOB to visit the site through Lt. Col. Anthony Wickham, 116th BCT local government liaison, while he was doing regular business at the Kirkuk Government Building recently. The FOB houses the headquarters of both the 116th BCT and the 506th AEG.

"We felt it would be very appropriate to allow these individuals access to the graves of their loved ones," said Wickham. "Saddam forbade them to visit this cemetery

CSM Briefing...

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R. Case, and Spc. Carrie L. French and their families in our prayers. They are an inspiration to everyone who knew them. May God take them and hold them as we are proud to have served with them.

Warriors First
CSMLewis



An Iraqi man prays at the grave of a relative outside of the shrine to Imam Sultan Saqy located on Forward Operating Base Warrior May 21. The man came as part of a group of approximately 15 local residents who requested access to the cemetery and shrine.

when he seized the surrounding area for the airfield. This is the first time many of them have been allowed to visit the graves of their fathers and grandfathers for over 20 years."

Coalition leaders arranged to bring the family members on base and provided transportation for them to the cemetery and shrine complex.

Promoting good will in the local community is one way the 116th BCT is helping the people in the provinces of Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Members of the brigade are also helping local Iraqis establish their new government, train their security forces, stimulate their economy and facilitate their communications.

Cdrs Corner...

Continued from page 1

if unsure of how you should react in a situation, discuss this with your chain of command.

You continue to amaze me with your skills and abilities and how each of you conduct your duties successfully with the highest

level of professionalism that our Army is known for.

Keep up the great fight. Continually look out for each other by using your battle buddy. You are making a big difference in this country as you honorably do what your nation has asked of you. I am proud to serve with each of you great Warriors.

"Warriors First"

American Soldier

by Jessica Schroath

To serve your country
You pledged your life
And left your home,
Your family, friends, and wife.
Sent across the ocean wide
Into the awful hell of war
And continued the dieing fight

Of other men that went before.

Things you felt
Are hard to tell
From pain of heart
To friends who fell.
The sacrifice you made
Has kept me free
So thank you for saving
A stranger like me.

Snake River 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 Protestant Worship Svc.
1130 - Catholic Mass
1900 - Traditional Protestant Worship Service
2000 - Latter-Day Saints @ the LRC

Monday

1900 - Ladies Fellowship
1945 - Godly Fathers/Husbands Bible Study (Chapel Admin. Office)

Monday-Thursday

1130 - Catholic Mass

Tuesday

1900 - Weekly Catholic Meditation @ the LRC
1930 - Protestant Band Practice

Wednesday

1900 - Bible Study
2130 - Praise & Worship Rehearsal

Thursday

1930 - Protestant Band Practice

Friday

1900 - Gospel Service

Saturday

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

Fortes Fortuna Iuvat

by Chaplain (Lt.Col.) John Worster, 116th BCT Chaplain

This Latin phrase means, "Lady Luck Smiles on the Strong." As soldiers and family members approach and pass the one-year anniversary of this deployment, many are digging pretty deep to find the strength to carry this thing through to the end. Granted, it's hard to get ready for something as big as a year in Iraq or a year's separation from a loved one. Certainly I spend lots of time preparing for this year with a Quarter-Pounder in my left hand and a super-sized chocolate shake in my right. Mono and poly-saturated fats do not make for much toughness, unless you're the Pillsbury Dough Boy. Many of us had to play "catch-up" in the toughness department, and Fort Bliss and Fort Polk were places to do it.

I live across the street from a pioneer cemetery in Soda Springs, Idaho. Except for Halloween night, my neighbors are quiet. Reading the historic grave markers is a lesson in toughness, as is seeing the old soldiers gather to raise the flag on Memorial Day. Buried in the ground there are the remains of some pretty tough folks. I buried Little Joe the Blacksmith there some years ago. Tough he was, and kind. Always welding kids' bikes back together for free. There are quite a few grave markers of Army cavalry soldiers – horse cavalry. It is almost unimaginable the hardships they went through, the close-quarters combat with hostile and capable Native American foes. Under the sod are the mortal remains of pioneer women: some who laid to rest four and five infant children before laying down under the same blanket of dirt. It's pretty



Chaplain Worster

sad to see the little cluster of grave markers next to the bigger ones of mom and dad. There are also the graves of freedom's sentinels from every other war, small or large. Those people just seemed to be tough. As Kipling said, "If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and hold on, when there is nothing in you, except the will which says to them, 'hold on.'"

My favorite grave marker in the cemetery is that of Jesse "Caribou Jack" Fairchild. He made the mistake of having too much grog aboard, and too little gun in his arms, when he went down to the Bear River one day. There is a reason that it's called the "Bear" river. Ol' Jesse went up against a Grizzle Bar in the willows with just a one-shot nose loader. Actually, as drunk as he was, he probably saw two bears. He managed to hit one of them, but not hard enough, and was mauled. He died several days later. Old Jess wasn't too bright, but boy was he tough.

So now is the time for us to just dig a little deeper and find new strength. The happy day of reunion at airports across America is coming soon. What kind of people do we want to be when that day arrives? Do we want to finish strong, or to just barely make it? Although our struggles, separations, hardships and frustrations are genuine - history records greater. There is a lot of inspiration in that. Cemeteries contain the remains of the giants that preceded us. Their labors made freedom's present moment possible. When Lady Luck smiles, it is upon the strong.

Don't Forget!

Important Dates to Remember:

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!

Question of the Week

What is a convenience here that you didn't expect before you came?



*Spc. Nicholas Moran
HHC, TF 1-163 Infantry*

"I'd probably say availability of the phones and communications."



*Sgt. Jay Cooley
HHC, TF 1-163 Infantry*

"Do we have any conveniences? Really I didn't expect anything."



*Spc. Kenton Hamman
HHC, TF 1-163rd Infantry*

"Access to the PX, and using the phones. I didn't think we'd be able to call home."



*1st Lt. Steve Arnett
C Co., 116 Engineers*

"Boy, I don't know. I guess probably the gym and workout facility and the mini PX."



*Spc. Shane Medley
C Co., TF 1-163 Infantry*

"Air conditioned CHUs."

FOB Dibbis Transition...

Continued from page 1
Gen. Anwar, commander of the Iraqi Army's 2nd Brigade, in his speech. "This place is witness to that and it has been written in our history. Taking over this FOB from our friends encourages us to continue—we will continue to rebuild our country."

Distinguished attendees at the event included coalition and Iraqi security forces leaders, as well as many Dibbis community leaders. Coalition leaders included Brig. Gen. Thomas Sullivan; the U.S. 42nd Infantry Division's Assistant Deputy Commander for Support, who is overseeing FOB transitions from coalition to Iraqi control in north-central Iraq;

Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart; Col. Fred Kubus, 42nd division engineer; Lt. Col. Russell Johnson, commander of TF 1-148 Field Artillery and Capt. Erick Wiedmeier. Iraqi Army distinguished guests included Maj. Gen. Anwar, Brig. Gen. Ayad and Maj. Yawar.

Dibbis community leaders attending the event included the mayor, police chief, the chief of Northern Oil Company security and all members of the city council. The local community also organized special entertainment presented by community children. Several local media outlets also covered the event.

"Today is a great day.

This is the first base coalition forces are turning over to the Iraqi Army," said incoming commander Maj. Yawar. "Hopefully all the people will be happy with democracy and freedom in the new Iraq."

The 116th BCT has taken the lead since February 2005 in training and preparing Iraqi security forces to take over autonomous operations in their areas. The unit is accomplishing a fourfold mission in Iraq that includes developing Iraqi security forces, supporting Iraq's elected leaders, helping jump-start economic development and assisting Iraqis to better communicate with the populace.

Messages from home

Lt. Sherman,

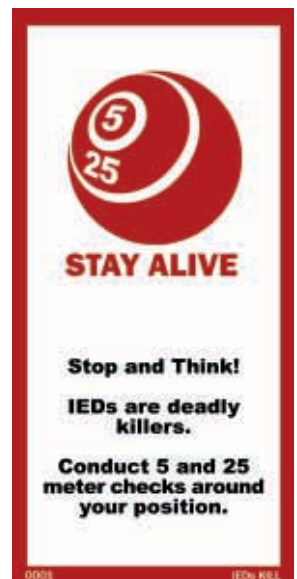
Happy Father's Day to a wonderful husband and father. We think of you each and every day and we miss you so much! I couldn't have asked for a more thoughtful and considerate husband and the kids couldn't have asked for a more fair and loving dad. We will see you soon!

We love you! Karri, Nikole and Nik.

SFC Kearbey;

Dear Tony, Just a quick note to tell you we love you, we miss you and to us, you are so wonderful! Happy Father's Day... next

one we can hug your sweet neck. Bless you dear one! Love, Dad 'n' Mom.



