



Snakebite

The Official Newsletter of the 116th Brigade Combat Team

Change of Command for the 216th M.I. Co.

by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT Public Affairs NCO
 FOB WARRIOR, Iraq-

The Soldiers of the 216th Military Intelligence (M.I.) Company conducted a Change of

Command ceremony July 1, at the Warrior gym, here at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Warrior, Iraq.

The ceremony began with the outgoing and incoming unit commanders executing the ceremonial hand-over of the unit Guidon.

Next, the outgoing Commander of the 216th M.I. Co., Capt. James Hicks, addressing special guests including 116 Brigade Combat Team Commander, Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, acting Brigade Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier, and the troops telling them how proud he had been of commanding such a fine unit.

Incoming 216th M.I. Co. Commander, Capt. Kimberly Tschepen, then

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Commander's Corner

by Brigadier General Alan Gayhart, Commander

Fellow Warriors, The support from the rear makes me proud. Unlike our forefathers who fought in

Viet Nam, the support of our Nation, States and communities could not be better. Everyday I see "survival" packages sent to us, not only from our families, but by average citizens who continue to support each of us while we conduct the mission our nation has asked us to complete.

Couple of words of caution however. Many of the well-wishers, whether family or friends, may not be aware that we are restricted in what we may possess. Alcohol, pornographic material and

many other items are prohibited for use or possession. Not only is this a violation of the UCMJ that

can cost you rank and money, it violates the customs of Islam that many of the countries (especially Kuwait and Iraq) are based

upon. Our major task here in Iraq is to gain the support of the local citizens for their government and the Iraqi and coalition security forces. If we fail to abide by local customs, we can negatively affect our mission here. If you receive these items, immediately place them in an amnesty box and save

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BG Gayhart



Capt. Tschepen (L), Brig. Gen. Gayhart (C), and Capt. Hicks prepare to pass on the unit Guidon during the 216 M.I. Co. C of C ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116th BCT PAO NCO)

CSM Briefing

by 145th SPT Bn. Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier

Since our arrival here at FOB Warrior, we have encountered numerous vandals in the showers and latrines. As stewards of the facilities the Army has placed in our care, this kind of behavior is unacceptable.

Regardless of the motivation behind these acts, it must be clearly understood that these acts of destruction are in violation of Army

Regulations and are therefore punishable under the UCMJ.

What I find discouraging is the fact that not one of these individuals have been observed in the act and reported and seldom will

soldiers notify the Mayors office of major damage. Does this tell me that we accept this behavior as normal

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CSM Whittier



1st Sgt. Antonio Foruria stands at the front of the 216th M.I. Co. formation, awaiting the commencement of the Change of Command Ceremony, July 1. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT PAO)

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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 jack.white4@us.army.mil and 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.

HHC, 116 BCT Soldiers receive awards

by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT Public Affairs NCO

10 members of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 116th Brigade Combat Team, were awarded medals and ribbons at an awards ceremony at the HHC command post on July 21, by 116 BCT commander, Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart.

Eight Soldiers were presented the Army Commendation Medal, Capt. Matthew Wilson, Chief Warrant Officer



The awardees from (R to L), Staff Sgt. John Carter, Spc. Dennis Wertz, Spc. Robert Lyle, Spc. Grace Bergam, Cpl. Tanya Personette, Sgt. William Smithson, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Lammers, Sgt. 1st Class Charles Embretson, Chief Warrant Officer Rudolfo Wise, and Capt. Matthew Wilson.

Rudolfo Wise, Sgt. 1st Class Charles Embretson, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Lammers, Sgt. William Smithson, Cpl. Tanya Personette, Spc. Grace Bergam and Spc. Robert Lyle. Awarded the Army Achievement Medal, was Spc. Dennis Wertz and awarded the

Combat Infantry Badge, was Staff Sgt. John C. Carter.

The medals and badges were the result of their efforts during the overseas deployment phase of the unit, and during the movement phase of the unit from Kuwait to Iraq.

The formation of HHC Soldiers were addressed by Brig. Gen. Gayhart immediately following the awards presentations. He commended all of them for the exemplary job they had done so far and asked them to stay focused and keep up the good work.



At left is Capt Cole Packwood, HHC Commander, with Brig. Gen Gayhart to his right, presenting an ARCOM to Sgt. Smithson.

I Chose to Look the Other Way

--Anonymous

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care,
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before,
If I spoke up, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,
I'd done the same, He knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye,
And with that act, I let him die.

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know, I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need share.

If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake.
The question asked, or thing you say,
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose, to look the other way.

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)

Adversity – The Best Teacher

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

In my family kids, dogs, Coleman-brand white gasoline stoves, guns, and cans of new potatoes rode in the backseat of cars, and in the beds of trucks. You didn't get up front with the adults – you just took your chances with the hounds under the camper shell. So, after begging my Father to take me hunting, he finally relented when I was twelve. He gravely instructed me that "We'll get you some boots and socks and you'll keep up with the rest of us. When your toes get cold, wiggle them, and there



Chaplain Worster

will be no whining." These days that kind of talk can get your kids taken away from you. But not in 1974. I agreed to the terms of this treaty, got new boots from the Kinney Shoe Store, and rode one Friday afternoon in the back of the truck, with the aforementioned equipment, into the High Sierras, to a town called Kyburz. We went, as always, with Hans, a big Swede who had an ivory-colored Toyota Land Cruiser: the boxy kind that used to have metal in the body.

It was November, and it had begun to snow as only it can in the Sierras – enough to stop even the Donner Party. My braces had just been tightened – the old metal band type that they used to winch up with a come-along device – and everything above my

neckline felt like it had been run over by a D-9. All Saturday we plowed through snow: up hills, down hills. No deer, just walking and stalking and cold toes: cold which wiggling didn't help, and still doesn't. But, I didn't whine. Finally, the day ended with me cold, aching, and exhausted in the back of Hans' Cruiser with the horse equipment.

We drove into Kyburz and parked in front of the Knotty Pine Tavern. This establishment was also the town post office and church. I figured Dad and Hans wanted some barley pop and that I'd be invited it – seeing that I'd survived the day's activities. Instead, inflicting more adversity on me, my old man said, "Stay in the back, cover up with those horse blankets if your get cold, and if you absolutely have to come in, go to the bar and tell the lady, 'I'm a midget, and I want a coke.'"

I complied with the orders, got under the stinky, wool saddle blankets and proceeded to get really mad. After a half hour of counting the bullet holes in the Toyota, I couldn't stand it any longer and went into the Tavern. True to its name, it had tongue-

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Don't Forget!

Important Dates to Remember:

4 July - Independence Day

10 October - Columbus Day

5 September - Labor Day

11 September - Patriots Day/

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

Grandparents Day

17 September - Citizenship Day

Commanders Corner...

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yourself a lot of grief. In addition, there are strict guidelines on what we can ship back home. What may seem innocent, such as a small war relic, may be prohibited by higher command or U.S. Customs. Customs screens all

packages throughout its travel, and although the local post office may accept it, it will likely be intercepted elsewhere. Again, be cautious on what you send. Penalties for violations of the UCMJ or U.S. law can be painful to the pocketbook and potentially have long term effects on your career.

CSM Briefing...

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daily operations, or do we not care? The latrines are in better shape than when we arrived and KBR is pouring money into them to repair and maintain them.

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Question of the Week

What would be the one thing you would change about Iraq?



Staff Sgt. Scott Johnson
HHC, 116 BCT

“The trust of the Iraqis. With their help, we can defeat the AIF.”



Sgt. Timothy Simmons
F Btry, 188 ADA

“The education of the Iraqi people.”



Spc. Andrew Recio
B Co., 250th Signal

“The hot weather.”



Spc. Aaron Gilmore
HHC, 116th BCT

“They need better sanitation facilities.”



Spc. Shane Mitchell
B Bty., TF 1-148 Field Artillery

“That I wouldn’t be here.”

216 M.I. C of C...

Continued from page 1

spoke to her new command and guests, telling them, “I am very grateful to be given the chance to command the 216th M.I. Company for the remainder of our OIF rotation. Having been part of the 216th M.I. Company before, the soldiers in the company are close to my heart. They all have very special talents and play a large role in our mission here in Iraq. I look forward to bringing them all home and continuing to serve them as their commander upon our return to the states”.

Capt. Tschepen enlisted in the Idaho Army National Guard in 1995, attending basic training and AIT (91B), then went directly to officer

candidate school. She received her commission in Aug of 1997 where she was assigned to the 116 Brigade Combat Team’s S-2 section as a tactical intelligence officer. She then attended the MI Officer Basic Course at FT Huachuca, Ariz., remaining in the S-2 section when she returned. She then spent two years at the 216th M.I. company as the ACT Chief and XO, from June 2001 to August 2003. Later, she moved back over to the Bde. S-2 shop as the assistant S-2 and remained until deployed to Iraq with the rest of the Bde. She completed the M.I. Officer Advance Course in October of 2005, just before deploying.

Capt. Tschepen graduated from High School in Milbank, S. Dakota. She received an AA from Fergus Falls Community College, Fergus Falls Minn., in 1988. She then received a BA in Math from Moorhead State University, Moorhead Minn. in 1990. She later went



Outgoing Commander of the 216th M.I. Co., Capt. James Hicks, speaks to his command at the Change of Command ceremony, July 1. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT PAONCO).

back to school and received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Boise State University, in May of 2000.

