



THE JUNGLEER

VOL. 1 ISSUE 10

41 INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

February 3, 2010

Force Pro continues to experience unique opportunities



Photo by Capt. Brandon Ditto

Patrolling the neighborhoods that surround Victory Base is a common force protection mission for Bravo Troop's Base Quick Reaction Force. A large part of force protection is based on positive relationships with the local neighborhoods. Throughout the deployment Bravo's QRF has built relationships with the locals to maintain a mutual cooperation. Locals are encouraged to report suspicious activities to the Iraqi Police.

Soldier's Info

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/theJungleerTube

Blog: www.jungleer.blogspot.com

Freedom Salute.com: Salute someone who has supported you

Southern Oregon University: sou.edu/DeployedSoldier

Army Family Readiness Group: www.armyfrg.org

41st Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/group.php?qid=89211769848

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/mq8rh9>

Weather: www.weatherforyou.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/41stIBCT

DVIDS: www.dvidshub.net/units/41IBCT



Force Pro, con't.

Story and photos by Capt. Brandon Ditto, TF Stetson

Recently, the Quick Reaction Force was able to plan a Coordinated Medical Exchange (CME), formerly known as a MEDCAP (Medical Civic Assist Program). The Soldiers of Bravo Troop were able to pass out toys, soccer balls and snacks, while guiding many of the local nationals to a secure area to be evaluated by a physicians assistant or army nurse. The Iraqi Police assisted with security and all local nationals in the area were pleased to receive care and smalls gifts of goodwill.

Force protection also means ensuring the contracted security force maintains the perimeter of the base up to U.S. military standards. Bravo Troop was chosen to train the contracted Ugandan

force which secures the base.

The Soldiers of Bravo received foreign weapons training on the AK-47 and PKM machine guns. In turn, they instructed the Ugandan force on weapon systems as well as intelligence reporting requirements, rules for the use of force, communication equipment, range cards and marksmanship.

The end result was an increased trust and cooperation between the contracted force and the Soldiers of Bravo Troop.

The Soldiers of Bravo Troop and all of Task Force Stetson remain vigilant and prepared for any mission that will increase the security of the base.



Free resumes online

Story by Sgt. Candace Westlund, TF Jungleer

The final 90 days of a deployment means many things. One in particular, is the unique quest of the National Guardsman to consider their employment situation when they arrive back home.

With the scope of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers range in age and experience. Some will return the to the job they left. Some have already gone through the process of applying for a new job, While others will look for a new job.

However, anyone should be able to revamp their resume to include their new military experience safter completing a successful mission overseas.

You can go straight to Google if you've never filled out a resume before, or need a new resource for creating one.

If you search "free resume builder" many pages of websites will pop up to assist you. Some websites, like <http://www.resumetemplates.org/> offer information

about how to gather your information and write your objective. They will cover the importance of proof-reading and things to avoid. They also offer many resume templates depending on what type of job you are looking for.

The website <http://www.southworth.com/page.php?id=187> provides different examples of resumes allowing you to plug in your own information into something that is already formatted.

Deployment experience puts you a leg up on the competition when it comes to having valuable skills that employers value.

Think creatively about the skills you learned in relation to your job, and highlight those skills.

The free resume builders online can show you how the document is supposed to look, but you should already be thinking about content and how to put your best foot forward.

"YOU ARE NEVER TRULY A FAILURE, UNTIL YOU GIVE UP."



An unexpected military journey

Story by Sgt. Linda Sanders, TF Volunteer

When my Army career ended 16 years ago, I never thought I would be back on active duty again. However, my active status on the Inactive Ready Reserves caused me to be mobilized to Operation Iraqi Freedom. My journey started at Fort Jackson, So. Carolina. It was followed by attending advanced individual training to receive a new military occupation specialty as a supply sergeant at Fort Lee, Virginia. It was then that I was sent to Ft. Stewart, Georgia and assigned to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team with Task Force Volunteer.

At first, I was assigned to A Co 2-162 where I assisted Sgt. Joshua Cooper in the supply room (S-4) using my new supply knowledge. In June, I was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2-162 where I assisted in the HHC S-4 shop and prepared HHC for mobilization to Iraq.

Once we arrived in Tallil, my duties were in the battalion supply office, where I processed work orders, and FLIPLs. My duties in S-4 were not taught to me at AIT, which led to on the job training (OJT) that went well.