Terrorist attack burns Iraqi cemetery; threatens newly-renovated Muslim shrine

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

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq – In a new twist to the growing number of terrorist attacks that do more damage to Iraqis than the claimed targets, terrorists launched indirect fire into a coalition base June 1 hitting an historic Iraqi cemetery and threatening an Iraqi shrine with the ensuing brush fire.

The cemetery and co-located shrine, dedicated to Imam Sultan Saqy, were recently renovated by local workers using coalition funds. The historic site is

located on Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk, Iraq, where the 116th Brigade Combat Team is headquartered.

“Apparently the insurgents aren’t satisfied with only killing innocent Iraqi men, women and children,” said Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, commander of the 116th BCT. “Now they are even desecrating the tombs and holy sites of their ancestors.”

According to reports, the attacks occurred around 3 p.m. when two rounds were acquired by radar entering the base. The impact

caused a brush fire that consumed the brush in about half of the cemetery and would have damaged the shrine if firefighters had not extinguished the blaze.

Iraqi authorities encourage community members to contact their local Joint Coordination Center with any information regarding terrorist or criminal activities at one of the following numbers: Daquq – 650-039, Kirkuk – 104 or 115 or 213-333, Hawijah – (50) 744-121, Dibis – (050) 732-982, Altun Kupri – (050)-772-360 and Sulaymaniyah – 100.



A brush fire caused by an insurgent indirect fire attack on Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk, Iraq, burned the cemetery and threatened the shrine to Imam Sultan Saqy on June 1. (Photo by Lt. Col. Dean Hagerman, 116th BCT)

145th Support Battalion

Focus

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

Before we arrived at FOB Warrior our expectations of our work and living facilities were pretty low. I anticipated crawling out from under my piece of cardboard where I slept, clambering under concertina wire while eating my MRE, and making my way to the TOC. In the TOC, I figured I’d have to try to avoid the mud puddles, snakes and scorpions while we worked. After all, no expectations, no disappointments, right? Remember our surprise when we saw the CHU’s? Remember the walls,

floors, and doors we were surprised to find in our work areas? Since that time we’ve made improvements; significant improvements. We’ve cleaned, scrubbed, pounded, built, painted, mowed, chopped, and just about every other verb you can think of. We’ve made our mark and its showing. There are baseball diamonds, parking lots and work areas that used to be fields of weeds. There are offices and living areas that used to be insect infested



LTC Harrell

storage sheds. There are professional work environments where they did not previously exist. We’ve made a difference at FOB Warrior.

Our legacy in part, will be judged by the appearance of our facilities, the attitude of our Soldiers and the professionalism displayed by the organization. Make sure what you leave behind reflects the spirit of the 145th. What we started with was good, what we leave behind will be great!

The same principle applies to us as Soldiers. Is there anyone among us who can honestly say that they have learned nothing? We

have known previously existed.

We have honed our skills as Soldiers, as a unit and as a battalion. So, what now? My challenge to you is this. Don’t become complacent. The “light at the end of the tunnel” is certainly beginning to dawn. Don’t be the deer caught in the headlights! Continue to look for ways to improve yourself like we have our facilities. I assure you what we started with was good, but what we take home will be GREAT! Sidewinders!!

We have honed our skills as Soldiers, as a unit and as a battalion. So, what now? My challenge to you is this. Don’t become complacent. The “light at the end of the tunnel” is certainly beginning to dawn. Don’t be the deer caught in the headlights! Continue to look for ways to improve yourself like we have our facilities. I assure you what we started with was good, but what we take home will be GREAT! Sidewinders!!



Sidewinder TOC in January 2005



Sidewinder TOC as it appears today.

B Company, 145th Support Battalion

In Memoriam Staff Sgt. Virgil R. Case

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—The 116th BCT honored and memorialized Staff Sgt. Virgil R. Case, a member of B Company, 145th Support Bn., who was lost on June 1st, 2005. The memorial service was conducted by Chaplain (1st Lt.) Ben Hines before the entire unit, as well as Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd ID commander, Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, 116th BCT commander, Lt. Col. Terry Harrell, commander of the 145th Spt. Bn., and several brigade staff members.

Staff Sgt. Case's boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags were placed on the presentation platform prior to the ceremony. The ceremony began with an invocation by Chaplain Hines, followed by the playing of *The Star Spangled Banner*. Lt. Col. Harrell provided the battalion commander comments and Cpt. Tanya



Staff Sgt. Virgil R. Case

Moye spoke as Staff Sgt. Case's

company commander. The memorial tributes were offered by CW4 Kirt R. Bullock, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin W. Maybon, Staff Sgt. Kenneth C. Loucks, Jr., and Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey Schroeder. Chaplain Hines then

offered the benediction, followed by 1st Sgt. James R. Bell conducting the roll call for B Company. The gathering observed a moment of silence in tribute to Staff Sgt. Case, followed by the firing volleys of 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 and a fellow soldier.

Staff Sgt. Case was born on October 18, 1967. He married Claudia on December 2, 1991. They have two sons, Stevie and Randy; and two young

daughters, Danielle and Harlee.

Staff Sgt. Case joined the military on October 31, 1986. He served on active duty for four years. He joined the National Guard on August 29, 1990, directly from his active duty service. Staff Sgt. Case served in the Florida National Guard for a short time and then transferred to the Alabama National Guard, where he served for several years and began his AGR career. He came to the Idaho Army National Guard on June 1, 1994, continuing his AGR career until deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He was the assistant supply

sergeant for B Company, 145th Support Battalion from 1994 until October 2000. He was serving as the Readiness NCO for Detachment 1, B Company, 145th Support Battalion prior to deployment.

Staff Sgt. Case served his unit and his county in many capacities. His contributions to the unit included multiple job skills, including 63H and 92 A, but he also brought a fierce personal work ethic and loyalty to the unit and the nation.

Staff Sgt. Case's personal interests include his family foremost, followed by outdoor activities like hunting and archery. He also enjoyed music of all types.

During his military career, Staff Sgt. Case was recognized with the following awards: two Army Commendation Medals, eight Army Achievement Medals, three Good Conduct Medals, three National Defense Service Medals, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, two NCO Professional Development Ribbons, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, three Idaho Reenlistment Ribbons and two Idaho Service Ribbons. His pending awards include the Army Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal with the "M" device, the Iraqi Campaign Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



ISG Bell performs the final salute and farewell at the memorial for Staff Sgt. Virgil R. Case.

145th Support Battalion

Patience

by Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier, 145th Support Bn.

It may be hard to believe we have been mobilized for a year now and have been in country at least six months. So much is happening to us in this period here and at home. I ask myself how have I changed and will my friends and family see a change in me? Our Chaplains have stated that everyone will change somewhat and the expectations we have of ourselves and family on our return will be critical. The counselors state we should take it slow, not rush into judgments or changes right off the start when we return either on leave, or when this deployment is over. Some leaders have seen some

issues from soldiers returning back from leave already. Some financial and marital developments have occurred in the last year, and coping with them are difficult for many individuals when they return home. Many people say this will never happen to them, and fail to ponder what lifestyle they have been living as of late and for how long. The importance of communicating often with family has never been as important as it is now. To understand the struggles of the family back home being as difficult as what we face here is a must. All face the



CSM Whittier

stress of the unknown to the fate of their loved ones in Iraq, all must do all the chores and tasks required to keep a household on track that two adults used to handle, all must deal with work, family, bills and equipment repairs. What does this all mean? Families on both sides of this

deployment are required to go out of their comfort zone to survive. Changes in a lifestyle, along with loneliness and stress lead to change. For those that left home right after High School, or have worked away from the city you grew up in, know that when you return years later, it is never the same. We can expect this on our return. Some people find that when alone and required to keep up a house and family alone, they find it easier to make a break from a relationship, and go out on their own. If we ponder the words of a Chaplain on our departure

salute from the Idaho Center, He stated that "If your relationship is in trouble now, it will be in trouble when you return". How true this is and unless we make an effort to work out the kinks, what else can we expect. When we return home, be patient with friends and family, adjust to the pace of home life and not that of turmoil. Do not let the little things bother you. I guess another word could be discipline and tolerance. So when you have the opportunity to return home on leave, or later return permanently, find what is truly important to you in life and whether money or expectations are more of a priority than love and family.

NCO of the Month and Soldier of the Month for April 2005

Sgt. Elaine Tena

The 145th Support Battalion is pleased to announce its choice for NCO of the Month for April 2005. Sgt. Elaine Tena of C Company, 145th Support Battalion was selected by a board consisting of the battalion staff of the 145th Spt. Bn. Sgt. Tena was nominated by members of her Platoon because of her leadership, professionalism, positive attitude, and willingness to help. Sgt. Tena goes above and beyond her assigned tasks, and completes her missions without fail. Sgt. Tena was an instructor for the SACM-VT course for the Treatment Platoon, completing the course ahead of schedule.