Capt. Tschepen is a native of Oakes, N. Dakota, but grew up in S. Dakota. She moved to Boise, Idaho in October of 1994. In August 2003, she

moved to Corvallis, Ore., where she currently resides.

Former commander Capt. Hicks, has been reassigned to the 116 Brigade Combat Team’s S-2 Section.

STAY ALIVE

Stop and Think!
IEDs are deadly killers.

Conduct 5 and 25 meter checks around your position.

A letter to every soldier with the 116 BCT who deployed to Iraq with a personal digital camera

by George F. Johnson, Visual Information manager, the Idaho Army National Guard

I was the guy with the camera photographing you as Governor Kempthorne and party wished you a safe return as you boarded for

your mission to Iraq. I was out there on the tarmac with you at England Air Force Base, Alexandria, Louisiana last Thanksgiving. My job was to officially document for the National Guard Bureau and

Department of the Army the historical photographic record of your departure as a member of the 116 CAV BCT. I was fortunate to record many meaningful images that will help better tell your story to future generations. Many of you stopped as you boarded to

take a picture of me with your digital cameras as I was taking a picture of you. There are a lot of you who deployed to Iraq with a good quality personal pocket camera and you have been taking images since your feet hit the ground over there.

I have received many photographs from your deployment that I will use in publication of a book, more to the point a deployment photo album of you doing your job. I also will select certain images for a large print photo exhibition, both projects to be produced upon your return to Idaho. I lack images from the field and those are the ones I need most to tell our families and friends, employers and others just exactly what it is you were doing for your job, where you were, what everyday life was for you deployed to bring freedom and democracy for the first time to the Iraqi people.

Mission oriented photos are what I need most, out in the field, you and your fellow soldiers on the job. I need images of what you do best, what you were sent over there to do. There must be hundreds of images already taken with personal cameras by you and your fellow soldiers? I want to see them. What I am look-

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Lieutenant Dumbler's career hit a wall when he failed to notice the typo on the OPORD. Instead of 'clear' it read 'clean'

The 'Five C's' simplify improvised explosive device fight in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Mark St. Clair
Multi-National Corps -
Iraq Public Affairs Office

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq—

Five potentially life-saving words are being driven home to Coalition service members and civilians throughout the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater.

Confirm, clear, call, cordon, and control are the "Five Cs" that represent a simple set of guidelines that Coalition forces can and should use when encountering a suspected improvised

explosive device. "The reason we teach the Five Cs is because they make an easy to remember guide for (service members) to follow if they suspect or find an IED," said Alex Szigedi, operations officer, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Task Force, Camp Victory.

Using methods like the Five Cs simplifies IED awareness and "helps in the decision-making process, helping it become second-nature. They're also on the IED

Smart Card," said Lt. Col. Ted Martin, chief, JIEDDTF. The IED Smart Card is produced by the Victory-based IED Working Group.

The IED Working Group, led by British Maj. Gen. Mark Mans, MNC-I deputy commander, meets weekly. Liaisons from major subordinate ground units, information operations delegates, ordnance-destruction contractors and others come together to discuss ad-

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Explosive ordnance disposal technicians, such as those pictured here, are called in to deal with improvised explosive device threats throughout Iraq. (Photo courtesy of OR Joint IED-Defeat Task Force)

145th Support Battalion

Moving lessons learned

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

DD 1750, DA 5748-R, load plans, connexs, all terms normally associated with geeks carrying clip boards and diagrams of the insides of boxes. But at this time, when the 145th Support Battalion starts looking homeward, they are the sweetest words, phrases and Army-ese expressions ever uttered. Why? Because the more familiar we all are with them, the faster and more efficiently we can all get home and see the families that have been pining so long to see us.

We have accomplished wonderful things here in beautiful Kirkuk, but like all good things, this deployment must come to an end. Since arriving in theater, the mighty SIDEWINDERS have moved oceans of water, mountains of food and provided a mother load of care and support to the BCT organization.

Now, we must start looking to the other real world, full of another enemy, an enemy we have become unfamiliar

with-Choice. Choice lurks at every stop light, springing battles on you like – burgers or restaurant, margarine or butter, sports or weekend camping. Your old familiar favorite will be gone ---if this is Thursday, it must be pork ---if it's lunch, it must be chicken, left behind to serve another.

You will be faced with the battle of color coordination; you will have to choose between prints or solids, long sleeves or short. You will soon be facing challenges of going to sleep and getting woken up by the thunderous roar of crickets, and worst of all, being woken up by the explosion of the joyful laughter of our spouses and children.

But between here and there, lies a road fraught with connexs and load plans, plans that will give us a better or worse accounting of the items we will be taking home. The load plan, like wool long Johns



LTC Harrell

“Your future depends on many things, but mostly on you.”

-Frank Tyger

in summer, can seem like the most uncomfortable and painful things, but if filled out correctly (and worn during a snow storm) can provide all the warm comfort of knowing you will safely pass through

the most demanding First Sergeant, Sergeant Major or customs inspector.

When the SIDEWINDER Battalion was preparing for its trip across the big pond, we learned a lot of valuable lessons for safely packing our affairs, lessons that will help us in passing these barriers between us and arriving expeditiously home to the warm glow of our families. The main lesson learned is to get the sections intimately involved in the packing of everything, because EVERYTHING will get inspected upon leaving Iraq, everything.

The Unit Movement Officers have been working with your sections sergeants, instructing them on how to correctly fill out a DD 1750 or packing list. Each and every soldier will have to be familiar with this form, as it is what will define to the customs agent exactly the contents of your foot

lockers, your sectional unit boxes, your tool kits, etc.

The other form that most everyone will see and use is the DA 5748-R. Once your foot lockers and sectional equipment is safely stacked and stored, blocked and braced, you will have to lay out your load plan of your connex on this form. Think of it as a 1750 for the connex. The 5748-R shows the layout of the contents of the connex, which must match with the actual layout and contents. If there are any discrepancies, the best thing you can anticipate is to repack your connex. Large discrepancies or any sort of contraband can lead to unpleasant delays either with customs officials or military police.

The next lesson learned was to involve as many of the participants as early as possible in the planning and packing process. If you have not

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One heck of a job

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

We have been over here almost seven months now and boy have we done one heck of a job. Our maneuver units have hit the road clearing routes, stabilizing towns, performed community relations and have made a difference in the country's democratic process. Our Brigade has worked hard to bring stability and dignity to the people of northern Iraq. While enforcing standards to keep us on task, providing for our welfare, and most of all taking all precautions possible to bring all of us back home safe. These are just some of the ways the

brigade is striving to keep this organization functioning. I will tell you, with the mix of personalities and backgrounds of this group, I salute the effort. If anyone can do a better job, my hat off to them. We do not have to make everyone happy; we just need to make it tolerable and safe. Now since I represent the best Support Battalion in the Brigade, I must take a moment to blow my own horn for the great soldiers I represent. Now we may not clear villages, we may not set up TCP's, and we may not be the best looking bunch



CSM Whittier

in the brigade, but we can keep our heads high. Do you realize that our SSA has already processed nearly 80,000 requisitions since we been here, while the 25th ID previous to us hit right at 36,000 total requisitions for the year they were here. Our total deadline time for vehicle

repair has been more than outstanding, with turn around time among the best in the Division. Our convoys distribute the best UGR's in theatre to feed the troops, The purest fuel and the most accurate ammo one can find anywhere. Our trucks are ready early each morning to go out the gate to support the best war fighters Iraq has seen to date. Our Medics are spread far and wide supporting FOB's, traveling with convoys, and sticking a bandage on anything that looks red, or a topical solution on

anything that looks like a rash. These guys are doing a great job as are all medics in the district. Look at this Brigade as a small town, as we have as many soldiers here as towns have citizens. The mix of events and the force structure is complicated at best and to work as one machine relying on all the parts, is being done daily thanks to all of us. We must work as one, as without the other we would fail. We are a team working together doing one heck of a good job and I have no regrets on the company I keep with you, the great soldiers of the 116 BCT.

145th Support Battalion

145th SB's photo contest

For the last two months, soldiers of the 145th Support Battalion have submitted pictures of their deployment, to the Battalion Photo Contest. All soldiers were encouraged to participate in the contest to see a full spectrum of photographs taken of events since deployment started. Pictures ranged from sunsets and animals, to convoys and Iraqi children. The pictures were posted in

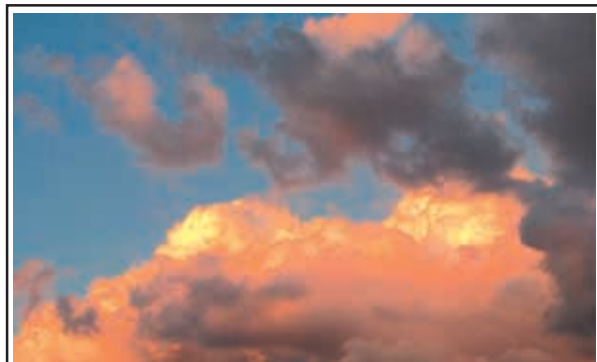
the hallway of the 145th Support Battalion TOC, and all visitors were encouraged to vote on their favorite photo. The winner of the contest received \$50.00 and 2nd place earned \$25.00 for their effort. The contest winner was Spc. Carl Matthews, with a three way tie for second. The second place finishers were 1st Lt. Smith, Chief Warrant Officer Wise, and 1st Sgt. Vawser.



