

Special Edition: Commemorating OIF III

Volume 6 Edition 1, October 2005

Snakebite

The Official Newsletter of the 116th Brigade Combat Team

101st Airborne has landed at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Jack White,
116 BCT Public Affairs

In case anyone in the 116th BCT hasn't noticed, the Soldiers of one of the Army's elite forces have arrived at FOB Warrior. The 101st Airborne Division (Assault), has begun its deployment in relief of the 116th BCT.

Near the beginning of World War II, the 101st Airborne Division was formed as a Paratroop Division, a new type of

unit capable of being inserted behind enemy lines and capable of creating great disruption and destruction. The 101st distinguished itself all over the battlefields of Europe, then again in Viet Nam.

This is not their first time in Iraq. The "Screaming Eagle" patch has become known all over the world for the exploits and teamwork of

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Col. David Gray, Commander of the 1st BCT, 101st Airborne Division (Assault), and Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, Commander of the 116th Brigade Combat Team, met recently at the KGB in Kirkuk.

Commander's Corner

by Brigadier General Alan Gayhart, Commander

Fellow Warriors,
It is hard to believe that soon we will be re-joining our families, seeing old friends, and transitioning back to civilian life. I know that many of you and your families are counting down the days till your reunion with your loved ones. I wish each of you happiness and continued success in your new endeavors.



BG Gayhart

Our team is a family that was built on common ideals. Standing up and answering the call of our Nation. Each of you has accomplished your duties with extreme professionalism and honor. You should never forget that you are a hero. A combat veteran, who looked danger in the eye, and continued the mission of installing

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CSM Briefing

by 116 BCT Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Leroy Lewis

Well it has been a long, at Look at the number of times trying road. But we need to look back upon the many varied missions we have conducted here in Iraq to fully understand how much we have accomplished. We have made our area of operation a lot safer and better place to live in then what it was when we arrived. Remember the number of direct fire attacks, I do, and they have been reduced dramatically.



CSM Lewis

do so much to increase the quality of life for the citizens. We have helped train the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi Police, Oil Security Battalions, Fire Departments, judges, gov-

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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.

Iraqi 101 by Lt. Col. Dean Hagerman, Team Government

Salaamu alaykum, shlokum? Peace be upon you, how are you? (to a group)
Ramadan kareem! A generous/prosperous Ramadan.

It is almost time to depart Kirkuk and as part of the Snakebite compilation I thought I would write an article closing out our cultural studies for this rotation. A few months ago, I stopped writing IRAQI 101 articles when it became apparent that many of you had moved beyond the need for a basic understanding of the local language, customs and culture. You graduated from IRAQI 101 to IRAQI 201, and in some case were doing graduate level work in the community.

I was one of those who worked on the outside, meeting daily with Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen and Chaldo-Assyrians.

I was pleased to see that much of what I wrote about in these columns was accurate, and I hope it was useful for you. While I gleaned materials from a variety of individuals, much of what I talked about came from books. When it comes to cross-cultural, interpersonal skills, it is difficult to capture the essential elements from the printed page.

I learned a lot more during OIF III. For example, the people I met have the same hopes and aspirations as we. They want a decent life for their families, a better future for their children and a life without fear. In my job, the women I have met are

mostly professionals and are very Western in their approach to social interaction, which was a surprise. It was easy to tell who would be comfortable shaking hands and who I should greet with a hand on my heart. As a group, I found that Iraqis have a good sense of humor, even about the difficulties of life in Iraq; they are generous to a fault, and polite to the extreme. Generally, they are nice people.

I am not holding any illusions about those with whom I have met. Like all people, they have their own agendas, which sometimes run counter to our own. Their social courtesies

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BSU Broncos suffer close loss to OSU Beavers, bounce back against Bowling Green, Hawaii.

by Staff Sgt. Jack White,
116 BCT PAO NCO

The Boise State Broncos played a hard-fought contest over in Corvallis, Ore., September 17.

The game looked to be in BSU's pocket with two minutes to go in the fourth quarter, 24-20.

In the final drive of the game, the Oregon State Beavers were able to drive the ball the length of the field and score, earning the win, 27-24.

On September 21, Boise State returned home to the big blue, to face Bowling Green,

last year's Mid-Atlantic Coast (MAC) Champions. The Broncos defense shut down the Falcon's offense by stopping the

run, sparking the offense into a scoring flurry, leaving the score at 41-6 in the third quarter. The BSU running game posted almost 300 yards, and the offense as a whole had gained almost 500 yards early in the fourth quarter. The second and third string defense, allowed two more scores in the last quarter. The final score was BSU- 48, BG- 20.



This was a big win for the struggling Broncos, and was a convincing return to last year's winning ways, as WAC play began the following week, October 1, when BSU faced the Hawaii Warriors on their home turf in Honolulu.

Hawaii had a big lead throughout most

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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)

Children are hope for tomorrow

by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Lewis, 116 BCT Chaplain's Assistant

If ever you have seen "Band of Brothers," at the end of the series the 101st Airborne arrives at a Nazi concentration camp. To their horror they find the nearly dead, starving prisoners too weak and beaten down to even try to escape the camp, even though the guards had fled and left them alone. Giving those prisoners the chance to live, gave the brave soldiers of the One O' First real meaning to all the suffering faced in battle. When the now white-haired veterans of that war tell their stories they are stirred with pride.

We came to this country for this same noble cause; to free prisoners held by the dark forces of tyranny.



Sgt. 1st Class Lewis

The trouble is that tyranny has so long been a way of life here that few people can imagine anything else. I will never forget taking school supplies to a school and giving them to the children.

The children were beaming with joy and they looked at us as their deliverers. I was overjoyed to have been a part of that mission. It has dawned on me that the children are why we are here..they are this country's hope for tomorrow. If their generation can experience peace and freedom from the cycle of tyranny and violence, we too will look back on this with the same kind of pride. That is why we came.

101st is here...

Continued from page 1
their Soldiers.

They will be doing right-seat/left-seat rides in preparation to assume responsibility for AO Warrior upon transfer of authority (TOA).

For the Soldiers of the 116th BCT however, they represent the coming of the end of a long, 18 month tour on active duty and 12 months in theater, as National Guardsmen.

Currently, the unit is packing and gearing up for departure back to the States. The 101st will have a great opportunity to add

to and improve on our many accomplishments, just as this unit took over from the 2-25th Infantry Division.

"AO Warrior could not be turned over to more capable hands," commented Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, Commander of the 116th BCT.

They are fortunate to have been chosen for this area of the country, to experience the rich cultural heritage and the variety of ethnicities in the Province of Kirkuk, as well as the fascinating diversity of geography and ancient landmarks.

BSU Broncos...

Continued from page 2
of the game, but BSU's defense turned in a solid effort, and the special teams accounted for two scores, allowing the offense to play catch-up in a thrilling 44-41 win for the Broncos, on the road, bringing their record to 2-2, 1-0 in the WAC.

Their next game is against Portland St., at home in Bronco Stadium.

Don't Forget!

Important Dates to Remember:

31 October - Halloween

December 25 - Christmas Day

November 8 - Election Day

November 11 - Veterans Day

November 24 - Thanksgiving Day

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

Question of the Week

What is your greatest memory of the deployment ?



Sgt. Michael Petlovanev
B Co., 1-163 Infantry

“Coming to Warrior to have a full meal and get a slushy at the Clamtina.”



Sgt. 1st Class Alcario Chapa
HHC, 116 BCT

“Our CA mission to the beautiful city of Dahuk.”



Sgt. Skeeter Lowe
HHC, 145th Support Bn.

“The walking distance to anything on the FOB. It gave me time to appreciate the good things we have. Thank God for our blessings.”



Staff Sgt. Richard Jacobs
HHC, TF 2-116 Armor

“My first school visit, watching Iraqi Police pass out student packets from Operation ProvideSchool Supplies, to the smiling Iraqi children



1st Lt. Charles Cathcart
A Co., TF 3-116 Armor

“Our 4th IED attack, on a mission in April.”

The Editorial Staff of the *Snakebites* incorrectly labeled a photograph in the last edition, #27. The photo caption on page 11, identified the 145th Support Battalion

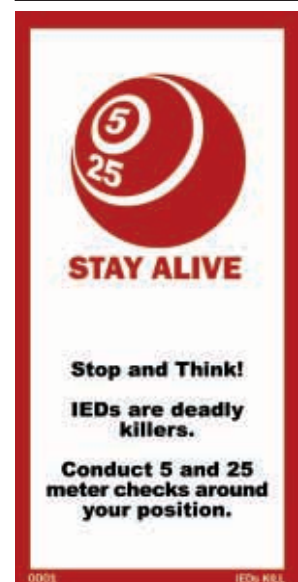
NCO of the Month as Staff Sgt. Michael Grannen, when it should properly have read Sgt. Perry Goodman. We express our regrets to Sgt. Goodman for this oversight. On page 18,

Spc. Jesse Banks was incorrectly identified as Spc. Timothy Banks. Again, our apologies for this misidentification.

CSM Briefing...

Continued from page 1
ernment officials, and the list goes on and on. Our BCT rolled up a lot of bad people and have taken them off the streets to include Anti-Iraqi forces from numerous terrorist cells, high value targets from the old regime, kidnapers, and just plain criminals. This has made a difference throughout the providences for the Iraqi people who want to live in a free society. This has been accomplished as a team; it has taken us all to do

this. I will be proud to say I have served with each of you as a member of this great Brigade Combat Team. We formed as a team, and our success as a team is evident by how much we have changed these provinces. We have had some bad times and some good times, but teamwork allowed us to fight through adversity and continue the accomplishment of our mission. The Soldiers, who have given their lives, will be missed and will forever be in our hearts and prayers, as well as their families. Stay focused, situationally aware of your surroundings, and remember it is not over until we are safely home with our loved ones. We have some challenges ahead of us. The most critical thing we need to do now is to not



become complacent, and continue the great job we have done looking out for one another.

I just want you all to know that

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To Gen. Alan Gayhart, The Commander of the Multinational Forces in Kirkuk;

We would like to express our deep condolences and sadness to you and to the American people because of the damages which hit some area of your country, caused by hurricane Katrina. We are sure that you will overcome this disaster. God Bless you, and the U.S.

- Haji Kirkuky, Hawal Institute for Press and Information.

Idaho National Guard Convoy Departs Gowen Field for Louisiana

by Lt. Col. Stephanie Dowling,
Joint Force Public Affairs
Officer

GOWENFIELD, Boise, ID—
An Idaho National Guard

convoy departed Gowen Field
September 28, in support of
Operation Southern Comfort,
the Operation to provide relief
after hurricanes Katrina and

Rita hit the Gulf Coast states
of Louisiana and Texas. Gov-
ernor of Idaho, Dirk
Kempthorne was at Gowen
Field that morning to say

good-bye to the airmen and
soldiers as they depart for
their cross-country trip to Al-
exandria, La.

The convoy consisted of

more than 100 vehicles that
were divided into chucks of
approximately 20 vehicles,
each of which left at the top of
each hour.

Tricare after-deployment questions answered

by Kelli Jo Reid, Family
Assistance Coordinator, Idaho
Army National Guard Family
Programs

After the recent Re-
Integration briefing, there
was a lot of confusion
about the different Tricare
programs that Soldiers
will be eligible for. It is
important to outline in
brief each program and
whether there are any
requirements by you for
enrollment.

Transitional Assis-
tance Management
Program (TAMP)- This
program extends coverage
for Reserve and National

Guard members and their
family members for 180
days. Tricare Prime and
Standard are the only
programs offered in this
program. If you are
currently on Tricare Prime
Remote you will
automatically be put in
this program under
Tricare Standard (prime
remote is not offered in
this program). If you are
currently in Tricare Prime
and wish to continue in
this program you must
reenroll. Otherwise you
will also be automatically
enrolled in Tricare
standard.