Sgt. Tena joined the 145th Spt. Bn. while we were still in Kuwait as a filler, and quickly demonstrated her leadership qualities to the unit. Sgt. Tena is a strong capable NCO with lots of potential and promise



Sgt. Elaine Tena, 145th Spt. Bn. NCO of the Month

for the years to come, and she would be a welcome addition to any unit.

Other candidates for the NCO of the month included Sgt. Hennessey of HHC, Sgt. Rounds of B Co., and Sgt. Flores of A Co.

Spc. Jason Hilton

The 145th Support Battalion is pleased to an-

nounce its choice for Soldier of the Month for April 2005. Spc. Jason Hilton of A Company, 145th Support Battalion was selected from a number of highly qualified soldiers in the battalion for his achievements and dedication.

Spc. Hilton works in the turn-in Section of the SSA,

where he has processed thousands of customer turn-ins, as well as receipts and issues. His prior assignment was with the POL section of the unit. In December of 2004 he changed assignments to a 92A slot, where he had little background experience. His motivation and dedication have pleased the unit leadership, and he has developed a good rapport with customers. He is able to multi-task while withstanding stressful situations, and meets all the deadlines set for him.

Spc. Hilton has attended Sapper School, completed a tour in Bosnia, and tours to both Honduras and Nicaragua twice. He has also

participated in Cobra Gold in Thailand, and White Sands in Canada. This soldier has great potential and a promising future with this organization.

Other candidates for the Soldier of the Month included Spc. Jacob Getman of C Co., Spc. Robert Carver of HHC, and Spc. Kevin Lupton of B Co.



Spc. Jason Hilton, 145th Spt. Bn. Soldier of the Month

A Company, 145th Support Battalion

In Memoriam Spc. Carrie L. French

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq- The 116th BCT was faced with its most difficult duty to date on June 9th when it honored and memorialized Spc. Carrie Lee French, a member of A Company, 145th Spt. Bn., who was lost on June 5th, 2005 when her vehicle was hit by an IED. The memorial service was conducted by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Worster. The entire unit was present, as well as Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd ID commander, Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, 116th BCT commander, Lt. Col. Terry Harrell, commander of the 145th Spt. Bn., and several brigade staff members, in addition to soldiers from every unit in the 116th BCT and representatives from the Air Force units.

Spc. French's boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags were placed on the presentation platform prior to the ceremony. The ceremony began with one of Spc. French's favorite songs, "View from Heaven", followed by the invocation by

Chaplain Worster, and the playing of *The Star Spangled Banner*. Lt. Col. Harrell provided the battalion commander comments, and Cpt. Alex J. Shaffer spoke as Spc. French's company commander. The memorial tributes were offered by Sgt. 1st Class James R. Hansard, Spc. Matthew B. Harvey who was Spc. French's fiancé, and Chaplain Worster, and they were followed by another of Spc. French's favorite musical selections, "Amazing Grace" performed on bagpipes. Chaplain Worster then offered the benediction, followed by 1st Sgt. Daniel L. Vawser conducting the roll call for A Company. The gathering observed a moment of silence in tribute to Spc. French, followed by the firing volleys of the 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps. The ceremony ended with a video presentation of Spc. French's life on FOB Warrior, her friends and her activities, which was compiled by soldiers from the 145th Spt. Bn. Her fellow soldiers came before the



Spc. Carrie Lee French

presentation platform, where they then passed and saluted, paying their final respects to a friend, and a fellow soldier.

Spc. Carrie Lee French was born on February 29, 1986, to Rick D. French and Paula K. Hylinski. Spc. French was also survived by two sisters, Sara Gilmore and Mikala Hylinski. Spc. French grew up in Caldwell, attending school in Caldwell and Middleton before graduating from Caldwell High School. During her senior year of high school she was a member of the varsity cheerleading team. She was known for her fun-loving outlook and her warm heart.

She joined the Idaho Army National Guard on October 25, 2003 in the fall of her senior year of high school. She attended drill throughout the school year, preparing herself for the challenges she would face at basic training and AIT. Spc. French departed for basic training on June 8, 2004, shortly after graduation from

dedication quickly became an essential part of the unit.

high school. She completed her advanced individual training as an Ammunition Specialist, 89B, on October 29, 2004. She was affiliated with the Quartermaster Corps.

After a short time at home, Spc. French received her mobilization orders for Operation Iraqi Freedom III. She was activated on November 27, 2004, and arrived in theater on January 1,

2005. On January 18, 2005 Spc. French arrived at FOB Warrior, and was immediately integrated into her "family away from home." Her sunny personality, work ethic, and

A large part of Spc. French's life on FOB Warrior was an expression of her spirituality. She sang with the praise band at the Snake River Chapel, attended services faithfully, and, on April 28, 2005, was baptized. She also enjoyed fishing, camping, and socializing with friends. Spc. French was known to be a true "people" person.

Spc. French has numerous military awards pending; the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, and the Idaho Service Ribbon. The Army Service Ribbon has already been awarded to her.

Spc. French was posthumously appointed to the rank of Corporal.



1st Sgt. Daniel Vawser performs roll call of A Co., 145th Spt. Bn.



Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Leroy Lewis offer a final salute to fallen soldier Spc. Carrie Lee French.

TF 2-116th Armor

TF 2-116 Armor Soldiers receive CSM coins

Two Soldiers from TF 2-116 Armor were recently presented CSM Coins.

Spc. Alejandro Caudillo of 2nd Plt., has shown total commitment to teamwork in his team, squad and platoon. Caudillo has completed every

assigned task in a proficient and professional manner. He has made the transition from Field Artillery to Infantry with extreme efficiency, acting as a point man, vehicle gunner, driver and Radio Teletype Operator.

Staff Sgt. Bradley Carr's demonstrated outstanding leadership and technical expertise while serving as the HQ's Section Sergeant and unit Commo Sergeant. During his tenure with Bravo Company, Carr was instrumental in setting up the all the vehicle and Command Post communications on Barbarian Base. His work ethic and professionalism were instrumental in the success of the unit during his time 2-116.



B Co. 1st Sgt. Woodall (L), stands with Staff Sgt. Carr (C) and Cmd Sgt. Maj. Chin (R), after Carr received one of his CSM coins.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin presented Spc. Alejandro Caudillo (R), with a CSM coin.

TF 2-116 Armor meets with Kirkuk DG of Water & Sewer

B Co., TF 1-163 Armor recently held a meeting with the DG of Water and Sewer from the city of Kirkuk to align the projects in Bravo's sector. It was becoming difficult to identify projects that the city was planning and projects that the company commander and company projects officer think are necessary or relevant to benefit the city and people.

Projects focusing on sewage, water and health have priority above other projects and this meeting is a good first step to work together with city project planners. A meeting will be held periodically with these and other city DGs to identify projects and discuss problems and ideas that the military and civil project officers face.



Project alignment between city and military projects of-ficer will benefit the city of Kirkuk. DG of Water and Sewer meet with Lt. Jarnagin to discuss project issues.

TF 2-116 Armor tears up the track

Second Tank was well represented in a 10 kilometer Fun Run, on May 14 (see attached picture). The Air Force Services group holds races on most Saturdays ranging from 5k to Half Marathons. Of about 40 to 50 runners, our runners were in the first 1/3rd to cross the finish line.



(L-R), Team 2-Tank; Spc. Blacker, Spc. Galbreath, Sgt. 1st Class Gerrein, Sgt. Scheri, Spc. Felt, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin.

We should all be very grateful to the Air Force for allowing us to join them in their events including the fun runs and a variety of events held at the Clantina.

If you have the time, please come and join us.

TF 2-116 Armor meets with Kirkuk Police Chiefs

TF 2-116 Armor's Team Police briefed the new weekly reporting standards for all Police Chiefs in the City of Kirkuk. The format included a one slide briefing expected to be presented by each police chief noting their past week as it pertains to personnel, operations, logistics, and issues / challenges. Team Police also briefed the supplemental budget standards for station chiefs and format for submission to MOI pending Police Headquarters review. Team Police allowed several Police



Sgt. Keith Fredricksen (right) visits with Sgt. Chalermchai Mann in the kitchen at FOB McHenry, Iraq. Both are mem

Chiefs to brief their slides as a practice for next week. After each briefing they conducted an After Action

Review in order to demonstrate to the Chiefs what Maj. Gen. Sherako expected of them.

TF 2-116 Armor



TF2-116 and Arab Projects Council discuss future water projects.