The 1st Place photo submitted in the 145th SB contest.



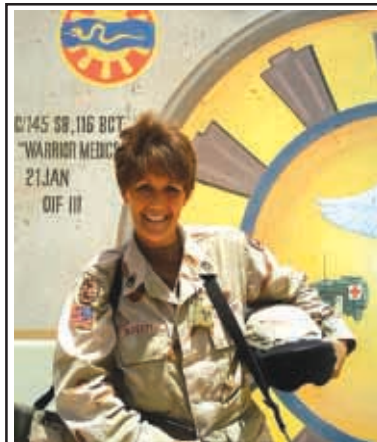
One of the 2nd Place photos submitted in the contest.



One of the 2nd Place photos submitted in the contest.

145th Spt. Bn. NCO of the Month

The 145th Support Battalion is pleased to announce it's NCO of the Month for June, 2005. Staff Sgt. Diana Parenti is a member of the Treatment Platoon of C Company, 145th Support Battalion. Parenti hails from the California Army National guard where she holds the position of Ambulance Platoon



Staff Sgt. Diana Parenti, 145th Spt. Bn. NCO of the Month for June 2005.

Sergeant for the 340th Forward Support Battalion. She volunteered for OIF III after finding out that one of her medics, Spc. Ables, was being sent to Iraq. Her loyalty to her soldier compelled her to

volunteer even though she had no guarantee she would be assigned to the same unit as Spc. Ables.

Staff Sgt. Parenti works as the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the ward and with her background as a Licensed

Practical Nurse (LPN), has greatly benefited the ward in its care for patients. She helped write the ward SOP, and implement and enforce the accountability of narcotics. She is detail oriented with a moral code that will not let her ignore a wrong. Her bedside manner is remarkable, with time to listen to all that need to talk

and the first to ask, "is everything OK?"

Other nominees for NCO of the Month are Staff Sgt. Ronald Stewart of HH, 145 SPT BN, and Staff Sgt. Robert Cook of B Company, 145th Spt. Bn.

145th Spt. Bn. Soldier of the Month

The 145th Support Battalion is pleased to announce its choice for Soldier of the Month for June 2005. Spc. James Balderston of A Company, 145th Spt. Bn. was selected from a number of highly qualified soldiers for his achievements and dedication.

Spc. Balderston has been in the service almost eight years now and is currently working in the maintenance section as a 63B. While assigned to the Maintenance Platoon, his contributions have helped maintain a higher level of readiness on the unit equipment. He also is a key to the section achieving over



Spc. James Balderston, 145th Spt. Bn. Soldier of the Month for June 2005.

fulfilling responsibilities on and off duty hours and his enthusiastic spirit motivates everyone around him. His willingness to further seek knowledge in the maintenance field and his 'can do' attitude are his biggest strengths. He also plays on the company's maintenance softball team and is very involved in the Christian Church.

Other candidates for Soldier of the Month include Spc. Michael Bull of HHC, 145 Spt. Bn., Spc. Sandy Allen of C Co., 145th Spt. Bn. and Spc. Thomas Heffelfinger of B Co., 145th Spt. Bn.

7,200 hours in unscheduled man-hour repairs. Balderston is also a qualified Combat Life Saver and one of the best M-2 gunners in the company. His positive attitude helps in

TF 2-116th Armor

B Company, TF 2-116 train Aruba Police

Members of 1st platoon, 3rd squad, Bravo Company, TF 2-116 Armor, recently gave seven members of the Aruba Police station a first-aid class, to prepare them to deal with serious wounds.

Soldiers of B Co., TF 2-116 Armor, provided

seven Iraqi Policemen from the town of Aruba, Iraq, a class on dealing with abdominal wounds and head wounds, invaluable training which will save lives as the police operate in their community.

The officers said that their police station's supply system hadn't been able to supply

them with the proper equipment, such as first-aid kits.

The training was quite a success. The police felt it worthwhile and that it should continue in the future with the trainers from TF 2-116 Armor. These police are receiving training which they probably would not receive otherwise.



Aruba Police dressing an abdominal wound during training with B Co., TF 2-116 Armor.

TF 2-116 deals with hospital's security

Soldiers of TF 2-116 Armor have been busy helping a local hospital with its security issues, recently.

Capt. Schroeder, of TF 2-116 Armor, has been working with the local hospital on developing protocols for security and crowd control during MASCAL events. Currently they have no plan and no method for controlling entry to the hospital or entry into patient's rooms, which poses a threat to every-

one. Capt. Schroeder says he is concerned that having huge crowds of people around, not only puts the patients at risk because the hospital staff will not be able to perform their duties, but also puts the hospital at risk for a terrorist to come in during a MASCAL event and disrupt operations or potentially cause more harm. By tightening security standards, this can be prevented.



Capt. Schroeder, a Medical Officer of TF 2-116 Armor, is discussing with local doctors better ways to handle crowds during a mass casualty event.

Suicide attack injures IA, civilians

Soldiers of TF 2-116 Armor were enroute to Kirkuk General Hospital when they heard over the radio that there had been an explosion. They were on 1st Bridge Road in Kirkuk when they heard the call. After crossing the bridge, several shots were fired in the vicinity of the convoy. They arrived at Kirkuk General Hospital and the Suicide Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (SVBIED)

casualties had arrived at almost the same time.

Five Iraqi Army Soldiers had been injured, as well as four civilians. They reported that a car had exploded where the taxis wait for patrons at the Circle of Swords area. They reported no one had been killed other than the terrorist suicide bomber in the car. The injuries sustained were mostly burns, some shrapnel and broken limbs. Four

of the Iraqi Army soldiers were treated, then subsequently transferred from Kirkuk General Hospital to Azadi Hospital. It is attacks like these, targeting innocent men, women and children that show the true morality of terrorists.



Hozan Nauzad, a 10 year old Kurdish boy, was lucky to have only received shrapnel injuries. He will have the pieces removed at Kirkuk General Hospital.

TF 2-116 Armor

Army Birthday

by *Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin*

Rattlers, thanks for the wonderful job on all your missions this past week. We have definitely become a unit to be reckoned with. Keep up the good work and remember to be safe.

The birthday of the United States Army was this past June 14, so we should all reflect on the character and the awesome achievements of past generations of brave Soldiers who have borne arms in defense of American ideals.

American civilization has always been marked by idealism, optimism and a belief that mankind's experiment in liberty and equality depends on America's success. So it is not surprising that throughout history the American Soldier has been marked by these same qualities. There are other ideals that guide the conduct of Soldiers in the United States Army. One

of them is the Soldiers Creed, containing our warrior ethos, which says "I will never accept defeat and I will never quit." our Soldiers are as passionate about these ideals today, after Army's 230th birthday, as they were on the first Army birthday.

From the earliest days of the Republic, Americans in the field have demonstrated resourcefulness and cunning in the pursuit of victory. Redcoats of the British Army initially dismissed the fighting capability of American Soldiers. Even the song "Yankee Doodle Dandy" was intended as a joke at their expense. But it did not take long for the British to realize that they were facing a new breed of Soldier. As products of a society that rewarded individualism and personal initiative, Soldiers of the Continental Army quickly earned the grudging respect of their



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin

foes. At the Battle of Saratoga, the defeated Redcoat General Burgoyne even admitted that his men had faced "the finest regiment in the world," commanded by the American Colonel Daniel Morgan.

That tradition of battlefield innovation became the signature of the Soldiers during the Second World War. Adolph Hitler did not believe that American Soldiers were capable of defeating his seasoned Wehrmacht veterans. Steeped in fanatical racism, Hitler scoffed at the idea that any nation of mixed races could possibly match his

Aryan warriors. He was wrong. Descendants of every race and creed on earth, American Soldiers demonstrated an unsurpassed capability of mastering the art of modern warfare. Their speed, mobility and overwhelming firepower overran German units during the breakout from the beachhead at Normandy.

But most important of all, American fighting units demonstrated to the world their well-known ability to work independently. They were notorious for their ability to improvise and to fight in isolation. And they were admired by friends and foes alike for their ability to solve complex logistical and tactical problems at the lowest level of the command chain.

Today, there is no nation on earth that doubts the capability of the United States Army. As an all-volunteer force, today's Army epitomizes the ideal of the citizen-Soldier expressed by Washington and by Eisenhower. It incorporates the finest elements from America's proud military heritage, from the Minutemen all the way to the Soldiers. Its combat philosophy is summed up by its motto. "An Army of One." An Army of One is an Army that upholds the dignity and value of every Soldier, regardless of their rank, race, religion, or sex. An Army of One is an Army that is committed to the success of every individual Soldier as part of a strong

and unified team. An Army of One is an Army that embraces an ethos of leadership, where any Soldier at any time may be called upon to take charge.

We are justifiably proud of the battle victories won by our Army. Americans can take great pride in knowing that the conduct of her Soldiers in victory has set an international standard for humanity and for decency. During the Civil War, America was the first nation in history to hold Soldiers criminally accountable for their conduct in war. These actions formed the basis of the Geneva Convention and the many other international laws that govern how wars can be waged. No other army has set such stringent rules of engagement to avoid casualties to civilians or damage to property.