The Tricare Standard
option has a deductible of
\$50/individual and \$100/
family for E4 and below
and \$150/individual and
\$300/Family for E5 and
above. Cost shares are
20% of allowable charge
for outpatient services,
inpatient admissions are
greater of \$25 or \$11.90/
day, Inpatient mental
health are \$20 a day.
*please note that some of
this is waived under the
family demonstration
project*

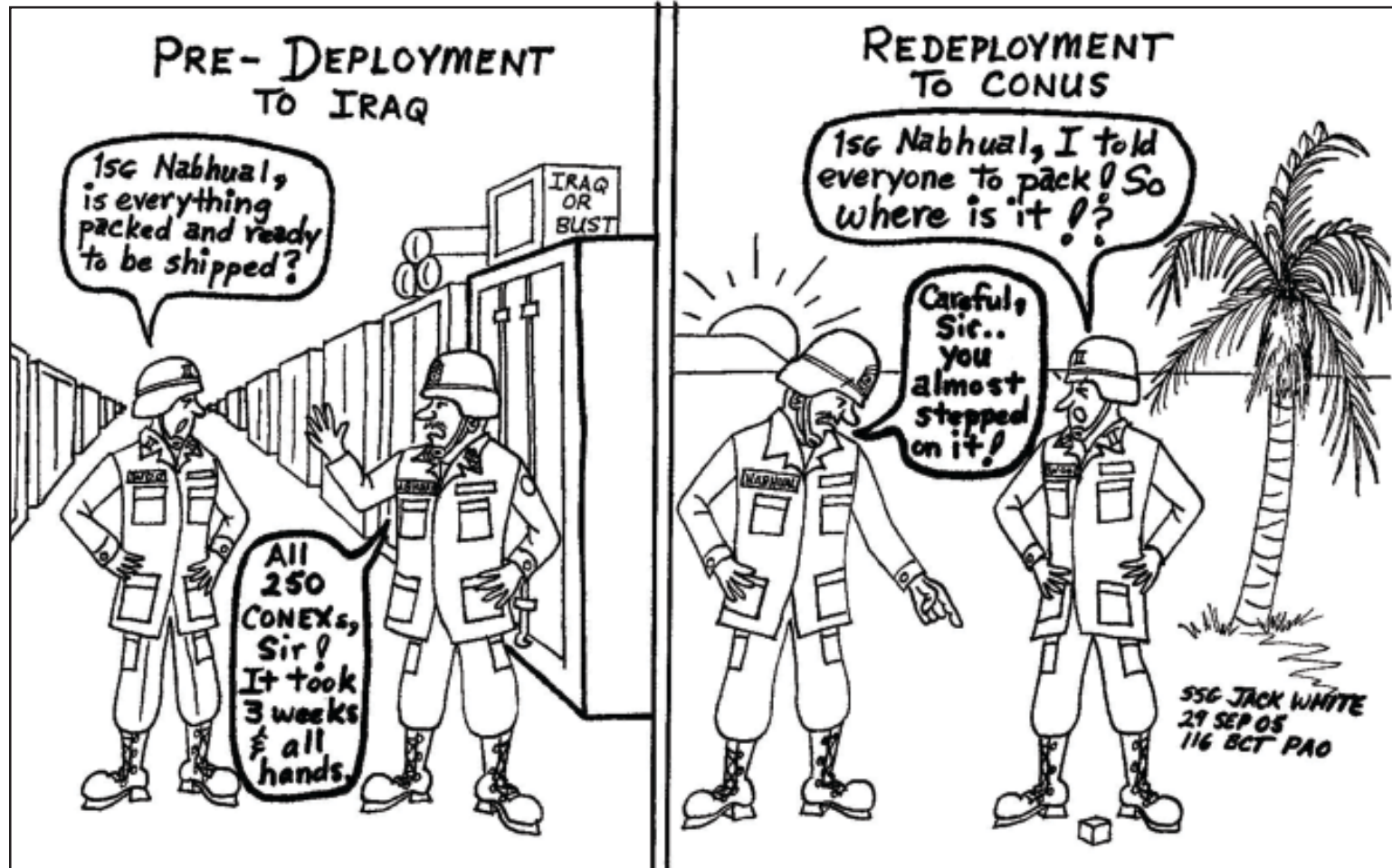
TRICARE Reserve
Family Demonstration
Project- this program is in

place to ensure that family
members of activated
reservists and members of
the national guard using
Tricare receive timely and
continuous health care.
Participation is limited to
families of Reserve and
National Guard members
activated for more than 30
days in support of
operations resulting from
terrorist attacks of
September 11th 2001.

The three major
components of this
program are: The waiver
of the annual deductible
associated with Tricare
Standard (this pays for

your annual deductible
listed above) ; Waiver of
the Tricare maximum
allowable charge under
Tricare Standard- for
those of us not insurance
savvy it basically means
that beyond your cost
share you will not be
required to pay anything
above the amount that
Tricare will; Waiver of
Non- Availability
Statement-(this is a
require-ment for Non-
emergency Inpatient
care) the requirement to
obtain a NAS before non
emergency inpatient care

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Tricare...

Continued from page 5

is waived for all participants. There is no enrollment requirements eligibility is determined through DEERS.

Tricare Reserve Select-Premium based Tricare program for families that will begin once the 180 day TAMP program ends. To be eligible service member must have been deployed over a 90 day period and length of eligibility is determined on the length of deployment. Monthly premiums are \$75 a month for service member only and \$233 a month for member and family. Please note that that after your initial payment Tricare will send you a bill by the 10th day of each month and your payments is due no later than the 30th day of each month. Failure to pay monthly premiums on time

will result in dis-enrollment which is permanent. Annual deductibles will be \$50/individual or \$100/family for E-4 and below and \$150/individual and \$300/family for E-5 and above. You will also have a cost share of 20% for care received after the annual deductible has been met. The catastrophic cap limits your annual out of pocket expense on cost shares and annual deductibles to \$1,000 annually. Monthly premium payments do not apply to the catastrophic cap. Enrollment must be done at the time of discharge from active duty (for most of us this means they must decide while they are in Ft. Lewis in the demobilization process) If the service member chooses to enroll and then decides after the TAMP period ends that they no longer want Tricare they only need not pay the

331st AG Postal letter of appreciation to 116 BCT

by Sgt. Keith M. Rivera,
331st AG Postal Det.

We would like to thank everyone in the 116th for all the support in our operation here at Warrior. Due to the high caliber of individuals on this FOB it has been our great

pleasure to provide a much needed and often forgotten service to our fellow soldiers.

Even though we are a small unit we encompass many backgrounds and areas of expertise. We also represent many

different states. Just like most of the 116th and many other units supporting OIF we are a collection of cross-levels and call-ups and just like the 116th our diversity makes us a great unit. A unit from Chicago with soldiers from New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, California, Ohio and Minnesota can provide an interesting cast of characters. Nevertheless, we accomplish our mission everyday and our reward is serving the FOB and everyone on it.



The 'Soldiers of the 331st AG Postal Det., stationed at FOB Warrior, Iraq during OIF III .

monthly premium. However if the service member chooses not to enroll at discharge there will be no option for enrollment later. (basically if you don't know if you'll want to

continue coverage enroll so that your eligibility is not lost).

Please feel free to contact me if this confuses you or you have any questions. I hope this helps.

To contact me, Kelli Jo Reid, Family Assistance Coordinator, Idaho Army National Guard Family Programs, call (208)422-7187, or (208)680-2233 cell.

Family Readiness Group has information, guidance and referral for military family members

by Lillian Murdock, Family Readiness Group

TRICARE Reserve Select: TriCare is offering for the Reserve Component, insurance for the individual and the families of the soldiers: 1. If they were called or ordered to active duty under Title 10

in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 consecutive days on or after 9/11/2001. 2. If they served continuously on active duty for 90 days or more under such call or order. 3. If they enter into a Service Agreement (DD2895) to serve in the

Selected Reserves (Stay in the Guard).

"A Tribute to our Heroes Then and Now": On October 10, 2005 the Lewiston Elks Lodge will be holding a recognition dinner at the same address mentioned in the above paragraph. This is the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition reaching Washington State. The Elks would like to recognize the sacrifices of the 116th Engineer Battalion and all military personnel and families. Dinner is free to military personnel and military families.

Packages to Iraq: 116 BCT Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Worster, stated that the middle of October would be a good time to

stop sending packages.

Military Severely Injured Center (MSIC): This is a new resource for the soldiers and their families other than the Veterans Affairs Office. The Center serves as a back-stop to every other government program intended to help military members and veterans who suffer severe physical or mental wounds from war. If a severely injured veteran has hit a roadblock with finances, education, job assistance, counseling or child care, they should call the center. The MSI Center number is 1-888-774-1361.

Elks Army of Hope: The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the U.S.A. assist fami-

lies who have had a father or mother called to active duty with the military reserve or National Guard. Go to www.elks.org/armyofhope/default.cfm. There is a lot of information on the web site, plus, locate the Elks Club in your area. They are more than ready to assist.

Horatio Alger Association: This is a scholarship for veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. For more information visit www.horatioalger.org.

For more information, contact: (My corner of the world) Toll Free (866) 791-5041, Armory: 799-5041, ext 7432, Cell: (208) 305-4824, Boise: 422-7432, e-mail: lillian.murdock@id.ngb.army.mil.

To order a copy of the
116 BCT's Alexandria DVD
Soldiers and families can order
a copy of the DVD showing the
Paul Revere Operation Thanks-
giving experience the 116 BCT
had in Alexandria, La., at [http://
www.ridetothewall.org/pages/
merchandise.htm](http://www.ridetothewall.org/pages/merchandise.htm)

Jury duty scam used by identity thieves

Soldiers, civilian employees, and their family members should be aware that a new scam has been devised by identity thieves, using the victim's fear and confusion against them, when the thieves inform them they have a bench warrant for their arrest issued against them, for missing jury duty.

The victim typically denies any knowledge of the claim, that no notification was received. The scammer then reassures that it is all probably just a misunderstanding, that can be cleared up over the phone. All they need do is 'verify' their information with a few simple questions. Any reluctance on the victim's part and the scammer will threaten that the arrest warrant will

be immediately executed.

The scammer obtains names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and even credit card or bank account numbers, claiming to use these to verify identification with a credit bureau.

Threats against a person's military career should they be arrested, can be frightening and persuasive.

Legitimate court employees will never call to solicit information, and would send any official notifications by standard mail delivery. Any person receiving such calls should record the scammer's phone number (if caller ID is available), and immediately report the contact to police and/or military police authorities depending on their location.

Commander's ...

Continued from page 1

peace, democracy and prosperity to the war-ridden lands of Iraq, while ensuring that terrorism is unable to threaten our own homeland. Keep the memories of your accomplishments close to your heart, and always be proud of doing what many have avoided, serving your country in harm's way. Your professionalism and devotion to duty over almost an 18 month period has been nothing less than exemplary. Each of you accepted the painful and emotional challenge of leaving your loved ones behind to conduct a long period of training prior to leaving the United States. Your performance during mobilization was nothing less than spectacular. This Brigade met every challenge placed in front of it at Ft. Bliss and Ft. Polk. Many said that a National Guard brigade was

not capable of meeting the high standards of active duty brigades and that the Soldiers should just be used as fillers for regular Army units. You proved these naysayers wrong! And you did it in a big way. You pushed the trainers for more, knowing that sweat in training would prevent unnecessary loss of blood during combat. And you did it with little fanfare, accepting less than perfect quarters and equipment during this training period. But, that is what Soldiers do. Shrug discomforts off, and continue the mission.

We arrived in Iraq with little notice, but rapidly assumed the mission and responsibility for two Iraqi provinces consisting of over 11,000 square miles. You immediately took control of your respective areas of responsibility, and once again brought your unique talents to the fight. Each of you contributed greatly to this success. You

Iraqi 101...

Continued from page 2

often mask disingenuous, duplicitous intent. Some told us what we wanted to hear, but took part in activities that undermined all that we were working towards. This was frustrating and it was easy to become cynical. On many occasions, I reminded myself that all of this fits with the cultural rituals I mentioned in earlier articles. These rituals date back thousands of years and are a form of self-preservation. I am also certain that these social rituals were reinforced during the last thirty-five years under Saddam. As I once wrote, "Arab hospitality is legendary. In the harsh living conditions endured by

desert nomads, hospitality rituals developed as a way to protect both the guest and the host. To the host, a stranger could be someone who is there to rob or murder. To the stranger, traveling alone or in small groups would make them easy prey. The Qur'an calls on both to be generous." I have participated in these rituals, drinking gallons of chai, breaking bread, eating lamb and chicken, hummus and kebobs by the ton.