Upon arriving in Tallil, we noticed the need for improved working and living conditions. It became abundantly clear that it was going to be difficult and time consuming. I realized I needed to find alternative ways to get things accomplished. I found that networking and making acquaintances on post yielded a positive response in completing several projects.

While working in the S-4 shop, I learned how important it is to keep doors open. You never know when you will need some assistance in trying to accomplish a project. I would like to thank 1Lt. Evan Goin and Sgt. 1st Cl

Eric Frey for their patience with me, since I had little knowledge and experience as an S-4 noncommis-

sioned officer. They taught me how the battalion S-4 office operates on a daily basis.

In December, I was informed that I would be moving to an S-1 position as an HHC Admin NCO. This would be more on the job training as well, with no prior experience in personnel related matters. After three days of training, from the previous Admin NCO, the position was mine. Since then, I have been learning, on a daily basis, on how the personnel section operates. As we near the end of our mobilization, I am now preparing all of the paperwork associated with redeployment for the Soldiers of HHC. This has enlightened me to how much work is involved in the S-1 office.

It has been a journey and adventure, one that I was not anticipating at this point in my life. I realized early in the process that many factors were out of my control. At this point, I decided that I would make the best of it by staying positive. I would perform my duties to the best of my ability. The positions I have held presented some challenges, but I managed to learn and asked experts for their assistance.

The most difficult aspect of this adventure was the Army training required for deployment, pushing me to my physical and mental limits on numerous occasions. The training and equipment utilized by today's Army has changed drastically since my active duty time years ago.

I would like to thank all of the people at Task Force Volunteer for being helpful and assisting me during this deployment. They have made the deployment a good experience, but one I do not want to repeat. Thank you all for making me feel like I am part of the unit and treating me like I am from Oregon. I know if I am in Oregon racing my dogs I will have several people I can visit with.

“YOU KNOW SOMETIMES IN LIFE, THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO YOUR WAY, YOU KNOW WE STRUGGLE EVERYDAY, HOPING THINGS WILL CHANGE, UNTIL THEN KEEP YOUR HEAD UP.” - GABRIEL ANTONIO

SPC. MICHAEL HOHN



Soldier of the Month- Spc. Rebecca Shealy

Story and photos by 2nd LT Benjamin Curle, TF Guardian

Specialist Rebecca Shealy, an 88M truck driver of West Columbia, South Carolina, has been selected to represent the 1055th as the Soldier of the Month. Spc. Shealy enlisted with the South Carolina National Guard on February 29, 2008 in Columbia, South Carolina.

While deployed in Iraq, Spc. Shealy has served with distinction in the Company Tactical Operational Center. In her role with the TOC, Spc. Shealy helps relay information to the Convoy Escort Teams on the road and coordinates movements with the Battalion Battle Captain. She also tracks the status of 1055th Soldiers, and ensures they receive vital information throughout this deployment.

Being a member of the National Guard has been

a great source of pride for Shealy, who is honored to serve her Country and her State in the desert of Iraq.

What gives Shealy the most satisfaction with her service as a United States Soldier is the positive influence it has on the family and friends around her. She provides a great example for her nieces and nephews to look up to, in addition to being a proud member of her own family.

Following this deployment, Shealy intends to make a quick transition back to civilian life in order to start working on her Emergency Medical Technician certification.

She has a bright future and is a Soldier others should emulate as they look at what makes our country great.



What really happens to the Unit Climate Survey?

Story by Capt. Jason Lunceford, EO, TF Jungler

The brigade finished a command climate survey for each company. Let me say thank you to all who participated and took the questionnaire seriously. Your input is valuable to the chain of command. These are some of the concerns that were raised by you that seem to be inherent throughout the Brigade.

The Defense Equal Opportunity Climate Survey (DEOCS) was written by a contract agency located at the DoD Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) in Florida. The DEOCS is meant to replace the Army Climate Survey and the Unit Climate Survey that many of you have seen in the past. The DEOCS is the most comprehensive, in-depth climate survey that the Armed Forces have today. It is far from perfect because it was designed for civilian Federal agencies as well as the Armed Forces. Therefore, I have addressed concerns with DEOMI about tailoring the DEOCS to have a military-only version.

