



# FIRST SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE NEWS

Volume I, Issue 6, May 2007

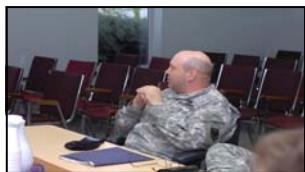


COL O'Connell gives out a number of awards at a recent Volunteers Recognition Ceremony. Pg. 6

Transportation Unit moves out. Pg 2

Soldier on the Street asks "What was your favorite part of the FTX?"

Pg 8



LTC Brem meets with Missouri Mayors. Pg 2

Warrior's Edge; a message from LG Odierno. Pg 2



Making sure the uniform fits is an important part of pre-deployment operations. Pg 7



# BATTALION FTX

2LT S. looks on as PVT B. gets his target.

Photo by Pfc. M.

## Commanders Corner



SFC B. receives a plaque for her volunteer work. COL O'Connell gave away a number of plaques, coins and certificates to a number of great volunteers with the Sustainment Brigade family at the Kapaun Chapel. Everyone had a good time. More photos on pg. 6



COL O'Connell gives an interview during the MRX at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

## FTX gets Soldiers prepped for deployment..



SPC C. unpacks her belongings upon arriving at Gunnery North for the Battalion FTX.

*By Pfc. M. \_\_\_\_\_*

*1st Sust. Bde. PAO*

Since the news came in November 2006 that the 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade had come down on deployment orders, the unit has been working non-stop to prepare for its rotation to Iraq, which is scheduled for this summer.

Recently, the HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Company and Special Troops Battalion, conducted a battalion field training exercise to help them prepare for their upcoming deployment. "We're a new unit and we're preparing to deploy," said Lt. Col. Robert Brem, commander of the Special Troops Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade.

"And unlike most units  
*See FTX, Page 12*

Greetings to the First Sustainment Brigade Family,

The weeks are flying by and we find ourselves already in the springtime, gearing up for deployment sometime this summer. I trust you and your family are preparing yourselves for the upcoming deployment as much as possible. Once we have a definite date for departure we will get that to you. We will keep no secrets in that regard.

The brigade staff recently returned from Fort Bragg, North Carolina where we learned a lot during the XVIII Airborne Corps Mission Rehearsal Exercise. Long days were the routine but some vital lessons were learned and the staff began the process of working together. As soon as we got back there was the Digital Staff Integr-  
*See Comments Page 12*



CSM Cardoza, chats up some retired SGM's at a recent AUSA visit.

Transportation units ready to roll

*Story by Pfc. M.*

Three more units bid farewell to family, friends and Fort Riley during a deployment ceremony held April 16 at King Field House and April 17 at Cavalry Parade Field.

The 266<sup>th</sup> Movement Control Team recently received deployment orders so they were unable to hold their deployment ceremony along with the 24<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company, Heavy Equipment Transporter, April 17 as originally planned. Instead, they held their ceremony April 16 at King Field House and deployed to Iraq the next day. "Him leaving so soon, it's hard," said Ann P. of her husband, Sgt. P., a transportation management coordinator with the 266<sup>th</sup> MCT. She is eight months pregnant with their child. "It's just hard, period, but it's mainly because the baby's so close to being born," Mrs. P. said as she rested her

hand and on top of her belly. During the ceremonies, Lt. Col. Robert D. Brem, commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade, Special Troops Battalion, gave a speech and offered his thanks and encouragement to the troops. "I wish you the best of luck. Do your duty, accomplish the mission and come home safe," said Brem.

The units cased their guidons, which will be uncased in another ceremony once they reach their destinations in family members, attending the ceremony and preparing for their loved one to deploy was déjà vu. Iraq.

*See Farewell on Pg. 9*

## A group of city Mayors want to support you!

LTC Brem, along with the rear detachment leadership, and a few members of the Special Troops Battalion Family Readiness Group met with a group of City Mayors located north of Kansas City in Platt County. Kathy Dusenbery from the city of Parkville had a desire to support a group of Soldiers, but had no idea who to ask. She decided to reach out to one of her neighboring Mayors, Tom Rezentos. "I knew that Tom worked as a civilian con-



tractor at Ft. Leavenworth, and that

he would have an idea how to go about it. Tom called April Blackmon, at the 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, who in turn reached out to LTC Brem, commander of the Special Troops Battalion. "They were looking to help Soldiers and we thought why not ours" said LTC Brem. They decided to set up a few face-to-face meetings to determine if the two groups would be a good match. The meeting went so well that the Mayors scheduled a visit to Ft. Riley in mid May.