In the end, I have to ask two questions, "What have we accomplished?" and "Was it worth it?" We have to come to our own conclusions about the latter question. As for the former, there are a variety of answers. I feel that I am leaving here with a better un-

derstanding of the people of Iraq and the Middle East. Through them, I have learned much about myself and my country as well. I have a better understanding of our shared values and our cultural differences. I believe that we are leaving Iraq a better place than we found it, and that our lives and theirs were enriched by the interaction of our two cultures over the last eleven months. In the years ahead, that may be the most lasting contribution we can make.

Shukran- Thank you.

Salaamu alaykum- Peace be upon you

Al-hamdullalaah- God is great.

Masalaama- Go in peace.

proved that you were up to the task in one of the more dangerous and challenging areas in Iraq. In fact, you exceeded what previous active duty units had done in this area. You conducted by far, more combat operations such as raids, TCPs, patrols, indirect fire, combat logistical patrols, fixed and rotary wing missions than any other previous unit. Each of you earned the distinct right to wear the Brigade combat patch, unlike others who may have earned the right to wear an active duty divisional patch for service in Kuwait or safer areas in Iraq. You earned this right by serving on the front line, facing dangers daily for over a year in the relentless accomplishment of your mission. Be proud that you are a citizen-Soldier who performed at the same or higher level as your active duty counterparts. You have set the standard that many other units and agencies are

now using throughout Iraq. These include the large scope and implementation of reconstruction projects, operations of the Iraqi judicial system, freedom of speech and unique Iraqi media programs, superior BCT public affairs operations, training Iraqi Soldiers and police, and the list goes on and on. While other provinces have their challenges, Kirkuk is unique due to its diverse ethnic, political and religious makeup. You were able to mentor and support a cooperative agreement between the various factions while keeping peace in the region, as the local provincial governments rapidly assumed full responsibilities and control of their province.

All of these successes are due to the high quality of Soldiers within this BCT. You should always remember those who were injured or paid the ultimate

price in the campaign against terrorism that ensures that our homeland remains safe for our families and future generations. These fallen heroes and their families should always be in our prayers, and I know that I will forever remember and be thankful for what they gave to their country. Be very proud of what you have accomplished. Be proud of your unit. You have proven that you are Warriors, united in your commitment to the Brigade and the successful accomplishment of the missions our Country entrusted to us. I am proud and honored to have had this opportunity to serve with each of you, and will forever remember each of you as American patriots who distinguished yourself by selfless and honorable service to your country in it's time of need.

"Warriors First"

145th Support Battalion

Thanks for the memories

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

The past year and a half have created many memories indeed; Friends made and lost, new family members, roadside scenes, training events, and decisions made that will stay with us. We are departing a country with much less stability than the homes we are returning to, less luxury items, and less opportunities. The way of life here is so different than ours, that we are baffled at times by the customs they cannot let go of. The religious

factions, local tribes, and governments seem to work against other, more than compromise. Our stay is benefiting many people here in Iraq, providing choices and opportunities to many, who otherwise would not been given choices. Schools and government buildings are being improved daily, Iraqi army and police have our troops providing training in order to fend for themselves, and elections are being held



CSM Whittier

for the people to decide. As I walk around, I hear many soldiers talking about what they will do when they return home, and some of the purchases that will be made. Many soldiers are looking forward to

family time, and rebuilding the ties of marriage, while others rethink or look at marriage. Life has changed for many of us on the ground here, and the memories we take home may shape our lives for years to come. The hope that we conducted ourselves in a professional manner and that we may return home with our heads held high, and with a clear conscience. I thank all of you for many good memories, and I hope

your memories are such that life will have a meaning, and allow all of us a chance to improve on what we have.

Bob Hope, One of the greatest Americans to ever live, and a friend to the Military, always ended his programs singing "Thanks for the Memories". And the first verse went like this. "Yes, we've traveled far and wide together; Did we travel too fast? Now I reminisce and wonder whether any good things last. But that, dear, is past. Thanks for the memories."

Half-day of fun activities boosts 145th Soldiers' morale

by Sgt. Jeffery W. Lucas II, 145th SB Unit Historian

With the time on FOB Warrior growing shorter for the Soldiers of the 145th Support Battalion, the effort to keep mission focus, morale and motivation increases. A relaxing afternoon of competitive events and food provided that needed boost as 145th Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Terry Harrell and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier joined their Soldiers for an afternoon of socializing and fun.

"We were thinking about how we could provide the battalion Soldier with some down time or maybe a half day off during which they could participate in various activities and competitions," said 145th Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Whittier. "We just wanted to let them know we appreciate them, and give them a chance to regroup and focus on the last few months," he added.

"Anytime we have an opportunity to do something,

from the first anniversary party to a gathering at Ft. Bliss, we do it," explained Lt. Col. Henrik Fast, 145th Support Battalion Executive Officer. "With any of these social gatherings, only good can come from them. It always brings soldiers together, and gives everyone a chance to relax," he said.

The day started with the Bravo Co.-hosted long drive contest. 1st Lt. Randall Russell of Bravo Co. and 1st Lt. Don Sturtevant of Charlie Co. coordinated the event, which was altered to fit with our combat zone environment. On a regular golf course, a certain dress code is required. The lieutenants amended the dress code to a combat environment and required contestants to compete wearing full battle rattle, of IBA and Kevlar.

"It didn't matter if you were a good golfer or just a beginner, everything was basically an even playing field," commented Lt. Col. Fast, who was also coincidentally, the winner

of the event. Fast contended that his winning drive was due more to a fortunate series of ricochets than his golfing prowess. "I would love to be able to say that I was able to fall back on my exceptional golfing talents and abilities, but I can't say that," he remarked.

The main attraction of the day was the flag football competition. Games were played between enlisted, Non-Commissioned Officers and the Officer Corps. The enlisted soldiers showed everyone why it pays to be young and energetic, beating the NCOs in their first game and totally demolishing the officers in their second game. "The Officer Corps was a miserable embarrassment," jokingly commented Fast, "With the Officer Corps, it wasn't really a field of dreams, but more a field of faded dreams."

Other than sporting events, soldiers of the 145th were also treated to a

poolside BBQ prepared by Alpha Company. Soldiers also had an opportunity to just relax and visit with friends. Lt. Col. Harrell walked around and visited with Soldiers and answered questions about leaving Iraq, redeployment back to Ft. Lewis, and the upcoming Ramadan holiday. "It was great in the aspect of just getting to talk to the Soldiers," he said.

"I thought it was great to have a day off, something

out of the ordinary," said Spc. Michael Bull, of HHC.

"I was glad to have some time to relax and just enjoy myself," added Sgt. Christopher Calderwood, of Alpha Co.

"I wish we could have done more, but here in Iraq we are limited on what we can do," lamented Harrell. "But hold on," he continued, "because we are going to have one heck of a welcome home celebration when we return to Idaho."



Soldiers of the 145th Support Battalion relax with a barbecue, and several athletic competitions designed to allow some recreation. (Photo submitted by 145th Support Bn.)

145th Support Battalion

Honored to serve

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

When things are at their worst you are at your best! Time and again I have witnessed you pull together, move beyond personal loss and give all you had to guarantee your fellow Soldiers had everything they needed. From the moment we were activated; moved to Ft Bliss, Texas, through Ft Polk, Louisiana, beyond Kuwait and into our Area of Operations in Iraq, you provided continuous around the clock support to the 116th Brigade Combat Team. This did not just happen, and no one single person can claim responsibility for having made this monumental accomplishment possible. You, yes you, and the Soldier next to you, the

Soldiers in the next section, and the Soldiers working in the other companies all made this a reality.

Carl von Clausewitz wrote about the phenomenon of the dominant tendencies of the trinity of war. His analysis describes the people, the commander and his army, and the government as having separate distinct rules, yet intertwined relationships requiring all to be considered if victory is to be achieved. "The passions that are to be kindled in war must already be

inherent in the people; the scope which play of courage and talent will enjoy in the realm of probability and chance depends on the particular character of the commander and the army..."

The American people have showered us with their support and gratitude, placed us in their prayers and taken care of our families while we have been here fighting terrorism. Never before has the American Soldier seen this level of commitment while deployed protecting freedom, democracy and liberty. We have truly been blessed by their dedication and they have been a continuous boost to our morale. The courage and talent that each of you has shown throughout our deployment has been nothing but incredible. You have



LTC Harrell

brought a unique set of talents to the Iraqi people; not just the war fighting skills each of you possess, but the experience and skills gained from civilian life and trades.

Remember, shortly after we took over the mission here in AO Warrior, the Iraqi people started calling us the "New Americans," they could see you were here because you believed in liberty and freedom from tyranny. I believe the expertise and maturity in

which you performed your missions and the dignity and respect in which you treated them made it apparent to the Iraqis that you were more than just another Soldier. You have left a lasting impression on the Iraqi people and given them that light at the end of the tunnel. Right from the start, our command had a clear purpose of mission and defined objectives: anticipate, provide continuous uninterrupted support and always improve upon what we undertake. This coupled with the knowledge, experience, talent and professionalism you demonstrated

established the framework for the support that sustained the Brigade through every mission. The NCOs, Warrant Officers and Officers of this Battalion performed admirably, executing the management of every mission, assuring coordination, synchronization and communication of every task for mission success. You have grown into a dependable and professional group of leaders. I am proud to have served with you all.

We have all grown to know and enjoy each other over the last year and have come to think of each other as family. I have seen young, immature adolescents grow into people that I admire and am proud and satisfied knowing that you will be the next generation of Americans standing up for our freedoms and way of life. I am amazed at your achievements, adaptability and sense of purpose; you truly are heroes and the backbone of this Brigade Combat Team!

What have the Soldiers of the 145th Support Battalion achieved in their role of sustaining continuous combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III?

As of 1 October 2005:

- Supported the first free election in the newly sovereign nation of Iraq.
- Trained the Iraqi Army in techniques so they could provide their own security and sustainment operations.
- Assisted in establishing an environment for the first free vote on a national constitutional referendum.

- Trained numerous Iraqis as Emergency Medical Technicians-Basic course.

- Provided Medical and Dental Assistance Visits to numerous villages and clinics that otherwise may not have received care.

- Provided clothing, shoes, school supplies and soccer balls to hundreds of Iraqi citizens.

- Best in Division-Supply Support Activity (SSA), almost 200 customer DODAACs, 146,000 requisitions and 5,400 pallets processed with only a 2.3% adjustment over a ten month period.

- Best in Division-Property Book Section (PBO), consolidated property books from ten states and the first to fully account for a BCT's equipment and ammunition; additionally, account for all issue of Iraqi Army and Police equipment and ammunition throughout our AO.

- Best in Division-Direct Support Maintenance Activity, maintained a 92% or higher operational readiness rate for the Brigade's combat power.

- Best in Division-Brigade Internment Facility (BIF), Ranked by MNC-I and DAIG inspections, processed over 900 detainees.

- Best in Division-Material Branch (MMC), tracked and expedited over 3,300 NMC class IX parts, 375 NMC weapon systems, more than 12 MWOs on over 200 different variations of equipment, first in division to develop support structure for

"And when we the world can seize this opportunity to fulfill the long held promise of a new world order where brutality will go unrewarded and aggression will meet collective resistance. Yes, the United States bears a major share of leadership in this effort. Among the nations of the world, only the United States of America has both the moral standing and the means to back it up. We are the only nation on this Earth that could assemble the forces of peace."

--President George Bush, 1991

Continued on page 18

TF 2-116th Armor

Four TF 2-116 Armor Soldiers earn CSM Coins

Four Soldiers from A Company, TF 2-116 Armor, were presented with a Command Sergeant Major's coin by TF 2-116 AR Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin, in July.