Every commander, from company to brigade level, is in possession of the unaltered and unedited versions of the survey results for their level. The comments you furnished to us through the survey were not altered in any way prior to being sent to each commander. It is good to get the unvarnished, unedited, unfiltered

comments directly from Soldiers periodically. Your concerns have been heard at the highest level of the Brigade. Col. Hokanson and the other commanders are actively working to address the issues raised. By the time you read this many of those changes will have already been implemented.

Company commanders, being the EO officers for their units, are required by AR 600-20 to conduct surveys like the DEOCS annually. It is meant to be a tool for commanders to identify equal opportunity and general leadership issues within their commands, as well as focus leaders in fixing them. Additionally, the DEOCS gives Soldiers an anonymous voice to raise concerns with the command.

As a Soldier in this brigade, you can be assured that you have been heard through the survey, for both positive and negative comments, and that your leaders know you expect results and action.

Equal Opportunity is not just about discrimination and sexual harassment. EO can also include fraternization, religious accommodation, team building, unit cohesion, and fair treatment.

EO impacts everyone because EO affects unit climate and mission readiness.



Victory Over America Palace, beauty and destruction

Story and photos by Spc. Trevor Nielson, TF Stetson

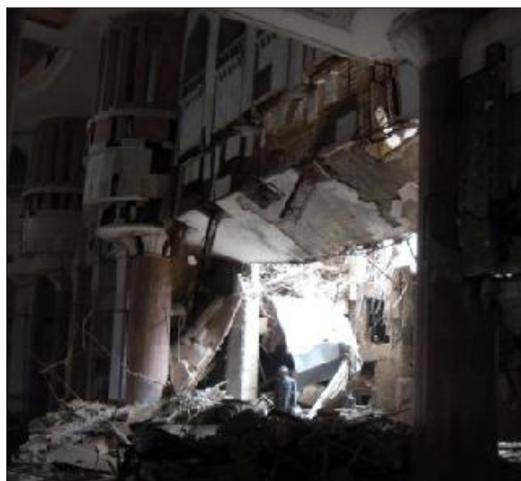
Destruction and beauty mingle together at Camp Victory where the remains of several ornate palaces built by Saddam Hussein sit in post-war rubble. Seven years later, Soldiers can visit these structures by joining tours that meet in the Slayer PX parking lot every Sunday at 1245. It's best that you take a flashlight, a camera, and a battle-buddy. Visitors must also provide their own transportation.

It's a short drive from the meeting area to the Victory Over America Palace. The palace is surrounded by cranes and other construction equipment, giving the impression that the building is under repair. The palace was still under construction when it was hit by two bombs during the opening salvo of the "shock and awe" air invasion, and all the construction equipment was left where it lay.

Walking through the gate and the front door, one



were left unfinished and much of the furnishings were not yet installed.



As you walk through the foyers and ballrooms you see where the roof was smashed in. Rubble and rebar are strewn about. Imagination allows you to picture the palace as it would have been, and that image takes your breath away. Seeing the damage takes your breath a second time.

The tour was concluded by driving to a few stops where murals of Saddam still exist, and to smaller buildings that had also been demolished.

POC for tours is Sgt. Peter Lee, DSN 835-1544.

Recipe for a military spouse

By Sgt. 1st. Class Tanya Hall, TF Volunteer

*1 1/2 cups Patience
1 cup Courage
3/4 cup Tolerance
dash of Adventure
1 pound of Ability*

To the above ingredients: Add 2 tablespoons elbow grease and let stand alone for one year. Marinate frequently with salty tears. Pour off excess fat and sprinkle ever so lightly with money then Knead dough until payday. Season with international spices. Bake 20 years or until done. Makes unlimited servings

SERVE WITH PRIDE



Gunrunner missions shape the future of Iraq

Story by 1st. Lt. Richard

“Be prepared for changes,” Jungler 06 told an eager audience early in the deployment about the possible changes to our missions by January.

Elections are just around the corner, military installations throughout Iraq are being transferred to Iraqi Authority.

The Gunrunners have been tapped to provide the convoy security necessary to escort United States equipment and commodities from these posts to reduce our footprint. Recently the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, were given a mission to escort the final load from Al Taqaddum (TQ) Airbase in Iraq, located 74 kilometers west of Baghdad. It was once a central hub of freight and air movement essential to the transfer of



Gunrunner 26 prepares to depart TQ for the last time.

Helzer, photo by Sgt. Kyle equipment and supplies from post to post in the western region. However, it is a no longer a bustling center of activity. The vacant post was very quiet and dark. Only a single generator light could be seen as the Gunrunners

departed for Al Asad escorting tankers, flatbeds, and equipment of all varieties.