## WARRIOR'S EDGE

I am extremely proud and honored to command the finest Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in the world as we assist the Government of Iraq secure peace, stability, and freedom from terrorist oppression for the people of Iraq. Without any doubt, the barbarism we witness gripping this nation confirms that we are on the front of the fight against terrorism. By standing with the Iraqi people to bravely fight for liberty, prosperity, and justice under the Rule of Law, we deny terrorists a haven from which to advance their ideology of hate, vio-

lence and chaos. Our cause is just and right.

As we advance our noble task, I demand that each of you maintain the MNC-I Warrior's Edge. Our advantage over the enemy consists of a moral, physical, emotional, and military superiority. Our edge is based upon always doing right, maintaining the legal and ethical high ground while taking full advantage of our dominant strength in personnel, equipment, training, and doctrine.

*See Warriors Edge continued on Pg. 10*



1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade  
Signal Company Newsletter  
Strength and Honor!

CPT N.

This month has been an extremely busy month; the busiest so far for the Signal Company. We have finally taken our equipment to the field and provided our Signaleers' the opportunity to challenge themselves and their knowledge on their new equipment. We have learned more during this experience than any classroom could ever provide. Great job WAR-BIRDS!



The Company wants to thank the WARBIRD FRG for their hard work and efforts. They designed and printed over 80 shirts for our unit and they look OUTSTANDING! We will wear them with pride. We have begun to prepare our equipment for deployment. Our Signaleers and honorable Signaleers' have done an extremely outstanding job during this high OP-TEMPO environment. Thanks for a job very well done.

We have had a busy month. Our first fundraiser was very successful! Thanks to everyone who bought a hat or shirt. Our first FRG meeting was also successful. We had a wonderful turnout! We had a potluck at the Battalion Headquarters. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet the people in our company. Our next meeting is on the 17th of May and we will be having a BBQ at Wyman Park. We will also be having a pie in the face and an old fashioned game of Tug of War! We are so excited about the our upcoming events with both our company and the Brigade.

While our Soldiers were hard at work loading their equipment on Saturday, some of the spouses from our FRG helped and got to enjoy a quick lunch that was provided by the company. We had fun spending time with the Soldiers! We are currently working on planning future FRG events!

FRG Leader

*See Signal continued Pg. 13*

Chaplains  
Corner



From 4-5 May, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade hosted a marriage retreat at the Rock Springs 4H Camp just south of Junction City. Far enough but not too far from the Fort Riley area, Rock Springs helped to create a memorable experience, free from distractions. Six couples participated, not including Chaplain H. and his wife.

The accommodations were excellent. Each couple had a suite in the Leadership Lodge, which was a short walk from the dining hall and classroom. All linens were provided. An ideal location for this and similar events, each suite promoted interaction, while providing participants with personal space. The lodge's Great Room featured a large fireplace, hearth space, sitting area and baby grand piano.

The class, called "Understanding the Love of Your Life," was taught by Chaplain H. and his wife in an activity room of the camp's auditorium, Heritage Hall. Amongst other things the material showed participants how to adapt personal styles to better meet

*See Outing on Pg. 11*



Marriage retreat attendees enjoying the great outdoors.

## *From the HHC Commander*

We are so glad that Top S. is back from convalescent leave and that all is well. Knight 7 was truly missed.

A number of us have just made our way back from a very successful FTX where we had the opportunity to practice our skills in a field environment. This was a good time to measure the effectiveness training we have received over the past few months. My thanks goes out to all those Soldiers, NCOs and officers who made all this possible.

HHC has been packing, loading containers and conducting multiple missions simultaneously. Soldiers you have done an outstanding job. Families thank you for your support. We have a lot of new Soldiers and Families that have arrived recently. I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you better, welcome!

Please continue to enjoy the warmer weather, all of the activities and programs the area has to offer and be safe. Although we are all busy with multiple tasks remember to take it easy and find the right balance.

