

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

A Co., 123rd Sig. reorganizes

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff writer

A Company, 123rd Signal Battalion was the first company to deactivate April 8 as part of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) reorganization at their battalion headquarters.

The deactivated company was split into two companies which were placed in the 1st and 4th Units of Action Special Troop Battalions.

During the deactivation/activation ceremony, 123rd Sig. Bn. said goodbye to Capt. Tyler Oxley, former A Co., 123rd Sig. Bn. company commander and welcomed two new company commanders; Capt. Jude Metoyer, A Co., 4th UA STB and Capt. Kathleen Cage, A Co., 1st UA STB, to command the two newly activated companies.

"The outgoing company commander did an excellent job," said Maj. James

Heather, 123rd Sig. Bn. operations officer, S-3.

Capt. Oxley's next assignment will be at Central Washington University as the Reserves Officers' Training Corps instructor.

"What's good about having two new ones coming in is that it gives more opportunity and career progression for young officers and it increases the leadership to troop ratio," Heather said.

"Today, I assumed command of the newly activated A Co., 4th UA STB," Metoyer said.

Our role is to support maneuver commanders, and brigade and battalion tactical operation's centers with signal phones and data, he added.

By placing a signal unit into every UA, the brigades will no longer have to reach out and ask for signal support.

"The change will put us closer to the Soldiers that are fighting the battle," said

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Knott, A Co., 4th UA STB platoon sergeant.

"It will allow us to live, sleep and train with the Soldiers that we will go to battle with, instead of just supporting them in training exercises and war," Knott said. This will build better rapport and team cohesion among the Soldiers.

"We have some brigade command post exercises coming up and in August we will have a brigade and division focus exercise," Metoyer said. We will culminate our training this year by participating in a Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in November in preparation for Operation Iraqi Freedom Three, he added.

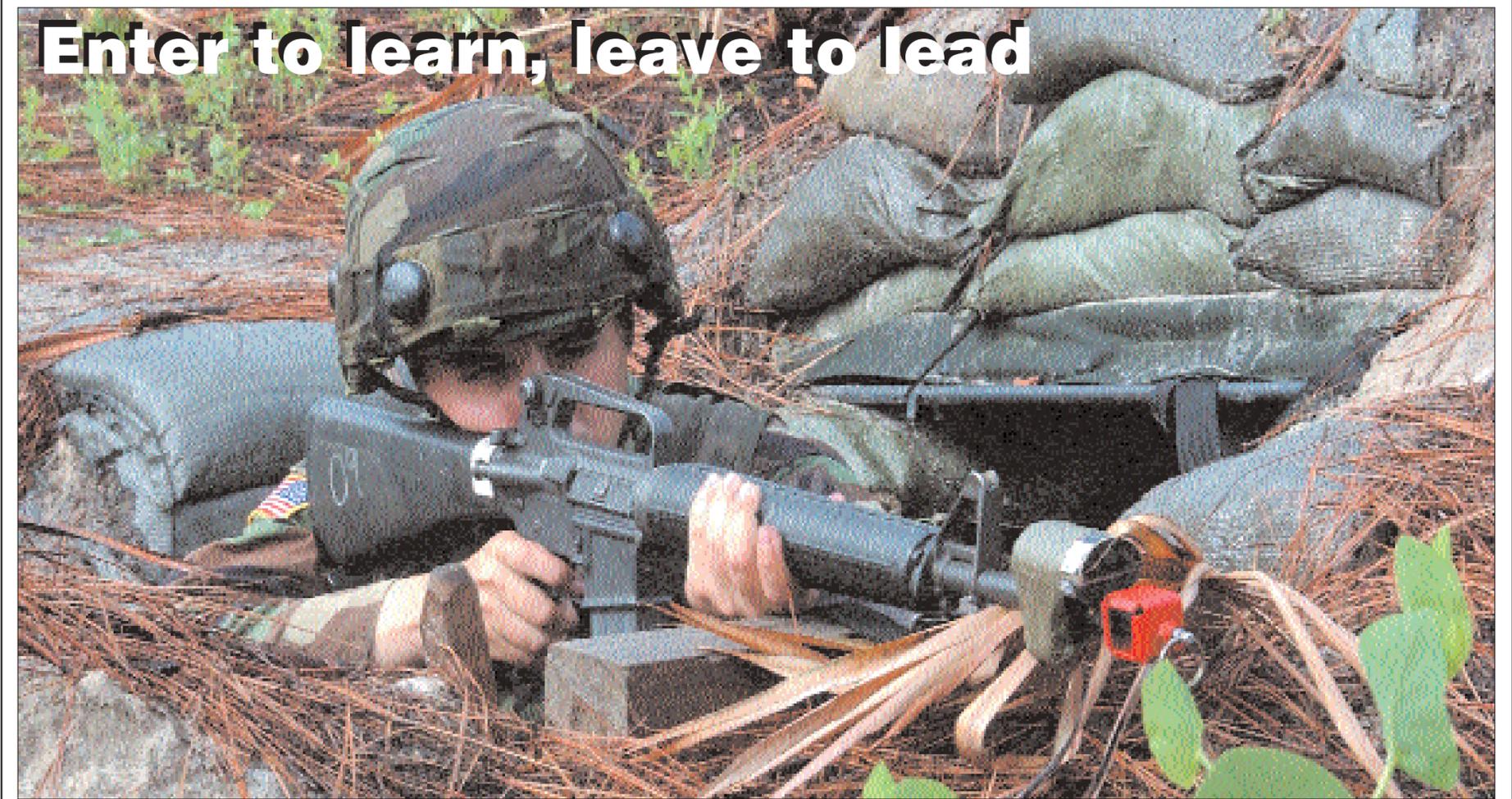
During these exercises, I expect Soldiers to maintain proficiency on the equipment that we currently have, but we will soon be fielding new equipment moving the signal corps into the future, Metoyer said.



Spc. Robert Adams

(right) Lt. Col. Joseph Brendler, 123rd Sig. Bn. commander, hands over the A Co., 4th UA STB guidon to Capt. Jude Metoyer who assumed command responsibilities.

See SIGNAL, Page 9A



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Sgt. Jaime Perez, 703rd Main Support Battalion motor transportation sergeant, provides security for his platoon in the Primary Leadership Development Course field training exercise Tuesday. Soldiers used the leadership skills they acquired in various scenarios and exercises in the two day FTX that served as a culmination of all their training in PLDC. For more photos and story, see the April 29 edition of The Frontline.

2/7 Inf. remembers fallen Soldiers

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
Associate Editor

A Company, 2nd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment, held a one-year anniversary memorial on Warrior's Walk April 8.

The remembrance was for five Soldiers killed March 28 and 29, 2003.

"It is important to honor their memory," said Pfc. Ronquillo Paolo, A Co., 2/7 Inf. "They went and died for our country and we all wear the same uniform."

The day that four of the Soldiers died started off as a normal duty day, he said. "The fact that they were dead didn't hit me immediately."

A display of five sets of boots,

identification tags and weapons were set up to represent the fallen Soldiers.

The memorial wasn't held on the actual anniversary because 2/7 was in the field at the time.

The deaths made the unit stronger, said 1st Sgt. Benjamin Moore Jr., A Co. first sergeant.

In a letter to his wife Sgt. Eugene Williams wrote that thinking about his family kept him safe.

To end the ceremony, all A Co., 2/7 Inf. Soldiers walked by the display and saluted to show their respects.

A memorial will be held every year in remembrance of these five Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice, Moore said.

Five Soldiers killed:

Sgt. Roderic A. Solomon

Sgt. Eugene Williams

Cpl. Michael E. Curtin

Pfc. Michael R. Crieghton-Weldon

Pfc. Diego F Rincon



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Spc. Jeffrey Sheppard (right), Sgt. Nicholas Driggers (middle) and Sgt. Antwann Mackall (left), A Co., 2/7 Inf. color guard, stand behind five sets of boots, kevlar, weapons and ID tags at a memorial anniversary ceremony April 8. Each set represents a Soldier who was killed in OIF in their unit.

Weather Forecast

FRI	High 78°	Low 49°
SAT	High 80°	Low 51°
SUN	High 83°	Low 54°

News



396th Trans. Soldiers get Bronze Stars 8A

Sports



Disabled Soldiers, veterans hit the slopes 1B

Life & Times



Stewart celebrates the resurrection 2C

Guide

- Voices and Viewpoints 4A
- Police Reports 11A
- Ask the Judge 11A
- 3ID In Brief 13A
- Marne TV Schedule 13A
- Worship schedule 4C
- Chaplain's Corner 4C
- Volunteer Spotlight 5C
- Movie listing 5C
- Birth announcements 5C

Sapper Soldiers try out different type of training

Sgt. R. James Piper

Staff Writer

In the courtyard a townsman with an M-4 Carbine watched over a shirtless hostage as he waited to use him as a human shield at the military operations urbanized terrain site at Fort Stewart.