Our Army's distinguished heritage, are the ideals of freedom, equality, of valor in battle and of humility in victory. Our Soldiers' achievement of these ideals is made possible by the values they possess. Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. It is these values which have sustained our Army through the generations and will continue to "Lead by Example and Adapt to a changing world" these are the foundations on which our Soldiers will stand ready to fight and win our nation's wars. SINE MORA!!

Digital Camera...

Continued from page 5

ing for includes those of you who are working with the Iraqi people in the towns you are deployed, images of the missions you did and will continue to do in all weather, all times of the day

If you have photographs you would like to submit to me to be considered for publication in the book about the deployment of the 116 CAV BCT

to Iraq then please send them to me by e-mail at johnsongf@id.ngb.army.mil, or better if you can burn them to photo CD and mail them to me at: George Johnson, VI manager, IDARNG, JFHQ bldg 440, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho 83705.

If your photograph is selected I will give you full credit and publish your name with your photograph. Do not compress images for e-mail, they will not enlarge correctly. Please send only full reso-

lution images if you can. Include your name and rank, unit, location of the photograph and provide an e-mail address I may write to you to confirm I received your pictures. Send as many as you wish. If you do send an image by e-mail and can include a short story with the picture please use the 4 "W's" and an "H" (who, what, where, when and how).

Thank you and I look forward to seeing your images.

TF 2-116 Armor

TF 2-116 Armor witnesses graduation of Iraqi Highway Patrol

Soldiers of TF 2-116 Armor had the pleasure of watching 26 Kirkuk Highway patrolmen successfully graduate from the Iraqi Highway Patrol Academy located at Camp Taji, Iraq on Jun 28, 2005. The

graduates have been training for four weeks, conducting training in firearms marksmanship, Main Supply Route security, convoy security and improving their driving skills. Upon graduation, the students

drove back to Kirkuk with twenty new Chevy Luv pickups and ten new BKCS medium machine-guns to be used in their daily operations. the next class of 46 Kirkuk Highway Patrolmen will attend the training beginning July 11.



This class of the Kirkuk Highway Patrol, graduated on Jun 28 at Camp Taji, Iraq. (Photo provided by TF 2-116 Armor)

TF 2-116 Armor takes second in 20k relay

Jun 25 was a typical day for the 2-Tank runners at the 20 K relay, held June 25. The temperatures hovered in the high 90s as the team members each ran a 5K leg and then tagged off until all four members had run their leg of the 20 kilometers.

The team for TF 2-116, 1Lt. Conway, Sgt. 1st Class Gerrein, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin and Spc. Blacker, placed second out of 10 teams. There were no gimps or alibis in this bunch.

Each ran hard for the best rewards of all: self satisfaction and cool water. Camaraderie is the finest trea-



From Left: 1Lt. Conway, Sgt. 1st Class Gerrein, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin, Spc. Blacker, 20k relay team for TF 2-116 Armor.

sure to be found in this torrid climate and that was the unexpected bonus found at the finish line here as Air Force and Army cheered each other across the finish line. With handshaking and backslapping the norm here, all runners were bonded by the

common goal of enduring a well run course and the welcome sight of the finish line. Signing up for Saturday Fun Runs can be done at any time during the week at the 2 gyms on KRAB. Come on out for a good run and a good time.

TF 2-116 exceeds \$1m in reenlistment bonuses

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq- Soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) are choosing to continue military careers with the Army National Guard.

A soldier from Task Force 2-116 Armor, Staff Sgt. Gerald McConnell, has been working with soldiers to ensure that they are aware of the benefits available to them if they reenlist while deployed here in Iraq. His efforts have made TF 2-

116 Armor the first battalion in the brigade to exceed one million dollars paid out to soldiers in reenlistment bonuses.

Spc. Ramiro Hernandez, a TF 2-116 AR headquarters soldier, will receive a reenlistment bonus for choosing to reenlist for another three years, June 30.

The 116th BCT's main goal is to keep the brigade numbers up to par, by getting as many soldiers to reenlist as possible.



Staff Sgt. McConnell explains the details to Spc. Hernandez before he signs his paperwork. McConnell works with each soldier personally prior to signing to ensure that all questions are answered. (Photo furnished by TF 2-116 AR)

Operation Walk This Way opens doors and dialogues with Iraqis

TF 2-116 recently conducted a joint services and combined knock-and-greet operation in conjunction with the Air Force K-9 team and the local Iraqi Security Forces. There had been a recent increase in violent activity in the

Kirkuk area and this neighborhood was the possible trigger area of 2 recent IEDs. The purpose of the operation was to deter AIF activity and promote the reporting of suspicious activity to the JCC. 250 informational flyers were distributed

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TF 2-116 Armor

Walk This Way... to be very amenable to

Continued from page 10

around the neighborhood, and the populace seemed overall

approach, appearing to appreciate the fact that U.S. forces were accompanying the ISF on this knock and greet.



Iraqi Security Forces and TF 2-116 Armor go door to door to promote community awareness of AIF activity and to report AIF activity to their local JCC. (Photo furnished by TF 2-116)

Adversity...

Continued from page 3

and-grove knotty pine planks on the wall, 50s-style wall mounted lamps, and booths and stools covered in the red hide of the wild Nagga of South America. All eyes were on me as I was the only kid in the place. No Rob Roys were being served. Dad and Hans were sitting at the bar, had their hands cupped around glasses of bubbly, amber-colored joy juice. The folks at the bar had their side-arms unholstered and stacked where everyone could see 'em – Dad's K-38 and Han's 9mm semi-auto were out in plain view. I went to the bar and gave the first of my many sermons, "I'm a midget, and I want a coke!" Everyone including the delicate flower behind the bar was grinning ear-to-ear. I was served, and went

to a corner table and had my coke.

In life, we don't always get to ride up front. Our feelings, wants and desires sometimes get overlooked in life's many struggles. There are times when every little comfort and consideration we feel we're entitled to, is denied us. Sometimes we just plain have to suffer through cold and heat, fear and loneliness, and pain - and do so with a sense of humor, and an awareness of our personal smallness and insignificance in the whole, grand scheme of things. For most soldiers and family members, this deployment has been a big dose of this kind of medicine – the first application of it for many. It does not taste very good. On my first of many trips to the woods, my Father taught me by experience these realities. He taught me about adversity – its value to the human soul.

TF 2-116 Motor pool keeps rubber on the road

by Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown, 22nd MPAD

FIRE BASE BARBARIAN, Iraq – Running 24-hour motor pool operations in an area where direct support is at another location, Soldiers on Fire Base Barbarian, Kirkuk, Iraq, rely heavily on the dedication and drive of two mechanics.

These mechanics with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team, work the hours and do the work, making sure that 27 vehicles maintain a state of mission readiness.

"Vehicles run missions everyday," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey K. Bugher, motor pool noncommissioned officer. "Soldiers need these vehicles to be reliable. They use them all the time for patrols, quick reaction force and supply runs."

These mechanics know the importance of these vehicles to the mission, re-

gardless of heat or time of day they work, said Sgt. Charles A. Glenn, gunner, 2-116 BCT.

"Every time I come out here, day in and day out, these guys are out here busting their chops sweating," he said. "Getting down and dirty, getting the vehicles fixed. Helping us accomplish our mission."

Bugher is the only mechanic assigned full time to Barbarian. His Battalion offsets this by rotating a specialist in every 30 days to help meet mission requirements.

Specialist Isaiah M. Janson, native of Buhl, Idaho, was sent from battalion to assist Bugher.

"He's doing good and learning a lot," Bugher said. "He does what needs to be done to get the mission done."

Even with help, Bugher is still the backbone of motor pool opera-

tions.

"He's a 'Stud' and he helps me in my professional development a lot," Janson said.

Even though Janson is a mechanic deployed to Iraq, work conditions are different at Barbarian from what he is used to at Forward Operating Base Warrior.

"Being here is pretty good and time goes by fast," Janson said. "But there are differences."

You have to get used to working outdoors in 130-degree temperatures and the different types of repairs you come across in this environment, Janson said.

Even with all these variables, these Soldiers get it done.

"Because of their hard work, never once have we missed a mission due to vehicle maintenance issues," Glenn said.

TF 2-116 Armor guides IP weapons compliance checks

by Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown, 22nd MPAD

FIRE BASE BARBARIAN, Iraq – Soldiers at Fire Base Barbarian, Kirkuk, Iraq, work closely with the Iraqi police to keep the city safe despite the potential presence of insurgents.

With the IP leading the way, Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team, take the back seat, providing technical support and additional security.

"We are training them so we can walk away and feel comfortable about their level of competence to do the job right," said Staff Sgt. John

Lamott, squad leader with the unit. "When needed, on-the-spot corrections are made and these are minor."

After each mission, a review is conducted through an interpreter, to discuss what the police have done right and what areas need improvement.

The 116th has been working with the IP here since it arrived in theater six months ago and has a team of U.S. military police that train the Iraqis.

Keeping the city secure requires a constant presence of law enforcement every day. The 116th BCT helps make this happen. In addition to day and night patrols in the city,

2nd Battalion has a quick reaction force (QRF), which is able to provide additional security, a Coalition Soldier said.