**CPT W.**

***Knight 6, Cell: 785-317-7302***

## *“On Blast”*

Congratulations to SPC B. who recently reenlisted.

Congratulations to both the E. and B. family for their newest edition to the HHC 1SB.



Welcome back 1SG S.; Fired up!

“The warm weather has finally arrived however I ask that you remain safe, stay vigilant and keep your wingman in your sight. Ensure that you are cautious in your every thought and remember to stay hydrated! “

CPT W.

## *Upcoming Events:*

25-28 May Training Holiday

3 June

7 June Pre-deployment Briefing

13 June Pre-deployment Ceremony & Organizational Day

## *HHC Family Readiness Group Corner*

Hi families! I hope you all are doing well. I know time is going by so fast, and this past few months have been an emotional rollercoaster, so don't feel bad you are not the only one, come join the group; the good thing is that we are here for you and that we know exactly how you feel and our purpose is to make things more bearable for all of us. Let's think some happy thoughts, summer is around the corner, which to be honest with

all of you and don't know if it's a good thing or not, but any way let's hope for beautiful days and lots of things to do. For those of you with kids get ready, get set, and go! Thinking of what to do with them during the summer, don't think, and search. Operation Purple Camps offer a free week of summer fun for military kids with parents who have been, are currently or will be deployed. Campers from all service branches will gather together to experience a memorable week of fun and adventure with a fo-

cus on learning coping skills to better deal with a parent's deployment. For more information on Operation Purple camps or to download an application packet, visit the National Military Family Association web site at [www.mmfa.org](http://www.mmfa.org). There are tons of activities for the Families, and you can find out by reading the Fort Riley Post newspaper, if you don't live on post don't worry, you can find the Fort Riley Post online at [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil).



*"Volunteers are invaluable to performing our mission and taking care of Soldiers and their Families. We couldn't do this without them. Thank you for all you do!"*

*COL Kevin O'Connell*



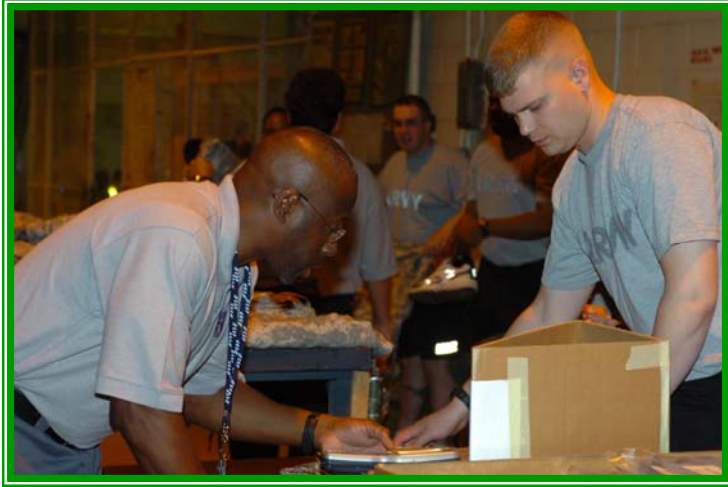
## *Neighborhood Nights*

Family Fun Nights May 18, 8-10pm at Long Pool on Normandy Drive, bring the entire Family for a splashing good time, with fun music and yummy treats. Entries are only \$5 per Family, and bring a guest for only \$1. Mommy and Me time, May 19, a playgroup for mommies and daddies with children ages 6 months up to 5 yrs. They provide fun "floaties" to play on, beach balls and fun noodles, but children may take their own water toy. \$2 per Family, at Long pool on Normandy drive. The Library on Post, located at Bldg. 5306 Hood Dr, Custer Hill (behind Armed Forces Bank) offers Story times, every Saturday at 1:30p.m., take your children for an afternoon of good entertainment. Also for those of you that like to relax by doing arts and crafts, the ARTS and CRAFTS Center is located on Bldg. 6918 on Trooper Drive (located across from the PX and next to Burger King) offers plenty of different activities to do. They have a woodshop, ceramic studio, matting and framing studio, computer lab; and they offer classes for you to take including stained glass, sewing, quilting, basket weaving and scrap booking. For more information contact their staff at 785-239-9205.

