

Bravery under fire: Remembering SFC Paul R. Smith

SGT. JASMINE CHOPRA
MND-C PAO

CAMP VICTORY – He was a husband, father, Soldier and leader, but on April 4 here, Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, the 3rd Infantry Division's 51st Medal of Honor recipient was remembered simply as a hero.

A remembrance ceremony was held in the courtyard where five years ago to the day, Smith gave his life in defense of others.

He was setting up a short-term enemy prisoner of war holding area near the Baghdad International Airport when his unit was attacked by enemy soldiers.

Outnumbered, with wounded Soldiers and damaged vehicles, Smith told his men to get back as he manned a .50 caliber machine gun from the exposed turret of an armored personnel carrier damaged by rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. He fired at the enemy and unleashed some 300 rounds allowing his other Soldiers to reorganize and mount an attack. Smith and his men defeated the enemy attack. During the attack Smith fell mortally wounded.

A disciplined, no-nonsense platoon sergeant with Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., Smith was bestowed the highest award for bravery in 2005, the Medal of Honor.

"He was a Soldier who took care of Soldiers ... he lost his life doing it," said Brig. Gen. William Grimsley, who at the time of Smith's death was the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division commander.

Grimsley, now the deputy commander of the 4th Infantry Division, recommended Smith for the Medal of Honor and was one of several leaders who knew Smith and took a pause from operations today in order to attend the ceremony.

In 2003, Capt. Christopher Doerr,



Staff Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk

More than 200 people, including commanders throughout Iraq, such as Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commander of MNC-I (second from the right) and Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of MND-C (right), took a pause from operations April 4 to attend the remembrance ceremony for Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, the 3rd Inf. Div. 51st Medal of Honor recipient. The ceremony took place in the courtyard where Smith earned his Medal of Honor exactly five years ago.

"He was a Soldier who took care of Soldiers ... he lost his life doing it."

– Brig. Gen. William Grimsley
deputy commander, 4th Inf. Div

of Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div., was a 23-year-old brand-new second lieutenant.

"I'll always treasure the fact I got to serve with and know Sgt. 1st Class Smith," Doerr said.

He admired Smith's expertise, precision and dedication to mission accomplishment.

"He was an expert engineer, the best in the battalion," Doerr said. "The way he motivated his Soldiers, they didn't necessarily like him, he wasn't their friend, but he made them train to standard.

"It all makes sense now, why he pushed us, why we did the things we did. Now we are here because of that," Doerr said.

Smith had been in combat when he was a young private first class in Desert Storm. In Kuwait, just days before invading Iraq, Doerr asked Smith to tell him what war was going to be like.

"He said, 'war is hell,' and he showed me that first hand," Doerr

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MARNE 6 SENDS

TF Marne: Second Quarter safety rollup



On March 30, TF Marne achieved 100-days without a fatal accident. This is a remarkable accomplishment by any standard, but obtaining this goal on the battlefields of Iraq is even more impressive. It clearly illustrated the true commitment of every TF Marne Soldier and leader to keep safety first in all that we do.

As our focus to prevent accidents intensified this past quarter, we saw a significant increase in the numbers of accidents reported. A renewed effort to capture all data (even minor scrapes and bruises) heightened situational awareness within our formations. So, while the numbers appeared to be increasing, we actually witnessed a dramatic decrease in serious accidents (Class A-C) experienced within our battle space. This occurred at a time in our deployment (the 9-12 month mark) when historical statistics typically show a spike in serious accidents. TF Marne however, not only reversed this trend, but also reduced the number of recordable accidents by 15 percent.

We have cracked the code and understand it takes involved leaders at

every level to manage risk and prevent accidents. Our current non-battle injuries indicate the areas listed below are the major threats to our Soldiers:

1) Vehicle accidents/rollovers. This quarter 68 percent of all vehicle accidents were caused by collisions, with 22 percent being rollovers. The severity of these accidents was lowered by practicing rollover drills, the use of seatbelts and slower speeds. There were six MRAP accidents during this quarter; with two collisions, three rollovers and one accident where the MRAP mast hit a low hanging power line. The risk of electrical shock from low hanging wires is high for the MRAP gunners. MRAP drivers must avoid contact and maintain adequate clearance from all electrical wires.