Arab Projects Council

The projects council was formed to address the concerns and needs of the Arab tribes within Kirkuk. Team Economics (Lt. Col. Knutzen) discussed future water projects in southern Kirkuk, to include construction of GST #5 (groundwater storage tank), and repair of water pumping facilities that would provide about 120 million (US) gal-

lons of water per day.

Maj. Jenkins discussed the need for the people of Kirkuk to become more self sufficient by taking advantage of the opportunities at the Kirkuk Business Center (KBC). The KBC can provide information on small business loans and grants that would employ people through the growth of small businesses.

Memorial Fun Run

Saturday, May 28, 2005, was a good day for a Fun Run. 2-116 fielded 4 teams of 4 runners for the 20k relay race. Out of the 14 teams in the running, 2-116 placed third and fourth. First place went to the Air Force team and second place

was won by an individual who ran the entire 20k solo. The temperature rose quickly, but all of the runners drank plenty of good, cold water. The only injuries were sore feet and bruised egos. Both will heal quickly for the next run.



2-116th fielded four teams for the relay event.

Set the example

by Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin

Rattlers, I ask you once again to extend your workday a little longer. In a few weeks E-Troop will be taking down their base camp and moving from the city to the FOB. They will still have to conduct missions, and patrol their sectors during this move. I ask A Company and HHC for your support and extra hands, if called upon, to help them in any way they need. We appreciate the dedication and support you all give toward making this Battalion a unified team.

Leaders, thank you for the great job you have all been doing; keep it up and continue to stay alert. Don't forget who you are and where you come from. Keep on making the right choices. It's

our responsibility to guide our soldiers to do the right thing. As leaders, we become role models for our subordinate soldiers.

We are constantly being watched by our platoons, our squads, and our teams. Some will imitate our behavior, good or bad. That's why it is essential that we are always doing the right thing. We must be willing to do what is required of a soldier by sharing the dangers and hardships. We must stand side-by-side with our soldiers

without deviation. Avoid placing your subordinates in an ethical dilemma. Be honest with them, help them talk things through, and try to find solutions for difficult problems. Be sensitive; this is a big part of developing your soldiers. By doing these things we will have an easier time enforcing our Army Values and Standards.

One of our Brigade Standards is avoiding negligent discharges. You NCO's can start by being aware of our clearing procedures and making sure it is done to standards. We must enforce these procedures. Don't be the next guy to be involved with negligence.

SINA MORA.

Rahem Awa Police Chief Delivers School Supplies



Col. Sherzad delivers school packets to an ethnically mixed Kindergarten class. The packets were donated by an elementary school that obtained them through fundraising.

The Rahem Awa Police delivered school packets that were donated by families of coalition forces to an ethnically diverse kindergarten

school with over 200 students. Prior to handing out supplies, Col. Sherzad spoke to each class about the importance of obeying the law, co-

operating with government groups like the police, and informing police of activity that supports terrorist groups and endangers the Iraqi citizens.

The teachers and the headmaster showed their support for the police as the school packets were being handed out. The supplies were donated by an elementary school that obtained them through fundraising efforts, and mailed from the United States courtesy of the Yellow Ribbon Organization. The Headmaster for Kirkuk Kindergartens also attended the ceremony, and he commended the police for their hard work and dedication to making Iraq safe for all citizens.

TF 2-116 Armor

TF2-116 and Iraqi Army soldiers receive CSM coins

Four TF2-116 Armor soldiers and two Iraqi Army soldiers were presented with Command Sergeant Major coins recently by Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin.

This soldier shows a "can-do" attitude, and never quits until he gets the job done.

Spc. David Jones, Scout Platoon Team Alpha, has a "can-do" at-



Spc. William Sevier was coined by Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin for his unending dedication to duty and the mission.

Spc. William Sevier, 3rd Platoon Team Alpha, has spent countless hours of his personal time maintaining the wheeled vehicles in his platoon to help ensure mission readiness. On many occasions Spc. Sevier has been seen performing PMCS on vehicles after a mission, even though he was not responsible for that task. Spc. Sevier is consistently the first to volunteer for details, and rarely has complaints about his assigned tasks.

titude and a high level of motivation for every assigned task. and is mission-ready at a moment's notice. For example, Spc. Jones had just returned from leave, and, before unpacking his duffle



1st Sgt. Abbas and Maj. Mohammed have proven to be great assets to the Iraqi Army.

NCO. Sgt. Lolley always goes the extra mile when it comes to his platoon, his squad and his own readiness. Personal encouragement and sacrifice ensure his squad accomplishes all missions well.

The soldiers from the Iraqi Army were 1st Sgt. Abbas and Maj. Mohammed of 2nd Co. They received coins from Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin for their tireless energy and

bags, he ensured all his equipment was mission ready.

Spc. David Gaylord, 1st Platoon Team Alpha, is always motivated and ready to help at any time. He ensures his vehicle is always ready for any mission, and his weapon systems are

clean and serviceable at all times. He takes the initiative and starts daily duties without instruction or supervision. Spc. Gaylord was placed in the Platoon Leader Vehicle as a driver due to his knowledge of the Area of Operations and his outstanding safety record.



Spc. David Gaylord has demonstrated his initiative and knowledge, and maintains an outstanding safety record.

Sgt. Brandon Lolley, 2nd Platoon Team Alpha, is a highly motivated

willingness to train soldiers, making them a great asset to the Iraqi Army.



Sgt. Brandon Lolley uses personal encouragement and self sacrifice to motivated his squad.

TF 2-116 Armor

TF 2-116 and Iraqi Army visit Tesin Orphanage

Soldiers from TF2-116 introduced the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Iraqi Army) Brigade Chaplain, Imam

There were fourteen kids present. The other children were visiting relatives. Staff Sgt. Hadden, an HHC/2-116



Chaplain Imam Eimad Kasraw visited the Tesin Orphanage.

Eimad Kasraw, to the Headmaster of the Tesin Orphanage. They took toys and some canned food for the kids.

Medic, and Capt. Bishop, Battalion S4, handed out toys and stuffed animals with the IA Brigade Chaplain.



Chaplain, Imam Eimad Kasraw and Cpt. Bishop delivered toys and food to the children at the orphanage.



Chief Warrant Officer Jim Kellis and Master Sgt. Anthony Glenn received Cmd. Sgt. Maj. coins for their outstanding job of keeping the battalion's air conditioning systems operational.

B Co., TF 2-116 visits AL Furatain Primary School

Soldiers from Bravo Co., TF2-116 attacked a problem part of Kirkuk by working through the children. They set out to win the hearts and minds of the children at the Al Furatain Primary school, to help alleviate tensions in that area of town and to help stop the children from throwing rocks at the soldiers. The soldiers explained to the students that they wanted to be friends and asked

them not to throw rocks at them. They explained the U.S. mission in Iraq as one designed to help the Iraqi people. Then they handed out toys and candy to the children. They did this in the two lower grades for both boys and girls, approximately 200 students. They also left school supplies for the headmaster to give to students who do well in their exams and studies.



Staff Sgt. Bradley Carr received a Cmd. Sgt. Maj. coin for the outstanding leadership and technical expertise he showed while serving as the Headquarters Section Sgt., and Unit Commo Sgt., Staff Sgt. Carr was instrumental in setting up the all the vehicle and CP communications on Barbarian Base while he was serving with Bravo Co. His work ethic and professionalism were instrumental in the success of the Barbarians during his time with the unit.

Messages from home

Staff Sgt. Dwayne Mayer, We just wanted to let you know that your family and friends love you and miss you. We're glad to know that you are safe, and we're very sorry for the loss of your friend. With lots of love from your wife, son and daughter



TF2-116 soldiers delivered toys to children at the Al Furatain Primary school.

A Company, TF 3-116 Armor

In Memoriam Sgt. John Ogburn III

A memorial service was held May 27 at FOB Warrior for Sgt. John Ogburn, a member of A Company, 3-116th Cavalry Bn., who was lost in action on May 22, 2005.

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

for A Company, 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.

Sgt. John Ogburn III was born July 19, 1958 in Ontario,



Sgt. John Ogburn III

He attended grades 1-12 in Ontario's public school system. He participated in such extra curricular activities as football, wrestling, track, and additional scholastics.

After his graduation, Sgt. Ogburn pursued a two-year social sciences degree at Treasure Valley Community College, before taking a one-year break to do geological field work at Delmar Silver Mine in Idaho's Owyhee Mountains. He returned to college the following year, transferring to the University of Oregon. He spent two years at U of O majoring in social science and minoring in geology. Sgt. Ogburn then returned to Ontario to help his father in the family business and worked as an assistant manager in a local retail store. He continued his education with Eastern Oregon University via Treasure Valley Community College. From there, he began a career as a correctional officer for the state of Oregon in 2001.

He enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard as an Artillery Surveyor (82C) in 1989, transferred to the Idaho Army Na-

tional Guard in 1996 where he worked as a member of the fire support echelon and S3, then transferred back to the Oregon Army National Guard in 2001, where he has served as a member of A Company, 3-116 Cavalry Bn. Sgt. Ogburn was activated on June 28, 2004 for Operation Iraqi Freedom

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, two Idaho Reenlistment Rib-



Sgt. John Ogburn was known as a mentor and friend to his fellow soldiers.

Taluto, 116th BCT commander Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, Lt. Col. Dan McCabe, commander of TF 3-116th Cavalry and several brigade staff members.

Sgt. Ogburn's boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags were placed on the presentation platform prior to the ceremony. The eulogy was delivered by 1st Sgt. Sissel, which was followed by heartfelt remarks from Cpt. Kotz, Staff Sgt. Castellanoz, and Sgt. Jimenez.

Chaplain Hines led all those gathered in the memorial prayer. 1st Sgt. Sissel then conducted the roll call

Oregon. His father was a local business owner, and his mother was a school teacher.



The memorial for Sgt. John Ogburn III, where his fellow soldiers paid their final respects in honor of his service and his memory.



Soldiers of the 116th BCT pay their final respects to Sgt. John Ogburn.

III. He arrived in theater November 30, 2004.

He has been awarded the Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, two Army Reserve Component Achievement Medals, the

bons and the Idaho Service Ribbon. At this time, he has been submitted for an Oregon Faithful Service Ribbon and an Oregon Superior Soldier Ribbon as a result of his actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom III.



Sgt. John Ogburn III

TF 3-116th Armor

Valor in the War on Terror

by Cpt. Brian K. Dean, TF3-116

For those of you who may be reading this story, I am an intelligence officer in Iraq. My unit and I have been in theater and conducting operations since December 2004, approximately 6 months. The information contained in this document is 100 percent true, but the location and names will be omitted for security purposes. What follows is a description of the dedication, loyalty, and courage that is demonstrated by young soldiers fighting the War on Terrorism here, so it doesn't have to be

fought it at home.

One of the many missions that is conducted by my battalion here in Iraq is the clearance of MSR (main supply routes) and ASR (alternate supply routes) for IEDs (improvised explosive devices). On a very early morning in early June 2005, one of our platoons was clearing an ASR that had been targeted by AIF (anti-Iraqi forces) for IED emplacement, long before we conducted our transfer of authority for the ASR.

On their trip back they found a very large hole in the middle of the road (8 feet in diameter

by 3 feet deep), which forced them to straddle the side of the road as they bypassed the hole. As the first vehicle passed on the right hand side an IED exploded under the passenger side front tire. The explosion and following concussion broke the vehicle commander's legs (he was also the platoon leader), wounded the passengers, and launched the gunner 25 feet through the air. When the gunner hit the ground he did two barrel rolls, immediately turned on his flashlight, and ran back to the de-

stroyed up-armored HMMWV and began treating the wounded.

After a couple of minutes the gunner realized that the communications equipment on the HMMWV was no longer functional, and ran between 200 and 300 meters to the platoon sergeant's vehicle. The gunner described the injuries and the situation to the platoon sergeant, who then moved his vehicle forward to assist with medical treatment of the wounded soldiers. The gunner jumped into the back seat of the HMMWV to travel back to his comrades.

The platoon sergeant decided to move

to the left side of the original hole in the road to provide far side security for the wounded soldiers. As the HMMV came up next to the hole, a second IED exploded under the driver's side tire of the platoon sergeant's vehicle, wounding the crew and ultimately costing the driver both of his feet. The gunner from the first truck got out of the truck after the second blast and started treating the wounded Soldiers yet again.

The patrol had started with three HMMWVs, but now two were completely destroyed and roughly half

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TF3-116 Medics train Iraqi Army combat life savers

by Sgt. John Kreider, TF3-116

In an effort to bring the Iraqi Army closer to being self-sustained and less reliant on U.S. forces, Army National Guard medics Sgt. John Kreider and Sgt. James Billington, Soldiers of TF 3-116th Armor, conducted medical training for Iraqi Army soldiers.

Earlier this year the 3-116th medical section was tasked with training a group of Iraqi Army soldiers as combat life savers. The job of the combat life saver is to be first on the scene and to provide treatment to wounded soldiers until the arrival of medical personnel. When medical personnel do arrive combat life savers are often



Sgt. Kreider shown with the Iraqi Army's first class of Combat Life Savers. Photo courtesy of Cpt. Preston, TF3-116

asked to assist medics, if number of patients and severity of wounds are too great for on-scene medical personnel to handle alone. If medical assets are not available, initial treatment and evacuation of injured soldiers may rest solely on

combat life savers.

Aside from doctoring wounded or injured soldiers, U.S. Army medics are often tasked with training non-medical soldiers to be combat life savers. To become a combat life saver in the U.S. Army, soldiers must com-

plete 48 hours of training, and pass a series of practical exams and a written exam. The entire process generally takes U.S. Army soldiers five to six days. The training of soldiers to be combat life savers is nothing out of the ordinary for a U.S. Army medic. However, the mission of training Iraqi Army soldiers to be combat life savers is a considerably longer and more complicated process that was uncharted territory for the 3-116th medical section.

Due to numerous predicted complications such as scheduling conflicts between U.S. and Iraqi forces, Iraqi soldiers with various levels of education, and the

obvious language barrier, the course was scheduled to run until mid-May. Rather than training 8 to 10 hours a day for 5 to 6 days in a row, this unique class was in session for three hours a day, three days a week in an effort to accommodate U.S. and Iraqi Army tactical and combat missions. The training mission was spear-headed by Col. Laurence Plumb.

While he was serving as the 3-116th Battalion Surgeon, Col. Plumb coordinated with Iraqi Army officers to initiate a training program that would transform selected Iraqi Army infan-

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TF 3-116th Armor

A Co., TF 3-116 carries on NCO induction tradition while serving in Iraq

by Sgt. 1st Class Wayne W. Chastain, A Company, TF 3-116

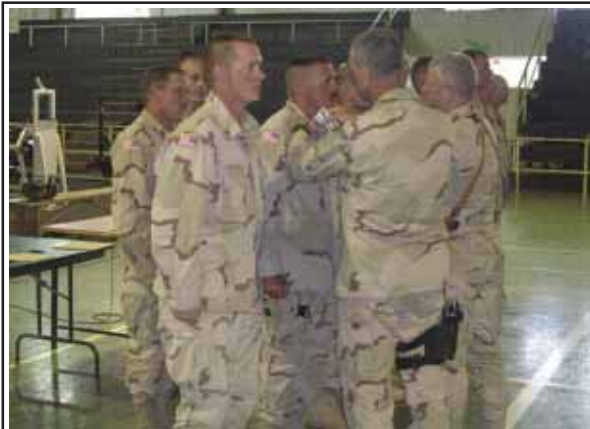
FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—The noncommissioned officers (NCOs) of the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Alpha Company, Task Force

3-116 Armor, celebrated their second annual Non-commissioned Officer's Induction Ceremony May 20 at Warrior Gym on Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq.

This year's ceremony inducted eight new Sergeants into the company's NCO Corps. The ceremony included Alpha Company NCOs and several high-ranking NCOs from other battalions, as well as NCOs from the Air Force that are co-located with the Brigade on FOB Warrior.

Guest speakers were Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Brooks, the TF 3-116 Armor Command Sergeant Major, and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier, the 145th Support Battalion Command Sergeant Major.

The ceremony started with a narrator telling of the history of the NCO Corps, followed by comments from Cmd. Sgt. Maj.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Joseph Brooks and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier ceremoniously wet Sgt. Gilbert Tweedy's stripes during an induction ceremony held by A Co., TF3-116 at FOB Warrior. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Dean Harrison, TF3-116)

CLS...

Continued from page 14

trymen into combat life savers. The brief planning phase for the training program began around March 6 of this year. SGT Kreider (3-116 medical training NCO) developed a training schedule that encompassed the U.S. Army combat life saver curriculum, but was tailored to fit the Iraqi Army. March 13 SGT Kreider and SGT Billington began the mission of turning a select group of Iraqi Army soldiers into combat life savers. Armed with an interpreter that goes by the name of "Bob" the American medics succeeded in conquering



Sgt. John Kreider congratulates one of his students.

the language barrier that would have hindered the training process. To aid the training two local Iraqi doctors assisted in translating the technical medical information to the Iraqi soldiers. The doctors played an essential role in ensuring the medical knowledge

was accurately conveyed to the Iraqi soldiers. Kreider and Billington have formed a strong bond with both the doctors and Iraqi soldiers, paving a solid foundation for additional medical training as they move on to become fully trained medics.