Spc. Malloy is a huge asset to 1st platoon not only with his can do attitude and willingness to complete the mission but also his skills in construction. Spc. Malloy assisted 1st platoon improve living conditions in the bak-

ery by overseeing and designing individual rooms for his fellow soldiers. With this construction effort 1st platoon now has one of the finest living areas in Alpha company. He is always ready to volunteer for any mission and is one of the most trustworthy soldiers in the platoon. His efforts are greatly appreciated by his peers and by his NCO's.

Sgt. James was instrumental in organizing first aid for the numerous casualties resulting from an IED detonated on the platoon. Sgt. James is a member of. There was no loss of life or limb, due to his dedication and expertise. All casualties are recovering thanks to him and the first aid performed by the rest of the platoon.

Spc. Schuldies was instrumental in performing first aid on casualties, assessing casualties, and helping transport casualties to the EMEDS. This was all completed within the "golden one hour" time frame. He continued to assist with medical treatment on casual-

ties after arrival at EMEDS. No life nor limb was lost due to his dedication.

Spc. Terry Jensen always has a smile and a quick laugh who tries to make everyone around him laugh. With his

"CANDO" attitude he is ready at a moments notice for any missions that the scout platoon is assigned. He is a hard working, dedicated soldier who is a pleasure to have around. He is truly an asset to the Scout Platoon.



Spc. Malloy of TF 2-116 Armor, receives a CSM coin from Battalion CSM Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin.



Sgt. James of TF 2-116 Armor, receives a CSM coin from Battalion CSM Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin.



Spc. Schuldies of TF 2-116 Armor, receives a CSM coin from Battalion CSM Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin.



Spc. Terry Jensen of TF 2-116 Armor, receives a CSM coin from Battalion CSM Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin.

TF 2-116 Armor projects team meets with Arab Tribal Council

The TF 2-116 Armor's Projects Team met with the Arab Tribal Council July 12, at

the Kirkuk Government Building, to discuss the status of current projects in the Arab

sectors of Kirkuk. The Projects Team also listened to the Council's concerns,

primarily the concern right now is over lack of clean water in several southern sections of Kirkuk. This includes the Al Nidr and the Wahid Huzayran areas.

Civil Affairs later visited these

areas with the project officer and Sheik responsible for each area, to determine the number of families affected.

They are requesting that water tanker trucks, make scheduled trips to these areas to deliver water to the affected families.



(L to R), Sheik Ali Abdullah Mohamad, Sheik Shehab Ahmad Murshid, (Mukhtar) Ismael Khalil Hassan Hamad al-Obaidi, Maj. Jenkins of TF 2-116 Armor projects team, Sheik Badir Hashim al-Aboudi and Sheik Abdul Razak Ni'Maa Aboud Ali al-Obaidi .



Soldiers of TF 2-116 Armor, met with the Arab Tribal Council, July 12, 2005.

TF 2-116 Armor

History of the Guidon

by Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin

Rattler's great job this past week, keep up the good work and I need you to help me out on doing the right things and being safe. Doing the right thing is not considered a task, or even a procedure, but it is part of ethical decision making. It has been instilled into us throughout all the training we have ever been given. Every decision we make is partially determined by these ethics. I know that our leadership makes their decisions with correct eth-



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin

ics in mind.

I want to also thank you all for working through all the steps to completing missions safely. We always measure the risks, analyze the situation, take action, and protect ourselves and our buddies.

I expect you to use sound judgment. I expect you all to be leaders. I expect you all to take care of each other as we continue to do our duties here.

You are all leaders. It's not always easy, but it is necessary for us to have leaders that always make the right choices. Always remember this and that when you lead, you are building future leaders that will continue to build on our legacy. Thanks for your work and keep it up until the end. SINE MORA

Three TF 2-116 Armor Soldiers earn CSM Coins

Three Soldiers of TF 2-116 Armor were presented CSM coins by Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin, Battalion CSM, in September.

Spc. Woods of 1st Plt., TF 2-116 Armor, has demonstrated his ability to overcome obstacles and consistently maintains a positive, "Can Do" attitude, no matter the circumstances. He is always willing to assist when asked, and completes his assigned duties in a timely manner. He is an asset to the platoon, without a doubt.

Staff Sgt. Umstead of 2nd Plt., 2-116 Armor, has done an outstanding job filling in as Platoon Sergeant through the Lt., Plt. Sgt., and Commanding Officer's leaves. He has proven time and time again he can not only handle the job but excel at it.

Staff Sgt. Betz of 3rd Plt., TF 2-116 Armor, has been a true

leader in 3rd Platoon for the entire rotation. He keeps his squad motivated and combat ready at all times. Betz has also been instrumental in the training of the local police departments by using his civilian acquired skills as a Montana Highway Patrolman; he has in my mind helped the Kirkuk police forces become stronger and more respected in the community.

He has also been working with the Arteca village on his own, to help the civilians learn how to enjoy a better way of life. For example, he organized a clean-up day where he gathered all the materials and resources necessary to complete the task. He is highly respected in the platoon and community and is truly a professional NCO that all others in the platoon strive to become.



(L to R), Staff Sgt. Umstead, TF 2-116 Armor Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin, Spc. Woods, and Staff Sgt. Betz, after receiving a CSM coin from Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Chin.

Three on three Kirkuk Air base Basketball Champions



(L-R), Spc. Gary Belnap, Sgt. Ray Jennings, 1st Lt. Eric Pruett and Sgt. Loren Hilliard, 3-on-3 Kirkuk Regional Air Base Basketball Champions.

The Shockers, of 3rd platoon, Alpha company, Task Force 2-116 Armor, finished the 4th of July as the 3 on 3 base basketball champions. They had to battle their way through grimly determined and very qualified opponents. In fact the last game went into overtime.

The score was 8 to 8 sending the two teams into a determined, hard-fought contest. The final score was

17 to 10, the Shockers the victors. Sgt. Jennings and Sgt. Hilliard were the hard core players, playing all four games. 1Lt. Pruett was in there also, swapping out with Spc. Belnap a little in the last game. The team was awarded a very nice tee shirt each and 150 points toward the Commanders Cup Challenge, Army versus Air Force. Congratulations to all the players.

TF 2-116 Armor's Team Police earns CSM coins



Team Police, 2-116 with CSM Chin the Command Sergeant Major for 2-116. Pictured left to right, Standing: CSM Chin, SSG Jacobus, SPC Williamson, SPC Evans, SPC Brown, Capt Gailey. Seated: SPC Peck, SSG Roberts, SPC MacArthur.

TF 2-116 Armor

Fiddler's Green

by *Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin*

No one knows the exact origin of "Fiddler's Green" in the United States Army. Its concept seems to have been popular among 17th and 18th century sailors, soldiers, and masterless men of Europe, who knew that they would not qualify for Heaven, but trusted that a merciful God would agree to their credo that, "To live hard, to die hard, and to go to Hell afterwards would be hard indeed."

An article in the 1925 Cavalry Journal may give some credence to its origin in the U.S. Cavalry and the fact that it may have occurred during the Indian Wars.

"Fiddler's Green" was inspired by a story told quite sometime back by Captain "Sammy" Pearson at a campfire in the Medicine Bow Mountains of Wyoming.

Having mentioned Fiddler's Green and found that no one appeared to have heard of it, Pearson indignantly

asserted that every good cavalryman ought to know of Fiddler's green, and forthwith told this story:

"About half-way-way down the road to Hell there is a broad meadow dotted with trees and crossed by many streams. In this meadow, known as Fiddler's Green, is located an old Army Canteen (where liquor was sold), and near it are camped all the dead cavalymen, with their tents, horses, picket line and campfires, around which the souls of the dead troopers gather to tell stories and exchange reminiscences.

No other branch of the service may stop at Fiddler's Green, but continue to march straight through to Hell. It is true that occasionally some trooper who has a longing, as most troopers have, for a change of station, packs his saddle, mounts his horse and continues his journey. But

none of them has ever reached the gates of Hell; for, having emptied his canteen of liquor, he needs be returned to Fiddler's Green for a refill."

Fiddler's Green

Halfway down the trail to Hell, In a shady meadow green
Are the Souls of all dead troopers camped, Near a good old-time canteen.

And this eternal resting place, Is known as Fiddlers' Green.

Marching past, straight through to Hell, The Infantry are seen.

Accompanied by the Engineers, Artillery and Marines,

For none but the shades of Cavalymen, Dismount at Fiddlers' Green.

Though some go curving down the trail, To seek a warmer scene.

No trooper ever gets to Hell, Ere he's emptied his canteen.

TF 2-116 Armor has meet and greet with nomads

E Troop, 2-116 Armor was enroute to Bajawan for an evening patrol on July 3, when they noticed a couple of tents on the left side of the road near gate 2, at K-1 airfield. The patrol stopped and inquired who the people were and where they were from. The Soldiers met with Hamad Kadir, who informed them that there were a total of 20 people in the 2 tents, himself and Asmial Salam who is his cousin. They are from the Beyji area, a tribe called the Janabu. They came north because the grasses are a little greener here than down in Beyji.

They had been moving for the last month and they planned on being up in this area for the next month or so. TF 2-116 Soldiers will stop by when

they can. to check if they see or hear anything while they are in the area. They were very pleased that the Coalition Forces had come and freed Iraq.



At left, Hamad Kadir sits with his child in his lap, his cousin Asmial Salam sits on the right, during a meet and greet with Soldiers from TF 2-116 Armor.

be potentially very damaging to us for the future of our soldiers. They will not know what right looks like, some of the things that need to be fixed right away are the little things like haircuts, shaving, uniforms and salutes. All you leaders know what right looks like, but will you enforce it? I ask you to think about what you are doing to the Army and your future leaders. Give them the confidence to do the right. Leaders, we need to start doing what's right, instead of doing what everyone likes and makes us popular. If you don't it will come back and bite us. Lead by Example.

And so rides back to drink again, With friends at Fiddlers' Green.

And so when man and horse go down, Beneath a saber keen,

Or in a roaring charge of fierce melee, You stop a bullet clean,

And the hostiles come to get your scalp, Just empty your canteen,

And put your pistol to your head, And go to Fiddlers' Green.

You can get this material @CavHooh.com

Ratters, keeping the standards is our job. If we don't enforce them then it may

E Troop, TF 2-116 Armor sets up TCP with Iraqi Army

E Troop, TF 2-116 Armor and the Iraqi Army (IA) worked in conjunction July 3, to establish a flash TCP.

They met up with the Iraqi Security Forces at their company headquarters, then proceeded along Highway 2. They opted to set up their 'Flash Traffic Control Point' (TCP) before the Sulaymaniya exit along the highway.

They soon discovered that the group of Iraqi Soldiers they were working with were very knowledgeable

about the process. When they stopped, the IA immediately started setting up the cones and signs, then began stopping vehicles.

There were approximately 65-70 vehicles searched, in all. The 2-116 Soldiers talked with them about the best ways to deal with a possible Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED).

After about an hour, they closed down the TCP, mission accomplished.



Cars and trucks stopped for search during the Flash TCP.

TF 2-116 Armor

Making a difference

by Sgt. Kent Nowland, TF 2-116th Armor

From December 17, 2004 to November 1, 2005 in AO Danger and AO Liberty, Task Force 2-116 Armor comprised of Alpha company, Bravo company, Echo troop (163d Cavalry), and Headquarters company, promoted security and stability in the most ethnically volatile region of Iraq, primarily in the city of Kirkuk, Iraq's fourth largest city. Operating from Forward Operating Base (FOB) Warrior and two patrol bases within Kirkuk, TF 2-116 Armor Soldiers conducted over 5530 combat

patrols, 1600 flash TCPs, 90 company/platoon cordon and search operations, over 13 battalion cordon and search operations, and 60 company/platoon raids, and over eight task force raids throughout AO Warrior.