"The QRF are the first on the scene. They are out the gate within five minutes of being called, providing security for Coalition Forces and IP," Staff Sgt. Marvin Bettis, platoon sergeant with Company B.

Daily missions for the 116th BCT allow for meet and greet missions with the people of Kirkuk. These missions involve coordinating cordon and searches with the IP, and

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5 C's simplify...

Continued from page 5

vances being made in the IED fight, changes in insurgent tactics and the most important issue: how to get valuable information down to where it matters -- the troops on the ground.

"We'd never encountered anything like (IEDs) on the battlefield, and we're not shy about going to people with expertise," said Lt. Col. Ted Martin, chief, JIEDDTF. Some of the "people with expertise" have been Coalition soldiers in the British army, who have been dealing with IEDs in theaters like Northern Ireland for years. The British used a Four-C model to counter IEDs in the past, and Coalition forces in Iraq used that as a framework and adapted it to the present fight, said Martin.

Confirm-

The first step when encountering a suspected IED is confirming its existence. If service members suspect an IED while performing 5- and 25-meter searches of their positions, they should act like it could detonate at any moment, even if the suspected IED turns out to be a false alarm. Using as few people as possible, troops should begin looking for telltale signs of IEDs -- like wires or pieces of ordnance sticking out of the ground. As Martin said, "There's no place like Iraq when it comes to ammunition on

the ground." So what looks like an IED may be a piece of unexploded ordnance but it should be treated like an IED until it is determined that it's not.

While searching, troops should try to stay as safe as possible, using anything available for protection. If a better view is needed while searching, soldiers should move as safely as possible while maintaining as much distance as they can from the suspected IED to continue searching. Rifle scopes, binoculars and even cameras can be used to search from a safer distance. It also may be helpful to ask local Iraqis for information, but troops should never ask them to search too. Personnel should never try to touch a suspected IED and should never try to do the job explosive ordnance disposal technicians are specifically trained to do.

Clear-

If an IED has been confirmed, the next step is to clear the area. The safe distance is determined by several factors: the tactical situation, avoiding being predictable and moving several hundred meters away from the IED. Everyone within the safe distance should be evacuated. If more room is needed, such as when the IED is vehicle-borne, soldiers should clear a wider area and constantly direct people out of the danger area. The only people going near the IED

should be those who are there to diffuse it, such as EOD personnel. While clearing the area, soldiers should constantly be on the lookout for secondary IEDs. If any such devices are found, they should reposition to a safe area and report the find to the ranking service member on the scene. Soldiers should try not to set patterns while performing clearing procedures, so the enemy will not be able to learn from our tactics and techniques. By not setting patterns and monitoring non-Coalition personnel watching the situation, troops are better protected.

Call-

While the area surrounding the IED is being cleared, a nine-line IED/UXO report should be called in. The report is much like the nine-line report used for medically evacuating casualties, and includes the necessary information for the unit's Tactical Operations Center (TOC) to assess the situation and prepare an appropriate response to clear the IED as the threat.

Cordon-

After the area has been cleared and the IED has been called in, Soldiers should establish blocking positions around the area to prevent vehicle and foot traffic from approaching the IED; make sure the safe area is truly safe by checking for secondary

IEDs; and make use of all available cover. The effected area's entire perimeter should be secured and dominated by all available personnel, and any available obstacles should be used to block vehicle approach routes.

Troops should scan both near and far and look for an enemy who may be watching and waiting to detonate the IED. Insurgents often hide in locations where they can see the device and ascertain the right moment to detonate. Personnel should randomly check people leaving the area to deter attacks, again avoiding setting patterns. Establishing obstacles to control approaches to security positions is another tactic the JIEDDTF stresses, since insurgents may try to attack local security forces using a vehicle-borne IED.

Control-

Since the distance of all personnel from the IED directly affects their safety, service members should control the site to prevent someone from straying dangerously close to the IED until it is cleared. The task force stresses that no one should leave the area until EOD gives the "all clear." While controlling the site, make sure all the troops in the area know what to do if attacked with small arms or rocket-propelled grenades.

If troops are a part of a patrol or convoy that

finds an IED, they should remember the Five Cs in order to deal with the situation as quickly and safely as possible. An IED that is found is still an IED attack, said the JIEDDTF. By finding the IED, it's the enemy's attack that has been disrupted.

"(The Five Cs) reinforce IED awareness and training. It's a checklist that helps you think; it's a common-sense thing ... to help people remember the proper steps when encountering an IED, said Szigedi.

CSM Briefing...

Continued from page 3

It would be unfortunate, having to put guards on the latrines because of so much damage being incurred by the misguided few. And this duty would be 24 hours a day. I do not know of one organization that wishes to perform this task, or that has the manning for it. It's our move to corral the damage and report damages in a time worthy manner. Get the word out to everyone and help solve this problem, as it is everyone's problem right now and mass punishment should not happen if we can fix this. We have 4 months left and by looking at what we do have, compared to what we could have had, should tell us all how fortunate we are.

Moving lessons...

Continued from page 6

heard from your section sergeant at this point on the cor-

rect way to fill out a DD 1750, you should be asking for a class. The UMOs have been holding training classes and many good questions on the

redeployment packing process have been coming out. The ultimate result is that moving and packing guidance will be a lot more user friendly.

Again, now is the time to start building load plans. If you have not yet had a class of instruction on movement issues, you need to contact

your unit leadership and schedule a time with one of the UMOs. I hope, as with myself, you found this was a moving lesson.

TF 3-116th Armor

Soldiers of TF 3-116 Armor, garner Combat Medical Badges

by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT Public Affairs NCO

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq - In a ceremony held at the TF 3-116 Armor Battalion Aide Station, six Soldiers were awarded the Combat Medical Badge (CMB), on July 8.

The Combat Medical Badges were presented personally by 116th Brigade Combat Team commander, Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, who commended each of them on the performance of their duty.

The awardees were; Spc. Richard Egan of HHC, along

with Spc. Nicolas Kettaneh of HHC, both of whom are attached to F Btry., 188 ADA, provided medical attention after an indirect fire attack on the Delacruz range, Iraq. Spc. Louis Gerber of HHC, along with Spc. Raymond Viers of A Co., both rendered medical attention after an IED detonation near Dogmat village, Iraq. Spc. Alan Yanez of the Scout Plt. and Spc. Isaac Witcraft of A Co., (who was unable to attend), both while on combat patrol, provided medical attention after an IED detonated

near Hawija, Iraq.

All are members of TF 3-116 Armor, and all were awarded the badge for rendering medical attention while participating in combat operations under hostile fire in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

Brig. Gen. Gayhart took the time to speak informally with the entire formation of Soldiers afterward, answering questions and addressing concerns.



CMB Awardees (L-R), Spc. Richard Egan, Spc. Nicolas Kettaneh, Sgt. 1st Class Louis Gerber, Spc. Raymond Viers and Spc. Alan Yanez. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT PAO)

TF 3-116 Armor uncovers massive munitions cache

Stories and photos by Spc. Adam Phelps, 22nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Kirkuk Iraq – Task Force Liberty Soldiers dug through a quarry that looked like it had been there for decades, searching for explosive devices in Kirkuk, Iraq, Thursday, July 1st after receiving a tip by a lo-

cal villager.

It didn't take Soldiers long to dig up more than 70 rounds by hand, with the premise that more were buried in the same area.

Of the 470 munitions found, it only takes one to destroy a humvee, said 1st Lt. John Thew, tank commander, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 116th Armored Cavalry.

By finding almost 500 munitions, EOD saved a lot more than just the money it burns from destroying military property, they also save human lives.

The Iraqis have lost more than 16,000 civilians due to these bombs, said Thew.

"We have found in one

day, what usually takes four months," stated Thew. "The other night we got called at 11:30 p.m. from a man that wanted to show us where some bombs were," said Thew. "We followed him out to the site in the middle of the night and he pointed to some rounds. After assessing the situation, we realized it was more than we were going to be able to deal with that night."

Now the 116th had to secure the site until morning, so they called in the Iraqi police.

The IP guarded the weapon cache until morning, when the explosive ordnance disposal team arrived.

"The IP were very helpful, they were working the shovels with us, and participating anyway they could," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Becker, 506th Air Expeditionary Group, EOD. "Most of the rounds were in a good,

safe condition. We were comfortable with letting Army security, IP and civilians working heavy equipment help gather them."

EOD doesn't normally let them do that, Becker added. The more weapons caches that are destroyed, the more it puts a dent in the IED threat, Becker said.

"Finds like this are important. We've seen signs that terrorists are running low on ordnance to use on roadside improvised explosive devices and vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks," said Becker. "This makes it harder for them, especially when we take out a major weapons cache."



TF 3-116 Armor Soldiers removing artillery shells found in a massive cache, July 1.



TF 3-116 Soldiers pass the munitions back to load and take away for disposal.

This is the biggest find for the 3-116, Thew said. Hopefully, this can be attributed to saving many lives and combat equipment in the area of Kirkuk, Thew said.

"The job they are doing here is outstanding. I've seen nothing but professionalism and excellence in their job so far," Becker said.

TF 3-116th Armor

TF 3-116 Armor Soldiers conduct knock-and-greet

Stories and photos by Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown, 22nd MPAD

Forward Operating Base WARRIOR, Iraq— TF 3-116 Armor Soldiers from Forward Operating Base Warrior and Iraqi police officers worked together in the village of Dugmat 1, near Kirkuk, Iraq, conducting "Knock and Greet" missions, searching for material used by insurgent forces.