Inductees read the Noncommissioned Officer Creed at an induction ceremony held by A Co., TF3-116 at FOB Warrior. In line left to right are sergeants Richard Rourke, James Flood, Johan Bagge, Chadwick Getman, William Childs, Robert Powers, Gilbert Tweedy and Brian Polley. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Dean Harrison, TF3-116)

Brooks to the new inductees.

"Promotion to the NCO Corps is the most important promotion any of you will get while in military service...It is proper that you be recognized through ceremony," said Brooks.

Brooks went on to discuss the responsibilities that come with promotion into the NCO Corps.

"NCOs must ensure their soldiers meet all standards...NCOs must enforce standards to develop their soldiers in the daily skills that will help them succeed in their missions. It is a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility of both the lives of your soldiers and the mission that must be accomplished," he said.

Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Whittier then offered some words of advice to the new inductees. He said NCOs must be prepared at all times for the unexpected, and he chal-

lenged the new NCOs to be ready for that.

The ceremony went on with the history of the NCO Creed. Then the inductees were presented by their sponsors to Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Brooks for the reading of the NCO Creed and swearing in of the new NCOs with the "Charge of the Noncommissioned Officer."

Brooks and Whittier then performed the ceremonial "wetting of the stripes," done by pouring water over each new sergeant's rank.

The ceremony concluded with presentation of coins to the new sergeants by both Brooks and Whittier, and congratulations offered by every member of Alpha Company's NCO Corps.

The newly inducted Sergeants were Richard Rourke, James Flood, Johan Bagge, Chadwick Getman, William Childs, Robert Powers, Gilbert Tweedy and Brian Polley.

TF 1-163rd Infantry

TF1-163 Infantry soldiers train Iraqi Army in combatives techniques

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—Soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 1-163 Infantry are bringing their skill to bear to train Iraqi security forces as they prepare them to take over security operations in Iraq.

The war in Iraq has evolved from mostly tracking and capturing insurgents to a multi-faced mission that includes training the Iraqi Army and Police forces. As the Army fulfills its expanded mission, members of National Guard units are often finding themselves in unique positions to draw on their civilian skills to help with this process.

Sgt. Scott Brady and Sgt. Mike Baker, both of TF 1-163 Infantry, are two such soldiers. Drawing on skills and experiences from their civilian

lives, they have volunteered to help teach Iraqi forces hand-to-hand combat and defensive tactics procedures.

"The three day class was an introductory course designed to give the soldiers a set of basic skills they can use right away on the streets of their cities and towns," said Brady.

Both Brady and Baker are trained martial artists who jumped at the chance when superior officers mentioned a desire to see

the local security forces receive some kind of defensive training.

"I have trained with quite a few police officers back in Montana, where we're from," Brady said. "Almost every one of them has a story about how the defensive tactics they learned in the academy helped to save them when the going got tough. We wanted these guys to have some of those same capabilities."

There were a total of 21 soldiers in the first group who spent two hours a day for three days working primarily on defensive techniques in two-man teams.

According to Brady, this course offered a welcome break for the soldiers from the more traditional classes on basic marksmanship, map reading, and first aid skills that all Iraqi security forces are going through.

"We try to keep the classes fun," said Baker. "It helps keep everyone safe, and also gives these guys a chance to move around a little bit and build some ca-

maraderie with each other. Nothing builds trust like giving your body over to your buddy to use as a training tool."

Brady and some of his Iraqi counterparts have ended up with scrapes on their faces and black eyes while practicing the procedures.

"This emphasizes to the students just how powerful some of these techniques can be," said Brady.

Brady said students and instructors seemed pleased with the classes. "It gives us another opportunity to interact with our Iraqi Security Forces counterparts. This is

training all of them can use."

The 116th BCT took over responsibility for combat operations in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah Provinces in February. Besides developing Iraqi security forces, the unit is supporting Iraq's elected leaders, helping jump-start economic development and assisting Iraqis with communications.

Made up of component units from the states of North Dakota, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Utah, New Jersey and Maryland, the 116th BCT is one of several Army National Guard units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.



Sgt. Scott Brady, a Task Force 1-163 Infantry's headquarters company soldier, gives one-on-one instruction to an Iraqi Army soldier during a recent defensive tactics class at FOB McHenry. (Photo submitted by Sgt. Scott Brady, TF 1-163 Infantry)



Sgt. Brady demonstrates an arm bar on Sgt. Baker for the Iraqi Army students at FOB McHenry.

Valor...

Continued from page 14

of the soldiers in the platoon were wounded. A young sergeant who was the third in command of the convoy was now the only leader left that was not wounded. He quickly assessed the situation and deduced that an ambush of small arms (machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, etc.) was almost

a certainty, given his distance from support and the fact that his HMMWV was the only vehicle not damaged.

The sergeant decided to conduct a defense, and moved the last HMMWV close to the two destroyed HMMWVs. He quickly assessed that the crew-served weapons (.50 caliber and 7.62mm machine guns) were still

functional, and ordered uninjured soldiers into the damaged HMMVs to defend the wounded in case of a follow-up attack. The sergeant created a hasty CCP (casualty collection point) by the HMMWVs and continued to treat the soldiers and call for MEDEVAC (medical evacuation).

The sergeant continued to defend the casu-

alties against an attack that fortunately did not appear. The QRF (quick reaction force) arrived sometime later. Whether or not an attack was originally planned by the AIF on the attrited platoon is something we will never know. The act of the sergeant, reoccupying the crew-served weapon platforms on the damaged HMMWVs, could have

been more than enough to make the typically lightly armed AIF reconsider their attack.

I wrote this story because of my awe of the gunner and the young sergeant, both of whom overcame fear, pain, anguish, and shock from the violent action taken against them. Due to their actions, all the soldiers of the platoon survived this attack.

TF 1-163rd Infantry

Idaho donors send supplies to Iraqi clinics and toys for needy children

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—A physician assistant with the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 1-163 Infantry is spearheading an effort to deliver medical supplies and toys to Iraqi clinics and children.

Project organizer Capt. Patrick Castellano expressed his gratitude recently via e-mail to Hewlett

Packard, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and Idaho Veterans of Foreign Wars for their generous donations of supplies and toys.

"With each mail call this week, a mountain of packages grows," wrote Castellano. "I happened to be visiting the Kirkuk Air Base last week when a sol-

dier working the mail approached me with questions of who is St. Luke's and why did they send all the packages?"

Castellano is stationed at Forward Operating Base Gaines-Mills in northern Iraq and has been collecting the supplies as they arrive in the mail.

The supplies will be used to support the humanitarian efforts of the unit's medical assistance visits in the area. Medical assistance visits are usually requested by the commander and are intended to target areas of need. Rather than using military medicine and supplies, these visits are typically supported by donated medicine and supplies.

"We filled an ambulance with packages," Castellano wrote. "We should soon have images



Cpt. Patrick Castellano, a TF1-163 physician assistant, sits in front of a pile of packages containing medical supplies and toys to be used in the unit's humanitarian efforts at the FOB Gaines-Mills aid station. The packages were donated by Hewlett Packard, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, and Idaho Veterans of Foreign Wars. (Photo submitted by Cpt. Patrick Castellano, TF1-163)



TF1-163 medical personnel unload an ambulance full of packages. (Photo submitted by Capt. Patrick Castellano, TF 1-163)

of the delivery to thankful Iraqi children and the medical clinics. "

Promoting good will and health in the local community is one way the 116th BCT is helping the people in the provinces of

Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Members of the brigade are also helping local Iraqis establish their new government, train their security forces, stimulate their economy and facilitate their communications.

TF1-163 and Iraqi police deliver school supplies to children

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—Soldiers from Team 3, A Company, 358th Civil Affairs Brigade and C Company,

Task Force 1-163 Infantry, both of the 116th Brigade Combat Team, assisted local Iraqi police and city

council members May 22 in delivering school supplies to children at Al Hoyash School in western Kirkuk Province, Iraq.

The school, located in Ghazia Village, is both a primary and secondary school. School supplies were donated and sent by American donors to members of the 116th Brigade Combat Team, sorted into packets and given to the Iraqi officials for distribution at the event.

According to participants, Mr. Hammed Ali Humadi, school headmaster, was pleased that Lt. Sa Adon Nori Sa Aeed and others from the local police department



Children at Al Hoyash School in western Kirkuk Province, Iraq, line up to receive packets of school supplies from local officials May 22. (358th Civil Affairs Photo)



Iraqi Police Lt. Sa Adon Nori Sa Aeed delivers school supplies to children at Al Hoyash School in western Kirkuk Province, Iraq, May 22. (358th Civil Affairs Photo)

handed out the supplies. Three city council members also participated in the event.