A quick reminder for those of you new to Fort Riley, you need to register your children with CYS in order for them to be able to participate in summer camps, sports, child care and youth services. For more information call 785-239-9173.

I hope all this information is beneficial for you and your Family. Take care, stay in touch with the weather channel and for any additional information or any question that comes to mind, please don't hesitate and contact me at 787-667-0910 or by email.

HHC FRG Leader

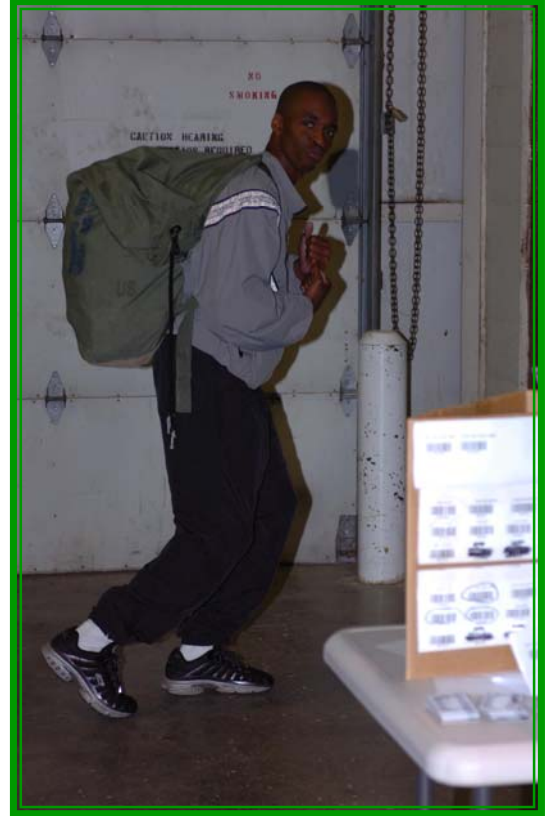


SGT H. looks out to insure his order is correct.

# ACU's anyone?



I didn't do it!



SFC M. is in and out quick..

Are we there yet?



## “Soldier on the Street”

During the recent FTX at Gunnery North, we asked a group of Soldiers the question “What was your favorite part of the FTX?” The following are the responses we received.



Spc. S., Ammunition Specialist

HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade

“My favorite part of the FTX was the medical training, it was interesting and helpful.”



Pfc. O., All-wheel mechanic

HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade

“My favorite part was the excellent training and the convoy live fire because it was definitely fired up.”



Sgt. W., Squad leader for the Personal Security Detail Team HHC

1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade

“My favorite part was when I became convoy commander and I had to lead my team through the convoy and we came out a hundred over a hundred.”



Pfc. D., Human Resources/ Finance

HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade

“My favorite part of the FTX was filling out status reports and watching people come in and out.”





# 24 TRANS / 2-2 HET NEWS



*Farewell* continued from Pg. 3

This will be the third and fourth deployment for many Soldiers in the units.

“This will be her third deployment,” said D., a training technician for the Reserve Component Support



Division on Fort Riley, about Sgt. T., her identical twin sister. “It makes me more nervous, the thought of her being over there because the longer she’s there, there’s more of a chance of something happening to her,” said D.

D. cares for her sister’s two young daughters while she is deployed. “The children have their readjustment phase, but I think it makes it easier

that we’re identical twins. The kids get to see a familiar face,” D. said. Although some family members worry about their Soldiers safety, they have faith everything will be alright.

Marvene D. drove five hours from Fair Grove, Missouri, to

*“I think it makes it easier that we’re identical twins. The kids get to see a familiar face.”*

attend the deployment ceremony April 17 in support of her daughter-in-law. “I’m very much nervous, but she will be okay. God will take care of her,” D. said.

Once the ceremonies concluded, the Soldiers were released to spend time with their loved ones and say good-bye before their deployment to Iraq.

## 266th Movement Control Team moves out!



## **A message from the Rear Detachment Commander**



CPT H. listens to ideas at a recent meeting with the Platt County Mayors Council.

### **Soldiers and Families,**

We are happy to inform you that the meeting with the Platte County Mayors was successful and we were able to outline specific areas of emphasis for our new sponsors. Each company was assigned a city and the citizens are most anxious to begin developing what has the potential to be a long lasting relationship with the Brigade.