“This mission really opened my eyes to the importance of the convoy security mission,” said Spc. Brian Hall, of Portland, Ore. “I am proud to hand over a facility like this to the local populace. Our missions in Iraq right now are shaping the future here.”

The big picture effects of the convoy security mission are evident to all of the Gunrunners who focus on leaving places better than we found them every day.

1055th NCO of the Month- Sgt. David Nelson

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Benjamin Curle, TF Atlas

Sergeant David Nelson has been named the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month for the 1055th Transportation Company. As a truck commander for the scout truck in Convoy Escort Team 4-6, Sgt. Nelson acts as the eyes and ears for his fellow Soldiers, while they navigate the hazardous roads of Iraq. He defines standards on every mission he leads and is yet another Soldier that places the 1055th above all others.



In 1993, Sgt. Nelson enlisted as a Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division HHC 1/505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. As a Signal Support Systems Specialist, Sgt. Nelson carried out a variety of different tasks. He maintained a battalion’s worth of radios and vehicle systems. Nelson was later named as the Battalion Communications Security Specialist, where he maintained secure communications for an entire Battalion. After being

recognized for his attention to detail, Nelson was then tasked as the battalion commander’s RTO and later with the Delta Company Heavy Weapons Section where he received recognition and many awards. In 1997, he left the 82nd Airborne and “I hung up my sword to fight another day”.

In 2007, SGT Nelson re-enlisted as a Cavalry Scout with the 218th Infantry Brigade out of Union, South Carolina. After taking many classes on weapons safety and advanced weapon employment, he was promoted to Sergeant after only one year back in service. Nelson spent countless hours honing his skills as a marksman, and ensuring he was up to speed on current military systems and tactics. Due to his willingness to learn as much as possible, both on and off duty with the Army, Sgt. Nelson has distinguished himself as a clear example for Soldiers, young and old, to follow.

“IF YOU WALK AWAY SMILING, YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.”

SPC. PAUL BOLDUC



These are the days of our CHU lives

Story by 1st Lt. David Gauthier, TF Guardian

While on deployment, Soldiers of A CO, 1-186 IN have a lot of down time to entertain themselves between missions, maintenance, and training events. Time off for the Soldiers is split between recreation activities and preparing for upcoming work. Each Soldier is given the freedom to manage their free time any way they see fit as long as they stay mission capable.

Soldiers spend some of their off time on the same tasks required to stay mission capable when on standby for an upcoming mission. The tasks include laundry, personal equipment cleaning, and any paper work needed by higher echelons.

The rest of the down time is spent on entertainment. For most, exercise and the Internet fill the gap. Soldiers use the Internet to stay connected with what is

happening back home. More popular web sites used by Soldiers are social web sites, which include Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter. Soldiers also use Skype, a free downloadable application. Soldiers can call and/or text to phones or computers.

If time allows, Soldiers turn to a good book, television, movies, and/or video games to fight boredom.

All Soldiers are provided free TV stations and most have some sort of video game console. Many Soldiers have wired their X-box 360s together, making a local area network, which allows them to play each other on the same game from their own rooms.

Individuals have their own ways of entertaining themselves, but one thing is true for all; everyone stays busy and out of mischief and trouble.

Relationship seminar offered on COB Adder

Story by Sgt. Jamie Parkinson, TF Guardian

2010 has arrived on COB Adder! Although the bell rang at midnight a little less ceremoniously than at home, the turn of the calendar has brought new memories and the promise of soon returning home. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our families for their support this past year, and to look positively ahead at what 2010 will bring for HHC 1-186 IN.

In the next few months we will be packing up, and physically preparing ourselves for that long trek home. But how has this deployment affected Soldiers emotionally? Being away from home can be very difficult. Soldiers, at times, feel their families are moving forward, while they wait for the time they can join them again. Will things be different? How will I reintegrate? How will my family react to my being absent for a year? These are all very real problems that are coming to light with our impending return home.

In response to this, Task Force Guardian Battal-

ion Commander, Lt. Col. Gregory Day, organized a relationship seminar for all of his Soldiers to help us better recognize potential problems and equip us with a different set of tools to better communicate.

Led by members of the battalion, from noncommissioned officers to officers, the seminar offered a neutral environment for information to be presented and offered the option of further partner "training" upon our return.