A group of Soldiers with their BDU tops inside out to indicate they were the enemy kept watch from the two-story government building in the mock town as they waited for Soldiers from A Company, 11th Engineer Battalion to begin their attack on the town.

Across the courtyard, a Soldier sat in the tower of the church keeping watch, while two more waited on the ground floor.

A cry of "I see them near the trees," was the first sign the assault was about to begin and soon after the first round was fired and the battle for the mock village began.

"We were on a patrol mission and tasked with attacking and seizing the mock village," said Sgt. Dennis Kradel, a squad leader with A Co., 11th Eng. Bn.

The mission required them to clear the occupied buildings and in the scenario there were four buildings occupied — the church and a government building, both two stories, and two one-story buildings.

The original plan was to capture the government building first, but as they drew closer the plan changed because there was only one way into the town that offered concealment, Kradel said. After reevaluating the situation, the squad went for the church first.

"The situation can change in a moment's notice so we had to switch up our thinking," Kradel said. "You can't just charge in."

The assault was a chance for the company to work on a set of skills more focused on what the infantryman does rather than the combat engineer, but Soldiers often do jobs that don't necessarily fall into their specialty.

"I learned a lot and feel more prepared for a real world mission doing this," said Spc. Christopher Lyon, a combat engineer. "We did some of the same stuff the first time in Iraq so having this knowledge ... will help us a lot."

Kradel, also an OIF veteran, felt the same way and said, "This is some training that we really could have used. I think the training helped a lot and will benefit us in the same situation in the future."

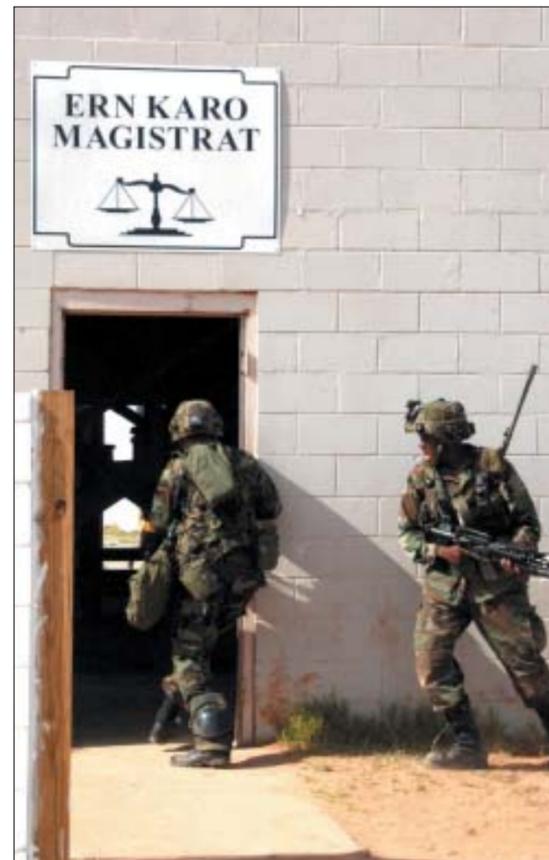
The combat engineer's traditional mission is to provide engineer support by constructing trails, roads and field fortifications such as shelters, bunkers and gun emplacements, assembling floating or prefabricated bridges, placing and detonating explosives, and locating mines by visual means or by using a mine detector. The training was different from what the unit normally does in the field, Kradel said.

"It's a whole different mindset to do this," he explained. "It helps the new guys learn and makes us all well rounded Soldiers."



Photos by Sgt. R. James Piper

Pfc. Gary Morrissey, a combat engineer with E Co., 3/69 Armor, prepares a booby trap before the mock village was attacked during the 11th Eng. Bn. training at the MOUT site April 7.



Staff Sgt. Earl Mack, 2nd Plt., A Co., 11th Eng. Bn., squad leader, runs to the government building so he and his squad can clear the building.



Soldiers begin their advance on the mock village during the training.



Sgt. Christen Raeder, Armor Combat Earthmover section leader with E Co., 3/69 Armor, stands watch from the second story of the government building. Raeder and other Soldiers acted as the opposing force during A Co., 11th Eng.'s training exercise.



(Above) Morrissey attaches wire to a smoke grenade to create a simulated trap for the enemy.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Gregory Wright, 2nd Squad leader, 2nd Plt., and Sgt. Clifford Giddings, 1st Squad Team Leader (background), enter the church in the mock village to look for enemy forces.

New equipment enhances 603rd's capabilities

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from 603rd Aviation Support Battalion recently received training and new equipment that greatly enhances their ability to return damaged 4th Brigade helicopters back to the air.

The Electro-Optics Test Facility enables them to repair line replaceable units at the direct support level rather than sending them back to contractors for repair, according to Curtis Snider, team leader for the Integrated Family of Equipment.

"Previously, Soldiers had to send damaged optical equipment back to the rear, now they can do more. The EOTF puts repairs forward, back in Soldiers' hands," Snider explained.

Staff Sgt. Melvin Russell, A Company, 603rd ASB section sergeant, and his Soldiers received two weeks of classroom and hands on EOTF certification instruction from Snider and his team.

"Before, we could only test and repair electronic equipment, now we can test and repair optical equipment too," he said.

The Northrop Grumman Electronics Division provided 603rd Soldiers with two 5-ton long bed trucks to transport the equipment, and two generators to provide power, in addition to the training and EOTF equipment. It's all transportable by C-130s, which means Soldiers can bring it with them on training, peacekeeping, and to war missions, according to Snider.

The process works like this: OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters are equipped with equipment used for thermal and laser imaging. If the crew chief finds a problem with any of his aircraft's optical thermal and laser imaging systems, he replaces it with a spare, and his team continues its fire and support mission while A Co. Soldiers repair the optical thermal and laser imaging system.

Maj. Jeffrey Gorres, A Co. commander, said, "[EOTF] significantly enhances our ability to repair line replaceable units on the Kiowa, Longbows, MLRS, Avengers, Paladin and Tow/Dragons, keeping downtime to a minimum and significantly enhancing overall combat readiness."

The future of aviation maintenance is brighter because of the new equipment, according to Lt. Col. Richard T. Knapp, 603rd ASB commander. "EOTF is a huge representation of us getting the right support equipment to do our job," he said.

Snider and his team presented A Co. Soldiers with



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Spc. Michael McCreary, A Co., 603rd ASB, conducts a self test with new Electro-optics Test Facility equipment. training certificates and a Letter of Commendation April 6 in their motor pool following their two-week training on the new equipment.

He told them "Since you're the first site to get the EOTF, you'll probably be guinea pigs. But if you have any problems, give us a call."

Gorres called the training and new equipment fielding "The smoothest fielding and new equipment training I've experienced in 13 years in the Army."

Other 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) units will receive the training and equipment in the future, according to Snider.

MPs begin manning highway gates

Col. John Kidd
Fort Stewart Commander

Beginning Monday our military police and augmentation personnel will man all installation highway boundary gates on a 24-hour basis to control access to the installation.

The change will help ensure the safety and security of our Soldiers, family members, civilian employees, contractors and members of our regional community.

Our positive control of access onto the installation is necessary, as the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) conducts a significant amount of training in preparation for deployments and in support of the thousands of Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers mobilizing and training at Fort Stewart.

MPs have the responsibility to ensure that only authorized personnel are

transiting in and around our installation, and those that are authorized to drive, do so in a safe manner. Safe driving is OUR RESPONSIBILITY — TOGETHER!

What we can expect to see: MPs will be positioned at each highway boundary gate and will check for valid Department of Defense decals or valid permits and passes. Vehicles with expired or unserviceable decals will be directed to the Vehicle Registration Office (Building 295).

Personnel who do not have a DoD decal, permit or valid pass will be required to show a valid driver's license in order to proceed. People who fail to produce a valid license or who have expired licenses will be issued a traffic citation by the MPs and will not be allowed access to the installation.

Those personnel who need to access the Fort

Stewart cantonment area will still have their IDs checked at all cantonment gates. Commercial trucks (log, concrete, gravel) not requiring access to the cantonment area may use the highway boundary gates for access to the maneuver area and ranges. Commercial trucks requiring access to the cantonment area must still go through the Mobile Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (x-ray machine) at Gate 7 (15th Street) to be scanned prior to entering the cantonment area. Trucks carrying ammunition must use the highway boundary gates to access the ammunition supply point and may not enter the garrison.