On another note I want to encourage Families to attend the pre-deployment brief and remember to bring shot records for your children. I can only hope that most of you have made contact with the FRG and are aware of the activities and events scheduled for your company.

The Rear Detachment staff is hard at work for the Families of the Soldiers already deployed from the Brigade and looking forward to serving the remaining Families prior to and after the upcoming deployment.

**Sustain to Victory!**

CPT H., Bde. Rear Detachment Commander

## **Warriors Edge, continued**

The most vital component of our Warrior's Edge is individual discipline, initiative, and fighting spirit.

In that light, I charge you to maintain an offensive mindset to drive our enemies to defeat. From every private to every general, I challenge you to be an expert in your field, to study your opponent with intensity and to capitalize on your problem-solving skills, preparation, and professionalism. Without tiring, increase the pressure on him at every turn. The Warrior's offensive spirit enables us to focus the full power of the Corps relentlessly against the enemy while protecting Iraqi civilians from unnecessary harm.

MNC-I Warriors know that the undisciplined use of force reduces our effectiveness and greatly undercuts the justness of our cause. Our respect for non-combatants is not incompatible with the offensive mindset. In fact, an offensive mindset requires you to always be mentally alert to identify hostile acts and hostile intent and be ready without hesitation to defend yourself and others with necessary force.

To that end, trust your training, battle drills, other operational procedures, and judgment. Our rules of engagement (ROE) and Escalation of Force (EOF) practices and fundamentally sound. They protect our forces and help to accomplish the mission with honor and precision by dramatically reducing needless civilian casualties. Continue to follow those standards and proven techniques with confidence. Do not be reluctant to route out the enemy and engage him IAW and ROE whenever and wherever found.

Keep in mind however, that EOF practices DO NOT replace the exercise of reasonable discretion and judgment. Under ROE and EOF practices, persons committing hostile acts or exhibiting hostile intent may be engaged with necessary forces to eliminate the threat without progress through EOF measures. The split-second decision on when and how to eliminate a threat is a matter of sound judgment left to individual troopers, leaders, and commanders.

You often make these decisions in just a few seconds under arduous and tense circumstances. I, along with my subordinate commanders, proudly stand by your performance record in those trying situations. Understand that the various forms of information gathering through SIGACTS, AARs, Inquiries, and Investigations are tools for your leaders to assess the effectiveness of ROE and EOF practices, to capture TTP lessons learned, and to preserve evidence of Law of Armed Conflict and ROE compliance in case of later inquiry. You have nothing to fear from these necessary information gathering tools. They assist us to maintain the Warrior's Edge and improve our fighting efficiency.

In conclusion, Iraq is a complex battlefield where we are engaged in counter insurgency operations against a devious and despicable enemy. To win we must take full advantage of our Warrior's Edge, seize and maintain the offensive, and remain vigilant, honorable, and professional in every action.

May God bless each and every one of you and thanks for all you do every day.

Raymond T. Odierno

Lieutenant General, USA

Commanding

In addition to the classes, the participants were given the opportunity to ride horses, practice archery, and undergo the camp's Leadership Adventure Course (LAC). The LAC is a "low-ropes course" designed to improve group dynamics through a non-competitive program. The course helped develop trust amongst each participant and couple, while increasing mutual support within the team.

Meals were provided at the Williams Dining Hall, which serves as the camp's main dining room accommodating 500. The dining hall offered a piano and sound system in the main dining room. The lobby area featured lounge furniture and a fireplace. The evening meal on Friday consisted of chicken fajitas complete with chips and guacamole.

On Friday evening, Chaplain V. led the couples through a spirited rendition of the Newlywed Game in which the couples answered questions to find out how well the husband and wife knew each other. After three rounds, the winning couple was awarded a prize.

The retreat was both relaxing and enlightening. People who might

never have met were given the opportunity to form friendships—something that will be especially helpful during the upcoming deployment. When it was time to part ways on Saturday morning, the only complaint was that no one was ready to leave.

### Quotes

"The retreat was a very nice experience. The rooms are very nice, and also it's nice to meet new people. You also learn a lot about your marriage and yourself. It's much nicer than I expected and I would definitely do it again."

"The couples retreat was a lot different than I expected. I learned things about my wife that I don't think she even knew. We met a lot of nice people and learned a lot about marriage. It was a very enjoyable experience."

