

Serving the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

Tribute ceremony honors 4th Bde in OIF

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery
Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs Office

4th Brigade Soldiers and family members were honored Friday in a tribute ceremony at Hunter Army Airfield for their contributions to, and sacrifices during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Curtis D. Potts, 4th Brigade commander, and Lt. Col. Robert Bannon, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment commander, unveiled the Tribute Stone during the ceremony, which stands next to brigade headquarters as a reminder and tribute to their Soldiers' and family members' accomplishments and sacrifices during the war.

The ceremony took place on the one-year-anniversary of the UH-60

Blackhawk crash of "Storm 6" on a sandbar in Karbala Lake in Iraq, which claimed the lives of six B Company, 2/3 Avn. Soldiers.

"As I landed at the site that night and recovered our fallen warriors, I knew that the lives of their families would be forever changed," Potts said.

"For those who lost loved ones, it's been a year of sorrow and empty places. For members of our military, it was a year of sacrifice and service far from home," he added.

Family members of the six fallen Soldiers attended the ceremony. Meighan Adamowski, widow of Capt. James F. Adamowski, B Co., 2/3 Avn., said seeing her husband's friends at the ceremony helped bring her closure.

"It's been a haze — this past year kind of flew by. I feel much more at ease by everything now," she said. "I don't want people using the war politically — my husband just believed in helping the Iraqi people."

Spc. Nathan Dennis, a Blackhawk crew chief with B Co., 2/3 Avn., said he appreciated the ceremony honoring him and his fellow Soldiers and thought the Tribute Stone "is a physical representation of what we all went through. It's a tribute to the sacrifice we all made — Soldiers gone for six months to a year, and family members back home."

He said 4th Bde. Soldiers can look at the stone and say, "I was there. For

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Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Chief Warrant Officer 2 (left) Bradley McGarvey and Spc. Ian McCarthy, both B Co. Soldiers, performed their song "Soldier After All" during the 4th Bde. Tribute Ceremony Friday.



Photos by Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Spc. Wesley Blanchard, A Co., 416th Trans. Co., engages the enemy during one of the close ambush scenarios faced in Monday's live fire exercise.

416th Trans. conducts convoy live fire exercise at Stewart

Pfc. Ricardo Branch
Staff Writer

Soldiers from the 416th Transportation Company participated in one of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized)'s first live fire convoy exercises Monday at several ranges here.

Pop-up silhouette targets "ambushed" convoys of Humvees, Light Medium Tactical Vehicles and fuel trucks as they drove down trails in the northeast sector of the post, giving Soldiers training to react in situations when their convoy is attacked and they can only rely on themselves, said Maj. Charles Marbas S-3 for 24th Corps Support Group.

"It's going great so far," said Staff Sgt. Eunorous Dixon, Senior Mechanic 416th Trans. Co. and observer controller for convoy live fire range.

"We learned some of this in Iraq so it's

good that a convoy live fire was started. CSG is laying a good foundation for the Army doctrine to follow," Dixon added.

"As Soldiers were returning from Iraq, it became aware that convoy training was needed based on all the convoys coming under attack so all the different branches came together to create this new training," Marbis said.

"The training is conducted in 12 tables," said Capt. Santiago Otero, 24th CSG training officer. "The first four focus on individual firing skills with the last eight introducing stationary firing from convoys, firing from moving convoys, close and far ambushes (including nighttime ambush) and reacting to improvised explosive devices."

"First Soldiers went through the ranges and dry-fired at the targets and if they

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Soldiers from the 416th Trans. Co. travel down a road on Fort Stewart during the convoy live fire exercise.



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Pvt. 2 Sergio Gudino and Pvt. Salomon Medina stand guard at the memorial for Staff Sgt. Stevon A. Booker, who was killed April 5, 2003 while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1/64 Soldiers remember fallen

Pfc. Emily J. Danial
Staff Writer

Soldiers of Fort Stewart's 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment laid a wreath at Warrior's Walk Monday to honor Staff Sgt. Stevon A. Booker, one of their tank commanders who died one year ago while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Today, the Desert Rogues remembered one of their own," said Capt. Clifton Williams, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/64 Armor commander. "On April 5, 2003, Staff Sgt. Booker gave his life in defense of his country when the Desert Rogues Task Force 1-64 Armor made the Thunder Run into Baghdad."

Pvt. Joseph Gilliam, A Co., 1/64, was a loader on Booker's tank.

"I wasn't just his loader, I was his friend," Gilliam said. "We went through a lot together. "(The memorial) means a lot to me, being

that I was right there and I saw what went on," he added. "He was like a father to me, and he taught me a lot ... he was there for me, and he died fighting for me."

"(Booker) was an inspiration to a lot of Soldiers, a great motivator," Williams said. "He was a heart and soul for his platoon, he was a combat veteran from the first Gulf War, and he served his country honorably to the point when he lost his life."

Booker's unit placed guards on his memorial site for 24 hours after the ceremony.

"Every day I'm going to walk by here and give my thanks and my respects to him," Gilliam said. "He was on top of his tank, doing what he raised his right hand for; fighting for his country, fighting for his family, fighting for his tank crew, his unit and his company, as well as himself."

"He did it all," he continued. "He fought gallantly, going to war, and I fought right beside him. I'm proud of him."

Weather Forecast

FRI
High 84° Low 55°

SAT
High 76° Low 52°

SUN
High 86° Low 62°

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Stay Alert ... Stay Alive



Photos by Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Marci Cato, one of the "victims" of the mass casualty training exercise, attempts to crawl toward her buddy, Jennifer Price, March 31 at Fort Stewart.



Diana Pagan-Williams, the actor who played a pregnant terrorist suicide bomber as part of the exercise, displays the real-life bomb vest given to her to hide under her clothing.



Firefighters roll Kristain McRae, a victim in the post MASCAL exercise, onto a litter.



Pvt. Blake Hinton, 10th Eng. Bn., plays a victim injured by the blast of a terrorist bomb.

MASCAL exercise prepares Soldiers

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

Sirens blared over the Fort Stewart loudspeaker the morning of March 31 as fire trucks and ambulances rushed to the National Guard area's Shoppette.

A voice assured everyone, "This is a test of the emergency alert system. This is only a test."

The test was part of the post's mass casualty training exercise, during which a staged terrorist attack was set up to test emergency workers' reaction time.

"This is an exercise to test force protection readiness," said Lt. Col. Richard Stalbaum, deputy director of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Stabilization. "If we start slacking, let our guard down, then terrorists will take advantage of that."

"The terrorists see that we're preparing for this, and hopefully it will be a deterrent to them, but it also lets us know that we are ready."

The scenario involved a terrorist — a woman made up to be pregnant — who drove up to the Shoppette and pretended to go into labor. When bystanders rushed to help her, the woman detonated a simulated bomb.

Casualties, played by Soldiers and members of Fort Stewart's Youth Challenge program, laid spread out around the area crying out for help, as firefighters and medics rushed to the scene.

All of the injured were evaluated to determine the seriousness of their wounds, and then carried off in litters to be decontaminated in case of nuclear, biological or chemical harm and treated as much as possible at the scene.

"What we're doing here is rehearsing our plan to make sure that it will be effective here at Fort Stewart in the event of a real emergency," Stalbaum said.

The casualties were put into ambulances and taken to Winn Army Community Hospital where doctors and other medical staff were waiting.

Each victim was taken care of in order of priority, determined by tags placed on their wrists by emergency workers listing the extent of their injuries.