For our collective safety, please observe the reduced speed limit signs (15 miles per hour) and be prepared for traffic to be stopped at these locations for short periods of time.

We will not control

access from the cantonment area (gates 3 and 6) out to the maneuver and range areas.

If you entered the installation through any of the cantonment area gates, you have already met the security requirements and may have unhampered access to Georgia Highways 144, 119, and 47.

The location of highway boundary gates are: Ga. 119 North gate is located in the vicinity of the fire tower near the Non-commissioned Officer Academy; Ga. 144 East gate is near the Shell station on 144 East; Ga. 144 West gate is located at Fort Stewart 1/Sandhill Road; Ga. 47/Sunbury Road gate is located 40 meters north of the Wright Army Airfield turn off.

Everyone has a role in our SAFETY and SECURITY!

MISSION ... SOLDIERS ... TEAMWORK!

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

Why is it important to honor fallen Soldiers?



"As a matter of loyalty to your comrades."

Sgt. Rafael Aponte
356th MI Co.



"Because they didn't have to do what they did."

Spc. Angela Countryman
D Co., 161st ASMB



"Because they laid their lives down for their country and they need to be honored and remembered."

Spc. Scott Ducharme
B Co., 2/7 Inf.



"Because if it wasn't them, it could be you or me."

Pfc. Shezad Ghani
HHC, 1/64 Armor



"Because we realize that these Soldiers died for the freedom of everyone in the U.S. to keep the people in America free."

1st Sgt. Sheila Nelson
A Co., 3rd BSB



"Because people in uniform can relate to other people in uniform. If it wasn't them it could have been me or any one of us."

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Simpson
B Co., 2/306th TSB

In loving memory of ...

Losing an uncle, friend, Soldier, hero

Spc. Jonathan Stack
Associate Editor

At 12:30 a.m. Monday morning, I received the most upsetting news of my life — my father, a 26-year Army veteran, called to tell me my uncle Mike, a Special Forces sergeant major, was killed in an ambush over in Iraq. The news shocked me. I had to ask him three times what he said because I didn't understand.

My uncle was very special to me. He helped raise me in my first five years in the Army, while we were both stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. We were separated when I came to Fort Stewart and he and his family went to the Sergeants Major Academy.

Three days before my disturbing news he wrote me an e-mail telling me how well things were and that they weren't that bad.

The hardest part of all of this other than losing one of my heroes was listening to my father cry, as he told me what was thought to have happened to his only brother.

My uncle left behind a wife, two daughters and a son in their adult years, two sons, ages 3 and 5, another daughter, 7-years-old and three grandchildren.

Hearing the news reminded me why I joined

— Commentary —



the military — to defend the freedom that my country gives me.

We (the military) have lost many troops in this war and hopefully it hasn't been in vain.

All of this just reminds me that we have Soldiers who, in a cowardly acts, ran back home and abandoned their troops. It seems to me that acts like that are a slap in the face and a disgrace to our country, citizens, troops and men and women who have died for this country.

All the people in the Armed Services joined knowing that there was a chance to go to war and also

die for their country. And it hurts me to know that there are people who, when this time comes, disgracefully go absent without leave, disappointing their fellow Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Sailors.

My heart goes out to those who have been to Iraq, are still in Iraq, and those of us who will be there soon. It weeps for those who never made it back.

My aunt said, "He (my uncle) loved the Army and died doing what he loved."

Editor's Note: The Frontline staff offers our condolences to Spc. Stack, his family, and the families of all those who have lost loved ones in the war on terrorism.

Why won't they let me keep my dog?

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
Staff Writer

Coming from a military family, many times I have not been able to keep a pet for very long. Moving from duty station to duty station, often overseas, we had to sacrifice many a good pet to achieve the Air Force's mission.

After my father retired, the first thing we did was buy a hunk of Georgia red clay, put a house on it and proceed to fill it with many animals. We were not prejudiced to the amount or type of dogs to whom we offered sanctuary. Many of my favorite animals were procured from the dump as puppies or found wandering the dirt roads.

I lucked out one time and found a beautiful Doberman Pinscher wandering in the woods when my cousin and I were squirrel hunting. The dog seemed sweet enough, had no collar and followed us home.

We kept the dog for a few weeks, until somebody on my bus claimed that we had his dog. We vehemently denied this accusation and refused to give the dog to any unknown stranger who would surely tie the blessed beast of ours to a tire or a tree and neglect it for days at a time.

— Commentary —

The young man claimed that he and his big brother, along with some of the other area h o o d l u m s , would be paying us a visit later on that afternoon.

My cousin and I braced ourselves for the oncoming siege. We acquired broom handles and hunting knives, as determined to protect our animal as a pair of lone frontiersman guarding their abode against an onslaught of berserk enemies.

As the hours waned toward dusk a truck pulled up carrying five or six dangerous looking thugs in the back. We had prepared ourselves well, and vigilantly watched our foes from a good defensive fighting position. As they unloaded, we barraged them with rocks and retreated to fighting position bravo, where we prepared for the second wave of the attack.

The older fellows were angered by our adolescent pelting. They dusted themselves off and continued



toward us.

We were dug in like Alabama ticks. We pulled out our mop handles and prepared for close quarters hand to hand combat when our beautiful pet came from the back side of the house. We tried to call our prized animal, but he would not heed our call. He ran straight toward the older boys, who loaded him up on the truck and left the battlefield before we could annihilate them.

I am scarred from the animals I have loved the most being taken away from me.

Once a week my wife and I go to the shelter here on post to view the animals. If I knew I was allowed, I would take every one of those delightful beings home. The lady who works there eggs my emotions on by letting me know that certain animals will be put to sleep. In the end my wife has to drag me out of there kicking and sobbing like a small girl who skinned her knee or dropped her ice cream. I try to explain to her the depth of my problems with leaving my animals behind, but she just cuffs my ear and removes me from the premises. Maybe one day I will be able to have my dog and keep it too.

Correction

In a Page 1A story in the April 8 edition of The Frontline, Sgt. Michael F. Pederson, a 4th Brigade Soldier who was killed in Iraq, was misidentified as Sgt. Peterson. The Frontline apologizes for this error.

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Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Chuck Moss prepares to show Soldiers a video relating to alcohol awareness on National Alcohol Screening Day April 8 at building 624.

Alcohol Screening Day gives Soldiers a clue

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

Fort Stewart kicked off Alcohol Awareness Month on National Alcohol Screening Day April 8 at Building 624.

The day's activities included classes about the consequences of alcohol use and abuse, on the spot counseling for Soldiers, and informational videos and computer programs.

"A lot of times, Soldiers make bad decisions in the field of alcohol," said Chuck Moss, Fort Stewart Army Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator. "We need to bring the consequences of irregular alcohol use to light."

Classes ran from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Soldiers who attended were given a questionnaire to fill out to evaluate their use of alcohol, and whether or not they need further counseling.

"This is part of a national event," Moss said. "We want to help individuals see if they have a problem with alcohol, and this is a non-threatening way of doing that."

Moss, who has been working in his field for 20 years, and with the military for five, said when it comes to people who really want to change their ways, there is always a mixture at events like this.

"Some grab on and get it and make a change, and for some the information just

goes in one ear and out the other," he said. "Our hope is that they will get something, even if it's just one or two points, and use that to make a difference in their lives."

This is the first Alcohol Screening Day that Fort Stewart has hosted, and Moss said he is optimistic about the program.

"I think it's a good tool to use to help the community," he said.

One of the Soldiers who attended the event, Pvt. Javiera Aranda, C Company, 26th Forward Support Battalion, said she thought the information put out was "an eye-opening experience of what could happen when you go out in public and party too much."

"It makes you aware of the dangers of

alcohol abuse," she added.

"This is an opportunity to teach Soldiers about how drug and alcohol issues intertwine with life issues," Moss said. "It's all related."

"I think this class was a very helpful experience," Aranda said. "It also helps you get your license back after you get a (driving under the influence offense)."

Activities relating to Alcohol Awareness Month are planned on Fort Stewart throughout the month, include a block party scheduled April 24.

Anyone interested in participating in these activities or finding out more about alcohol-related issues can contact Moss at 370-7536.

First Stryker brigade proving its worth

Joe Burlas

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — A year after conducting its Initial Operational Capabilities testing, the Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team is faring well in Iraq, according to senior Army procurement officials.