"Fantastic, colossal! My life and marriage life forever changed. I laughed, I cried, I loved. Amazing hospitality and wonderful accommodations." (thanks Chaplain V.)



**John Wayne look out!**

### Comments

**Great rooms!**

**Food was good and a lot of it!**

**Nice quiet area!**

**Service was very good!**

**Quality Biblical Teaching!**

**Environment for quality time together!**

**No distractions!**

**Great staff!**

**Quality activities which could promote teamwork!**

**Nice Facilities!**

**Free!!**



**Everyone had a good time shooting bow and arrows.**

## Comments continued from page 2

ation, a week long class, to continue exercising our Automated Battle Command Systems. The way the Army fights is becoming more and more dependant on computer systems and those people got a lot of practice working those new systems. All the sections in the brigade are continuing to refine and develop their Tactical Standing Operating Procedures which will be critical when we get to Iraq. Another big event was drawing all the high-speed gear, the Rapid Fielding Initiative equipment and Army Combat Uniforms. Everybody in the bri-

## FTX continued from page 2

we're not going to have the opportunity to go through a mission rehearsal exercise or go through a (National Training Center) rotation," Brem said.

The FTX allowed the units to validate their training and certify new Soldiers on the required tasks as well as rehearse operating in a simulated forward operating base environment, Brem said.

During the first two days of the exercise, Soldiers rotated through a number of hour-long classes, to include entry control point training, medical training and an introduction to the Arabic language.

Soldiers learned to properly conduct personnel and vehicle searches at a checkpoint or gate. They learned to identify the signs of a possible vehicle-borne IED.

"Overall, we just wanted to provide realistic training for all the Soldiers with scenarios and events they might experience in

gade walked away with a bag full of the latest combat gear. As we all know, the pace of life is picking up every day as we train and ready ourselves for deployment. Please pace yourself and take the opportunity to take some leave during our block leave.

Finally, I'd just like to give a big thanks to the Family Readiness Group, members, and volunteers who have stepped up to the plate to get those organizations in full swing. They will be vital everyone as we deploy. Take note of some of the fine articles and photos in this edition of the newsletter. We have a lot of hard-working Soldiers and officers in a

theater," said Lt. K., the assistant S3 for the STB, 1<sup>st</sup> SB.

After two long days of class, the battalion spent two days conducting a convoy live-fire exercise. The Soldiers simulated moving through urban areas and were attacked by opposing forces during the dry-fire portion of the exercise. "It's sort of like a refresher for me, but it's an eye opener for my Soldiers who have never been (to Iraq)," said Sgt. W., a squad leader for the personal security detail team in the HHC 1<sup>st</sup> SB. "One of the things I was nervous about was calling up the nine-line (MEDEVAC). As everybody in the military knows, that's a lot of stuff to remember and I was able to successfully accomplish it," W. said. "We're putting (Soldiers) in situations where they have to react," K. said. "If they can get it down here and practice it here, then we will save lives there."

One of the goals of the FTX was to get the Soldiers to

very fine brigade. I am proud to be your commander.

**SUSTAIN TO VICTORY!**

COL Kevin O'Connell



form as a team at the company and battalion levels, especially since the unit just activated and hadn't had the opportunity to train collectively, Brem said. "I take it very seriously. I ran a lot of convoys and seen a lot of stuff, so I feel it's my responsibility to take the knowledge that I have and pass it on to these Soldiers," K. said.

"They say knowledge is power, but it's not power if you keep it to yourself. It's power when you distribute it out ... so that if they're in a situation and they remember something that was said, it will hopefully help them come back alive," K. concluded.

*Signal* continued from 4



### Welcome to the Unit

SGT F.

PV2 C.

SGT O'D.

SPC P.

### Promotions

SPC B. from PFC

SPC M. from PFC

### Upcoming Birthdays

2LT S. May

SGT M. May

SGT P. May

SPC O. June

SPC B. June

CPT N. June

### Farewell

PV2 Y.

SPC McW.



## HERE WE COME!



*"We had to build this computer system Master Scenario Events List and that was simply a way to exercise the staff and the commanders and senior nco's for situations that may happen in Iraq."*

*MAJ D., commenting on the recent MRX.*