2) Aviation. Aviation accidents more than doubled from last quarter, from 12 to 25, as aviation operational requirements increased. With the increased OPTEMPO, it becomes even more important for leaders to factor in key elements such as crew rest and maintenance as part of the Composite Risk Management process.

3) Personal injuries still make up 65 percent of all accidents for this quarter. The majority of these accidents were caused by slips, trips and fall injuries, with many of them occurring in and around vehicles. Complacency and fatigue were among the biggest contributing factors for these accidents. Heat injuries are a major concern over the next few months. As the temperatures increase, so does the risk of heat injuries. Leaders must implement prevent measures now.

As TF Marne enters another transitional phase in its redeployment, let us remain vigilant in combating fatigue and complacency. Engaged leadership at all levels, especially first-line supervisors, is key to ensuring our Soldiers remain focused, safe and successful in all their endeavors.

Rick Lynch
MG, USA
Commanding

HONOR: *Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith remembered for bravery*

From previous page

said. "He laid it all on the line and that was not a fluke ... he was concerned for the safety of his men and others and he put that above his own personal safety, and I think you've got to say he's a hero for that."

More than 200 people attended the

remembrance ceremony, including Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commander of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, who in 2003 was the deputy commander for maneuver for the 3rd Infantry Division.

Large-scale pictures showed Sgt. 1st Class Smith in desert camouflage uniform days before the battle. Dia-

grams, mounted on an armored personnel carrier like the one Smith used, detailed his heroic action. Visible from the courtyard was the bullet-riddled tower that the enemy had fought but failed to seize. A bugler played Taps and, after the ceremony, Soldiers walked the site and reflected on the sacrifice he had made for our country.

THE Dog Face Daily

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720th Military Police Battalion
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Cuscatlán Battalion delivers medical supplies in Kut

SGT. 1ST CLASS STACY NILES
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – The Salvadoran Cuscatlán Battalion delivered \$4 million in medical supplies to the al Kut Director General of Health Warehouse April 1.

“It is very important to provide more resources to the people of Iraq. We want to provide supplies to those who need it,” said Col. Walter Arevalo, commander of Cuscatlán Battalion X.

Even though there is a heightened security risk, Arevalo said he felt honored that his Soldiers were called upon to fulfill this mission.

“It is important for the hospital to be able to provide support for people who need it,” he said. “The supplies will help them provide that support, and a lot of people need to get medical attention.”

The supplies, donated by the International Red Cross, are for Iraqis affected by the recent upsurge in violence by criminals.

The Iraqi Security Forces in Wasit province clashed with criminals for five days. According to Iraqi Police reports, seven Iraqis were killed and 14 were injured. Eleven IPs were killed,

“It is very important to provide more resources to the people of Iraq.”

– Col. Walter Arevalo
Cuscatlán Battalion X



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

The Salvadoran Cuscatlán Battalion delivered \$4 million in medical supplies to the al Kut Director General of Health Warehouse April 1. The supplies, donated by the International Red Cross, are for Iraqis affected by the recent upsurge in violence by criminals. The donated supplies will replenish what was used during the civil unrest in the city and will increase supplies on hand.

and 42 were injured. At least 43 criminals were killed, and more than 40 were injured.

The al Kut medical facilities generally have a small quantity of supplies and are in dire need of blood, said Dr. Ammar Bashar, director general of the al Salam Emergency Medical Clinic. Al Kut's limited medical supply was further depleted when the Kut Ministry of Health provided Basra with medical supplies to treat Iraqis injured in the

uprising there, said Bashar.

The donated supplies will replenish what was used during the civil unrest in the city and will increase supplies on hand.

The warehouse will distribute the supplies in the following weeks to three medical facilities in al Kut. One is a 150-bed emergency clinic and the other two are 400-bed hospitals, Bashar said. The supplies will be used for emergency and specialty care.

Safety Thought of the Day

Sports Injury Prevention

- Inspect the activity area for any possible obstacles and other risk factors.
- Always do proper stretching and warm-up exercises before and cool-down stretches after the sports activity.
- Wear proper protective equipment for the eyes, feet, mouth and other vital areas.
- Maintain situational awareness with the sports equipment, teammates and environment.