"This is critical to operations," said Col. Joe Barthel, hospital commander. "It's a good thing for Soldiers, for medics, for doctors and nurses in that this prepares us for real world mass casualty that we might get."

"This just prepares our staff, tests our systems, tests our communication and medical supplies, to ensure we can expedite care and handle our patients," he added.

Barthel said he was pleased with the way the exercise was being carried out.

"We're taking great care of these casualties and expediting them through the system," he said. "I'm very proud and happy with what I've seen."

Students receive a look into the future

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
Associate Editor

Students of Liberty High School and Bradwell Institute attended a career enhancement and job shadow day April 1.

Classes were held in the morning on interview preparation and techniques, financial aid and resume preparation.

In the afternoon, the students were able to shadow people in the job fields they were interested in; such as the Military Police, Judge Advocate General, Winn Army Community Hospital and Child Youth Services.

This program is held once a year and is in its sixth year.

This is the second year the classes were

added. The previous years students only had the opportunity to shadow jobs.

It gives the students a chance to see what education level they need in the jobs they are interested in, said Maria Boica, director of outreach services. It also allows them the opportunity to ask whatever questions they might have.

Career enhancement and job shadow day is a program set up to help students prepare for life after high school.

This program is designed to give the students a basic level of skills from the workshops, said David Smith, school liaison officer, during last years job shadow day. Then hopefully they apply what they learned from the classes to the afternoon portion and real life situations.



Photos by Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

(Above) Students observe a demonstration from the MPs April 1. The demonstration was a part of an afternoon job shadow day. In the morning, students attended classes.

(Right) Jeff Ashmen, Liberty High School student, experiences the bite of an MP dog April 1.



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Chambliss calls political statements about Iraq disturbing, harmful to morale

Press Release
Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., a member of the Senate Intelligence and Armed Services Committees, spoke on the Senate floor today about the latest news in Iraq and said recent political statements made about Iraq are disturbing and harmful to U.S. morale. Chambliss' floor speech follows:

"As I listened to the news yesterday and read the newspapers this morning, we're reminded again of several things. First, we are reminded of what a very difficult and complex world it is in which we live.

"It is a world where we who want to be a peaceful nation and see peace throughout the world once again realize that the type of peace that we hope for and pray for may be a long and difficult road away.

"We understand, also, from the standpoint of sacrifice, nothing comes easy and we're reminded once again — nothing comes easy. And we are reminded once again that the freedom this Nation enjoys came at great sacrifice. We are seeing sacrifices around the world today particularly of our brave men and women who are fighting for the freedom of the Iraqi people.

"As I think about that and I think about what is going on in Iraq today and what is happening to an overwhelming majority of the Iraqi people who want to see peace and who want stability in that country and they are having to deal with a small number of insurgents who want to carry the day by using guns and violence — it disturbs me when I hear statements made by politicians in America, politicians who aspire to higher office, as well as those who have been in the realm of politics in our country for many years, statements that tend to incite the opposition and to put our men and women in greater harm's way.

"When I was coming along as a young man, I played a lot of athletics. We had the privilege of coaching Little League basketball and baseball for 25 years. When you play athletics or when you coach athletics, you want to be inspired as an athlete and as a coach. You do not want to inspire the opposition.

"Frankly, the statements that I have seen in the last 24 hours relative to the comparison of Iraq to Vietnam are the type of statements that a coach would take and plaster on the locker room wall when he wants to charge up his team and he tells the opponents look what is happening on the other side. Morale is decaying. We are winning.

"That is simply the type of statement that is foolish and should never be made by anyone in the political realm in our country in a time of great crisis and great confrontation over the issue of freedom and democracy.

"America has long been the leader of the free world. But we did not get there in an easy way. Likewise, Iraq is not going to get there in an easy way. No one ever said it would be easy making a democracy out of a country the size of California, that has no democratic traditions, is divided sometimes by religious and ethnic disputes, and has a history of internal repression.

"When I think about our great country and the fact that a little over 225 years ago we declared our independence, what happened in our country when the citizens of America became free wasn't easy. We had great loss of life in order to ensure that America became free and independent.

"When we look at what has happened in America over the course of

that 225-plus years, we have suffered great loss of life of brave men and women who fought for a cause, a cause of freedom and a cause of democracy, the simple cause of freedom that is being fought for in Iraq today.

"America is providing the kind of leadership that the world respects and the world has come to understand; that is what America stands for. When Americans provide that kind of leadership, it is incumbent on all Americans to rally around the leadership of this country in times of great crisis in the world, when we are the leader of the free world, and not to try to incite the other side, not to try to create a more difficult position for our brave men and women in the military, who today continue to be in harm's way and continue to suffer loss of life.

"Speaking of that, I concur with my friend from Minnesota — our hearts go out to the families of those brave men and women — all 600-plus — who have suffered loss of life in Iraq as a result of their fight for the cause of freedom. In addition to that, we have a number of men and women who have been injured; and, again it is for the right reason.

"I had a great privilege about two weeks ago of visiting a number of military bases in my State. One of the bases I visited was Fort Gordon. At Gordon, right outside of Augusta, we had a tour of the base, the usual things that we do to see what is going on with respect to the missions at Gordon. And at the end of the day, I had the opportunity to participate in a very unique ceremony. It was a reenlistment ceremony, where 17 men and women were reenlisting in the United States Army.

"Some of these men and women had been longtime members of the Armed Forces, some had only been in for a couple of years, but they were re-upping. Some of them had been to Iraq. Some of them had seen their fellow Soldiers fall to the ground injured or killed. Yet here they were raising their right hand and reenlisting in the United States Army.

"I had the opportunity to visit with every single one of them, and for the most part, I asked the same question to each of them; and that is: Why are you doing this? Why are you reenlisting in the Army in these difficult times? I felt so great, number one, just to be in the presence of those true American heroes; but secondly, the response I got, in unison from those individuals was that I like my job. I enjoy what I am doing, and it is my opportunity to do something positive for America.

"The ones who had been in Iraq had a very high morale about what is going on over there because they are the ones who were on the ground every day in Iraq. They know the feeling of the majority — the overwhelming majority — of the Iraqi people. They support the freedom and democracy that America is making the sacrifices for.

"Some say that this administration underestimated just how difficult and complex the job in Iraq would be, and I will be honest, I have come to share that view. I think the administration would agree with that. But I believe, therefore, that we need to learn from our tactical mistakes, and to ensure that our posture in Iraq is flexible and can adapt to fluid and developing circumstances. If this means finding new ways to ensure Shiite grievances are heard, so be it. The cooperation of the Shiite majority in the transition ahead is essential to that transition success. But the CPA must also respond aggressively to aggression of any kind that is directed at our troops.



Staff Sgt. Joseph Roberts

A 304th Civil Affairs Brigade Soldier stands guard near the mayor's office in Ar Ramadi. The brigade works with local government officials to help stabilize and rebuild the city's infrastructure.

"In talking about what we anticipated or what the administration expected in Iraq, let's talk also about some of the things that we did not expect. We did not expect for clerics in that part of the world to come forward, and instead of preaching religion that you would expect them to be preaching, to be preaching and advocating hatred and violence towards Americans — Americans who had given them the opportunity to stand in that mosque and express the words that they were expressing, because without the Americans taking down Saddam Hussein, they would not have that freedom, they would not have the ability to carry out their disruptions and the violence that is ongoing over there today.

"But removed from that, and behind the cloud of those robes of religion, clerics are hiding and they are also hiding behind innocent women and children and shielding themselves by use of innocent people from the Americans who seek to arrest and prosecute them for the crimes which they have carried out. Those are the types of things that no administration could anticipate and no administration should have expected when we freed the people of Iraq from the regime of Saddam Hussein.