These combined, joint, and coalition interagency stability and support operations detained over 746 Anti-Iraqi Forces (AIF) and three high value targets (HVTs), confiscated over 110 weapons, secured over 40 ordinance sites, and interdicted over 40 Improvised

Explosive Devices (IEDs). The Rattlers of TF 2-116 Armor engaged the enemy in over 121 direct fire actions and endured the daily threat of over 58 indirect fires from rockets and mortars. Throughout 11 months of combat operations, the Rattler's aggressiveness and unwavering offensive spirit coupled with the professionalism of its leaders and soldiers contributed immeasurably to the security of this oil-rich and ethnically charged region. Key to TF 2-116 Armor's success has

been its unparalleled initiatives with respect to the ISF, encouraging Iraqi self reliance and firmly legitimizing both the Iraqi Police Services (IPS) and the Iraqi Army (IA).

Through daily interaction with political, civic, and religious leaders, the Battalion developed a keen awareness of the community's concerns and needs while creating a level of trust between the Iraqis and US forces that contributed to mutual security and stability within the AO. TF 2-116

Armor contributed to the reconstruction and development of Kirkuk, Iraq, injecting over \$10,000,000 dollars into municipal improvements. TF 2-116 Armor has distinguished itself in the conduct of full spectrum joint, interagency, counter-insurgency, and Coalition combat operations by defeating AIF, building professional and competent ISF, creating viable public institutions and utilities, and improving the quality of life for the Iraqi people within and near the City of Kirkuk.

TF 2-116 Soldiers awarded Purple Hearts and badges

by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq—Eighty-seven Soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 2-116 Armor were recognized for combat achievement at an outdoor awards ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Warrior October 8. The ceremony included awarding two Purple Hearts, nine Combat Infantryman Badges (CIBs), eight Combat Medic Badges (CMBs) and 70 Combat Action Badges (CABs). The two Purple Heart recipients also earned CABs.

"It's because of great soldiers like you—sacrificing for your country—that we live in freedom," said 116th BCT Commander Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart to the formation after personally pinning on the awards and congratulating each recipient.

The Purple Heart is awarded to soldiers who die or are wounded by hostile fire. Combat badges are awarded to soldiers who perform their duties while under enemy fire. Soldiers trained in the infantry specialty receive the CIB, those trained as medical specialists receive the CMB and those trained in other specialties receive the CAB.



Spc. Martin Baldwin, Sgt. Chad Hill, Sgt. Karl Jackson, Spc. Bryan Jones, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Keller, Staff Sgt. Stephen Kingan, Spc. Steven Martindale, Spc. David McKim and Sgt. Walter Nau

Five E Troop, TF 2-116 Armor Soldiers re-enlist

Echo Troop, TF 2-116 Armor is pleased to announce that five of its Soldiers re-enlisted in theater, October 3. Those re-enlisted by TF 2-116 Armor re-enlistment officer 1st Lt. Lloyd, were; Sgt. 1st Class Christiansen, Sgt. Smith, Spc. Lamb, Spc. Holmberg and Sgt. Vaughn. Task Force 2-116 currently has 163 enlistments and \$1,892,000 committed to soldiers in bonus money.



E Troop, TF 2-116 Armor troops re-enlisting in theater are, Front Row (L to R): Sgt. 1st Class Christiansen, Sgt. Smith, Spc. Lamb. Back Row (L to R): 1st Lt. Lloyd, Spc. Holmberg and Sgt. Vaughn. (Photo courtesy of E Troop, TF 2-116 Armor)

CSM Briefing...

Continued from page 4

you are all heroes in my book. You have accomplished so much and you should be proud. Not only should you be proud Warriors, but you set the example of what patriotism and devotion to country really means. Be safe and continue to maintain the high standards and professionalism that you have shown throughout our deployment.

116 BCT OIF III Deployment Pictorial History



Families and friends of the 116th BCT show their support during the Send-off ceremony held at the Idaho Center in Nampa, Idaho before flying out to Ft. Bliss.



116 th BCT family members bid farewell to their troops at the Gowen Air Field, June 7, 2004.



The Loadmaster for the 116 Brigade Combat Team backs an M1A1 Abrams Tank onto a railcar in preparation for movement to Ft. Bliss, Texas to train for deployment to OIF III.



Sgt. Kohlbecker of HHC, 116 BCT, gets a tearful goodbye from his daughter at the airfield before deploying to Iraq.



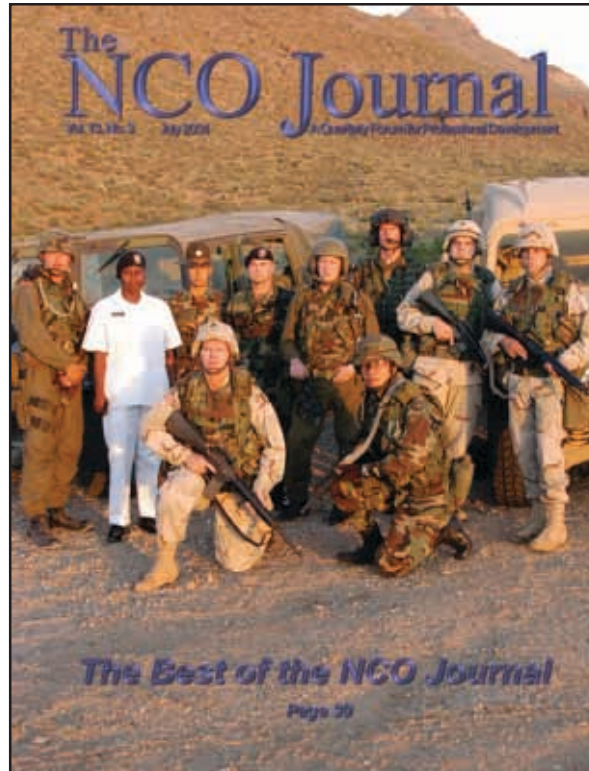
116 BCT families showed up to see their Soldiers off to Ft. Bliss, Texas



Soldiers of the 116th BCT board the plane for training at Ft. Bliss, Texas.



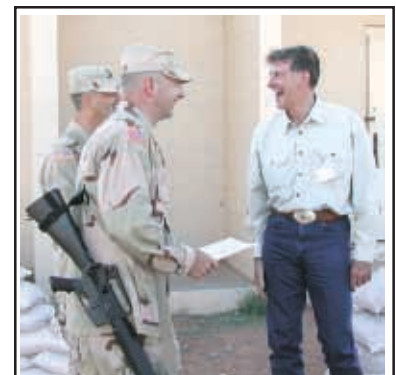
Soldiers of the 116 th BCT will never forget the module beds in the Camp Biggs 'deep freeze'.



Spc. Suarez, fends off an attack by Sgt. Delay, both of HHC, 116 BCT, during combatives training.

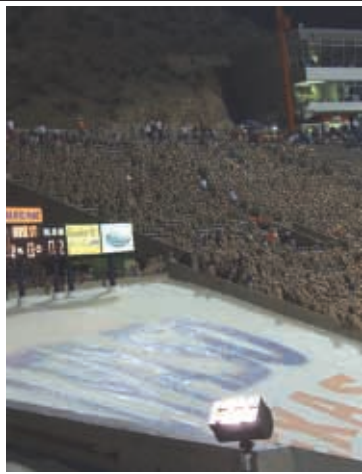


116 BCT Soldiers, serious and intent on receiving new equipment at the Rapid Fielding Initiative at Ft. Bliss, Texas.



C.L. 'Butch' Otter visited the 116 BCT

116 BCT OIF III Deployment Pictorial History



The 116 BCT cheered for the Boise State Broncos as they played UTEP in a hard-fought game, September 18, 2004.



Nearly 4,000 116 BCT Soldiers got to enjoy a great game and a little piece of home, while watching the Boise State Broncos defeat the UTEP Miners, 41-28.



The M1A1 Abrams tanks of the 116th Brigade Combat Team near Dona Ana range, N. Mexico.



BSU Quarterback Jared Zabransky fades back to pass during the BSU-UTEP game attended by the 116 BCT



The Soldiers of G Troop, 82d Cavalry, paused for a picture amidst their MOUT training.



U.S. Senator for Idaho, Larry Craig, during his visit to the 116th BCT while visiting the 116 BCT at the Joint Readiness Training Center, at Ft. Polk, La.



The Kuwait welcome mat, entrance to beautiful Camp Buehring.



An Iraqi sunrise greeted the Brigade as they arrived at FOB Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq.



Soldiers of the 116 BCT were received enthusiastically by Iraqi children, such as the students of this Girl's school.



The Eternal Flame, a site from the Bible, located near the Northern Oil Company HQ, outside Kirkuk, Iraq.



War wreckage which can be seen almost everywhere in Iraq, from OIF I and II.

116 BCT OIF III Deployment Pictorial History



TF 2-116 Armor Soldiers on dawn patrol, are treated to the sight of a painted sky over the Warrior Area of Operations, in Kirkuk Province, Iraq.



Soldiers of the 116 BCT were greeted enthusiastically by Iraqi children, as they delivered school supplies and donated toys.



A 116 BCT Humvee near one of the many beautifully designed mosques in Kirkuk, Iraq.



Two Apache attack helicopters provide escort for a 145th Support Bn. convoy in Kirkuk Province, Iraq



A bustling, colorful Iraqi marketplace, like many seen in Kirkuk Province, as seen from the front seat of a Humvee.



The Kirkuk Government Building, in downtown Kirkuk, is the center of political activity and governance supported by the 116 BCT, in north central Iraq.



A Soldier of the 116 BCT investigates the wreckage of a car. It later turns out two IED placers blew themselves up.



Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, Commander of the 116 BCT, re-enlists the 500th Brigade Soldier to do so in theater, as 200 watch from formation in the rear.



One of many oil fires the Brigade experienced in Iraq, this one from oil standing in pools above ground, near FOB McHenry.



An Iraqi sunset the Brigade witnessed while stationed at FOB Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq

TF 1-163 Infantry

The wild, wild west

by *Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Bill Lohrenz, TF 1-163 Infantry*

Greetings from the countryside Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). I just recently spent 5 days at FOB Warrior. During my stay I met soldiers who did not know about or had misconceptions about life on the other two FOBs in this Brigade. The two I am referring to are Gaines Mills and McHenry. Gaines Mills was named for a battle in the Civil War and McHenry was the name of the fort Francis Scott Key watched being bombarded by the British as he wrote the Star Spangled Banner. Gaines Mills was the home of the infamous "Chemical Ali," from the Saddam Hussein regime. His main house is occupied by Soldiers of TF 148 Field Artillery. Both FOBs lie west of Warrior and are occupied by elements of Task Force 163. They are the frontier FOB's in this BCT's Area of Operation (AO). Frontier conjures up images of the wild west, with little law and nomadic tribes pitted against the encroaching settlers. Settlements is what they are. They are rustic and back woods compared to Warrior.

Gaines Mills Dining Facility (DFAC) is a tent. McHenry until a year ago, still served out of one too. There is no fancy multi choice food line either, we only get two meals a day and one entre per meal. Our cooks still prepare and serve it like the frontier. No fancy kitchen, no hired help, just Soldiers doing the job they trained for. The food is at times lackluster, but considering what they receive, the cooks do make the best of it. The third meal is everybody's favorite Meal-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) or what you have stashed in your Containerized

Housing Unit (CHU) or can buy at our Post Exchange (PX). Yes, we have a PX. You could compare it to the old general store in a frontier town. It is very rustic with it's plain wood shelves, made by Soldiers, stocked to the roof with commodities. There are not many items that can not be purchased there that are found at Warrior PX. The manager also runs the mail and package shipping to home, as well as selling phone cards. And he is a Soldier, not a civilian.

We do have some amenities that we have improved on. Our gym used to be two tents, one with free weights and the other with the mechanical systems. Two months ago the engineers built a hard stand structure that we have since moved into. Along with that came some new equipment and a very large screen TV with satellite. Gaines Mills remodeled a small building to house their equipment. They are still in the process of securing equipment to expand their selection. This was done, again by Soldiers on the FOB much as it was done as the frontier.

We have internet cafes and phone services. At McHenry we have a bring your own computer café donated by the state of Idaho. This greatly expanded our connectivity to loved ones, research and shopping capabilities. Again, this is operated and maintained by Soldiers, who bring a skill set that was not taught by the Army.