- Tailor sports activities for the weather conditions and ensure adequate hydration.
- Don't exceed your abilities, fitness and fatigue level.
- Prior injuries are more susceptible to reoccurrence in the same area.
- Have a coach, referee or a battle buddy to monitor the activity.
- Avoid pickup games, by planning ahead.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Witchdoctor; ID left behind; court protected bird; dog-biting woman

Witchdoctor killings deemed as shameful, distressing

NAIROBI (Reuters) – Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete has condemned witchdoctors who kill albinos and harvest their body parts in the hope it will bring prosperity.

He said 19 albinos had been murdered since March 2007, and another two were missing presumed dead in the east African country.

"Sometimes, word spreads around that body parts of people with certain physical attributes like bald people or albinos contribute greatly to attaining quick prosperity," Kikwete said in a monthly state of the nation speech late on Wednesday.

"These killings are shameful and distressing to our society," he added.

Albinos are often accused in Tanzania of being witches themselves.

There are an estimated 270,000 people who suffer from the condition which stops them producing pigment in their skin, hair and eyes in the country of 39 million.

Kikwete blamed charlatan witchdoctors, many masquerading as traditional healers, for extracting body parts such as genitals, tongues and breasts.

"Many of the witchcraft killings happen because of a false belief that by using other peoples' body parts they can succeed in business or in activities like mining or fishing," Kikwete said.

Most killings took place in the Victoria region and were committed by

gangs for hire, he said.

Police use photo ID to locate, arrest alleged bank robber

WARREN, Mich. (AP) – A would-be bank robber came away empty-handed but left behind something useful for police: her photo identification. The woman was arrested less than an hour later on a charge of attempted armed robbery, Police Commissioner William Dwyer said.

The woman filled out an account application Thursday morning, then pulled a handgun and demanded cash, Dwyer said. She panicked and fled without getting any money; police found an address on the account application, along with her photo ID.

The address was for an apartment near the bank. The manager gave the woman's new address to police, who arrested her without incident.

"We're probably not dealing with the smartest person in the world," Dwyer told The Detroit News for a story published online Thursday.

Wounded bird now protected by unusual court order

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP) – A court has issued what could be at least a local first: an order of protection for a duck.

A Suffolk County judge approved the measure Thursday, telling a man accused of shooting a family's pet

duck to stay away from the bird and her owners.

Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Chief Roy Gross says he can't recall a previous court case involving cruelty to a duck.

Owner Janet Lippincott says a group of young people bounded over her backyard fence and swarmed the yellow-billed Peking duck with pellet guns on March 17. The bird, named Circles, has recovered after a bullet pierced her voice box.

The 21-year-old suspect pleaded not guilty Thursday to felony animal cruelty charges.

Woman's bite louder than bark as she defends her pooch

MINNEAPOLIS – Amy Rice feared for her dog's life when a pit bull jumped over a fence into her yard and attacked her pooch. So she took matters into her own mouth.

Rice says she bit the pit bull on the nose Friday after trying to pull the dog's jaws off her Labrador retriever, Ella. The dog had jumped a fence to get into Rice's northeast Minneapolis yard, and Rice says she feared the pit bull would kill Ella.

Rice says she drew blood when she bit the dog, and her doctor will have to determine whether she should get shots for rabies.

The pit bull was quarantined. Ella is recovering with staples and stitches to her head and a crushed ear canal.

Sudoku

			1	8				
2	6		7	5		8		
	9			4				1
	3				8			6
	7		4		1		2	8
4	8		3	2	5	7	1	
8			5			6		4
3			2					7
	1	7				5	9	

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

2	4	8	3	1	9	7	6	5
6	3	5	2	4	7	1	8	9
7	9	1	5	8	6	2	3	4
3	1	9	7	5	2	8	4	6
4	8	2	1	6	3	9	5	7
5	7	6	8	9	4	3	2	1
8	2	4	9	7	5	6	1	3
9	5	3	6	2	1	4	7	8
1	6	7	4	3	8	5	9	2

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

food

eh-kil