"There is one other aspect of the situation in Iraq that is just as personally, if not more personally, troubling to me; and that is the issue relative to our lack of intelligence gathering, the lack of the ability to use human assets on the ground inside of Iraq, to make sure that we find out what is going on among these radical clerics who are advocating violence; what is going on with respect to the terrorist community and the terrorists themselves relative to attacks against Americans; what is going on with respect to the long-term plans for these terrorists as it applies to the American service people, as well as civilians who are on the ground in Iraq.

"We are not doing the job of gathering intelligence that we need to be doing. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I assure you, we are doing our oversight. We are going to be critical where we need to be critical because this is a phase of this war that must improve. We are going to do our job and make it improve so the people of Iraq will ultimately be free, the world will be safer, and America will be a safer country."

For more information, contact Chambliss' press office at 202-224-3423.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What is the significance of Easter to you?

"The Resurrection of Jesus."

Spc. Stanley James Lapinski
C Co., 3/7 Inf.



"The Resurrection."

Karen Fowler
Military spouse

"The death and Resurrection of Christ, that's why we celebrate Easter."

Spc. Jacob S. Pauley
320th MP Co.



"It represents Jesus Christ and how he died for us so we would have life eternal. That's the supreme sacrifice."

Spc. Clayton Rich
878th Eng. Bn.



"Jesus rising from the dead."

Sgt. Patrice James
D Co., 703rd MSB



"The Resurrection of Christ."

Sgt. Joaney Taylor
HHC, DISCOM



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Write a letter to the editor!

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Aviators, infantrymen form historic bonds

CFSC Public Affairs

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — History is being made in northern Iraq as the Stryker Brigade Combat Team and a Fort Drum aviation unit work together to combat terrorism.

Since entering northern Iraq in November, infantry leaders from the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division SBCT, Fort Lewis, Wash., have flown in helicopters during raid missions. Pilots from the 10th Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, N.Y., have ridden in Strykers. The integration is so they can understand their counterpart's challenges.

"Along with most major parts in the Army, aviation is transforming into standardized, modular units that are fully integrated with the combined arms and joint forces," said Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations, G3, while testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"The 10th Aviation Brigade is the first aviation unit to work with the SBCT in a combat zone," said Lt. Col. Reggie Mason, a commander with the 10th Avn. Bde, who is currently in Iraq. "Therefore, it's very important we establish tactics, techniques and procedures that other squadrons can emulate in the future."

Part of the transition from current aviation units to Aviation Units of Action is to review and revise doctrine based on what was learned from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Cody said.

The Army has lost 44 aircraft since Oct. 1, 2001 and 38 aviation Soldiers have died. Those losses have not been without purpose, Cody said. "They have informed us for the future and have placed an unprecedented sense of urgency in improving our capabilities, systems and doctrine."

Representatives from the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., are aggressively revising those training strategies, he added.



Sgt. Fred Minnick

A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter flies over the Tigris River, transporting Soldiers to a Forward Operating Base near Mosul. When transporting Soldiers, the gunners and pilots are also looking for enemy activity.

Testing and focus of Army Aviation will be at Fort Rucker, according to Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker.

"Fort Rucker is a world-class installation with the tremendous land that's available — and the airspace that's available and it's great infrastructure," Schoomaker said during an interview with local media at Fort Rucker.

Representatives from Fort Rucker, Training and Doctrine Command and members of the Army Aviation Task Force, which is led by Maj. Gen. James Thurman,

are responsible for making Army aviation a capabilities-based maneuver arm, optimized for the joint fight with a shortened logistics tail, Cody said.

The OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, an armored reconnaissance helicopter, is currently providing the eyes in the sky for ground troops at war. However, as the aviation community moves to the future force, the Kiowa Warrior may be retired. Cody later said in an interview in Nashville, Tenn., that nothing is being taken off the table as the acquisition world looks for platforms to perform specific functions and missions.

Aviation maintenance also must transform to meet the needs of the Aviation Units of Action. A two-level condition-based maintenance system to reduce spare parts requirements is being initiated to reduce the aviation logistics footprint, said Cody.

The future operational environment demands that Army aviation be rapidly deployable when called, Cody said.

Based on current and projected aircraft inventories, the current non-standard aviation brigades will be restructured into 11 active-duty, two reserve-component multi-functional Aviation Units of Action. The National Guard will have six Aviation Expeditionary Regiments.

Fixing aviation is not just about purchasing and resetting equipment. Officials agree that the centerpiece is aviators and crewmen.

The training strategy will include implementing Flight School XXI to graduate more competent and trained flight crews at Fort Rucker. The Army Aviation Center and School is now qualifying all AH-64 pilots on Night Vision goggles and there is increased training emphasis on Aircraft Survivability Equipment. Also training devices and simulators will be upgraded, Cody said.

Editor's note: Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs and Sgt. Fred Minnick both contributed to this article.

April is National Occupational Therapy Month

Capt. Florie Gonzales Jr.

Moncrief Army Community Hospital

What is occupational therapy? The health discipline of occupational therapy, as much an art form as a science, focuses intervention on how disease or injury affects functional tasks of every-day life. Regardless of frame of reference or medical situation, OT innately seeks out a means to keep our clientele engaged in life, at their highest levels.

The number one job of OT is to determine what the patient emphasizes as important life skills. Then we seek means to remediate, adapt, or compensate for his debility. It is all about quality of life, its order of precedence, where it is found, and how the individual defines it. We expect to tailor our treatment strategies around these issues, so the patient might embrace our approach and excel in rehabilitation.

OTs realize and respect the uniqueness of individual lifestyles. Our intent is to

help others regain or maintain the essence of their personal definitions of life. In effect, the patients determine their own treatment goals. They provide direction and order of precedence.

In a joint effort with our clientele, we identify pertinent deficits, strengths, and assets. Then together we design the best course of action to achieve the desired outcome. This is what we refer to as the "holistic" approach, one uniquely founded and fostered by OT.

Milestones are met through education, management of care, and lots of hard work with the single intent of maximizing independence. However, ultimately, the patient must take ownership of the rehab program for a successful outcome.

Humans take on endless roles of life. We are spouses, mothers, fathers, children, siblings, friends, confidants, teammates, Soldiers, and, yes, even therapists, to name a few all with unique purposes and intrinsic demands that bring contentment to our lives. Our roles define

who we are, what we are about, and how we live life. These life roles and interests ultimately coalesce to define our lives.

As humans, we all too often erroneously view health in the context of performance level; therefore poor or lackluster productivity is inaccurately equated with dysfunction. As the tasks associated with each realm of life slowly evolve and change, so too will the individual's definition of "productive" life.

Where can OTs be found and what type of patients do they work with? In the Army, OTs often serve Soldiers who sustain orthopedic injuries of the arm and hand. Additionally, we provide psychosocial intervention for Soldiers-in-training who are unable to physically continue Basic Combat Training due to injury.

Traditionally, we are found in a multitude of settings, such as: specialized nursing homes, the classical hospital, developmental centers, adolescent behavior shelters, community mental-health facilities, and in the home.

OTs' intervention spans the lifetime. Patient groups range from neonate to geriatric. We provide care for patients with developmental delay, spinal cord or traumatic brain injury, and other neurological deficits, generalized de-condition and/or psychiatric dysfunction, as well as orthopedic trauma patients. Our goal is consistent throughout all these arenas: to increase independence of any patient who is experiencing decline in or decreased ability to function in his or her daily activities.