On these types of missions, Company B, TF 3-116 Armor Soldiers and IP build relations with the Iraqi people and systematically eliminate villages as potential hot spots.

During this operation, the Co. B is present to pull security while IP search for insurgents, weapons caches and any type of literature or graffiti pertaining to Coalition Forces. As a security element,

Coalition troops set up an outer cordon to make sure no one comes into the village and an inner cordon to keep anyone from leaving.

An Iraqi law states that each Iraqi citizen is authorized to possess one AK-47 assault rifle with one magazine or one pistol, for self defense, but under no circumstances are they to have rocket-propelled grenades, extra ammunition or explosive material.

When items are confiscated, they are given a receipt so they can get it back, if the situation warrants.

"If anything is found that is beyond reason, we confiscate it and detain the individual, said Lt. John Paul Thew, platoon leader.

The 116th BCT realizes Iraqi culture is very different to that of the U.S. To make the

villagers comfortable with the operation, they get the Muktar, a highly respected member of the community, and have him politely ask people if they can search their homes.

"We don't like to come into a village kicking in doors," said Lt. Jeffrey D. Clements, Company B executive officer, TF 3-116 Armor. "We just knock on the door and ask if we can come in and look for contraband."

Local villagers are usually peaceful and very helpful, Clements added.

"We try and respect their belongings as much as we can and not just bust in and tear up their homes," said Staff Sgt. Johnny Palmer, Company B squad leader.

Interpreters also accompany Soldiers to help keep villagers informed of what is go-

ing on.

We keep in mind that not everyone is against what we are doing here, and that many realize that we are here for their safety, Palmer said.

Iraqi police and the TF 3-116 Armor always give villagers a chance to be honest.

"When we find stuff they said wasn't there, they are obviously lying," Thew said. "Because of this type of behavior, we become more aggressive in our search procedures."

When a village is searched and nothing was found, it doesn't mean the mission was a waste of time.

"Even with no arrests or unauthorized items, the mission was still a success," Thew said. "We now know nobody in this town has improvised explosive device material and

we can focus our resources somewhere else."

Compliance Check...

Continued from page 11

letting them do the door knocking while 2nd Battalion Soldiers pull security and interact with the locals.

"First we visit the IP station we are working with, to make sure that we are on the same sheet of music," Lamott said. "Here we go over the latest intelligence we have and they give us theirs."

From there, the door knocking begins.

"We let them lead, so we can evaluate their performance while they do Weapon Compliance Checks. They are good and really know what's going on," Lamott added.

During these checks, the IP look for anything out of the ordinary.

Citizens may possess one AK-47 assault rifle with one magazine or one pistol. Under no circumstances are they to have rocket-propelled grenades, extra ammunition or improvised explosive material.

People are reacting well to the style of knocking and asking to search their homes, Bettis said.

"We make sure we let them know what we are doing and that it's for their safety and the safety of surrounding neighbors," said an Iraqi police officer from the Aruba station.

"Every time we stop, kids always run up to us. I figure if we win them over young, it will make a difference in the future," Bettis added.

Mechanics of TF 3-116 keep vehicles up and running

Stories and photos by Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown, 22nd MPAD

Forward Operating Base Warrior mechanics work long, hard hours to ensure their vehicles are up and running so Coalition Forces can conduct off-base missions.

Battalion main-tenance plays a major part in the effectiveness of Task Force Liberty's mission to provide a safe and secure environment for Soldiers and Iraqi citizens in Kirkuk, Iraq.

"We make sure all the vehicles are mechanically sound when they go outside the wire," said Spc. Daniel Pace, mechanic for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd

Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team. "This is important so they go out and come back in one piece."

Due to the number of missions off FOB Warrior, mechanics must have a quick turn around on vehicle repairs.

"Our mission is to get these vehicles up and ready to get back into the field," said Spc. Eric Kaatz, a mechanic of HHC, 3-116.

Vehicle maintenance is an ongoing process for the mechanics.

"Without us preparing vehicles on a constant day-to-day basis, we would have more vehicles inside the FOB than outside conducting missions," said

Pace. "We maintain our vehicles to keep them in a constant state of combat readiness."

Mechanics are under pressure because of the high demand of vehicle-to-mission ratio, said Pace.

"There are times when we have multiple vehicles come in that have to be mission ready before the next mission rotation," Pace said.

If a job isn't finished by the first shift, they hand it over to the mechanics on the next shift.

"This is a 24-hour shop. We have three crews that work eight-hour shifts," Pace said.

Mechanics with the 3-116 often go beyond what their job entails to help troops complete their missions.

"We volunteer to go out on missions so in case something happens outside the wire, there's a mechanic on scene," Pace said.

Having trained personnel on missions to perform small repairs and get them back into the fight is a major asset, Pace added.

"The level of professionalism, dedication, and hard work the 3-116 maintenance shop employs is directly responsible for keeping our mission driving forward. They make sure all the soldiers going outside the wire have quality vehicles and equipment that will get them to and from the fight safe," said Capt. Elijah Preston, battalion signal officer for 3-116.

TF 1-163rd Infantry

TF 1-163 wages ring war on Independence Day

by *Capt. Daniel Eckerson, the new commander of HHC, TF 1-163 Infantry*

Every Soldier within Task Force Griz has a history. Most are good. Every Soldier has brought forward the very best of their family heritage, the very best of their individual stories. Stories that have been shared over this deployment, richening all of our days; quite often putting the strangest smile you could imagine on this tired face. This is one of mine.

I have a favorite holiday. It is the Fourth of July. It was this way before I wore this uniform and it means all that much more as our mission to take out Anti- Iraqi Forces moves along. It has always been a day when I would gather in a remote Montana town with extended and immediate family and enjoy every imaginable freedom known to mankind. One freedom enjoyed was the huge bonfire that my Grandfather would arrange, oh so carefully over the course of the year starting on the 5th of July for that next year. Others included water skiing and ensuring that I had the appropriate amount of "blackcats" or

"lady fingers" to finally take out the anthill that was my nemesis as I grew up. You see, there is nothing more relieving than slowly and methodically tearing down an anthill with firecrackers. The other classic, though I won't admit to performing it in recent years, was drowning gophers out of their holes so that my grandfather's dog could chase them. (PETA don't reply.) The Fourth of July was the time in which I realized that I loved my wife. That was my Fourth of July. It is the holiday I look forward to the most.

This year, in what some have said is the armpit of Iraq, the week leading up to the 4th of July was busy with missions. We are always busy with missions. All of the soldiers on this remote little base were looking forward to a special meal, a little down time, the usual phone calls or email to loved ones at home. I had seen during the course of the week my First Sergeant and some other Soldiers from all Companies putting a ton of their precious personal time preparing for the first boxing "smoker" ever held on this



Capt. Eckerson

soil. I had no idea what the 4th would bring.

We of Task Force Griz spent our mornings conducting routine business. We then held a ceremony inducting more Task Force Griz Soldiers onto the small, yet honored listing of Purple Heart Recipients.

Following the Purple Heart Ceremony I wandered up to our Mechanics Shop where the "smoker" was held. As I approached the shop, I could hear the great noise of Soldiers. I had to catch myself. I had a short period of high emotion, as the volunteers had gone so far as to mount the United States Flag over the ring. It was an incredible sight to see. It was an emotional day. The soldiers put their all into each round of each bout. Some were pretty banged up, just like falling off of water ski's on a normal year.

Independence Day has come and gone now, and it was the most relieving day for at least this Soldier. I believe with the smiles on the rest of the Soldiers that they enjoyed it and felt some respite on this great day.

The unit continues to talk about the smoker, and I believe that another is being planned for the immediate future. I look forward to it. Who knows, maybe another Unit will fall victim to Task Force

Griz in a cross-Battalion "smoker"?

One more year has passed as I count on this favorite holiday, the start of freedom. Soldiers gave their all, the first one, and Soldiers made this, one I will never forget.