As in the wild west, we have country medicine. Our medics and docs are the best in the BCT. They have more



*Cmd. Sgt. Maj.
Lohrenz*

experience by far, for trauma, than any other battalion in Warrior AO. This experience is essential, since they are practicing on the edge of nowhere. The Battalion Aid Station (BAS) is a tent, again no fancy hardstand building but it has good air conditioning, a clean and filtered atmosphere and built by Soldiers from the ground up. Ground transport to the next level of care is at least 45 minutes away and air transport is 15 minutes. They treat local Iraqis in addition to the Soldiers on the FOBs. They have treated locals from the age of 3 months to senior citizens, for medical ailments and trauma caused by war. They regularly conduct Medical Assistance Visits (MAVs) in the local villages several times a month. To date, they have performed almost 40 MAVs in AO West. They have assisted local medical providers in at least 3 major mass casualty events involving suicide bombers. They have also trained many of the medics in the Iraqi Army units in our AO. In fact, the POI published for the training of all Iraqi forces was written by the medics and providers of TF-163.

As with any military unit the equipment has to be maintained, in this case vehicles. Being somewhat removed

from a normal supply chain, a fair amount of ingenuity has to go into maintaining a fleet of vehicles for the largest Task Force in the brigade. The Task Force has maintenance and support personnel at all three FOBs in the 116th BCT AO. The fleet consists of 200 pieces of rolling stock and a PLL worth over \$1,000,000 monitored by four 92A clerks. The shop at McHenry was appropriately named the "Monster Garage" for two reasons. One for the large amount of equipment that moves through the shop, an average of 20 vehicles a day. Second from the nickname given by SGM Cooper, the BN OPS SGM, to HQ7C after its make over after a year of use by the 1-27IN. This section maintains the highest OR (operation readiness) rate in the brigade at 97%. In addition Gaines Mills and McHenry have vehicle recovery teams that perform the dangerous task of retrieving damaged vehicles under all conditions. These crews are manned 24/7 and have retrieved HMMWV's, HEMMTS, and a variety of civilian vehicles from perils ranging from mechanical failures, to accidents to disabling IED and VBIED blasts.

There are many other Soldiers that contribute to the operation of a task force this size. We have the support platoon that brings all the necessary items to maintain our daily existence and the keep the equipment moving. Without them our presence here could not continue. Several times a week they brave the roads to insure our comfort and existence is maintained on the fron-

tier. There are many others, some I cannot mention due to security reasons. But realize they all contribute to our life and the work we do out here.

Last but not least are the fighters, the door kickers as I like to call them. It takes guts to run up to a door and kick it in, not knowing what waits on the other side. We have engineers, cavalry troops and infantry soldiers doing missions they were not trained to do until last year. The TF force is the point of the spear in the BCT's AO. We average 3 major events a day that includes IEDs, small arms fire (SAF) or indirect mortar or rocket attacks. Our IED count in June was 62; that is an average of 2 a day. The battalion sends out 24 combat patrols a day between the two FOBs, in addition to maintaining our own base defense. To date the task force has earned 70-plus Purple Hearts, again the most in the brigade for a task force. These Purple Hearts are spread across the spectrum of MOS's. Soldiers that never leave the FOB to those that leave on a daily basis have earned the right to wear this badge. So there is really no safe place in our frontier.

This is a snap shot of Task Force Griz made up of many Soldiers from many states that have been brought together in the middle of nowhere to perform a mission. Many years from now when you have forgotten why nations fought this war, remember two things.

One, your nation called and you came without hesitation. Two, remember who stood next to your right and your left.

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

The longest mile – Deployment of the 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery

by Lt. Col. Russ Johnson, Commander, TF 1-148 Field Artillery

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write what will likely be my final battalion update during this deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. It hardly seems possible that we have been here close to a year as the days, weeks, and months have passed by so fast. It seems like just last week we pulled our ground assault convoy through the gates of our forward operating base near Kirkuk after a long, cool, four-day road march up from the sandy deserts of Kuwait, through cities such as Safwan, Baghdad, and Tikrit. That was December of 2004. As our replacements continue to flow forward into theater from Kuwait, I'm reminded of just how fresh the memories of that trip are. I'm also reminded of the fact that freedom is not free.

The Command Sergeant Major (CSM) and I recently conducted visits to our soldiers who are spread out across this diverse and large area of operations. We presented each soldier with a special unit coin the CSM designed and had minted especially for the Scorpion Battalion. This coin commemorates the hard work, sacrifice, and selflessness of your soldiers as well as the exceptional support of our loved ones back home. As we distributed these coins, I saw the confidence and fierce determination in the eyes of these proud warriors along with a great sense of accomplishment. They have all performed admirably and are looking forward to our return to the United States.

Much has happened since



Lt. Col. Johnson

arriving in north central Iraq back in December. I've shared much of that information with you as the months have come and gone, but wanted to share some of the more stunning, cumulative achievements of your soldiers, their leaders, and their units. As you read through these achievements, keep in mind that everything we have accomplished here has been the result of a collective, team effort.

Howitzer Battery, 1st Battalion, 148 Field Artillery has

collectively fired over 300 missions resulting in over 1200 155mm artillery rounds in support of the US Army, US Air Force ground forces, Iraqi Army, and the Iraqi Police. Under the direction of Captain Erik Knutsen and First Sergeant Mike Merlette, they supported five different battalions throughout their deployment from three separate firing points. Additionally, they performed an 'out of sector' mission requiring the platoon to reposition a cannon outside our normal boundary to achieve the desired range to target. These proud redlegs logistically supported themselves and transported 62.5 tons of ammunition across hostile, dangerous roadways. They logged in excess of 34,875 miles transporting and

distributing essential ammunition and supplies to the remote forward operating bases. In support of the battalion's effort to train, mentor, and resource the Iraqi Army, key leaders from Howitzer Battery conducted combat oriented training to two companies (285 soldiers) of the Iraqi Army. They performed mayoral responsibilities for a 175-soldier forward operating base and contributed to the perimeter security, roving patrols, and inner security quick reaction force. They interacted with the village leaders of several rural villages and were instrumental in providing essential school supplies to several primary schools.

Under the direction of Captain Lane Packwood and

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Honored to serve...

Continued from page 9

gaining AoA vehicle repair parts, setting the way for other 42nd ID units to receive needed support, established SOPs for contractor support for LSI, AoA, Red Dot air conditioning repair, MARK III Robots, Warlock, RAVEN and Stewart-Stevenson. Developed Master Licensing Program and AoA Driver's Licensing Program, conducted MAIT for all BCT units. Excellent program that ensured the BCT maintenance posture was true and an unquestionable mark of superior achievement.

• Best in Division-CSSAMO Section, established Army NIPR and SIPR, and Air Force NIPR, BFT, MTS, FM, SCTACSAT,

MSE-Voice, AMC, VSAT and DSN networks totaling over 330 users, completed 300 job orders repairing computers and printers, maintained all of nearly 80 STAMIS systems for the entire BCT to include upgrades of the SAMS, SARRS, PBUSE and ULLS-G complete installation of VSAT systems to include external FOBs, established SPAWAR internet café and Idaho commercial satellite systems throughout the BCT's AO.

• Best safety record-zero serious accidents or injuries throughout the deployment.

• Least number of negligent discharges in Brigade Combat Team.

• 322,592 total miles driven.

• Produced over 1,000,000 gallons of potable water.

• Issued nearly 5,400,000 gallons of JP8.

• Issued almost 240,000 cases of MREs.

• Processed over 700 STons of ammunition.

• Completed nearly 4,300 DS Work Orders for a Production Index (PI) of .99.

• Completed almost 64,000 manhours of Direct Support maintenance.

• Completed nearly 140 suspension upgrades.

• Combat Health Support Officer tracked from time of injury to RTD or evacuation out of theatre around 250 Soldiers.

• Treated over 6,500 medical patients.

• Treated nearly 900 dental patients.

• Conducted about 50 MAV/DAV missions.

• Executed almost 100 emergency MEDEVACs.

• Issued nearly 6,700 lines of medical supplies.

• Trained over 280 Combat Lifesavers in Iraq and almost 900 during the train-up for deployment.

• Trained and qualified over 70 soldiers as EMT-B.

• Trained nearly 60 soldiers in CPR and qualified about 15 CPR instructors.

• Provided UCMJ and NJP authority for all units located on FOB Warrior.

• Completed almost 300 vehicle services, over 6,000 manhours.

• Completed over 1,100 unscheduled services, more than 26,400 manhours.

• Fabricated nearly 180 metal beds and 30 cuff/access doors for the Brigade Internment Facility.

• Fabricated a thirty foot guard tower for Area 51.

• Fabricated a thirty-six foot antenna platform for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

• Performed almost 600 Combat Logistics Patrols.

• Provided medical care for over 900 detainees.

As General Schwarzkopf stated at the end of the first Gulf War, "...it was an absolutely gigantic accomplishment, and I can't give credit enough to the logisticians and the transporters who were able to pull this off..."

It has been said that when it comes to strategy the amateurs talk tactics while the professionals talk logistics.

"You are the professionals."

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

The longest mile...

Continued from page 18

First Sergeant Keary Tonks, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion 148 Field Artillery conducted 2,162 patrols covering a combined 360,210 vehicle miles throughout an ethnically diverse area of operations. 2.6 million dollars in humanitarian projects were completed in the two most populous districts of a 2400 square kilometer region. These projects consisted of water distribution, water wells, school construction, power generation, medical clinics, and a community center. Logistical resupply operations consisted of transporting and distributing 342 military connex containers, 10,113 weapons for the Iraqi Security Forces, 15.6 tons of ammunition, 135,587 liters of water, 154 tons of barrier material (razor wire, pickets, and Hesco baskets), 172,590 pounds of food, 98,182 gallons of fuel, and 41,250 pounds of miscellaneous supplies and consumables. Remember, this was all transported over poor roads and through traffic congestion that mirrors that of the Jersey turnpike! Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police training consumed a great deal of our time throughout this deployment. Some statistics on this sector follow:

- Trained and mentored 530 Iraqi policemen from three rural districts on station operations, detainee handling, arrest procedures, vehicle searches, marksmanship, and basic security operations.
- Trained, resourced, and mentored two Iraqi Army Brigade Staffs, eight Battalion staffs, and over 8,200 soldiers on basic and advanced security operations.
- Conducted six extensive

humanitarian medical assistance visits in remote, rural villages where over 785 Iraqi civilians received medical and supporting care.

- Maintained a large fleet of vehicles including 114 HUMMMVs, 12 large 2-1/2 ton capacity cargo trucks, 19 Oshkosh variant 10-wheel trucks, an ambulance, 9 command post carriers (tracked), and numerous trailers. They performed over 286 required preventative services (this excludes necessary repairs) to unit equipment including vehicles, radios, weapons, and night-vision equipment.

Additionally, the talented soldiers of Headquarters Battery trained two Joint Coordination Centers (JCCs - equivalent to our 911 call centers) to conduct crisis management, coordinate emergency response actions, and enhance the regional security across two large provinces in north-central and northeastern Iraq. These JCCs are the critical link between the citizens and the emergency response teams.

Bravo Battery (Bulldog) has been the premier motorized field artillery battery in the Brigade! This fine group of professional soldiers have accomplished so much, been moved, repositioned, and relocated numerous times, and provided unparalleled security throughout the better part of 1/15th of Iraq. Led by Captain Darcy Burt and First Sergeant Kevin Martinez, the distinguished men of Bulldog Battery have not stood still for a moment. Their accomplishments include:

- Conducted split-battery operations for four months from two remote forward operating bases separated by nearly 100 miles. FOB Stone

was commanded by CPT Burt and 1SG Martinez while FOB Dibbis was commanded by his XO, CPT Erick Wiedmeier and SFC Richard Harley.

- Provided unprecedented counterinsurgency support to ¼ Cavalry Squadron, 1st Infantry Division near Samarra, Iraq for the 5 weeks leading up to the January, 2005 Iraqi national elections.