Not surprisingly many of the attributes sought in OTs or OT assistants, are patience, empathy, flexibility, creativity, and interpersonal skills ironically, a myriad of the similar attributes the Army fosters in our warriors on a daily basis. For those who wish to endeavor into a challenging field, the Army has several education programs that directly result in national accreditation. Please feel to visit your local OT department and learn more.

Buyers beware...

Solicitors swindle Soldiers

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

Soldiers on Fort Stewart may not be aware of it, but there are wolves walking around post in sheep's clothing — salesmen illegally soliciting computers.

Recently these salespeople, who represent a company called PC Connections (not to be confused with PC Connection, a legally operating business), have been targeting Soldiers and attempting to sell them computers at a price based on the customers' credit reports.

This practice, which is known to be an unethical one, leads to customers paying outlandish prices for products, which, unbeknownst to them, are actually available for a much cheaper cost.

The company does not have a permit to solicit on post, but that hasn't seemed to bother persistent salespeople, since they have already disregarded Army Regulation 210-7, Section 2-8f(4), which prohibits them from doing so:

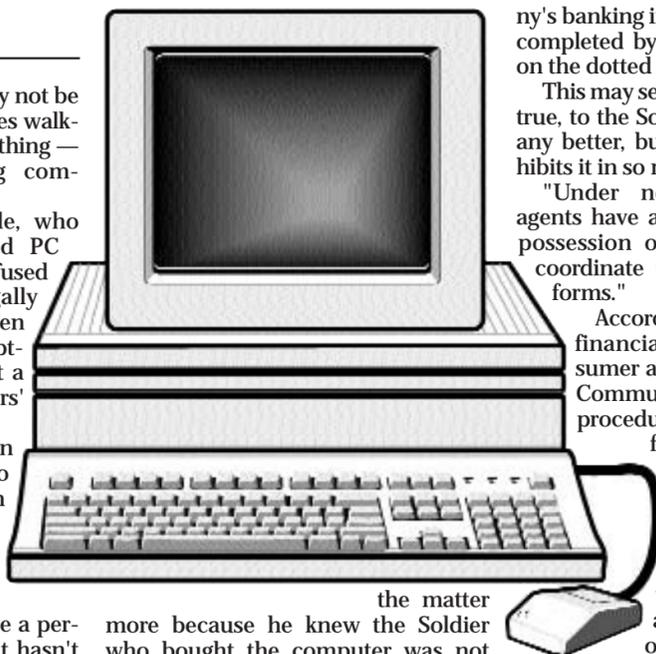
"Installation commanders will prohibit the following ... Soliciting without an appointment in areas used for housing or processing transient personnel, or soliciting in barracks areas used as quarters."

Soldiers who fall prey to scams run by companies such as this are not always quick to volunteer that they've fallen prey to it, and the culprits often get away with their crime.

However, one 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment Soldier got lucky, and PC Connections is about to be exposed.

"I was sitting in my office, and I happened to overhear some Soldiers laughing about (a person) who paid more than \$3,000 for a computer that they had just seen online for \$1,000," said Capt. Steve Vann, 2/7 Inf. signal officer.

Vann said he wanted to look into



ny's banking information - ready to be completed by the Soldier and signed on the dotted line.

This may seem too convenient to be true, to the Soldier who doesn't know any better, but AR 210-7 strictly prohibits it in so many words:

"Under no circumstances will agents have allotment forms in their possession or attempt to assist or coordinate the processing of such forms."

According to Kemuel Brown, financial readiness and consumer affairs counselor at Army Community Service, the correct procedure for filing an allotment form is much more involved.

"The business will give the Soldier its account information, and then he has to go to the unit's personnel administration center office to get the allotment form," Brown said. "Then, the Soldier goes to his unit commander, who will provide counseling (mandatory for all Soldiers E-3 and below) and sign a form confirming that counseling."

After all that is completed, he said, the Soldier can send the completed allotment form to the business.

Unfortunately, not everyone knows about these companies and the ways they suck money out of Soldiers.

"They come at the end of the day," Brown said. "They know you're tired and you just want them to leave. They come in cordially ... the main thing in the Soldier's mind is to get them out of there, and that's how they get you."

"These companies have been around forever," he added. "You just have to be aware."

Vann stressed that Soldiers are not only hurting themselves when they make bad financial decisions.

"If a Soldier's finances suffer, he will suffer, his family will suffer and his unit will suffer ... we all have to look out for each other."

the matter more because he knew the Soldier who bought the computer was not high-ranking and couldn't afford the price he paid, which did not include the 19% interest rate the company inflicted upon him.

So far, PC Connections has done two things very wrong - they have illegally solicited business from Soldiers in the barracks, and they have based their prices not on the actual base cost of the products, but on their customers' credit history.

"They refused to give (my Soldier) a price without a credit check," Brown said. "I think anytime you charge an exorbitant price based on credit, it is unfair."

He also offered to take \$1,000 off of the grossly inflated price, another action prohibited by AR 210-7, Section 2-8f(7), which disallows "offering rebates to promote transaction or to eliminate competition."

But wait, there's more.

After talking to the Soldier, Vann found out that the salesman had also come to his door equipped with a Direct Deposit allotment form that was already filled out with the compa-

SJA, BCIS to swear in Soldiers as American citizens at ceremony

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Special to The Frontline

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is pleased to announce that we are working in conjunction with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to establish a program where Soldiers and their family members who have been approved for American citizenship can be sworn in during a formal on-post ceremony. In addition, the OSJA is working with BCIS to set up an information fair to answer any questions that you may have about naturalization and citizenship.

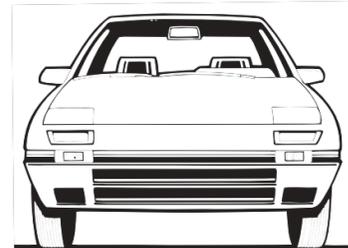
The first BCIS Swearing-In Ceremony is tentatively set for the last week of April, at Club Stewart. The event will be followed by an informal reception. The information fair will be held the same day and will include representatives from BCIS and attorneys who specialize in immigration law.

Our goal is to make this a quarterly event that allows Soldiers and their family members to receive their citizenship here at Fort Stewart rather than having to travel to Atlanta for the official ceremony.

We invite any servicemembers and their family members who would like to take advantage of the Swearing-In Ceremony to contact our office immediately so that the necessary arrangements can be made. If we do not have enough interest we will move the ceremony to a future date. The point of contact for the Swearing-In Ceremony is Capt. Timothy A. Furin. He can be reached at the Legal Assistance Office at 767-8819/8809.

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BAH entitlements for dual military couples

Sgt. 1st Class Rietta Owens
HAAF IG Office

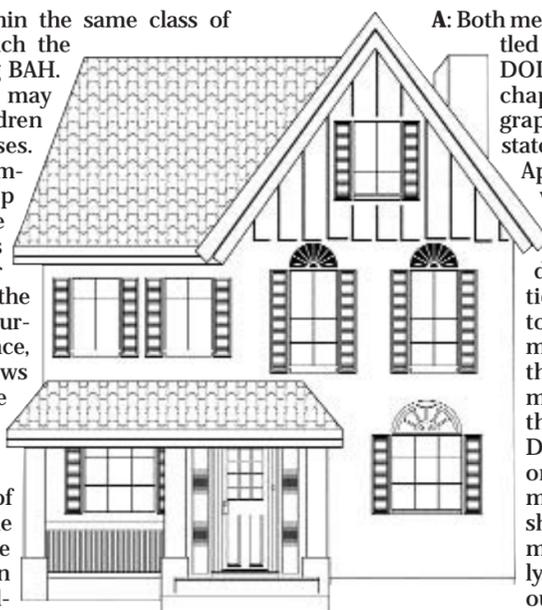
With spring fast approaching and love in the air, we at the Inspector's General Office thought it would be a good idea to deal with a topic of some relevance ... marriage. If you're a Soldier who is married to another Soldier, you're a Dual Military Couple. Some Dual Military Couples do not understand their entitlements, so we've put together a few questions that will help clear up misperceptions.