Thank you to Sergeant Trudgeon, B Co 1-163d Infantry; Sergeant Barr, Headquarters Company 1-163d Infantry and First Sergeant Irvine, Headquarters Company 1-163d Infantry

Special thank you's to those who took beatings and gave them:

Bout 1: Spc. Hudspeth - Junior, B Co 1-163d Infantry v.s. Spc. Baughman-Swervy, Mortar, HHC 1-163d Infantry (Win)

Bout 2: Sgt. Ericksen- The Chimney, Mortar, HHC 1-163d Infantry v.s. Sgt. Stewert-Snuggles, C Co 1-163d Infantry (Win)

Bout 3: Spc. Strickler- Reko, How Battery, 1-148th Field Artillery (Win) v.s. S p c . Hastings- Tsunami, Mortar, HHC 1-163d Infantry

Bout 4: Spc. DaSilva- Devil Dog, Mortar, HHC 1-163d Infantry v.s. Sgt. Salsbery-Papa Sals, C Co, 1-163rd Infantry (Win)

Bout 5: Spc. Willard- Crazy Legs, C Co 116th Engineer v.s. Sergeant Davis- Big Boy, B Co 1-163d Infantry (Win)

Bout 6: Pfc. Larson- Tino, HHC 1-163d Infantry v.s. Sgt. Concepcion- Tito, HHC 1-163d Infantry (Win)

Bout 7: Sgt. Morgenstern- Wolverine, C Co 116th Engineer v.s. Sgt. Hugentobler- Huggie, How Battery, 1-148th Field Artillery (Win)

Bout 8: Spc. Morrison- Hollywood, HHC 1-163d Infantry (Win) v.s. Spc. Hail-The Fury, Mortar, HHC 1-163d Infantry

Bout 9: Sgt. Lee- Sidewall, Mortar, HHC 1-163d Infantry v.s. Sgt. Kimberling- The Mick, B Co 1-163d Infantry (Win)

Bout 10: Spc. Neal- Nealio, Scout, HHC, 1-163d Infantry v.s. Sgt. Earley- Early Bob, How Battery, 1-148th Field Artillery (Win)

Main Event: Spc. Crawford- Crawdad, B Co 1-163d Infantry v.s. Spc. Terry- Prime, HHC 1-163d Infantry (Win)



Pugilists square off in a bout during TF 1-163 Infantry's Independence Day Ring War main event. 22 Fighters fought their hearts out in the competition. (Photo courtesy of TF 1-163 Infantry)



21 of the 22 soldiers who participated in the TF 1-163rd Infantry 'Ring War' held on July 4 at FOB McHenry, Iraq. (Photo courtesy of TF 1-163 Infantry)

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

You open your eyes and look around and find that even though you just finished a great dream, you are still living in a CHU and fighting a war in Iraq. We have all experienced this and dealt with it in our own way. Time passes quickly for some and drags on at a painfully slow pace for others. Take solace in the fact that we have been in country over six months and are on the back side

In May I spoke about one of my roles as a Chaplain with the 1-148 Field Artillery which is providing an opportunity for American soldiers to experience peace and spiritual prosperity of heart and mind. This month, I would like to state that we are over the hump of our deployment in Iraq. Twelve months of deployment is taking its toll on our energy and will, but Praise God, we can still dig deeper and find reserves that are more than sufficient to meet our everyday needs to perform our missions with dignity and grace.

On June 5, a soldier stood up as I entered one of our Tactical Operations Centers. He waved at me and explained, "Chaplain come here. I've got something to show you!" On his Laptop computer, he opened up a Microsoft Power Point slide show, which his wife recently sent him. I viewed a beautiful patriotic family

of our lengthy deployment. We have been very successful in our mission. It is natural to proceed with caution for the next half of our deployment; however, we must maintain the aggressive warrior mentality that has created the success that we have experienced. Fear and complacency now join the

assembled in the living room of an American home. The adults and children held in their hands brightly lighted candles. I looked closer. I saw a family praying for their soldier boy in Iraq. The slide show continued on with a background of moving patriotic music. Pictures automatically scrolled in showing DCU clad soldiers leaving home with tearful embraces, training at Fort Bliss, next at Fort Polk and then I viewed 1-148 FA Battalion soldiers with full combat gear doing their missions in Iraq. The essence of the show was that the family is praying daily for successful mission accomplishment. That their soldier boy will return home safely and whole.

Support by our families in the United States is something we treasure daily. Humbly I would request that each

Anti Iraqi Forces as two of our most dangerous enemies. Fear will cause leaders to make irrational decisions that may endanger the soldiers that they lead and the routine that we have established can lead to the lack of attention to detail required for our dangerous missions. Every time you go out of the gate, you

The biggest reward

by *Chaplain William Nicholson, 145th SPT Bn.*

family makes plans to encourage their deployed soldier. So too, as soldiers we encourage and support our family members by doing our best. The days are flying by. This deployment will end.

Everyone in our Field Artillery unit from the Battalion Commander on down to the lowest enlisted soldier is emphasizing safety and efficiency in daily mission accomplishment. We have leaders who are examples of encouragement and compassion. Especially one of our units, Fox Battery, headed up by Major Jefri Jones and First Sergeant Bradley Aune from North Dakota and the Great Lakes area, is noted for the highest troop morale in the 116th Brigade Combat Team.

As far as I can see, every soldier from the lowest private to the highest officer in our

need to use the lessons we all learned from our little league baseball coaches that stressed the importance of being ready for the ball to be hit to you on every play. We need to expect action on every patrol and be rehearsed to respond to a variety of situations. It is a challenge to stay on your "A" game day in and day out, but it

battalion should get an award for meritorious service in connection with our current military operations against a hostile insurgency. Each soldier while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III is to be commended for their enthusiasm, professionalism, and patriotic support of ongoing operations. I believe that our battalion singularly stands out for its daily accomplishments and efforts and continues to play a pivotal role in training the Iraqi Army so that transitioning is accelerated for long-term national security interest of the nation of Iraq.

I know our soldiers are not here for the awards they may get. The biggest reward is to finally be with our loved ones again! This is the only thing that really matters. It's having a loving family waiting and ready to receive us.

is important to remember our number one goal, finish our assigned mission and bring all of our fellow soldiers home to enjoy their family and move on with our lives. I am very proud of the job this battalion has done. This time together will be regaled in drill halls for years to come. Make the most of the remaining time we have in Iraq. Keep mission focused and strive for excellence.

Families, what you and your soldiers are going through is not easy! Certainly it is a time of sacrifice, and it is draining our spiritual resources. We die daily, but we are renewed daily too. In a few more months, the rejoicing is coming, if we are willing to wait.

As we go through our continued separation sometimes it may feel like a trial by fire. According to I Peter 1:6,7, we should rejoice "though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ". Certainly the future with Christ is important, but our family experiences, good and bad, are rewarding us with character, inner strength, peace, a sense of accomplishment and joy for the future. Amen.

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

Experience prepares us for the future

by Capt. Matthew Godfrey, 145th SPT Plans Officer

In retrospect, it is amazing how far we have come. From Pocatello to Ft Polk and from Ft Bliss to Baghdad. We have now come to our six months in Iraq milestone. The proverbial 'hump day' in our total deployment. It's amazing. I look back to the days we spent in Ft Bliss, Ft Polk and the ISB and it all seems far longer than the time we have spent here in Iraq.

It could be that for many of us, our duty positions in Iraq are far different than the ones we had anticipated or trained in. There are many soldiers here working outside their MOS, and doing a great job I might add, with little training other than OJT. Perhaps the time just seems to pass quicker here due to the overlap we had with 2-11

and 2-25? Whatever the case, time is passing by quickly.

We now have to begin writing end of tour awards. And we should be proud of what we have accomplished and what we will accomplish. Under harsh and unforgiving conditions we have risen to the challenge. The situation in Iraq is changing so rapidly that we cannot compare our accomplishments to those of our predecessors. Our mission has changed. We are now fully committed to training Iraqi Security Forces and preparing them for the successful transition to full control. We now work side by side with the Iraqis to deliver a

better tomorrow to them. We are truly accomplishing great and memorable things. Take a moment to remember how far you have come and those who could not come on the journey and have not made it as far as you have. Leaders at all levels need to look at their soldiers and recognize them as having accomplished a great feat with a well written, thoughtful award. After all, it will be something tangible that they will take away from this experience and remember for the rest of their life.

We must also remember that there are now far too many who have begun the journey with us, but will not complete it. We must

always remember our brave brothers and sisters who gave their all while in our company. We will never forget their devotion and sacrifice as long as we live.

Now, more than ever, we must be more vigilant and careful. The AIF will not let up while we begin to mark our last six months in theater. For them this fight will take years. Due to this, this may only be the first deployment here for many of us. We must remain focused and determined to do the best we can while we are here. It behooves each unit that comes to theater to make it better than the way we found it. We too must make this a better place for our

replacements.

The easiest way to do this is to stay sharp and focused. While we take a moment to dwell on what we have accomplished to this point, remember to keep it a moment. Remember the war and the fight continues. Do not let complacency lull you into believing that the rest of the time here will go easily. By continuing to keep busy and focused, the last six months will pass as quickly as the first. Do not fear the unknown or 'turtle up' in a shell in a fear that you don't want anything bad to happen in the next few months. Continue to stay sharp and focused. Be wary and respectful of the enemy lest they catch you unawares. Stay focused so we may all return home together.

As I sit down to write yet another article, I ponder what this month's topic should be. Normally I write about something "in my lane", but that doesn't always make for the best reading at home. So, sitting at my desk I look up on the wall at a picture of my brother and a 23 pound tom turkey he bagged a few weeks ago. Then I look beside that photo and there is a list of the top 20 bad guys we are looking for. Looking between the two, I figure there is a connection here. One turkey taken down, twenty more still on the loose.

Now I know hunting turkeys (the birds) is very challenging, as my

brother posing in his camouflage and sporting his shotgun will attest to. It takes knowledge of the prey, it takes skill and most of all it takes patience. Turkeys are actually very smart. They have very good senses (sight and hearing) and they are very cautious creatures. They know the area in which they live and can spot when something is out of place. They oftentimes travel in broods and use each other as early warning to danger. In fact, the turkey is a very formidable foe. Benjamin Franklin was so impressed with the capabilities of the wild turkey, he petitioned for it to be

Hunting Turkeys

by Capt. Stephen Johannsen, TF 1-148 Field Artillery S-2

the national symbol. But the turkey not only was less majestic and beautiful than the bald eagle, he was less understood as well. Now I have never had the opportunity to hunt for wild turkey, but I hear they are just as challenging as elk, which I do have a little experience with.