• Provided coaching and mentorship to two prominent city councils and city governments located in an ethnically diverse region of north central Iraq. Throughout this deployment, these institutions gained the confidence, experience, and maturity to effectively operate independently and represent their constituents across the wide scope of municipal operations.

- Trained, resourced and coached two Iraqi Army companies to attain proficiency to operate independently and conduct security operations at an accelerated pace and with exceptional results.

• Conducted numerous security escort missions between Kuwait and hostile north-central Iraq and safely delivered the convoys each time.

• Conducted extensive patrols across 475 km of Iran-Iraq border for over four months in support of the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement. Throughout these patrols, they trained nearly 680 border police officers, provided construction oversight of new forts and facilities, and gathered intelligence involving anti-Iraqi forces and material moving in and out of their area of responsibility.

- In their north-east Iraq area of operation, they coor-

minated \$390,000. in humanitarian assistance to the rural villages improving their water, sanitation, electrical, and educational infrastructure.

- Conducted 22 battery-level (~150 soldier) raid operations netting over 66 suspects who were brought before the Iraqi justice system for crimes and attacks against the Iraqi citizens.

• Cleared and disposed of over 22.5 tons of unexploded former Iraqi regime munitions that were potentially being used to support enemy improvised explosive device (IED) construction.

- Provided infrastructure security to the extensive networks of oil wells, oil pumping stations, and gas-oil separation plants positioned over 6% of the world's oil reserves.

This is but the tip of the iceberg for the accomplishments of Bulldog Battery. Together, they have performed heroics day-in and day-out, providing a secure and stable region for the Iraqi people to live and work in.

Fox Battery, under the solid leadership of Major Jefri Jones and First Sergeant Brad Aune, were directly responsible for the training, equipping, and mentorship of a full-up Iraqi Army Battalion (~975 soldiers). Upon arrival in theater, this Iraqi Army (IA) Battalion was at base-line, individual soldier proficiency. Over the course of 8 arduous months, the talented soldiers of Fox Battery transformed these soldiers into a well trained, capable and lethal battalion. Additionally, they established a full-scale Military Transition Team (MiTT) which trained and mentored the battalion staff officers and non-commissioned officers to

effectively and professionally command and control their forces while geographically dispersed over a large region of Iraq. The Battery had many accomplishments throughout their deployment, as represented in the following bullets:

- Conducted two deliberate relief-in-place (RIP) operations and assisted in the transfer of authority between the 116th Brigade Combat Team and the 1st Brigade, 101st Air Assault Division.

• Conducted a battery-sized ground tactical convoy covering 1200 kilometers of hostile territory.

- Participated in 1,180 combat missions and over 375 Iraqi Army training missions throughout north-central Iraq.

• Secured over 28.4 tons of unexploded Iraqi ordinance and prevented its use by enemy fighters.

- Provided stability, support, and security for the January, 2005 national elections and again in October, 2005 for the Constitutional Referendum election.

• Conducted extensive combat missions including cordon and searches, route security, counter-IED patrols, tactical surveillance, quick-reaction force operations and convoy escort missions.

The men of Fox Battery have responded to every mission with enthusiasm, professional competence and tactical adeptness rarely seen in the U.S. Army. They have established quite a legacy within the 1-148 Field Artillery and the 116th Brigade Combat Team.

Echo Battery, 101st Field Artillery (Target Acquisition),

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TF 3-116th Armor

The way home

by Lt. Col. Dan McCabe, TF3-116 Armor Commander

The path has been long and winding, seemingly endless at times, but way home is near now. We can sense it in the air almost. Men smothered in heat and exhaustion just a couple of short months ago are now moving with a spring in their step and smiles are on the faces of all. Home at last. Just the sound of those words brings memories to mind of family and a life far removed; memories that have been long suppressed, but which now comes flooding over us like a huge tide of emotions and that won't be denied. Home at last.

At this point, as good as any along the way, we can look back at where we've been. We can point with pride to the hot Texas day when we came off the aircraft at Fort Bliss and wondered at the events we'd be seeing over the next year and a half; boldly stepping into the watershed event of our lives. We didn't know what we'd find or what future really would hold, as we sat and talked about what it would be like over "there" in the desert. The one thing we did do was to try and excel at what was put before us by the trainers, we hit it like a sprinter trying to set a new worlds record and never looked back. Never mind the fact that it was really a race of hurdles – which sometimes seemed to move from time to time. We saw everything and

overcame all to finish that race.

Time ran away then. The Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Fort Polk, the Chicken Coops, home on leave and the time in Kuwait seemed to move like a time warp and the hours in the day were never enough to get ready for the tasks at hand. The move north into Iraq seemed like a surreal journey; night and day blended together in a blur, as the strange looking country we had entered, seemingly dangerous and exotic and fascinating, fell behind us as our wheels rolled on north, north to Kirkuk.

Ah Kirkuk; a home away from home. Strange place was Kirkuk Province. As we looked around during the whirlwind of the relief in place and moving to the transfer of authority, it seemed the opposite of everything we'd ever known; from the smells in the air, the sounds of gunfire at night, the strange dress and language of the people, to the bizarre food and chi – all different



Lt. Col. McCabe

and strange and foreign. It seems weird to think of all of these differences and then at the same time find the universal truths that confirmed our common humanity with these people of Iraq; the love of the children, the laughter at a small joke, the intense belief in God, the pain and suffering seen on the faces of far too many people. And we saw the darker truths; the deception and greed, the hate and loathing, the fear and cowardice and the

indifference to the changes that were happening before their eyes. These too are things we saw and wished we hadn't had to.

We've accomplished a lot here as we look back. The scores of battalion and hundreds of company operations, combined with the thousands of patrols (nearing three thousand at the last count) were all completed with professionalism and with a sense of pride in a job well done. Huge caches found, HVT's captured,

IED's discovered, fair elections held were all a part of the collective success we had here. We had blue times too – the loss of Warren, Ogburn and Hamilton, the wounding and departure of too many to count, the missed birthdays and

a n n i -
versaries,
t h e
f a m i l i e s
broken by
divorce are
a part of
t h e
j o u r n e y .

The bag-
gage of
War we
will carry
with us all,
s o m e
much more
t h a n
others, for
a long time
to come.

So we
come to
the end –
t h e

journey is almost complete. The impatience to finish is with us now; to hurry it up to be done. We will be through soon enough. For my part I want to thank you all, and your families and your employers for the faithful service you've shown in this foreign land. You have rendered a sacrifice for your friends, those to your left and right, and for your country that few in your generation have answered. You should be very proud of what you have done and for the sacrifices you have made on their behalf. It has been an honor to serve with you and to share what will undoubtedly be one of the most pivotal times in your lives. For better or worse, you will measure the years of your lives against what you did before and after this time. The friendships you have made here will follow you, and maybe haunt you, for as long as you live and they will be bonds that will transcend time and place.

The way home is just ahead, it awaits you once again with its loving, healing places. When you get there, I wish for you all a long and happy and peaceful life, for each of you, and I hope that someday, when everything is all said and done, and the race is finally run, to meet you along the way and see you all again at Fiddler's green.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plan, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

TF 3-116th Armor

Not quite there yet

by *Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Joe Brooks, TF 3-116 Armor*

In some respects it has been a long tour of duty, but on the other hand, time has gone by rapidly. I am proud of the job our soldiers have done here. Some will say we should have done more, and probably all of us wish we could have done more. No matter how each individual feels, our soldiers have done an honorable job. They have helped the Iraqi people in their struggle to

The longest mile...

Continued from page 19

under the command of CPT John P. Berner and ISG John Danahey, have excelled across all facets of target acquisition (acquiring the enemy's indirect fire systems). The solid team of E/101 FA professionals logged some stunning statistics throughout their deployment to north-central Iraq, as evidenced below:

- The Battery maintained an unprecedented 93% operational readiness rate throughout the heat, cold, dust and rain, providing 6,874 hours of continuous force protection from their technically complex firefinder radar systems.

- The firefinder radars acquired over 5,000 targets, with over 210 confirmed mortar and rocket acquisitions. Counterfire missions were executed on 21 separate targets.

- The Battery provided force protection for over 3000 square kilometers of ground.

On September 2nd, the 1-148 Field Artillery hosted its

have a freedom that they could only dream about a short time ago. It isn't here yet, but the seeds have been planted. Equally important is that you have helped keep the fight off of American soil, thus protecting our families back home.

It is now time for us to go home and pass the job on to the next guy. I know I am ready, and I can smell the barn. The problem with

first combat Dining In here at our FOB near Kirkuk. Over 250 Redlegs (Field Artillerymen), distinguished guests, and members of the battalion were present to witness the infamous grog bowl ceremony and partake in a light-hearted evening of fun. Honoring us that evening was Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) John Worster, Brigade Chaplain who spoke about his life and the importance his childhood had on his ultimate decision to join the Army and make the contributions he has. Brigadier General Alan Gayhart, Commander of the 116th Brigade Combat Team, Command Sergeant Major Leroy Lewis, Brigade CSM, Colonel Eugene Dever, Commander, 42nd Division Artillery, CSM Dennis Flynn, DIVARTY CSM, and Major General (Iraqi Army) Anwer, Commander of the 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade headquartered near Kirkuk, joined us for that historic evening. Twenty-five soldiers from the 1-148 FA were inducted into the Honorable Order of



CSM Brooks

that is that it can make time drag if you spend time thinking about it. You also run the risk of not staying focused on the job at hand.

Saint Barbara, a Field Artillery tradition. The highlight of the evening was an incredible 35 minute video, set to background music, prepared by Corporal Dominic and Sergeant Lentz which captured the images of the 1-148 Field Artillery since we mobilized and deployed to the Iraqi Theater of Operation. The video was absolutely outstanding!

I mentioned earlier that freedom is not free. On January 3rd, Sergeant First Class Tyson Bergesen and Private First Class Ty Nelson were wounded as a result of a rocket attack on their forward operating base. On January 27, during combat operations near Ad Dululyah, Iraq, two exceptional Bulldog soldiers, Specialist Joseph Akre and Specialist Aric Poulson, sustained wounds from a rocket propelled grenade while on a mounted patrol. Staff Sergeant Jarod Behee, attached to Task Force 1-103 and conducting operations near Bayji, was wounded by an enemy sniper on May 25th while on patrol. On June 30,

This is one of the things that make this phase of the tour the most dangerous. There is still the same enemy out there as he was when we first got here, so let's not make his job any easier by not staying on top of our game. We are not home until we are home. You all know what needs to be done and what is expected of you to do the job, but it is only human to anticipate what will come

Corporal Miguel Dominic received a concussion from an IED strike while conducting a convoy near Tuz, Iraq. On July 16, the 1-148 FA was dealt a devastating blow when we lost Sergeant First Class Ronald Wood of Bulldog Battery to an Improvised Explosive Strike which targeted his patrol. Wounded in the attack were Sergeant Chris Olsen and Specialist Eric Lund. On October 5th, Specialist Mathew Gunn, Specialist Andrew Freilich, Specialist Tanner Norton, and Sergeant Timothy McFall were wounded when an IED struck their vehicle during a combat patrol. Please keep these brave young men and their families in your prayers.

Thus far in the deployment, seven soldiers have been awarded purple hearts, three awarded Combat Medic Badges, twenty-four Combat Action Badges, 77 Army Commendation Medals (ARCOMs), and numerous Army Achievement Medals. The Scorpion Battalion has now reenlisted over 125 soldiers who col-

in a month or so. Don't get caught in the trap of day dreaming at the wrong time.

We will see this election through, we will go home and then it will be time to relax, and rejoice with our loved ones. Everyone here should go home with their heads high knowing they have done the best they can do. Good luck to all of you. SINE MORA

lectively will receive reenlistment bonuses well in excess of one million dollars. These soldiers exemplify the superb 'can do' attitude of the Scorpion Battalion.