Ten seminars will be offered through "Strong Bonds" for Soldiers wishing to attend a relationship seminar with their spouse or significant other. The seminar will be held in Bend, Ore. at the Sun River Resort. All are encouraged to sign up!

The sun will soon be setting on our time in Iraq, and rising again back in our hometowns. Let's keep the morale high, spirits hopeful, and continue preparing for that ride home!

"I ALWAYS TRY TO REMEMBER THAT EVERY MAN WILL MAKE MISTAKES. YOU ARE NOT JUDGED BY THOSE MISTAKES, BUT BY HOW YOU RECOVER FROM THEM."

STAFF SGT. TIM FLOOD



One night on the road with Baker Company

Story by Pvt. Scott Fox, TF Volunteer

Convoy Escort Team 1-2 Baker Company 2-162 IN conducts multi-class resupply to Kalsu, Iraq to provide logistical support to southern Iraq.

A typical mission in Iraq for the Soldiers of CET 1-2 includes a mission prep day. We conduct minor maintenance on vehicles and weapons, then go over a brief description of the mission and concept of the mission. We also conduct various drills to insure everyone is on their "A-Game."

Finally, we finish up with test fire of our weapons and fuel up the trucks. All of this is merely in preparation for one mission.

Two to three hours before we are scheduled to leave, we move out to the motor pool and conduct another brief check of the weapons and vehicles. This gives us sufficient time for the drivers to check their trucks, and the gunners to check their weapons and load everyone's bags. The truck commanders insure everything is ready for inspection.

Once all checks at the motor pool have been completed everyone loads up and moves to the staging yard. A few of the truck commanders head out to inspect the escorted vehicles. It has been the experience of the leaders of CET 1-2 to check these vehicles.

"It's better to fix what we can in the staging yard with all the assets of COB Adder then try to figure it out on the road," said Staff Sgt. Jason Becker. Most of the time the vehicles we escort aren't maintained to the same standards that professional drivers in the States are held to.

We do final checks and a "full battle rattle" inspection and it's time to go. Truck commanders signal they are ready and then we roll out.

We are out of the gate but the mission really hasn't

started yet. We go pick up some more trucks and our much needed snacks: Rip Its, Gatorade, and Honey Buns. We will also pick up ice, which is essential no matter what time of year. Although it may be cold out these days, it is still quite literally an oven inside most of the vehicles.

Driving to Kalsu is a fairly short drive compared to our other missions. The scenery is barren until just south of Scania when it begins to get green.

With many on the road, conversations of all varieties pop up in every truck. Usually they discuss sports, motorcycles, past military and civilian life experiences, occasionally a topic out of some issue of Popular Science and, of course, variety of movie topics.

One thing is common throughout every vehicle, Soldiers are on the lookout for anything that could possibly do harm.

The sheer professionalism that is found in the Soldiers of CET 1-2 is of the highest quality. Gunners remain vigilant even after long hours and terrible road conditions.

As we transition from day to night everyone starts to feel a little more at ease. At our roots, we are an Infantry unit and we own the night.

We motor on to Kalsu. The trend is to get to Kalsu to hit dinner. Then it's back to vehicles to conduct maintenance and check in to our tents. After the checks are made, some guys will go hit the gym other guys go to the MWR most just crash out and get some much needed sleep.

Then we turn around and do it all again, only in reverse.

It is my firm belief that Soldiers of CET 1-2 believe that they are the best and for good reason.

"I LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES, BECAUSE I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT DO NOT."

PVT. JEFFREY WICKS

"SMILE AND THE WHOLE WORLD SMILES WITH YOU."

SPC. HOLLY REYNOLDS

"FAMILY FIRST."