Q: A Soldier is married to another Soldier and both have dependent children from a previous marriage. Are they both entitled to receive Basic Allowance for Housing at the With Dependents rate?

A: No. Department Of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DODFMR) 7A, Chapter 26, paragraph 260402 B states that when one of two members married to each other is already receiving BAH at the With-Dependent rate on behalf of an adopted child(ren), child(ren) from a previous marriage, or an illegitimate child(ren), then any child(ren) born of their marriage, or adopt-

ed by them, is within the same class of dependents for which the member is receiving BAH. The other member may not claim the children for BAH purposes. However, if the member elects to stop receiving BAH at the With-Dependents rate, then the other member may claim the child(ren) for BAH purposes. In this instance, one member draws BAH-With and the other member draws BAH-Without.

Q: One member of a dual military couple is reassigned and he takes his children with him, but his military spouse and her child remain at the present duty station. What are the entitlements?



A: Both members are entitled to BAH-With. DODFMR 7A, chapter 26, paragraph 260402 C states that effective April 15, 2003, when married members are assigned to different locations, pursuant to competent military orders, their entitlement to BAH at the With-Dependent rate or to government quarters should be determined separately. This is without regard to the general rule that all children and parents of the members are dependents of the same class for the purpose of determin-

ing BAH entitlements. Each member is required to have physical custody of a dependent if both members are claiming an entitlement to BAH at the With-Dependent rate.

Q: A Soldier's current wife joins the Army. Her dependent children are relocated to live with their biological father, not her current military spouse, while she attends Basic Training and AIT. What are her entitlements?

A: DODFMR 7A, Chapter 26, paragraph 260412 B states that the member-parent may claim a dependent child(ren), adopted children, illegitimate children, and step-child(ren) for BAH purposes. Proof of support for dependents is generally not required. The provisions of subparagraph 260406.A (Support of a Dependent-General) will be applied. The member is entitled to BAH if the member contributes to the support of the dependent(s) and that support is not less than the BAH-DIFF. This includes members entitled to BAH-DIFF and members assigned to single type quarters when the child(ren) is in the physical custody of another person.

Implementation procedures for award of promotion points for civilian education

Special to The Frontline

Effective in April, Soldiers appearing before the promotion board are authorized to receive promotion points using only one civilian education transcript. Grade slips and student-generated online reports may be used to award promotion points for additional courses. All transcripts, grade slips and online reports must be from accredited institutions whose accrediting agency is recognized by the US Department of Education. Additionally, the electronically generated reports must show a URL (e.g., <http://www.cis.ctc.edu>) from the originating institution.

The Promotion Work Center is responsible for notifying all Soldiers competing for promotion to sergeant and staff sergeant who are

not in compliance with the new civilian education requirement (to consolidate all civilian education onto one transcript).

Soldiers currently on the recommended list for promotion have until April 26 to comply with the one civilian education transcript policy. These soldiers can comply by doing one of the following:

- Consolidate all college credits onto one transcript (education center or college currently enrolled in will provide guidance on how to do this)
- Submit a transcript and grade slips or a student-generated online report for additional courses not posted on the transcript
- Soldiers who have multiple transcripts and not currently enrolled with a college/university may submit their transcripts along with an Education Center Assessment of

Multiple Civilian Education Transcripts form. A copy of the form can be obtained from your unit administration office. Once the form has been validated by the Education Center, soldiers may submit this to the promotion work center to avoid losing promotion points.

Deployed Soldiers have until 60 days after redeployment to come into compliance with this policy. Promotion work center is required to notify Soldiers in writing of this requirement. These Soldiers are promotion-eligible with their current promotion score until the 61st day after redeployment.

Promotion Work Centers have until April 30 to input Soldiers' adjusted promotion scores in order for Headquarter's Department of the Army to accurately project promotions for June and thereafter.

**Happy Easter
from
the Frontline**



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Tribute

from page 1A

better or worse, I was a part of something."

He said he was glad to see the "Storm 6" families at the ceremony. "For the rest of my life, I'll know those people made that sacrifice. We know that they're not gone because their families are still with us."

Soldiers and family members were moved to tears when Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bradley McGarvey and Spc. Ian McCarthy, both B Co. Soldiers, performed their song "Soldier After All" during the ceremony. They co-wrote the song with Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marc Latimer and Chief Warrant Officer Brady Ehmann, while they were in Kuwait and Iraq. It's a song about what it was like for them as Soldiers during the war. They've played it at many military functions, and WSAV's morning show Coastal Sunrise. They have a copyright pending.

Bannon talked about the sacrifices his Soldiers and their families went through during the war and since. "As we pay tribute to the many accomplishments of this brigade in support of the global war on terror, we also honor the sacrifices of the Soldiers and family members of this unit during the past year.

"Fathers that didn't get to come home in time to see the birth of their children, missed anniversaries, missed

holidays and missed high school graduations are just a few of the sacrifices experienced over the last 15 months. The price of protecting our nation is steep."

Fallen Blackhawk Soldiers

The six B Co., 2/3 Avn. Soldiers who died when their Blackhawk, "Storm 6," went down April 2, 2003, in Karbala Lake are:

- Capt. James F. Adamouski, 29, of Springfield, Va.
- Spc. Mathew G. Boule, 22, of Dracut, Mass.
- Chief Warrant Officer Erik A. Halvorsen, 40, of Burlington, Vt.
- Chief Warrant Officer Scott Jamar, 32, of Granbury, Texas
- Sgt. Michael F. Petersen, age 26, of Flint, Mich.
- Chief Warrant Officer Eric A. Smith, age 41, of Calif.



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Family members of the 2/3 Avn. Soldiers who died when "Storm 6" went down pay their respects to the Tribute Stone dedicated to their sons' sacrifices Friday after the 4th Bde. Tribute Ceremony.

Convoy

from page 1A

passed successfully, went through the next run with live ammunition," Otero said.

"It's a series of exercises designed to prepare Soldiers on how-to-deal with enemy fire and ambushes on the battlefield," he added.

Each convoy drove down a road and reacted to a close ambush conducted when they stopped to refuel. Soldiers got out of their vehicles and took out the pop-up silhouette targets. To secure the convoy and get a go, Soldiers were required to knock down all the targets in 60 seconds.

After the observer controllers told the Soldiers the ambush was over, they got back in their vehicles and continued to move along the road.

Further on down the course, the convoys were ambushed as they drove, requiring them to engage the enemy from moving vehicles at targets representing both enemy Soldiers and vehicles.

"These Soldiers are doing fine," Dixon said.

"Many of the Soldiers may go to Iraq and could be faced with not having combat support so this training is essential because they may need to pull their own security," he said.

Toward the end of the exercise, Soldiers

traveled through Bravo Range 18, which faced the convoy with multiple targets of enemy Soldiers and vehicles.

"A few of the targets representing snipers were 400 yards away and were challenging for the Soldiers to take down," Dixon said.