As we roll through the final month of our deployment, I want to convey to you the sincere appreciation I have for the tremendous job these incredible soldiers have done. Most have been away from their family, home and work for nearly 17 months. The burdens of this deployment have been shared by soldiers, families and communities alike. For many of us here, in the years ahead, we will look back upon this time and remember the positive events that have shaped this deployment. We will recall how millions of Iraqis stood in line to vote in their first free election. We will remember the positive impact we made on the lives of the citizens, security forces, and the civic leaders we have come to know so well. Thanks for your continued support!

Whenever, Wherever!

TF 3-116th Armor

In Memoriam

Pvt. 1st Class Donnie S. Hamilton II

A Memorial for Pvt. 1st Class Donnie S. Hamilton II was held at the Forward Operating Base Warrior Gym on September 28, 2005. Pvt. 1st Class Hamilton was lost to the Brigade on September 19, while home on R&R leave.

The Service was presided over by Chaplain Hines, of TF 3-116 Armor. Special Guests of Honor, were MG Taluto, 42d Infantry Division commander, Brig. Gen. Genereux, ADCM of the 42d ID, Brig. Gen. Gayhart, 116 BCT commander, 42d ID Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Fearnside,

116BCT Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Lewis, the Commanders and Sergeant Majors of each battalion within the 116 BCT, and Kirkuk Regional Air Base dignitaries, such as Air Force Col. Mason, Sr. Master Sgt. Lorenz, and 42d ID Chaplain, Col. Robinson.

The song 'God Bless Texas' was played by special request as Pvt. 1st Class Hamilton's favorite song. The invocation was delivered by Chaplain



Pvt. 1st Class Donnie S. Hamilton II

Hines, followed by remarks by Staff Sgt. Bloker. The commander spoke of Pvt. 1st Class Hamilton's love for and knowledge of, the great state of Texas. Then the Eulogy was delivered by 1st Sgt. Bales, after which, a period of meditation was observed and the Benediction were delivered by Chaplain Hines.

The last roll call was performed by 1st Sgt. Bales and a silent tribute was given before Taps was played by the bugler and the 21-gun salute volleys were fired by the honor detail.

The Guests of Honor came forward at this point, paying tribute to a fine Soldier lost. Several Commanders placed coins on the platform where Pvt. 1st Class Hamilton's boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags were displayed. Soldiers of TF3-116Armor and 116BCT Soldiers took their turns saluting their fallen comrade.

Pvt. 1st Class Hamilton was born November 17, 1969 in Munich, Germany. He was raised in Mineral Wells,

Texas, which he claimed as home. He enlisted with the Texas National Guard in April, 1993.

He trained in Germany in 1996 and again later in 2001, volunteering for deployment with Operation Joint Forge to Bosnia in 2000. He also served on several Homeland Security deployments, including the Dallas Airport, 2001-2002,

Fort Hood in 2002, and the Umatilla Army Depot with Operation Noble Eagle from 2002-2003.

He transferred to the Oregon National Guard in 2004, then on June 28, 2004 he deployed to Texas with TF 3-116 Armor for

Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He served in the Army National Guard for 12 years.

He leaves behind his son, Donnie Hamilton III, his mother and father, and his grandmother and grandfather.

Pvt. 1st Class Hamilton's awards include the Army Commendation Medal (2d Award) Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with M device, 2d Award) the Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, Commander of the 42d ID, places a commander's coin on the memorial display of Pvt. 1st Class Donnie S. Hamilton, a farewell to a great Soldier.



Spec. Tommy Fisher of B Co., TF 3-116, a comrade of Pvt. 1st Class Donnie S. Hamilton, overcome with emotion after paying his respects and saying farewell to his friend.



The platform display of Pvt. 1st Class Hamilton's boots, helmet, weapon, dog tags, photo and coins. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT Public Affairs NCO)

E Troop (163rd Cavalry), TF 2-116th Armor

In Memoriam Sgt. Travis M. Arndt

A Memorial for Sgt. Travis M. Arndt, was held at the Forward Operating Base Warrior Gym on September 29, 2005. Sgt. Arndt was lost to the Brigade on September 21, while engaged by enemy forces.

The Service was presided over by (1st Lt.) Chaplain Ross, of TF 2-116 Armor. Special Guests of Honor, were MG Taluto, 42d Infantry Division commander, Brig. Gen. Genereux, , Brig. Gen. Gayhart, 116 BCT commander, 42d ID Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Fearnside, 116 BCT Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Lewis, the Commanders and Sergeant Majors of each battalion within the 116 BCT, and Kirkuk Regional Air Base dignitaries, such as Air Force Col. Mason, Sr. Master Sgt. Lorenz, and 42d ID Chaplain, Col. Robinson.

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Ross, followed by remarks the reading of scripture by 1st Lt. Lamach. The Battalion commander spoke of Sgt. Arndt's dedication to duty

and loyalty to the Armed Forces of the United States. The Company commander, Capt. Boardman, spoke about Sgt. Arndt in glowing terms, after which, a period of meditation was observed and the Benediction were delivered by Chaplain Ross.

The last roll call was performed by 1st Sgt. Shepard and a silent tribute was given while Taps was played by the 42d ID Band bugler and the 21-gun salute volleys were fired by the honor detail, of E Troop, 163rd Cavalry.

The Guests of Honor then came forward to pay their respects to an exemplary Soldier lost in combat. Several commanders placed coins on the platform where Sgt. Arndt's boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags were displayed. Soldiers of E troop, 163 Cavalry and TF 2-116 Armor Soldiers, took their turns saluting their fallen comrade.



Sgt. Travis M. Arndt

Sgt. Arndt was born May 22, 1982 in Tacoma, Washington, where he lived with his mother, Michelle M. Child, until 1995. He moved to Great Falls, Montana to live with his father Mark, later that year. Prior to deployment, he attended Montana State University.

He graduated from Great Falls High School in 2001. He also played football at Jamestown College in North Dakota but returned to Montana after a semester. Prior to his deployment, he attended Montana State University.

He joined the Montana National Guard on January 8, 2004, to help pay for his university education. Upon graduation, he planned to become a teacher/football coach, or a policeman.

He went through Basic training and Advanced Individual training as a Pvt. 1st Class, at the U.S. Army Infantry School located at Ft. Benning, Georgia. After graduation, he was deployed in support of

Operation Iraqi Freedom III and assigned as a Rifleman to E Troop, 163rd Cavalry, TF 2-116 Armor.

He was promoted to the rank of Specialist prior to arriving in Kirkuk, Iraq.

As a member of 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, he along with his unit, conducted numerous combat operations including mounted and dismounted combat patrols, raids, cordon and searches, knock and greets, as well as several other missions aiding the Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army and the citizens within the city of Kirkuk.

In addition to his father, Mark E. Arndt of Sun Prairie, Montana, Sergeant

Arndt is survived by his mother, Michelle M. Child of Vancouver, Washington, and a sister in Missoula, Montana. He was also close to his stepmother, Rita M. Salazar.

Sgt. Arndt received a posthumous promotion to E5 and has been for the award of the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.



The platform display of Pvt. 1st Class Hamilton's boots, helmet, weapon, dog tags, photo and coins. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT Public Affairs NCO)



The 21 Gun Salute was performed by Soldiers of E Troop, 163 Cavalry, outside Warrior Gym, FOB Warrior, Iraq on September 29, 2005. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT PAO)



Soldiers of E Troop, 163 Cavalry and TF 3-116, as well as Guests of Honor, rise to pay tribute to Sgt. Travis A. Arndt during his Memorial, September 29, 2005.



Sgt. 1st Class Mark C. Warren

May 17, 1960 - January 31, 2005
B Co, TF 3-116 Armor



Sgt. 1st Class Robbie D. McNary

January 17, 1960 - March 31, 2005
C Co, TF 1-163 Infantry



Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Davis

March 12, 1963 - April 8, 2005
G Troop, 82d Cavalry



Sgt. Travis M. Arndt

May 22, 1980 - September 21, 2005
E Troop, 163d Cavalry



Pvt. 1st Class Donnie S. Hamilton II

November 17, 1969 - September 9, 2005
HHC, TF 3-116 Armor

**In Remembrance
of the Fallen
Warriors of the
116th
Brigade Combat
Team
*We Will Never Forget***



Spc. Timothy C. Kiser

February 5, 1968 - April 28, 2005
C Co, 116 Engineer Battalion



Sgt. John Ogburn III

July 19, 1959 - May 22, 2005
A Co, TF 3-116 Armor



Sgt. Travis R. Neil

August 6, 1976 - September 9, 2005
HHC, 116 Brigade Combat Team



Sgt. 1st Class Ronald T. Wood

February 17, 1977 - July 16, 2005
B Battery, TF 1-148 Field Artillery







Spc. Carrie L. French

February 28, 1986 - June 5, 2005
A Co, 145th Support Battalion



Staff Sgt. Virgil R. Case

October 18, 1967 - June 1, 2005
B Co, 145th Support Battalion

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>30 Movie Premier <i>Sahara</i> Foosball 1900 Texas Hold'em 2000 Madden 2030 <i>Haunted House</i> 2030-2230</p>	<p>31 Halloween Extravaganza 2000-2200</p>	 <p>4 Euchre 2000 2015 2030 9-Ball UNO 2030</p>	 <p>5 Darts 1900 Spades 2000</p>	 <p>6 Movie Premier <i>Hitchhikers</i> Guide to Galaxy Blackjack 2000 Ping-Pong 2030 Checkers 1930</p>	 <p>7 Swing Bingo 1500 Latin Night 2000</p>	<p>1 Progressive Bingo 2000 Karaoke 2130</p>
<p>2 Movie Premier <i>Unleashed</i> Foosball 1900 Texas Hold'em 2000 Madden 2030</p>	<p>3 Dominos 2000 TEKKEN 2015 HEARTS 2030</p>	<p>11 Bunko 2000 2015 2030 8-Ball UNO 2030</p>	<p>12 Darts 1900 Spades 2000 Columbus Day <i>Scavenger</i> Car Hunt</p>	<p>13 Movie Premier <i>Madagascar</i> Casino Night 2000</p>	<p>14 Swing Bingo 1500 Country Night 2000</p>	<p>15 Progressive Bingo 2000 Karaoke 2130</p>
<p>9 Movie Premier <i>Mr & Mrs Smith</i> Foosball 1900 Texas Hold'em 2000 Madden 2030</p>	<p>10 Dominos 2000 TEKKEN 2015 HEARTS 2030</p>	<p>18 Euchre 2000 2015 2030 9-Ball UNO 2030</p>	<p>19 Darts 1900 Spades 2000</p>	<p>20 Movie Premier <i>Bewitched</i> Blackjack 2000 Ping-Pong 2030 Chess 1930</p>	<p>21 Bazaar 1300-2100 ClamTina will be closed from 0700 till tomorrow (9/00)</p>	<p>22 Bazaar 0900-1700 ClamTina will be closed until 2000 Progressive Bingo 2030</p>
<p>16 Movie Premier <i>Rebound</i> Foosball 1900 Texas Hold'em 2000 Madden 2030 Krab-Team Challenge 1400</p>	<p>17 Dominos 2000 TEKKEN 2015 HEARTS 2030</p>	<p>25 Texas Hold'em 2000 8-Ball UNO 2030</p>	<p>26 Darts 1900 Spades 2000</p>	<p>27 Movie Premier <i>Monster In-Law</i> Blackjack 2000 Ping-Pong 2030 Checkers 1930</p>	<p>28 Swing Bingo 1500 Hip-Hop Night</p>	<p>29 Progressive Bingo 2000 Karaoke 2130 <i>Haunted House</i> 2030-2230</p>

Rec Schedule October 2005

Volunteers Needed:

- Blackjack Night
- Casino Night
- SVS Bazaar
- Call ClamTina @ 2474/75
- For details...

Come and Join our

- Weekly Football Frenzy
- Select the most winning teams and win \$\$\$!!!

*****Cards for Dummies*****

Want to learn how to play card games???

- ClamTina staff will give you lessons...
- Euchre for Dummies 04 Oct @ 1100
- Hearts for Dummies 11 Oct @ 1100
- Spades for Dummies 18 Oct @ 1100
- Texas Hold'em for Dummies 25 Oct @ 1100

Check ESVS website on the intranet for more information on what's happening @ the KRAB