SGT. MIKE HANKS



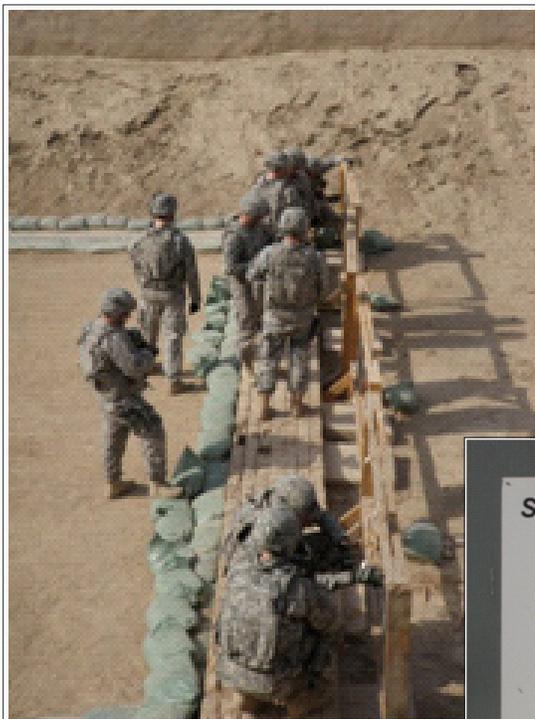
Arizola Weapons Range offers good training for PSD

Story and photos by 1st Sgt. Gavin McIlvenna, TF Stetson

Members of the Klamath Falls, Oregon based C/1-82 Cavalry Squadron, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team spent the afternoon on Arizola Range on Camp Slayer, working on their basic rifle skills. Starting with confirming their zero's, the Troop quickly moved

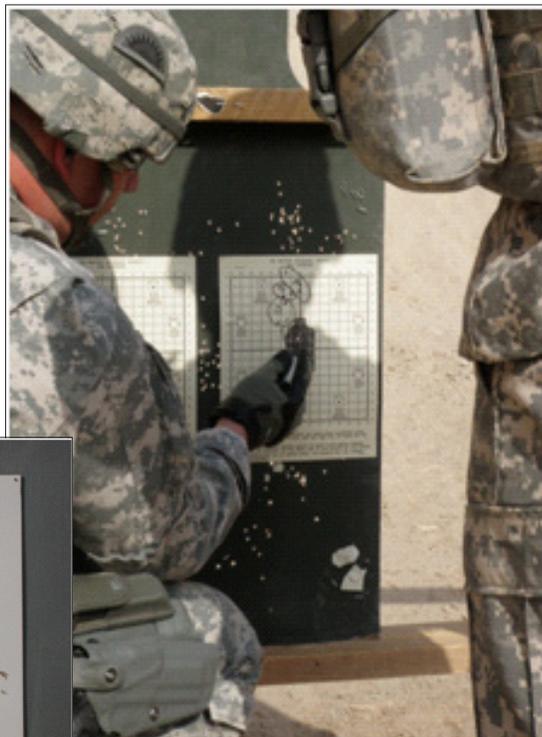
onto the qualification tables, focusing on the different shooting positions.

Ranges such as this play an important role in keeping the edge while conducting Personal Security Detail missions in Baghdad.



C Troop Soldiers confirm their zero on the M4 range. The Troop spent the afternoon working on fundamentals.

Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Range on Camp Slayer, Iraq.



Sgt. Antonio Molina of Clearwater, Florida explains the necessary adjustments needed to Spc. Erick Kaber of Klamath Falls.

Staff Sgt. Jason Bryan of Eudora, Kansas, explains some of the basic functions of the M9 pistol to newly arrived replacements Pvt. Jeremiah Becker of Klamath Falls and Pvt. 1st Class Alex DePiero of Gresham.





CLS training takes on real life scenario

Story and photos by Spc. Frank Ritchey

Here on Al Asad, A Co. has had some big training events over the last few months. Finishing the walk phase of MedEvac training we advanced to the run phase this month.

The training started with a refresher course on the Combat Life Saver (CLS) skills with a practice combat IV stick. Soldiers were able to give their buddy an IV then have the favor returned and be the recipient. The life of a military correspondent is rough. I had to give up both of my arms to have needles stuck in them for those who wanted even more training.

The end was a culmination of training. In an event where the platoons each convoyed down the road where an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was



said to have exploded taking out a truck. The platoons went into action. The Soldiers cordoned off the area, boxed in the downed truck,

performed triage of the injured and treated their simulated wounds, including amputated limbs and shrap-

nel wounds. The platoon medics were instrumental. They assigned tasks, coordinated MedEvac from the Oregon Guard C/7-158 AVN aviation unit

and treated the worst of the patients.

Soldiers practiced doing a combat IV sticks in this stressful situations. Many of them got a good stick on the first try. Soon the bird landed in the landing zone that was set up. The medical handoff was conducted between the platoon medics and the flight medics. The patients were then loaded onto the waiting Blackhawk. The helicopter took off and gave the Soldiers a rollercoaster ride around Al Asad before returning to the waiting platoon.