Members of the Pentagon press corps got an update April 5 on successes of the Army's first fielded SBCT — 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, based in Fort Lewis, Wash. — and the Army's fielding plan for the remaining planned Stryker brigades.

"The 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division is performing extremely effectively in combat in Iraq," said Col. Nick Justice, acting assistant deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management for the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. "The SBCT has effectively used speed and situational understanding to kill and capture dozens of enemy fighters."

That speed and quietness of the wheeled Strykers, compared to armored track vehicles, has earned the brigade a nickname among many Iraqis, Justice said.

Iraqi citizens around Samarra gave the brigade Soldiers the nickname "Ghost Riders" as the Stryker vehicles arrive and deploy their infantrymen with little noise or warning, he said.

Citing that no Soldiers have been killed due to rocket-propelled grenade or improvised explosive device attacks while riding in a Stryker vehicle since 3rd Bde. arrived in Iraq last fall, Justice said Army leaders are very pleased with its survivability in combat.

The most serious injury due to an RPG or IED attack against a Stryker vehicle to date has been a broken ankle.

The brigade has suffered casualties in Iraq — chief among them were three Soldiers who were killed in a Stryker rollover when a roadway embankment gave way in December.

Strykers in Iraq are augmented with add-on slat armor that is proving effective

against RPG attacks.

Despite the effectiveness of the slat armor against the current threat in Iraq, the Army is still pursuing the development of reactive armor.

"Slat armor is successful, but we don't want to be locked into it as there are other threats out there where reactive armor is needed," Justice said.

The Army plans on building enough Stryker add-on reactive armor kits to equip several brigades.

Those brigade sets will be drawn from a prepositioned site and used when a mission requires it, according to Army officials. The first brigade set of reactive armor is scheduled to be fielded in March 2005, with another set ready the following year.

Stryker operations in Iraq have given Army procurement officials some lessons learned that will be implemented in the near future.

Among those lessons, there is a need for greater sensor range and greater reach back communications capability.

To address the sensor issue, the Army plans to make the sensor mast on the Stryker Reconnaissance Vehicle taller; and for the communications issue, replace the 44 Near-Term Digital Radios in the brigade with 53 satellite radio sets capable of operating in a joint environment over greater distances.

On the logistics side, 3rd Bde. is proving that having a common chassis for its combat vehicles means a smaller logistics tail. The brigade is carrying about 160 lines of spare parts, compared to an armored brigade that carries about 300 lines of parts, Justice said. Having a common family of vehicles within the brigade also means a common set of skill sets among brigade Soldiers to keep the vehicle maintained, he said.

Stating that a year of combat operations equates to about seven years of normal operational use of a combat vehicle, Justice said the operational readiness rate of the Stryker is about where he expected it to be — above 90 percent.

There are two variants and eight other configurations of the basic Stryker



Sgt. Lisa Jendry

Stryker infantry carrier vehicles from 3rd platoon, Company C., 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) landed at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 31 aboard C-17 Globemasters from McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Infantry Carrier. The Mobile Gun System and the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance and Survey Vehicles have yet to be field due to several human engineering issues that are being worked, according to officials. Low rate production of the MGS is expected to start late this summer, Justice said.

The Army's second SBCT — 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division — is currently undergoing its Initial Operational Capabilities evaluation.

It is expected to be certified by the Department of Defense as operationally ready sometime this summer.

The next brigade to transform to an

SBCT will be 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), Fort Richardson, Alaska. The 172nd will start getting its Stryker vehicles in May, Justice said.

A February Defense Acquisition Board decision has funded the fourth Stryker brigade — 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light), Fort Polk, La.

DoD has recently directed the Army to include the remaining brigades for Stryker conversion — 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and the 56th Brigade of 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Pennsylvania Army National Guard — in its budget planning process.

Focus TF 'jump starting' future

By Gary Sheftick
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON — The "Current to Future Force" initiative is about more than accelerating futuristic technology for use in today's Army, according to a leader of the task force.

"We're creating a new way of doing business," said Ed Mazzanti, deputy of the Capabilities Development Directorate at the Training and Doctrine Command's 'Future Center.'

Mazzanti and his focus area task force identify promising capabilities under development and attempt to "rapidly spiral" them for use in the current force. They are looking closely at certain aspects of the Future Combat Systems, such as unmanned aerial vehicles and robotics.

The UAVs and robots brought into use today may not have the "threshold capabilities" intended for 2010, Mazzanti said, but they will provide current leaders an opportunity to experience application of the technologies while research continues.

"It really gives us a jump-start toward bringing that future to being," Mazzanti said.

His task force also examines "lessons learned" from Iraq, Afghanistan and other operations to help steer development of future capabilities to what is needed.

"It's really a continuation of Army transformation," Mazzanti said. "It embraces the notion of adjusting the Army's transformation to what has occurred in the operational environment," especially after Sept. 11, 2001.

This is something Mazzanti's task force calls "current to future," which differs in principle from the "future to current"

acceleration of technology.

"Today's Army is very capable, well proven," Mazzanti said, explaining that proven capabilities deserve to stay around for the future. For instance, he said the M-1 Abrams tank will be around for "decades into the future."

The third function of his task force is to look at "current to current" capabilities, Mazzanti said. This means finding capabilities being used successfully in one corner of the Army and adapting them for wider application. Mazzanti said this includes some battle command initiatives fielded to forces in Iraq.

Every six months, his task force — with members from the Pentagon, Army Materiel Command, Joint Forces Command, Army Testing and Evaluation Command, TRADOC and elsewhere — will team up to conduct a "capabilities assessment" and determine what technologies are ripe for fielding.

"We're creating a new way of doing business."

Ed Mazzanti
deputy of the Capabilities
Development Directorate at the
Training and Doctrine Command's
'Future Center'

nologies are ripe for fielding.

"We're casting a very wide net," Mazzanti said, explaining that his group not only has "tentacles across the Army," but is also looking at academia and foreign armies,

such as a South African mine detection capability.

The task force is also looking at a Counter Mine Change Detection Work Station which would process information collected by infra-red imagery, cameras and other sensors and analyze the terrain to determine if it has been disturbed. The software will alert forces to the probability of land mines being present.

They are looking at a lightweight mortar radar that can be disassembled and carried by two Soldiers.

Active Protective Systems for combat vehicles are being examined, but not necessarily for near-term fielding,



Photo by Timothy L. Rider

A Packbot searches for booby traps on this truck at Najaf Airfield, Iraq, March 31. The Packbot is an example of technology that is being accelerated for the current force.

Mazzanti said. APS could sense incoming rounds or missiles and enable countermeasures, Mazzanti said. He said this type of capability could eventually be added to current combat vehicles, once it is developed further.

One way Mazzanti's task force aims to accelerate the fielding of technology is to "team early" the research and development folks with the acquisition corps.

"The intent is to accelerate," Mazzanti said, "but there are certain statutory requirements in acquisition."

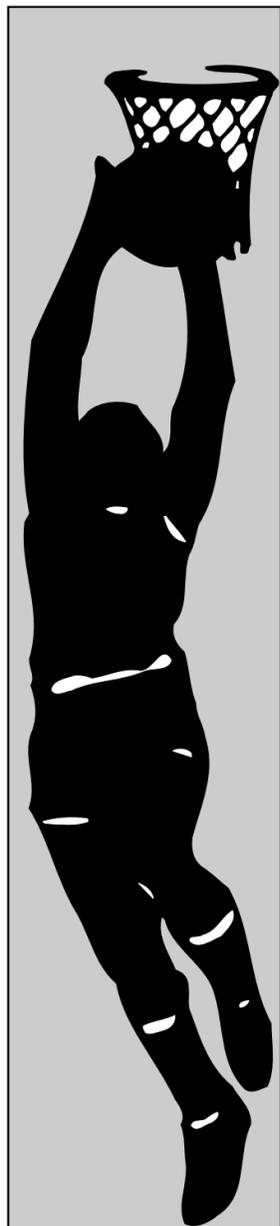
"We still have to operate within the statutory requirements," Mazzanti said.

He also stressed that change is never recommended for the sake of change itself.

"You have to be careful about the pace of change," Mazzanti said. He said that the task force weighs the added capability of a change to ensure it merits the turbulence it will create.