With the aid of the coalition, three new classrooms were recently added to the

school, allowing an increase in student capacity. Currently the school has 120 students and nine teachers. Three of the teachers work on a volunteer basis.

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

Over the Hump

by Lt. Col. Russ Johnson, TF 148 Field Artillery Commander

May came and went like a flash of lightning, and for many, so did the mid-way point of our deployment here in Iraq. Several Scorpion soldiers hit their one-year mobilization anniversary this week, with the rest following in a few short days. It's hard to believe it's been nearly a year since we left home for Ft. Bliss, Texas, and the long journey that eventually brought us here to Iraq. How are these warriors holding up? Exceptionally well, despite triple digit temperatures, separation from their loved ones, and an environment that constantly changes. One young soldier recently remarked, "Change is a way of life in the Army – you must always be prepared to flex and adjust to ever changing missions." Agility is one of our many hallmarks.

The month of May was both heart wrenching and rewarding for the soldiers of the Scorpion Battalion. Staff Sgt. Jarod Behee, one of our many talented soldiers detached out to sister maneuver units, was seriously wounded on May 25th while conducting a security patrol. He was evacuated first to Landstuhl, Germany, then on to Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he is presently recovering. His family is by his side, and they are all in our prayers during this trying time. The website www.jarodbehee.com has been established by his family and can be accessed for up-to-date information on the progress Jarod is making.

The rewarding side of May came in the form of measurable progress across multiple missions being carried out by your tireless soldiers. On the humanitarian front, hundreds of shoes, socks,

school packets, dental hygiene kits, and first aid kits were distributed to remote schools and villages throughout our area of operations, directly enhancing the lives of many children. In our area of responsibility, about 36 projects related to water distribution, power generation, school renovation, and clinic equipment were completed in May, with almost 40 projects started. Many villages now have clean water to drink, sewage systems that work, clinics that have basic treatment tools, and electrical power; these infrastructure improvements have enabled many villages to improve their quality of life and provide employment opportunities to their residents.

May was also a busy month from the standpoint of change. The proud soldiers of Bulldog Battery continued to display their ability to adapt



Lt. Col. Johnson

by relocating soldiers and equipment from two remote forward operating bases to a consolidated location near the Battalion headquarters. In the past year, these capable and dedicated soldiers have moved over 14 times – lock, stock and barrel – always doing so with a smile and contagious enthusiasm. Their motorized platoons continue to conduct mounted combat patrols around the clock to enhance the security and stability across a large area of operations. They continue to coach and mentor several city

councils, mayors, police chiefs, and city planners as they continue to move forward rebuilding this ethnically diverse country.

The capable men of Howitzer Battery continued to provide timely and accurate Paladin fires across this large and unique area of Iraq. They continued to refine their gunnery skills daily while assisting with local security across multiple forward operating bases. Their statistics are impressive – nearly 33 tons of 155 mm ordnance fired since arriving in country, almost 4000 hours of continuous fire support coverage, and over 2000 practice drills. The Paladin howitzers are holding up exceptionally well, despite the heat and near constant use. The crews constantly and proactively perform preventive maintenance on these technically-intensive cannons, and our mainte-

nance teams are the best in the Army. Their operational readiness rate (defined as the time the systems are fully operational versus not) is in the high 90 percentile range.

Our firefinder radar crews continued to excel across all facets of capability and performance. Also very technically intensive, these firefinder systems and talented crewmen provided 2,178 continuous hours of proactive radar coverage in May, despite the additional burden placed upon these systems by the heat. Their creative ingenuity, coupled with a fierce mission focus, has enabled the 116th Brigade Combat Team to identify numerous enemy positions and protect our personnel and equipment from harm.

Our Headquarters Battery teams again achieved numerous milestones in the month of May. They loaded, transported, and delivered combat configured loads consisting of over 15,000 liters of bottled water, 25,000 pounds of food, and over 10,000 gallons of fuel across long, challenging distances. Collectively, the Battalion transport teams moved over 50 of the large military transport containers (referred to as CONNEXs) and delivered almost 19 tons of barrier material consisting of concertina wire, sandbags, and HESCO barrier systems. Additionally, these great soldiers performed timely and professional medical coverage across this widely-dispersed Battalion, logged almost 45,000 vehicle miles, and performed over 180 services on equipment ranging from large trucks to weapon systems.

The proud, capable air



TF 1-148 FA Command & Staff Photo, 21 May 2005 TF 1-148 FA Battalion Headquarters, FOB Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom III

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TF 1-148 Field Artillery

Fox Battery soldiers make 'special' stop for Iraqi children

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

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq – While there are plenty of differences, the soldiers of the 116th BCT's F Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery from Grand Forks, North Dakota, are finding that they share many things in common with the people of Iraq.

To no one's surprise, the men of "Fox" Battery, attached to Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery, have found life in Iraq much different than what they are familiar with back home. They see evidence of that each day they travel the paved highways and gravel roads around the city of Kirkuk.

"The cultural training we received prior to deployment was beneficial to a degree, but only first hand experience really prepared us for interacting with Iraqi civilians and the army soldiers we are training," said Staff Sgt. Gregory

Brockberg, an F Battery communications non-commissioned officer, "Cultural and social peculiarities bombard us from all sides."

According to the soldiers, the number one difference is language. Both Arabic and Kurdish are commonly spoken in north-central Iraq. The soldiers have all picked up various terms and phrases from their interpreters who travel with them during interactions with Iraqi nationals. Food is another major dissimilarity.

"We've have had the opportunity to sample Iraqi cuisine while performing numerous missions with Iraqi Army soldiers," said Brockberg. "Many say the bread is very good—other food items they're not so sure about!"

But along with the differences come many similarities. A smile, a wave, and a 'thumbs-up'

gesture seem to be universal non-verbal methods of communication. This is especially apparent when interacting with Iraqi children in this country that is all too familiar with war and hardship.

"We enjoy the sight of waving children as

we speed through neighborhoods and by villages while performing missions in the vicinity of our forward operating base," Brockberg said.

It was after one such mission that Fox Battery soldiers sought, in a small way, to improve the lives of several children who live in crumbling houses outside of FOB Warrior. First Platoon, under the leadership of 1Lt. Virgil Perez and Sgt. 1st Class Cory Nygord, took a slight detour while returning from a mission May 4.

"The side trip was suggested by Sgt. 1st Class Gary DeLorme, one of our squad leaders who had recently returned from leave carrying a special duffle bag," said Brockberg.



Sgt. 1st Class Gary DeLorme, a Fox Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery squad leader, fits a pair of shoes donated by his mother to an Iraqi girl outside of Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq, during a recent patrol. (Photo submitted by F Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery)

"Inside the bag were twenty pairs of children's shoes and sandals that had been collected by his mother back in Fargo."

The platoon conducted a short halt on the road just outside one of the gates to FOB Warrior. With gunners providing security, other soldiers exited gun trucks ready to distribute candy to the many children running from their dilapidated houses toward the road. While opening his duffle bag, DeLorme motioned for the kids to approach his vehicle.

"Like a Footlocker salesman, the 6'2" DeLorme bent down and began fitting shoes and sandals to small feet," said Brockberg. "In a short time, all the footwear was handed

out and several smiling Iraqi children had new shoes. It's safe to say that the soldiers enjoyed the occasion just as much as the needy kids did."

Fox Battery was activated for 18 months back in June 2004 and has been stationed in Iraq since December.

"That is a long period of time away from wives, children, moms and dads, and girlfriends," said Brockberg. "Every soldier needs to experience certain situations that help him forget, if only for a short time, the death and destruction that continue to plague this country. Seeing the waves and the smiles of Iraqi children when U.S. soldiers pass by builds



Two Iraqi children run home with new shoes given to them by the soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Fox Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery, outside of FOB Warrior, Iraq. (Photo submitted by F Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery)

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

Hump...

Continued from page 18 defense artillerymen from Fox Battery led the way with our aggressive efforts to train, resource, and equip the Iraqi Army formations that populate our area of responsibility. They have continued to set the standard across the Brigade for preparing and executing solid, mission-focused training to our Iraqi Army counterparts, as they expand their capabilities and proficiency in providing a safe and secure Iraq. I cannot begin to explain in words the level of professional commitment and excellence these great soldiers deliver day in and day out. They prepare and supervise a wide array of military specific tasks including basic marksmanship training, first aid, complex battle drills, staff training, detainee operations, and basic security tasks such as traffic control points, emergency response, and mounted patrols. Their efforts have directly enabled the Iraqi Army to attain exceptionally high proficiencies and skill sets, while simultaneously teaching the leadership how to be professional and accept responsibility for their actions.