The last stretch of road had the Soldiers react to an IED that disabled one of the vehicles and left casualties for the convoy.

"Explosives are one of the biggest threats in the road these days. Not so much individual fire lately, explosives are causing the most problems over in Iraq," Otero said.

"Today's exercise exposes Soldiers with real scenarios faced in Iraq," he added.

"The convoy live fire exercise is still new and being validated, right now it's going pretty smooth and helping establish a standard for other units to follow," Marbas said.

"We learned a lot of knowledge in the training but safety and communication is what you get most out of today," said Spc. Derrick Oglesby, 416th Trans. Co. motor transportation operator.

"Many of the Soldiers like me arrived after the unit got back from Iraq, so today's training is really important because it gets us familiarized with some of the situations faced over there," said Pfc. Deanton Stokes



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Soldiers of the 416th Trans. Co. hook up a downed Humvee that was damaged from an IED during the the convoy live fire exercise Monday on Stewart.

416th Trans. Co. motor transportation operator.

"This type of training has never been done before and will help better prepare us for going over," Oglesby said.

He added, "It also helps build camaraderie between Soldiers in your unit because you're in a situation where everyone has to communicate together and when you succeed it's worth it."

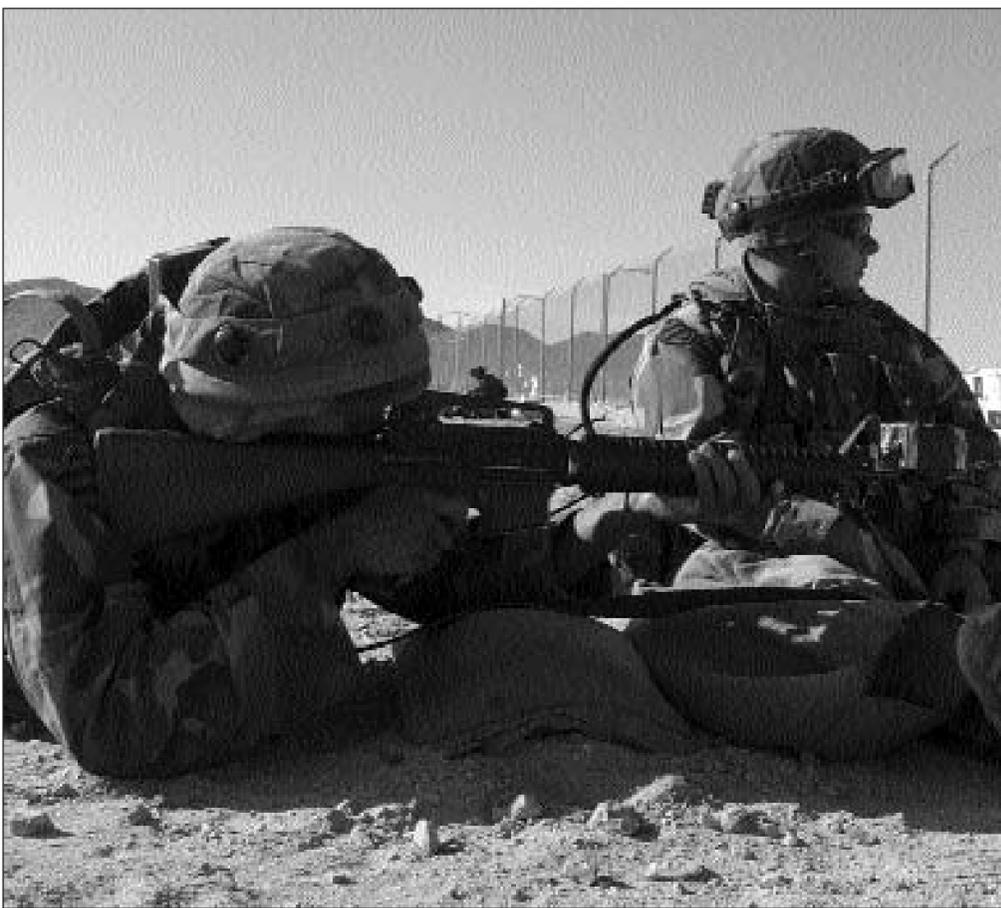
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3/15 Soldiers stay on target at NTC

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

While the Soldiers of the 2nd Unit of Action from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) simulate desert combat at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., their training would not be complete without the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System.

The MILES gear consists of a laser mounted on the barrel of a weapon, hit sensors on vests, helmets and vehicles, and of course, a speaker that emits a piercing shriek when the sensors record a hit.

"MILES is about as realistic as you can get without actually shooting each other," said A Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment master gunner Staff Sgt. Donnie Hawkins, who supervised the zeroing of the UA's MILES gear from March 23 through 26.

"When (M16) MILES is properly zeroed, it will replicate the M16, supposedly with a range of about 500 meters and similar accuracy," Hawkins said. "Dust, smoke or low batteries can

inhibit the laser, but usually it's one shot, one kill."

Soldiers popped off blanks at dummies wearing MILES vests to confirm their zeros, as men of A Co., 3/15 Inf. helped thousands find their mark and become effective "killers."

"There are about 3,000 M16s in the UA, and we've seen about 1,200 so far," Hawkins said. "It's a big indicator of combat strength for the UA how many have zeroed."

"If a company of tankers or infantry decided not to zero their MILES, they might not be able to hit a thing," he added.

According to 3/15 battalion master gunner Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Szafranski, there has been increased focus on getting support elements ready for the NTC fight due to the kind of attacks seen in Iraq.

"Everyone's got to be able to defend themselves these days, especially support units," Szafranski said. "The enemy in Iraq isn't targeting tanks, they're targeting soft-skinned vehicles, and we should be ready for that to happen here at NTC too."

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Pfc. Gilberto Cantu of A Co., 3/15 Inf. (right) helps Spc. Benjamin Jackson of HHC 3/15 zero his MILES gear on his M16 in the Dust Bowl at NTC March 25.

MPs teach Langford Wells police force security

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Editors Note: This article is from the 2nd Unit of Action's training at the national Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., and for training purposes, was written as if the events were real.

The small police force of Langford Wells, whose citizens have recently returned after being run out by Tularan Unification Front forces, received a lesson in maintaining security around the village by military police from the 2nd Unit of Action March 28.

"You've got to be aware of the objects and landforms surrounding the town," said MP Staff Sgt. Michael Goodro. "Think about who or what could be concealed by these things, and pay attention to them."

Goodro walked around the perimeter of the village with local police chief Asok and two of his deputies, pointing out vulnerabilities and things to watch out for.

"If you see something that looks like a piece of unexploded ordnance, like a mortar round, mark the area so no one goes near it," Goodro said. "The next time someone comes through, wanting to help, tell them about the situation and they can try and take care of it."

The day before Goodro visited Langford Wells, 2nd UA commander Col. Joseph DiSalvo met with the town's mayor, Carlos Montoya, and offered delivery of medical supplies and food from a recently discovered cache. During the meeting, Montoya requested that U.S. forces patrol the village to improve security and deter TUF forces from further attacks on residents.

The police force appeared interested in Goodro's les-

son, and thanked him for his help.

"We want to help you protect yourself, so you don't have to have our Soldiers patrolling your town forever," Goodro said. "We know it's a sensitive issue."

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3ID testing new 'unit of action' at NTC

Gary Sheftick

ARNEWS

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — How can fewer tanks, fewer Bradleys and fewer howitzers add up to a more lethal unit?

That's what the Army's first "unit of action" set out to prove at the National Training Center March 26.