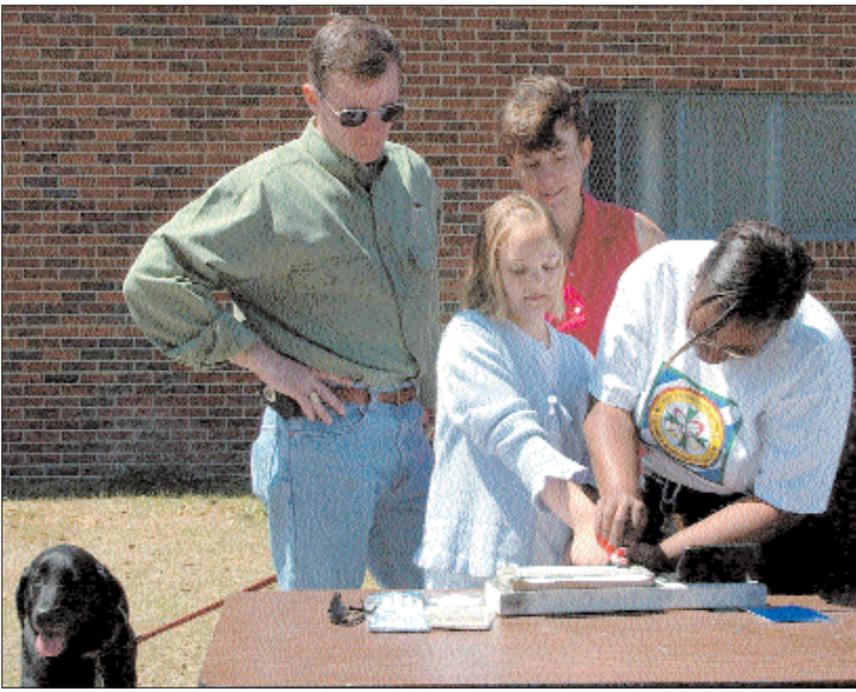
Change affects materiel, doctrine and the way units conduct business, Mazzanti said. He said the task force constantly balances risk between today and tomorrow.

"It's a mindset," Mazzanti said, "a continuum of activity that pushes the Army toward the future."



Win with the Frontline. To place an ad, call 876-0156

Fingerprinting... A child safety precaution



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

The Army Community Services Kid Care Identification Campaign kicked off April as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Children are fingerprinted and photographed to help authorities find them if they are kidnapped or missing. Hunter Army Airfield Commander Lt. Col. Jeffrey Goble and his family, wife Linda, 10-year-old daughter Caroline and Maggie, their dog, lead from the front as Caroline is fingerprinted by Regina Mims, ACS family advocacy program specialist during Hunter Community Day.

The next dates for children to be fingerprinted are:

Fort Stewart

April 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Corkin Gym

Hunter

April 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
during the critter clinic at the ACS building.

April 23, from 8 to 11 a.m.
at the Child Development Center

April 28, from 4 to 5 p.m.
at the School Age Services Building

For more information, call 767 - 5064 or 352 - 5259



Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas congratulates 1st Sgt. Jerry L. Cannon from the 396th Trans. Co., after awarding him with a Bronze Star Medal for his actions in Iraq.

Transportation rocks the nation

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane, Jr.

Staff Writer

The 396th Transportation Company held an awards ceremony April 7 to honor three Soldiers who performed above and beyond the call of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1st Sgt. Jerry L. Cannon, Warrant Officer Paul E. Ingham, the maintenance technician, and 1st Lt. Abraham Falkowitz, received Bronze Star Medals at the ceremony.

"There were a collection of events that led up to the award," Cannon said. "This is the first time I have ever received an award like this, so it's a big honor for me. I've been in the Army for 22 years."

Collectively, the 396th Soldiers drove a total of 1.8 million miles during their deployment to Iraq. Different palletized loading systems were assigned to different units during the deployment, Cannon said. They hauled everything that could be hauled, including ammunition, rations, spare parts, Army and Air Force Exchange equipment, and mail.

"We received the award for the job we

did in Iraq over a year's time," Ingham said.

The 396th was recognized because they maintained all their equipment with little to no problems without spare parts available to maintain the vehicles, he added.

There were more than a few times when 396th Soldiers had close calls with death, because most of them were out with the combat arms units, Cannon said.

"If I could cut this medal in half, I would give half to my wife, and cut the other half into 125 pieces and give it all to you guys," Ingham said. "None of this would be possible without all of you Soldiers' hard work and dedication."

"You don't get all the accolades that are due to you, simply because a lot of the attention goes toward the pointy end of the spear, or the combat Soldiers," said Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (Support). "The fact of the matter is that they would not be able to do their jobs if you had not done yours first. Thanks for what you did then, and for what you do everyday."

Support the Pampered Chef and "Help Whip Cancer"

Special to The Frontline

According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 216,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in 2004. Last year, 39,000 of our loved ones died from this disease, even though nearly all breast cancers can be treated successfully if detected.

Now is the time to help. The Pampered Chef, the premier direct seller of high-quality kitchen tools sold through in-home cooking demonstrations, is again joining forces with the American Cancer Society to

increase awareness and raise funds to help eradicate breast cancer, the most frequently diagnosed cancer in U.S. women.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the company's Help Whip Cancer campaign. The campaign, held throughout the month of May, was created to fund continued progress against breast cancer, which requires knowledge on prevention, early detection and treatment, as well as ongoing research into how to better prevent, detect and treat the disease.

The Pampered Chef invites you to support the cause and join in the fight against

breast cancer this May by hosting a "Help Whip Cancer" Kitchen Show Fund-raiser. Money raised at this in-home cooking demonstration will be donated directly to the American Cancer Society. Ten percent of total product sales are contributed when sales are \$600 or less, 15 percent is contributed when sales are \$600 or more.

The Pampered Chef is offering three new products this year during the month of May: the Mini Stainless Steel Whisk for \$9.50, Pink Lemon Aid for \$7.00, Microfiber Towel for \$8.50, and a favorite product from last year's campaign, the Pink Mini Measure-All Cup

for \$5.50. A \$1.00 donation is made to Army Community Service for each product purchased.

For more information about how you can "Help Whip Cancer" in May, please call Misty Lambert, Independent Kitchen Consultant for The Pampered Chef, at 270-3066.

For more information about breast cancer, call the American Cancer Society toll-free at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org. The Pampered Chef, Help Whip Cancer and Kitchen Show are registered trademarks.

Signal

from page 1A

"The new equipment will be smaller, higher speed, and will take less Soldiers to man it and be in harm's way," said Maj. Jonathon Moelter, 3rd Inf. Div. signal officer, G-6. We will be able to provide internet, telephone, and classified services down to battalion level now, where before with the Mobile Subscriber Equipment we could only support at the brigade level."

123rd Sig. Bn. was first assigned to the 3rd Inf. Div. Nov. 6, 1917 and has been a part of the division ever since.

"It's a sad day for 123rd Sig. Bn. because it is not going to exist anymore, but it is for the best for the division," said 1st Lt. Lilliana Aleman, A Co., 4th UA STB executive officer.



American citizens show support by sending "Doggles" to Iraq

Sgt. 1st Class Reginald P. Rogers

Special to The Frontline

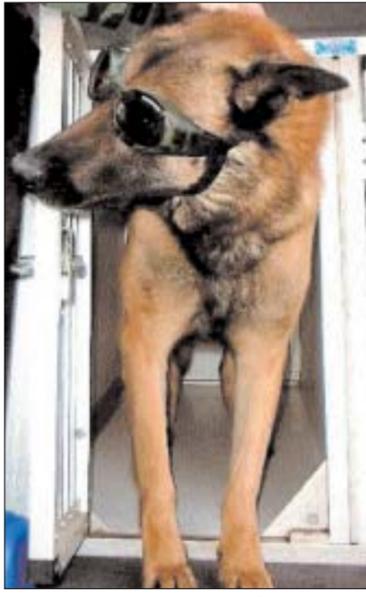
FORT MONROE, Va. — The military police motto "Of the troops and for the troops" has been taken to heart by some American citizens concerned for the Army's four-legged troops: the military working dogs.

The dogs' welfare and the Soldiers' efforts prompted Linda Cunningham from Hillsdale, Mich., to do her part.

"I just wanted to let Soldiers know the people at home appreciate their efforts in the Middle East," said Cunningham, who works at Hillsdale's Family Independence Office and volunteers at the local humane society.

Cunningham said that when she was contacted by one of her co-workers about making a contribution to Soldiers serving in Iraq, they talked about aiding the MWDs specifically. Cunningham's research yielded an idea — Doggles for the dogs to protect their eyes from the desert sandstorms.