So as I look back to the other "turkeys" hanging on the wall, I see similarities. I use this term not in a derogatory way but just as a comparison. The bad guys are similar in many ways. First of all, this is their territory. They know it inside and out, they know where to hide, they know where the safe ar-

reas are, they know what they can get away with and with whom. They see and hear everything they need to due to the deep affiliations they have with much of the population. It is very hard to sneak up on them because of the vigilance they have when conducting their operations. They have people in place to warn them of danger and they can certainly spot anything that is out of the ordinary. So we as the hunters must be smart as well. We already have the correct tools in our hunting kit. We have become very familiar with the area and we know the characteristics of our foe. So far

we have been successful in "bagging" many of these turkeys. With the right amount of patience, skill and information, we will continue to be successful.

Lastly, in the hunting world, the quantity of turkeys far outnumbers the amount of hunters. The Dpt. of Natural Resources makes sure of this. Out here, the hunters far exceed the number of "turkeys". Once you punch your tag, you can just get another one. We won't be done here until all the "turkeys" are rolled up and the Iraqi people can live in peace. They won't miss the turkeys, they prefer "yard bird" anyway.

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

TF 1-148 FA finding opportunities to give medical treatment

by Capt. Travis Weiszhaar
TF 148th Field Artillery
Physicians Assistant

These words written by Addison ring with resounding force as the soldiers of the 1-148th FA continue to serve our beloved country with courage and optimism. I, personally, am humbled to be a part of an organization that epitomizes excellence and devoted service.

My contribution to the "cause" (providing soldiers with necessary medical aid) has fortunately been minimal. Soldiers are acutely aware of their surroundings, taking care of themselves and each other, and they adhere to sen-

sible instruction provided by a highly trained and motivated group of 91W medics. Thus, my attention recently has been diverted more to the local people of Iraq.

I have been given the opportunity to coordinate and experience a number of MAVs (Medical Assisted Visits) throughout NE Iraq. The most recent two taking place this past week. A special "Thank You" to HHS Outlaw team members for this week's efforts and to the many other soldiers and teams for their similar service in months past.

Such visits prove to be more than just medical care for individuals. They have

provided an opportunity for soldiers to interact with and care for many individuals much less fortunate than you or I. Such an opportunity has also motivated many individuals to display great acts of kindness. SGT Bailey of B-Btry, for example, handed out over 150 hand-stitched hats made by his wife and her co-workers from home during one of last month's MAVs. Another example that truly humbled me came from a twelve year old boy from California. He sent me over 120 "Beanie Baby" stuffed animals through an organization he started for relief to the children of Iraq. He has collected and sent over 8,000 of these stuffed animals this last year! These events have also motivated businesses, clinics, hospitals, and many individual families to send me over \$15,000 dollars in medical supplies and welfare items in just the last three months!

MAVs have also improved working relations between two nations as coalition forces and local providers have come together, both groups providing service to those in need. This last week, I enjoyed meeting and working with three different Iraqi physicians and their medics from the Schwan District. Together, we not only visited with close to 200 patients, but also were able to learn from one another and form bonding friendships.

Pictures attempt

to describe the events experienced this last week as soldiers and local providers interacted and served the good people of Faqe Mirza and Turkumon Bagh. Treatment was provided

MAV may have resounding future benefits as it positively affects both those who receive such attention and medical care and also those who donate their time, energy and tal-

*What I spent, I lost;
what I possessed is
left to others; what I
gave away remains
with me. - Addison*

for acute or chronic illness and injury and dental hygiene education was instructed to large numbers of children. The local clinics were also replenished with medications donated by supporters from home and donated welfare items; including toys, clothes, and candy were all well received by all those in attendance.

With such minimal effort, an event such as a

ents to the cause. I know that I have come away from these events a better person and am thankful for such a unique opportunity-something that I am able to receive only as a soldier serving at this time in Iraq.

As we enter the latter half of our tour, let us stay safe, work with diligence, and continue to serve our fellow men and loved-ones with a renewed sense of pride and dedication.



An Iraqi medic at work on aman's arm, as he participated with TF 1-148 FA, during a recent MAV exercise.



Kids followed instruction during a dental hygiene class recently, given by TF 1-148 FA medical personnel.



Capt. Weiszhaar of TF 1-148 Field Artillery, provides care to a young Iraqi boy, during a recent Medical Assistance Visit. (Photo provided by TF 1-148th Field Artillery)

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

In Memoriam

Sgt. 1st Class Ronald T. Wood

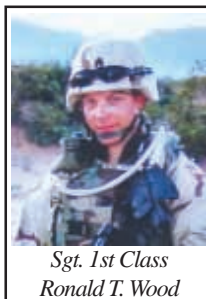
FOB WARRIOR, Iraq- The 148th Field Artillery Bn. honored and memorialized Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Tanner Wood, a member of TF 1-148th Field Artillery, who was lost on July 16th, 2005 while driving an up-armored Humvee near Kirkuk, Iraq.

The memorial service was conducted by the 148th Field Artillery Chaplain (Cpt.) Doc Nicholson. Friends and fellow Soldiers from his unit were present, as well as Brig. Gen. Sullivan, 42d Infantry Division Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Richard Fearnside, Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, 116th Brigade Combat Team commander, Lt. Col. Russ Johnson, commander of the 148th FA Bn. and several Brigade staff members.

Sgt. 1st Class Wood's boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags were placed on the presentation platform prior to the ceremony.

The ceremony began with the invocation by Chaplain (Capt.) Doc Nicholson, followed by the playing of the National Anthem. Lt. Col. Johnson addressed the assemblage, followed by comments from Battery Commander Capt. Darcy Burt.

Several of Wood's fellow Soldiers spoke about him, Staff Sgt. Michael Mills, Staff Sgt. Arthur Stephenson, Spc. Adam Hilton and 1st



Sgt. 1st Class
Ronald T. Wood

Sgt. Kevin Martinez. Captain Eric Wiedmeier then read a rendition of the poem 'Fiddler's Green'.

Chaplain Worster then offered the benediction, followed by the roll call, which was conducted by B Battery, TF 1-148 FA 1st Sgt., Kevin Martinez.

Several minutes of silent meditation were observed while the band played 'America the Beautiful'.

Next came the 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps. Sgt. 1st Class Wood's B Battery teammates and 116th BCT fellow soldiers then came before the presentation platform, where they then passed and saluted, paying their final respects to a friend, a hero, a professional and an exemplary soldier.

Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Wood was born on February 17, 1977, to Allen and Joann Wood. He is survived by them and his siblings Nathan, Cody, Johnny and Julie.

Sgt. 1st Class Ronald T. Wood joined the Utah Army National Guard on October 13, 1994. His first unit was HHB, 2/222nd Field Artillery. He was activated for Operation Enduring Freedom in

example with his fierce work ethic and loyalty to his unit and nation.

His personal interests included his family first and foremost, followed by weight training and taking care of Soldiers.

His military awards include; The Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, The Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, The Army Good Conduct Medal, The National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with M Device, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with '2' Device, the Army Service Ribbon, the Utah Commendation Medal, the Utah Service Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Utah Olympic World Games Ribbon.

Sgt. 1st Class Wood has been submitted for the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

March, 2003. After six months of service in OEF, Sgt. 1st Class Wood's unit was mobilized a second time for Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Wood completed training at Ft. Carson, Colorado as a fire control NCO for A 2-222nd FA. His unit then received orders changing their deployment from Iraq to a support mission, training ROTC cadets at Ft. Lewis, Washington.

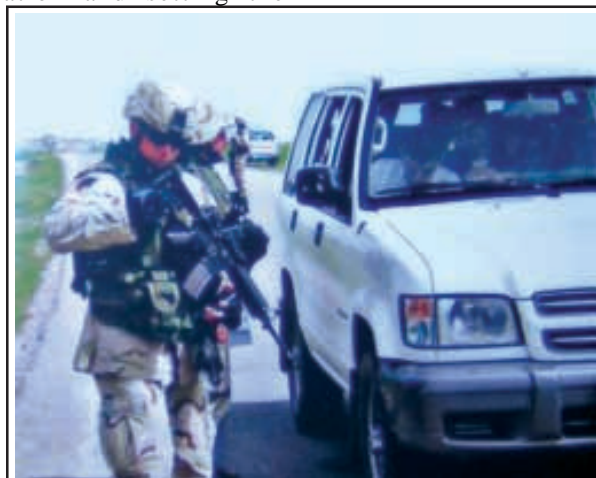
Upon release from these duties, he was accepted into the AGR system on November 16, 2003 and assigned to B Battery, TF 1-148 Field Artillery as the unit Training NCO and 2nd Plt. FDC Chief. He was called again into Federal service with B Btry. For service in Iraq. During his train-up for OIF III at Ft. Bliss, Texas and subsequent deployment to Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Wood led his platoon from the front, displaying his characteristic determination and setting the



(L to R), Brigadier Gen. Sullivan, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Fearnside and Brig. Gen. Gayhart attended the Memorial on July 21, 2005..



The presentation platform, enlarged photo and honor display for the memorial for Sgt. 1st Class Ronald T. Wood.



Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Wood, a member of B Btry, TF 1-148th Field Artillery, on duty at a traffic control checkpoint in Iraq.