In the first field test of the new brigade structure, the 2nd UA of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) is also training to return to Iraq. This time last year, many of the Soldiers were charging their armored vehicles victoriously into Baghdad as the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Inf. Div.

One difference between the BCT and the new unit of action is the addition of assets that previously belonged to the division. Field artillery, signal, chemical and engineer units that once supported the brigade are now permanently assigned to the UA. Capabilities such as counter-intelligence, human intelligence, and electronic warfare have been moved down to the UA.

"This organization has injected a lot more efficiencies with us and that makes us a lot more combat effective than what we were," said Col. Joseph DiSalvo, 2nd UA commander. "And we were pretty damn combat effective before the reorganization."

Restructuring as a UA brought about a significant change in task organization, DiSalvo said.

Instead of three maneuver battalions, now there will be only two in the UA. The UAs will be modular — each with one infantry battalion and one armored battalion.

As it restructured, the brigade lost a battalion of armor, and that means 44 fewer M-1 Abrams tanks. But a cavalry squadron was added to the UA, and it will eventually become a reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition squadron. It will replace the brigade reconnaissance troop with more than three times the force.

The 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment is also permanently assigned, minus a battery of Paladins that used to support the BCT. The brigade also lost a battery of air defense



Gary Sheftick

A convoy of 3rd Inf. Div. vehicles pass Whale Mountain during the first field test of the Army's new "unit of action" at NTC.

artillery as it transitioned to a UA.

In the brigade support area, the 26th Forward Support Battalion and elements of the 10th Engineer Battalion are also now assigned to the UA. In the past, the FSB and engineers supported the brigade in combat, but now they're permanent UA assets.

"With people staying here and

working here for an extended period of time, you get a good team, a really good team going," said Staff Sgt. Kirk Hill, a communications noncommissioned officer with the 26th FSB. "Continuity-wise, I know how the other guy works and he knows how I work."

It all adds up to a more self-sufficient and cohesive team, according to a division opera-

tions officer. He said UA commanders should have more flexibility and the capability to maneuver elements faster.

A signal company and military intelligence company is also part of the UA. A four-person public affairs section will be part of the UA, and the headquarters will be beefed up by a total of 58 additional personnel.

DiSalvo said the indirect fires of the field artillery combined with intelligence assets make the UA more lethal.

"With these assets, there's a better chance we'll collect the information," DiSalvo said, adding that new equipment such as unmanned aerial vehicles, sensors and communications suites will be fielded with UAs in the future, to further improve combat effectiveness.

As for now, DiSalvo and the UA are focused on Iraq. "This is part of our training for OIF-3" he said. "We can't squander it, we only get 14 days."

Army officials announced last month that a newly restructured 3rd Inf. Div. would return to Iraq for the next rotation, possibly as early as November.

2nd UA seizes Red Pass Ranch at NTC

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Editor's Note: For training purposes this story was written as if the events in it were real.

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — After an intense, multi-faceted battle lasting two days, 2nd Unit of Action, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers seized the town of Red Pass Ranch from opposing forces and implemented measures to support the villagers during the UA's first rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

"I want 80 percent of the enemy dead tonight!" Lt. Col. Eric Schwartz, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment commander, shouted to his troops before the initial attack April 1. "Expect infantry, armor and well-planned defenses, but we will accomplish this mission."

"Civilians will be told once to stay in the prone, anyone with a weapon is dead, and (enemy prisoners of war) will be flex-cuffed, hogtied and policed up later," said C Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment commander Capt. Zan Hornbuckle during Schwartz's brief.

Using Apache attack helicopters and field artillery, 2nd UA Soldiers battered the opposing forces near Red

Pass Ranch during the night, greatly reducing their numbers, while taking heavy losses themselves. Nine infantry squads stormed the town, going room to room in search of terrorists.

After opposing forces, called Tularans in the role-playing training scenario, retreated from the area, the 2nd UA Host Nation Support Team, consisting primarily of civil affairs, staff judge advocate and combat medics moved in to assess the town's needs and gather information about remaining enemy activity in the area.

"Our job is to meet with whatever leadership is left, find out the condition of the village, starting with the most essential survival needs first, then look at their infrastructure," said Sgt. Tommy Stephens of the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, a New York Army Reserve unit. "We're concerned with everything that makes a village live."

Stephens and his team met with Red Pass Ranch leadership and said they were greeted warmly, and found the town in good shape as far as food and water were concerned. They arranged for medical supplies to be delivered, including antibiotics, painkillers and sterile bandages.

"I'm glad the Americans got rid of the Tularans, said

Red Pass Ranch police chief Abel Razo Miguel. "People were scared of them."

"I just went along with what the Tularans said because I was so afraid," said town carpenter Fidel Perez. "I'm still very fearful they will return. This fighting seems to happen every month."

The next day, town official Hector Olvara told the civil affairs units that although they were grateful for the removal of Tularan forces from the town, there were still two men that the villagers said they were afraid of.

Soldiers from C Co., 3/15 quickly arrived to provide the HNST with security and capture the remaining enemy forces. Entering the village with Bradley Fighting Vehicles, the Charlie Rock infantrymen moved with speed and force and captured the two after a brief gunfight.

Of the U.S. forces wounded, UA chaplain Maj. Patrick Ratigan and SJA Capt. Sean McConnell were aided in part by villagers and evacuated in an armored ambulance.

"The chaplain suffered an abdominal wound as soon as he walked in, and I treated him with a field dressing, an IV drip, and antibiotics," said UA surgeon Capt. Rob "Doc" Meadows, who also served as the impromptu commander of the HNST. "He'll be OK."

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POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Civilian, 23-year-old female
- **Charges:** Theft by taking, false official statement, giving a false address
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Civilian, 21-year-old female
- **Charges:** Possession of open container while operating vehicle, driving in violation of condition of limited permit, failure to wear seatbelt
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, male, 24th Corps Support Group
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence of alcohol, open container violation, expired license plate, no insurance, consumption of alcohol by a minor
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Drunken driving
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group
- **Charges:** Drinking underage, driving on a suspended license, driving under the influence of alcohol
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 17-year-old female
- **Charge:** Underage drinking
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Family member, 17-year-old male
- **Charge:** Theft by shoplifting
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 26-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Eluding, failure to obey a lawful order, speeding 54/40, driving with no insurance, no drivers license on person
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** 1st Sergeant, 39-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Failure to maintain lane, damage to government property

- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 2, 22-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 71-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 29-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine..
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 39-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Daytona Beach, Fla.

- **Subject:** Private 2, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 2, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Reckless driving, speeding 100+/55, speeding 68/48

- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 19-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Speeding 62/45, driving under the influence, no drivers license on person
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Civilian, 57-year-old male
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of vicodin, wrongful use of vicodin
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 50-year-old female
- **Charge:** Assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of cocaine, distribution of cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 38-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Simple battery, cruelty to children (end degree)
- **Location:** Guyton

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charge:** Careless or reckless driving, speeding 62/30
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Larceny of government property, false official statement, failure to obey a general order
- **Location:** Baghdad, Iraq

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Terrorist threats and acts
- **Location:** Savannah

Better safe than sorry ...

Stewart resident receives suspicious package

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

Veronica Green didn't remember ordering a toaster.

However, according to the cover of the box that sat on her front porch the morning of March 29, somebody had delivered one to her anyway.

"I saw the package on the doorstep, brought it in to the house, and set it aside so I could continue getting ready for the day," Green said. "Once I opened it, I saw it was a clear plastic container with liquid that looked like water inside ... I called 911."