Cunningham, her co-workers and friend Lydia Ross of Seattle, solicited donations to purchase the Doggles. The Doggles Company,



Courtesy photo

A deployed military working dog, wearing Doggles to protect her eyes from the desert sandstorms, gets ready for the day's mission.

which is based in North Carolina, agreed to sell the protective eyewear to the group at wholesale prices.

"(The decision) was actually pretty simple," explained Ken Di Lullo of

the Doggles Co. "We were contacted several times, mostly by vets in Iraq ... protecting the eyes of the military working dogs seems to be a big problem, with the sandstorms."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Timothy G. Dawson, Training and Doctrine Command's MWD manager, once the first few packages were shipped to MWD teams, the doors started opening and donations started pouring in.

"So far, Linda, Lydia and crew have collected more than \$2,200 from individuals and businesses in their local areas," Dawson said.

Cunningham — whom Ross nicknamed the "war dog coordinator" for spearheading the donation drive — said since sending initial donations to the Soldiers, she has become even more driven to take care of their needs.

"The amazing thing about this woman and her support staff is that they are doing this on their own time and asking nothing in return. They just want to show their support to the MWD teams and let them know the American people support them and wish them the best in these troubled times," Dawson said.

Dawson said Cunningham and Ross have sent other items that really come in handy for the dog han-

dlers. Some of these items include collapsible water bowls, rawhide chews, nail clippers, eyewash and ear cleaner.

Cunningham said making donations to the deployed Soldiers has given her a new perspective on the Global War on Terrorism.

"It has definitely changed the way I view the war," she explained. "Before becoming involved with the dog handlers, it was just a war that was seen on TV. Now it has become a lot more personal."

"We love being able to help the Soldiers in Iraq," Di Lullo said. "The first time we were contacted, it really made us feel that we could help some people and some dogs over there. It certainly was a point of pride for the company."

Cunningham constantly keeps in touch with the Soldiers in Iraq, as she monitors their needs and prepares to send them more goodies.

"I've found out that (one group) of dogs has received their heavy-duty boots (the North American Airedale Association), (which Ross is affiliated with) got for the dogs to protect their feet from the hot ground," she said. "Boots and Doggles, now that should be a great picture!"

Captain motivates disabled Soldiers

Spc. Lorie Jewell

Army News Service

SNOWMASS VILLAGE, Colo. — Losing part of his right leg below the knee has made Capt. David Rozelle more determined than ever to be the kind of leader that motivates Soldiers by example.

Rozelle, 31, was injured in a June land mine explosion in the western-Iraq city of Hit, where he commanded 140 Soldiers of Killer Troop of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

At Fort Carson, Colo., he took command of a rear echelon following a recovery that outfitted him with a prosthetic foot. A medical board cleared him to remain on active duty last month and in May, Rozelle will take command of a 3rd ACR headquarters troop.

An expert skier before the explosion, Rozelle returned to the slopes in a December ski clinic in Breckenridge, Colo., put on by Disabled Sports USA. He skied again at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, where the Veterans Administration and Disabled American Veterans put more than 300 veterans and active duty Soldiers on skis and in other sporting gear April 4 through 9.

With his natural foot planted on one ski and his prosthetic alternately jutting to the front, side and back, Rozelle made several runs from the top of a mountain outside of Aspen.

Aside from proving to himself that an artificial foot won't hold him back, Rozelle gets deep satisfaction from watching other Soldiers finding success on the

slopes.

"It's a confidence builder," Rozelle said. "You're looking at a bunch of guys who have had to relearn simple tasks like bathing and shaving. You bring them up here, put them on the mountain and show them what they can do. They come away saying 'If I can do this, I can do anything.'"

Rozelle believes the combination of having a command position and a prosthetic foot gives him a unique opportunity to help Soldiers on a whole new level.

He has made repeat trips to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to visit Soldiers; a few weeks ago, he was fitted for a special swim leg.

"I want to give Soldiers someone to talk to who has made it through what they're facing, let them ask questions, and have them see me walking," Rozelle said.

He also shares his experience in getting back in shape and navigating the medical board process. He passed a physical training test by swimming 800 yards in less than 20 minutes, an alternate event for the run. He passed it in 18 minutes, but has since trimmed the time to 12 minutes.

With a swim leg, Rozelle plans to compete in triathlons.

While he appreciates the advanced technology in prosthetics, Rozelle hopes to see even more progress one day in designing a simulated ankle that will absorb more of the impact that currently goes to the knee, hips and back when walking or running.

Rozelle sees sports as a healing

tool for Soldiers like himself. He is working to establish an amputee support group at Fort Carson, where he knows of nine Soldiers with prosthetics, with help from Cpl. Brian Wilhelm, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, whose right leg was amputated below the knee as a result of an Oct. 7 rocket propelled grenade attack near Ballad, Iraq.

Wilhelm intends to stay on active duty.

The group will not only focus on networking Soldiers with prosthetics, but getting them involved in outdoor sports as well, Rozelle said. Colorado has an abundance of opportunities for skiing, mountain biking, hiking and river rafting, he noted.

Eventually, Rozelle intends to expand the group Army-wide. He invites anyone with an interest in participating or supporting the group to contact him via e-mail at: david.m.rozelle@us.army.mil.

A mutual interest in sports motivated Wilhelm to partner with Rozelle.

Wilhelm hopes the group will set a precedent for Soldiers with amputations.

His friend, Pfc. Phil Bauer, agreed. Bauer, a cavalry scout with the 3rd ACR, had his right leg amputated below the knee after the Chinook helicopter he was riding in was shot down Nov. 2.

Bauer is stationed at Carson with Wilhelm and Rozelle while awaiting an appearance before a medical board that he hopes will clear him to stay on active duty.

"They don't know what we can do until we prove it," Bauer added.



Spc. Lorie Jewell

Capt. David Rozelle talks about his prosthetic foot with Sgt. Justin Callahan during a visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where Rozelle spent time talking to fellow amputee Soldiers after getting fitted for a new swim leg prosthetic.

Warrant officers to sport branch insignia

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Beginning this summer, the warrant officer component is taking another step toward better integrating itself into the Army's officer corps.

As of July 9 all warrant officers will replace the "Eagle Rising" insignia on their left collar with their appropriate branch insignia. The insignia will have to be purchased, it will not be issued.

Regular commissioned officers have always worn their branch insignia on their left collar, and this uniform change is a step toward the full integration into the branch-based systems of the larger officer corps, a personnel official said.

"Warrant officers traditionally have not been treated as part of the officer corps. We've kind of been in this strange gray area between the noncommissioned officer and the regularly commissioned branch officer," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Albert Eggerton, the warrant

officer personnel policy integrator for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1.

"When Congress and our own leadership look at initiatives for the officer corps, they tend to overlook us because we're so small," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Andrew Barr, who previously worked in G1 with Eggerton. "We make up less than two percent of the Army and less than 14 percent of the officer corps."

As the technical experts, the role of warrant officers will increase dramatically as technology drives the battlefield, Barr said, who is currently at the U.S. Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Retiring the "Eagle Rising" insignia resulted from the Army Training and Leadership Panel — Warrant Officer Study. The study was the third phase in a four-phase Army-wide self-assessment directed by retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, former chief of staff.

Forty-five initiatives came out of the study to include changing the chief warrant officer 5 rank to a silver colored bar

with a black line in the center of the bar. The rank is currently worn by senior warrant officers in the Navy and Marine Corps, and was first approved in 1973.

The current rank, a silver bar with four open face squares, was always meant to be a transitional rank, Eggerton said.

"In the future we see an increasing role in joint operations, and it would make it easier in the joint world to identify us correctly by wearing the same insignia that our sister services are wearing," Eggerton said.

The change in uniform is not the first step the warrant officer component has taken in its journey to be more recognized in the officer corps, Eggerton said.

A recommendation has been approved for a pay table reform for warrant officers. The proposed pay raise is to counter the targeted raises that NCOs received in 1999 through 2001, Eggerton said. It is now less attractive for NCOs to become warrant officers because there is a much smaller pay differential, he said.

Currently the monthly base pay for a

staff sergeant with eight years in the military is \$2,516. The monthly base pay for a warrant officer 1 with eight years is \$2,928.

Other changes Eggerton said are in the process of being reviewed for approval are combining the warrant officer education system with the officer education system, and getting warrant officers commissioned at warrant officer 1 rank instead of warrant officer 2.

When Congress approves initiatives that will affect lieutenants, warrant officers 1 aren't affected, Eggerton added. With the change, such laws would automatically include warrant officers, he added.

However, Eggerton added, the change is tentative on congressional approval and if the Navy or Marine Corps have any objections.