More soldiers rotated home in May on their two-week R&R leave, for some well deserved time with their families and friends. At this point in our deployment, nearly half of the Scorpion Battalion has had the opportunity to cycle out of Iraq for quality time with their loved ones. We

will continue this program through the next several months, as it is important our deserving men and women receive a break from the stress of a combat environment, and afford their families and friends some much needed time together.

Worthy of mention at this point in our deployment is the exceptional retention efforts of our leaders and soldiers throughout the Battalion. Fifty-four Scorpions have reenlisted since we arrived in theater, equating to the commitment of over \$700,000 in tax-free bonus monies. Deployed soldiers who meet the eligibility requirements are being offered \$15,000 tax free money to reenlist for 6 years or \$7,500 for 3 years. These bonuses are in addition to a host of other benefits, such as student loan repayment incentives

F Battery...

Continued from page 19 confidence that our battery mission here will be a success, and that the future of this embattled country will be a bright one.

The 116th BCT took over responsibility for combat operations in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah Provinces in February. Besides providing humanitarian assistance, the unit is accomplishing a four-fold mission that includes developing Iraqi security forces, supporting Iraq's elected leaders, helping jump-start economic development and assisting Iraqis to

and tuition assistance programs. I'm very proud to see these great soldiers take advantage of these unique opportunities to continue their service and receive these hefty incentives.

Many families, businesses, civic organizations, churches, and educational institutions back home have contributed school supplies, athletic equipment, toys, and games to our soldiers here for distribution among some very thankful and grateful children, teachers, and community cultural centers. A little known fact is that most communities here in Iraq have active civic organizations, not all that dissimilar from our own Rotary, Civitan, and community youth organizations. The many contributions from home have gone a long way in providing assistance and expanded opportunities to these very worthwhile organizations and education centers. You can imagine the expression on the faces of young children who receive a soccer ball for the first time in their lives, or receive a set of markers and coloring books that, for many, have been nonexistent in their lives.

Our deployment to Iraq has been filled with

both triumph and sorrow, good days and bad. Although time has gone by very rapidly for those of us deployed, for many at home it has crawled along. Your immense sacrifice and worry are very much on my mind as we continue to go about our daily tasks of providing a safe and secure environment for this unique country, which has worked so hard to embrace freedom. Please be assured that your soldiers are being well cared for and led. These tremendous men and women have been called upon to accomplish a tough, challenging mission. As is often said, "If this were simple, we would hire it done." It's not simple and the best have been called upon to do the job. They are performing admirably!

I again applaud the support and commitment of all our soldiers, families, friends, and communities.

This deployment would not be possible without the outpouring of support from our loved ones, families, employers and civic organizations. I've learned a lot of lessons during this historic deployment, many of which are not taught at military colleges or contained in text books. Perhaps the most vital has been the importance of keeping our families informed of the achievements of their loved ones and to insure their needs are being met during the extended absence of their soldier.

Please take a few minutes and thank those neighbors, businesses, churches, relatives, employers and support agencies for stepping up and making a difference. It's truly a team effort and the contributions of these fine individuals and groups have made a real impact.

Whenever, Wherever!



Sgt. Peter Masset, a Fox Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery team leader, hands out candy to Iraqi children outside of FOB Warrior, Iraq, during a recent patrol. (Photo submitted by F Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery)

Honor Our Military Day, May 21, 2005

by Tanya Chin

Area cities took time out to Honor Our Military in celebrations and gatherings took place throughout the state. I had the opportunity to experience two of these events.

A few Emmett Middle School students wanted to pay tribute to their friends, neighbors and to the military by acknowledging and showing continued support for the sacrifices that our military personnel and their families are facing in this ever changing world during wartime. These kids took on a mission that would usually be handled by adults—they organized, solicited and collected donations, arranged for a Black Hawk to land and coordinated a picnic in the park, along with a special tribute to Military families.

This was a very emotional experience for many. I do not recall Armed Forces Day meaning so much in years past as it does when you have a soldier serving in the line of duty, called upon to leave his or her family and go to war.

It is amazing what kids of this age can accomplish. Emmett has a very strong group of young, caring leaders that will definitely have an impact on the future of their great community and the state of Idaho will be better for that.

The families of our military personnel would like to say a warm, heart felt 'Thank You' for not forgetting us and although the headlines are diminishing as time goes on, they acknowledged that our soldiers are still defending our freedoms.

Honor Our Military Day in Boise was a joint venture between 4-H and the Idaho National Guard Youth Group to boost support for our Troops and also to serve as a reminder that, as life has gone on for many and we are no longer front page news, there are still large numbers of deployments for all branches of the military. It was also an opportunity to recognize the families and most importantly the kids – Military Kids Serve Too.

Paul Fredericks from Channel 2 News started our march off with military kids holding a banner in Julia Davis Park that said simply "Support Our Troops." There were around 100 participants, both military and civilian, who were there to show their support. During the march to the statehouse steps, the children sang patriotic songs of support for their soldiers. Onlookers smiled, gave thumbs up, and clapped as we marched past. Upon arrival the ceremonies

were kicked off by KJ Mac of 107.1 KHITS. The remembrance celebration began with the posting of the colors, introductions of the dignitaries and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Eight kids for the Idaho National Guard Youth Group received Hero Packs and Certificates of Commendation. These kids were nominated by the State Youth Officers for this area, each for individual reasons. They have shown strength, endurance and have represented themselves with a tremendous amount of dignity and strength throughout deployment. These kids have found strength deep inside themselves to persevere and to allow the deployment to have a positive impact on their lives.



Eight kids for the Idaho National Guard Youth Group received Hero Packs and Certificates of Commendation. These kids were nominated by the State Youth Officers for this area, each for individual reasons.

They are the future of Idaho. They make us proud of the leaders they are now and of the leaders they will one day be as adults. Upon ending the Hero Pack presentation, although we were ahead of schedule by an hour and it was not dark yet, all participants lit a candle in honor of our soldiers. The light from the candles could not be seen, but the moment was forever etched in our minds.

The military kids ended the ceremony by singing "God Bless America," as this song has a very powerful meaning to all who serve and their families.

It was an honor to be a part of these wonderful events. We are truly not forgotten. Until all are home, our communities will continue to rally, pray, and show support for both the Military and their families.

Soldier-Family Adoption Program

by Kristina Olson

After Operation Homefront Hugs USA closed its adoption program, three former volunteers decided to form Hugs4SmilesUSA in an effort to ensure that a program which provides support for both deployed soldiers and their families would remain available to these heroes who sacrifice so much for their country.

If you or a loved one

is facing deployment, or are already in a deployment situation, and are seeking adoption, please contact us. You are the very reason Hugs4SmilesUSA exists. Keep in mind that we support both the deployed troops and their families. Let us send some Packaged Hugs to you and your family back home; they need something to smile about, too!

When you volunteer,

Hugs4SmilesUSA assigns you a deployed hero's family and/or the hero. You then send the hero two care packages each month. If the soldier's family has also been adopted, they receive one package each month. If you find it in your heart to join our family of volunteers, or would like more information:

Please visit our website at www.Hugs4SmilesUSA.org, or contact us at Info@Hugs4SmilesUSA.org.



All participants lit a candle in honor of our soldiers.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
5 Movie Premier Star Wars III @ Clamantina 0800, 1300, 1930	6 LUNCH BINGO 1200 Star Wars III @ Clamantina 0800, 1300, 1930	7 Texas Hold'em/ 8-Ball 2000	8 LUNCH BINGO 1200 Chess 1900 Spades 2015	9 Rummy/ Ping-Pong 2000	10 SWING BINGO 1500 KBR Latino Night 2000	11 Progressive Bingo 2000 Karaoke 2130
12 Movie Premier 0700, 1900 & 2100 @ KRAB Blackjack 2030	13 LUNCH BINGO 1200 Madden/ Dominoes 2000	14 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000	15 LUNCH BINGO 1200 Darts Spades 2015	16 Blackjack/ Ping-Pong 2000	17 Bazaar 1200-2100	18 Bazaar 0900-1700 Progressive Bingo 2000 Karaoke 2130
19 Movie Premier 0700, 1900 & 2100 @ KRAB Bumbo 2030	20 LUNCH BINGO 1200 Fight Night 2004 / Dominoes 2000	21 Texas Hold'em/ 8-Ball 2000	22 LUNCH BINGO 1200 Chess 1900 Spades 2015	23 Casino Night 2000	24 SWING BINGO 1500 KBR Alternative Night 2000	25 Progressive Bingo 2000 Karaoke 2130
26 Movie Premier 0700, 1900 & 2100 @ KRAB Blackjack 2030	27 LUNCH BINGO 1200 NBA Live 2005 / Dominoes 2000	28 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000	29 LUNCH BINGO 1200 Darts Spades 2015	30 GONG SHOW! 2000		

Rec Schedule JUNE 2005



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