According to Capt. Jennifer Reed, Fort Stewart Provost Marshal's Office operations officer, Green did the right thing.

"If someone thinks that they have a suspicious package, they should immediately call 911," she said. "Do not attempt to tamper or change anything about the package once you decide it is suspect, and do not let anybody else get near the package."

Green, an in-home day-care worker, made sure to follow these instructions to the letter.

"I got all the kids away from the house," she said.

The package that Green received is not the only one of its kind — two other suspicious parcels were reported in Savannah recently.

Luckily, none of the packages turned out to contain harmful material, but according to Green, the box she received contained liquid smoke — not exactly a toaster.

There are several ways to determine if a piece of mail is suspicious, Reed said.

"The first indicator is something that is out of

place. This could mean a briefcase left unattended in a public place or a package delivered to your house that was never ordered or expected," she said. "Some characteristics of suspicious packages and envelopes include excessive postage, misspellings of common words, strange return address or no return address, incorrect titles or titles without names, no specific addressee, threatening language, or a postmark from a city or state that does not match the return address.

"The appearance can be suspicious in several ways," she continued. "There could be powdery substance felt through or appearing on the package, oily stains, discolorations or odor, lopsided or uneven envelope, or excessive packaging material such as masking tape or string. Other signs might be excessive weight, ticking sounds or protruding wires or aluminum foil."

When a package is reported to the PMO, the caller will be asked a series of questions, Reed said.

"We would ask ... for example, was the package accompanied by a verbal or written threat? Is the package open, leaking, giving off an odor or have any suspicious markings? If the package was open, was any substance released from the package? Is anyone who touched the package feeling ill? Is the package making noise? Are there any wires protruding?"

The military police and fire department are the first responders when a suspect package is reported, and they have a standard way of dealing with the situation, according to Reed.

"The military police and fire department will initially perform an assessment to determine if there is a potential threat or not," she said. "The fire department will take the lead on assessing this threat, while (MPs) establish a perimeter and begin to evacuate the area.

"If there is no threat assessed, the fire department will determine how the package will be disposed of or removed. It will then be sealed and double-bagged. The final step is for anybody handling the package to wash their hands, and for the affected area to be washed."

If someone believes that they have received a suspicious package, the PMO encourages them to report it, even if they are not entirely sure that it is.

"We would rather respond to 99 false alarms if it means that we will be able to prevent the one truly dangerous package from hurting anyone," Reed said. "Personnel safety is the number-one priority in handling any suspected package. If a package or envelope appears suspicious, non-emergency personnel should not open or touch it. Emergency personnel should limit direct contact with the package. Ideally, only those with hazardous material training should proceed to handle the package when necessary."

Green said since receiving the package, she has learned "to be more aware of my surroundings ... and to be more careful with my mail."

"I would tell (other people) to please report anything suspicious," she added. "Even if it's not dangerous, it's better to be safe than sorry."

— ASK THE JUDGE —

Dude, where's my car?

What every Soldier needs to know about POV storage during deployment.

Capt. Heather Herbert

Claims Judge Advocate

The Marne Express is once again running at super-sonic speeds with soldiers headed to the National Training Center, Joint Readiness Training Center and Operation Iraqi Freedom Three. Both units and individual Soldiers have to make decisions about minimizing the risks associated with placing property into the hands of another entity. The following are some important measures to add to your ever-growing, pre-deployment, to-do list.

The Joint Federal Travel Regulation authorizes storage of one Privately Owned Vehicle in connection with Temporary Duty/deployments depending on the length of the deployment.

There are several things that need to be stressed in order to minimize risk and maximize protection in the event of theft, vandalism, or pilferage during transport or storage. Pre-deployment stress levels are high and there are things that get forgotten in the hubbub, but don't forget to protect your stuff so you can come home to the home (and beloved car) you left.

1. Soldiers and units need to make sure a good inspection is performed when the vehicle is taken in. Vehicles should be clean and in good working order when they are turned over. DD Form 788 can be used for this purpose. Make sure minor scratches and dings as well as larger more noticeable dents and cracks are noted. If storing at a commercial facility, they may do their own inspections and have their own forms. Soldiers may refer to the Storing Your POV pamphlet on the MTMC Web site at www.mtmc.army.mil and select "Personal Property." On the left will be a list of POV related information and you then click "Storing Your POV."

2. Make sure an inventory is prepared for your POV. The type and quantity of goods placed in a POV during storage are limited to things that are connected with vehicle operation such as spare tires,

jacks, small quantities of tools, etc. Soldiers can make their own list or use DD 788. Remember, claims service often won't pay for aftermarket upgrades to your POV. You should carry private insurance for televisions and expensive stereo equipment. Also, claims service will depreciate the value of this equipment, whereas insurance will usually pay to replace the item.

3. If storage is at a commercial facility, you will need to know what is covered so you can procure additional insurance if needed to protect the full value of your POV.

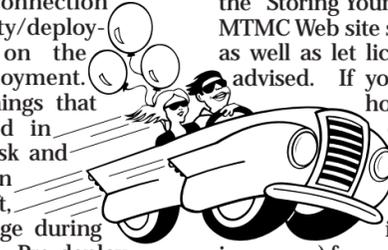
4. Do not terminate your insurance when you store your vehicle. Although the "Storing Your POV" Pamphlet on the MTMC Web site says it is okay to do this, as well as let licenses lapse, this is not advised. If you car is financed, lien holders generally require comprehensive insurance for the length of the loan. If it is terminated, they will acquire insurance (expensive insurance) for you and tack it on the loan.

5. Vehicles stored on post should comply with local policy for registration and display current decals if required. If your registration will lapse during the deployment, then you should renew your registration early or give someone you trust a Special Power of Attorney to renew it for you in your absence.

6. When vehicles are picked up from storage, another thorough inspection should be done. You should do a complete walk around with an inspector. Open the doors, the trunk, and make sure items stored in the car are still there. This prevents claims of later discovered loss and damage. If your car is stored off-post and you drive off before declaring any damages, you will give up your right to seek compensation for any damage from the storage lot.

7. Units may want to coordinate with transportation to see if they can provide any assistance in providing training for inspectors if needed.

If you have any questions about the above information, please call the Claims Office at 767-8185.





Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Dorothy Andrews, income tax assistant at the Hunter Tax Center, prepares a Soldier's 2003 taxes Wednesday. The tax center will remain open during normal business hours until the filing deadline — April 15.

CENTCOM News

Five U. S. Military Personnel Killed In Iraq

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Five U.S. military personnel serving with the First Marine Expeditionary Force were killed as a result of enemy action in the Al Anbar province April 1, while conducting security and stability operations.

I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regard to their tactics, techniques and procedures.

The names of the deceased are withheld pending next of kin notification.

Task Force 1AD Soldier Killed in IED Attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq — One Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldier was killed and another wounded following an improvised explosive device attack on their patrol in the Al Mansour district of Baghdad at around 6 a.m. April 2.

The two Soldiers were transported to the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, where the surviving Soldier was listed in stable condition.

The Soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of their next of kin.

The incident is under investigation.

Twelve Detained in Raid

TIKRIT, Iraq — 1st Infantry Division soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery conducted a raid near Baqubah Tuesday at about 4:45 a.m. to capture the leader and members of a insurgent cell.

The Soldiers detained 12 individuals, including the leader of the insurgents, suspected of conducting attacks against Coalition forces using improvised explosive devices. The individuals were transported to a Coalition detention facility.

For more information, please contact 1ID PAO at fristid.pao@us.army.mil.