Most of the changes that will be implemented from the ATLDP study will take a lot of time to implement, Eggerton said. The process of change will be ongoing throughout the next decade.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Speeding 45/30, driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** 1st Lieutenant, 25-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charge:** Following too closely
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old female, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Cruelty to children
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Family member, 22-year-old female
- **Charges:** Failure to maintain lane, too fast for conditions, damage to government property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 35-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Operating a motor vehicle without minimum insurance, manufacture of plates and decals prohibited, alteration of license plates, defective equipment, possession of open container
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 26-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 35-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Simple assault consummated by battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 23-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charge:** Simple assault consummated by battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old female, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Hunter

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charge:** Simple assault, underage drinking, failure to obey a lawful order
- **Location:** Savannah

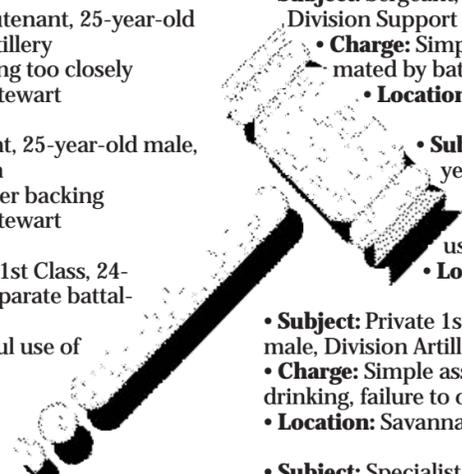
- **Subject:** Specialist, 27-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Receiving stolen property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old female, Engineer Brigade
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 36-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 33-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Assault consummated by battery, child endangerment
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
- **Charges:** Larceny of private funds, forgery of a personal check, larceny of private property, housebreaking, damage to government property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart



ASK THE JUDGE

Tax Implications of Selling Your Home Part 1 of 2

Q: I sold my home last year. Do I have to report the sale?

A: Report the sale of your main home on your tax return only if you have a gain and at least part of it is taxable, or you have a gain and choose not to exclude it. Report any taxable gain on Form 1040, Schedule D, Capital Gains and Losses.

Q: I sold my principal residence this year. What form do I need to file?

A: If you meet the ownership and use tests, you will generally only need to report the sale of your home if your gain is more than \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing a joint return). This means that during the five-year period ending on the date of the sale, you must have:

- Owned the home for at least two years (the ownership test).

- Lived in the home as your main home for at least two years (the use test). If you owned and lived in the property as your main home for less than two years, you may still be able to claim an exclusion in some cases. The maximum amount you can exclude will be reduced. If you are required to or choose to report a gain, it is reported on Form 1040, Schedule D Capital Gains and Losses. If you were on qualified extended duty in the U.S. Armed Services or the Foreign Service you may suspend the five-year test period for up to 10 years. You are on qualified extended duty when:

- At a duty station that is at least 50 miles from the residence sold, or

- When residing under orders in government housing, for more than 90 days or for an indefinite period.

This change applies to home sales after May 6, 1997. You may use this provision for only one property at a time and one sale every two years

Q: If I sell my home and use the money I receive to pay off the mortgage, do I have to pay taxes on that money?

A: It is not the money you receive for the sale of your home, but the amount of gain on the sale over your cost, or basis, that determines whether you will

have to include any proceeds as taxable income on your return. You may be able to exclude any gain from income up to a limit of \$250,000 (\$500,000 on a joint return in most cases). If you can exclude all of the gain, you do not need to report the sale on your tax return.

Q: If I take the exclusion of capital gain tax on the sale of my old home this year, can I also take the exclusion again if I sell my new home in the future?

A: With the exception of the two-year waiting period, there is no limit on the number of times you can exclude the gain on the sale of your principle residence so long as you meet the ownership and use tests.

Q: What is the amount of capital gains from the sale of a home that can be excluded if sold in less than the two year waiting period?

A: If you owned and lived in the property as your main home for less than two years, you may still be able to claim an exclusion in some cases. The maximum amount you can exclude will be reduced.

You can claim this reduced exclusion if either of the following is true.

(1) You did not meet the ownership and use tests on a home you sold due to: health reasons, a change in place of employment, to the extent provided by regulations, unforeseen circumstances. (see below)

(2) Your exclusion would have been disallowed because of the rule on selling more than one home in a two-year period, except you sold the home due to: health reasons, a change in place of employment, to the extent provided by regulations, unforeseen circumstances. (see below).

Use the worksheet in Publication 523, Selling Your Home, to figure your reduced exclusion. The IRS has issued temporary regulations.

These regulations provide guidelines for taxpayers with reduced maximum exclusion circumstances. Temporary regulation 1.121-3T (e) details the "unforeseen circumstances" guidelines.

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Marne Tax Center
The Marne Tax Center will be open until 5 p.m. today. The center is located in Bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Training Area. For more information, call 767-3909.

Gate delays
Beginning on Monday, the post Boundary Gates will be operating on a 24-hour basis. During peak times, you can expect to see some temporary delays as you approach these gates. Please use caution and follow the posted speed limits. The speed limit before and after all gates is 15 mph. For your safety and the safety of the Soldiers at the gates, remember to slow down.

ACES
Army Continuing Education System will be holding its 27th Combined Commencement Exercise in honor of the candidates for graduation on, May 20, at 7 p.m. in the Club Stewart ballroom. The guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Inf. Div. commander. If you are a 2003 or 2004 college graduate, please call the Education Center at 767-8331 to participate.

Baby Clothes
Spencers Infant and Children's Clothing Company, Inc., continues to offer complete infant layette sets to babies born to Soldiers deployed overseas in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Submit applications to the Fort Stewart Station of the American Red Cross Office in Bldg. 623. Please call 767-2197.

ACAP Job Fair
The Army Career and Alumni Program will host a Job Fair April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Club Stewart. The Fair is designed to assist transitioning Soldiers, Department of Defense civil-

ians and their family members who are leaving federal service with finding their new employers. Attendees will receive a Job Seeker's Guide that will provide them with a list of companies as well as a mini-resume form for those who do not have a formal resume to give to potential employers.

We ask that supervisors inform their transitioning Soldiers or any interested individuals and allow them ample time to attend. For additional information, please contact ACAP at 767-8677/2234/2381 or 352-5854.

Special Forces
1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta is the U.S. Army's special operations unit organized for the conduct of missions requiring a rapid response with surgical application of a wide variety of unique special operations skills.

1st SFOD-D has numerous positions available for various Military Occupational Specialty's and is currently recruiting and accepting applications for operational, direct support, and Support positions.

All Soldiers in the rank of specialist through master sergeant, and captain through major may apply. For more information please contact the Special Missions Recruiting Team at soft6.recruiting@us.army.mil.

Marne Welcome Center
The ID card section at the Welcome Center will be closed April 19 due to database software upgrading and will reopen April 20 during normal business hours. For emergency service, please contact Warrant Officer William Sanders at 767-4909/2277.

Town Hall Meeting
The meeting will be held May 6, 6:30 p.m. at Club Stewart.

Hunter

Boat safety checks
The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Savannah Flotilla, is performing free checks of your boat's equipment to be sure it complies with federal, state and local safety requirements. The safety checks will be held at the following boat launch ramps from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday April 25
Bahia Blue Marina
Turner Creek Ramp
For more information, call Dick Luettich at 598-9375.

Hunter Tax Center
The Tax Center, located in Bldg. 1279 on Neal Blvd. (behind the Ranger PT field), is open. With free electronic filing, customers will receive their refunds in less than seven days. Today is the last day of operations and the center will close at 5 p.m. For more information, call 352-5278.

Days of Remembrance
The observance will be held April 19, 10:30 a.m. at the ACS Building. Guest speaker is Dr. William Samelson, a professor of holocaust and genocide studies.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Whitters 352-5018.

MCI Golf Tournament
Free passes for all active duty personnel stationed at Fort Stewart and Hunter have been invited to attend the 2004 MCI Heritage Golf tournament at Harbour Town Golf Links in Sea Pines Plantation on Hilton Head Island, April 12 to 18.

Those active duty military personnel who desire to attend on any of the tournament days are advised to go to the tournament Will Call office located just outside the Greenwood Gate of Sea Pines Plantation. Upon presentation of their Military IDs, they will receive a free pass for that day. The invitation is

extended to active duty personnel only and not to dependants. Call (843)671-2448 or go to www.mciheritage.com for more information.

ID Card section closure
The ID card section, Bldg. 1209, will be closed April 20 due to database software upgrading. The office will reopen April 21 during normal business hours. For emergency service please contact Warrant Officer Yolanda Mose at 352-6296.

Relationship enhancement
The chaplain's office is sponsoring free couple's communication and relationship enhancement classes at Hunter Club. For a list of the classes and more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers at 572-8605.

Town Hall Meeting
The meeting will be held May 4, 7 p.m. at ACS.

Red Cross Cafe
On May 13, come and enjoy coffee and danish at 8 a.m. Spouses get together for updates and conversation.

Softball
The deadline for Company level softball is Monday. Softball program begins May 3. Companies interested should fax a memo to 352-5742 or call 352-6749.

Spouse Golf Clinic
A free one-hour golf clinic for military and civilian spouses will be held at the Hunter Golf Course Wednesday at 10 a.m. For more information call 352-5622.

Family Barbeque
Child Development Center is having a family outing April 30. There will be fun for all with rides, games and more until 2 p.m.

Winn Army Community Hospital

PX Satellite Pharmacy
Beneficiaries can now pick-up prescriptions from the "Take Care of Yourself" class at the PX Satellite Pharmacy.

Third Party insurance
Effective July 1, individual's social security numbers will no longer be displayed on health insurance cards in accordance with Georgia Senate Bill 721. Individuals with private health insurance should contact the Third Party Insurance Office at Winn upon receipt of their unique member identification numbers (policy numbers.) Call 370-6037/6947 for more information.

"Take Care of Yourself" classes
The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes at Winn will be held 11 a.m. to noon April 28. Tuttle's class will be held 10 to 11 a.m., April 28. The class gives an overview of how to use the "Take Care of Yourself" book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle. To register, call 370-5071.

To register for Winn's April 28 class, call 368-3048 and for Tuttle's class, please call 1-800-652-9221.

Dedicated beneficiary parking
Dedicated patient-only parking is now available 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Beneficiaries parking in No Parking Areas, as indicated by a yellow curb, will be ticketed or towed by the Military Police.

Winn/Tuttle seek volunteers
Winn and Tuttle are seeking volunteers to help in general administrative and clinical areas. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. The next Red Cross volunteer orientation will be held 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., May 6. For more information, call 370-6903 or email

Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil

Book appointments online
Schedule Wellness appointments online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil. Wellness appointments are routine visits to clinics such as family practice and pediatrics. First-time users must complete the online registration prior to scheduling an appointment.

Intervention Services
Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening. Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments. For more information, call 370-6349.

Tuttle Information Desk
Tuttle Army Health Clinic's new Information Desk phone number is 352-6500.

New OB/GYN Hours
The new walk-in hours for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology are 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Refill Pharmacy
The refill pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Refills can be ordered by calling 370-6575 or 1-800-652-9221 or online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready for pick-up the next working day after 7:30 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

Marne TV

April 2004 Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every day of the week. Tune in to the Marne Report seven times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m. Army Newswatch
5:30 a.m. **MARNE REPORT**
6:30 a.m. Air Force News
7 a.m. Navy News
7:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
8 a.m. **MARNE REPORT**
9 a.m. Air Force News
9:30 a.m. Navy News
11:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
Noon **MARNE REPORT**

1 p.m. Air Force News
4:30 p.m. Navy News
5 p.m. **MARNE REPORT**
6 p.m. Army Newswatch
6:30 p.m. Air Force News
7 p.m. Navy News
10 p.m. **MARNE REPORT**
11 p.m. Army Newswatch
11:30 p.m. Air Force News

VA physicals for retiring Soldiers made simpler

Lt. Col. Virginia D. Yates

Division Surgeon

Soldiers planning to file a claim with Veteran's Affairs for a service-connected disability upon retirement from Fort Stewart or Hunter now have options.

The Army and VA entered into an agreement in the summer of 2003 that provided Soldiers with the choice of participating in the Shared Exam Program. The agreement allows a Soldier to submit

to one physical examination that meets the requirements of both a VA disability examination and an Army retirement physical.

In addition to simplifying the separation process for the Soldier by requiring only one examination, it also hastens the decision of service-connected disabilities from VA. Participation in this program lets the VA begin to consider the disability claim while the Soldier is still on active duty, which eliminates several months

from the decision-making process. Basic eligibility for participation in the Shared Exam Program includes a Soldier being within a 180-day window of his retirement date, and having at least 70 days available prior to his final-out date. Additional criteria exist, and each Soldier will be individually assessed for eligibility in this and several other VA benefit programs.

Soldiers should contact VA up to one year from their retirement date to secure

an appointment, and ensure sufficient time to complete the necessary paperwork.

Even if the Soldier does not qualify for the Shared Exam Program, VA has other options for filing a claim early.

VA counselors are located in Building 252 behind the Marne Welcome Center, and can be reached at 368-6950.

VA office hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon.

CENTCOM News

Five servicemembers Killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Attacks killed five U.S. servicemembers April 8 and 9. The casualties occurred in the following incidents:

One 1st Cavalry Division Soldier was killed and another wounded at about 8:30 a.m. April 9 when their quick reaction force was targeted by a coordinated attack. The QRF was responding to an earlier mortar attack in the vicinity of Camp Cooke. The attack consisted of an IED followed by small arms fire. The wounded Soldier has been returned to duty. The Soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

One 13th Corps Support Command Soldier is dead and 12 are injured as the result of an attack on their convoy at approximately 12:25 p.m. April 9 near the Baghdad International Airport. The injured were evacuated to Logistics Base Seitz and some were further evacuated by air to combat support hospitals. The names of the dead are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The incident is under investigation.

Three Marines serving with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed April 8 as a result of enemy action in the Al Anbar province while conducting security and stability operations.

A fourth Marine who died April 8 has already been reported in a press release on April 8.

For more information, please contact the coalition press information center at 914-360-5089.

1st Infantry Division Soldiers capture insurgents

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

1st Marine Expeditory Force update

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Marines reinforced positions Sunday by adding to the cordon encircling the city. Marines are also maintaining their defensive positions in accordance with a unilateral suspension of offensive operations.

The Coalition directed that offensive operations in Fallujah be temporarily halted to facilitate dialogue between Iraqi leaders of Fallujah and a delegation from the Iraqi Governing Council.

The Marines operating in Fallujah received consistent enemy fire throughout the day. Immediate, precise fires were returned against enemy positions. Defensive engagements resulted in a significant number of enemy dead. Approximately 20 anti-Iraq forces were detained.

A Marine AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter also returned fire against two structures where anti-aircraft fire was originating in Fallujah. The aircrew launched rockets and missiles against the site, hitting their targets.

Iraqi Police and Iraqi Civil Defense Corps units are also supporting Operation Vigilant Resolve. Iraqi police near Ar Ramadi discovered two "daisy-chained" IEDs and reported them to Marines in the area. Both were detonated after the Iraqi police cordoned the site without any injuries.

Three Marines die in Al Anbar province

CAMP FALLUJAH — Three Marines assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed on Sunday as a result of enemy action in the Al Anbar Province while conducting security and stability operations.

Two of the Marines were killed in action; one Marine died of wounds received in action on the same day.

1st 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 release of more details about the incident could place our personnel at greater risk.

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

Terrorists attack humanitarian aid to Fallujah

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Convoys of humanitarian relief to the people of Fallujah were blocked or delayed by attacks over the last few days.

On Monday, a convoy carrying food, water and blood was delayed and rerouted when Coalition forces escorting the convoy discovered improvised explosive devices along its route.

A second humanitarian convoy was hit by IEDs and small arms fire before it reached the city. Coalition forces returned fire and called in a helicopter gunship to destroy the enemy. The convoy safely reached the city.

Enemy forces had previously attacked a humanitarian convoy in Fallujah with mortar rounds Friday.

It is clear by the attacks on humanitarian aid convoys carrying vital supplies to the people of Fallujah that these terrorists are willing to harm the people of Iraq to carry out their own agenda. The Coalition will continue to help humanitarian and medical aid get to the city of Fallujah, despite these attempts by the enemy.

Marines assisted ambulances from Baghdad into Fallujah Monday to treat the wounded in the city, and coordinated further medical supplies and assistance for the city general hospital.

The Coalition continued to facilitate talks between the Iraqi Governing Council delegation, Al Anbar provincial council and the leaders of Fallujah. The convoy carrying members of the Al Anbar provincial council involved with negotiations yesterday was attacked with mortars while trying to leave the city.

Task Force Danger Soldier killed

TIKRIT, Iraq — One Task Force Danger Soldier was killed in an attack Friday.

The Soldier was killed when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at his M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle near Buhritz at 7:45 p.m.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending next-of-kin notification.