It is scenario training that makes the exceptional responses possible. Training, retraining, and pushing to improve yourself can save lives.

Our Soldiers are now more ready than ever to meet the demands of the battlefield thanks to the willingness of the C/7-158 AVN to participate in this training,



“THIS IS THE TRUE JOY IN LIFE, THE BEING USED FOR A PURPOSE RECOGNIZED BY YOURSELF AS A MIGHTY ONE; THE BEING THOROUGHLY WORN OUT BEFORE YOU ARE THROWN ON THE SCRAP HEAP; THE BEING A FORCE OF NATURE INSTEAD OF A FEVERISH SELFISH LITTLE CLOUD OF AILMENTS AND GRIEVANCES COMPLAINING THAT THE WORLD WILL NOT DEVOTE ITSELF TO MAKING YOU HAPPY.”

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



Filing Federal taxes from the combat zone

Story by Maj. Mark Ronning, JAG, TF Jungleer

Tax season is fast-approaching and the 41 IBCT will be moving between Iraq and home station when tax day arrives on April 15th. Fortunately, the IRS has authorized military member benefits so that we can stay mission-focused without worry about filing by the deadline.

FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

For military members serving in a combat zone, the April 15 deadline for federal tax filing is extended until at least 180 days after the Soldier's last day in the combat zone.

A general rule of thumb for members of the 41 IBCT is to file federal tax returns by Sept. 15, 2010. Consult your tax advisor for individual evaluation of IRS rules in light of your particular circumstances for a more accurate filing date. The extension applies to your spouse as well, so long as you file a joint tax return.

Extension of the filing deadline is automatic. You do not need to take any action. However, taxpayers may notify the IRS of their status if they so choose. In cooperation with the DoD, the IRS has established a special email address for military members and spouses:

combatzone@irs.gov.

Soldiers should provide their name, stateside address, date of birth and date of deployment to the combat zone. Do not provide your social security number in the email. Either the Soldier or the spouse

may submit this notice.

Military income earned in a combat zone for all soldiers below the grade of lieutenant colonel is exempt from federal taxes. That does not mean that you get a pass on filing a tax return though! You still have to file a tax return, but the income that you earned in the combat zone will not count toward your 2009 annual income.

Soldiers have several resources for additional information. The IRS maintains a comprehensive website with questions and answers as well as IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide. Go to:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=97273,00.html>

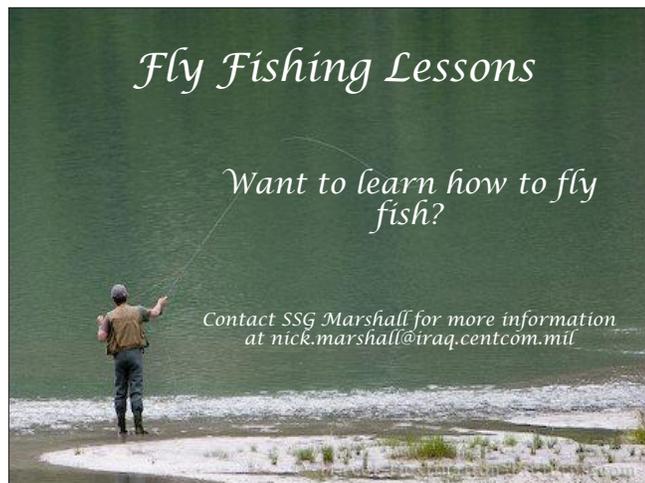
For servicemembers with income under \$57,000 there is free federal tax filing help available at: **<http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=118986,00.html>**.

Legal assistance services are available through 1Lt. James Gardner in the Brigade Operational Law Team to answer questions at 318-833-5793.

Finally, Military OneSource also offers advice on filing overseas at:

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/Find-Information/Category/Topic/Issue/Material.aspx?MaterialID=13175>.

Remember, if you chose to file while you are in Iraq the refund will be sent to your home or bank account. Have a plan to ensure that you receive the money and that the money is not spent against your will.



If interested, please give your

Name/Rank

Unit

Time and days able to attend lessons

Skill level

to Staff Sgt. Nick Marshall at:

nick.marshall@iraq.centcom.mil

The information will be given to the head instructor. There is also a sign-up roster at TF Guardian.



States offer extensions to deployed Soldiers

Story by Maj. Mark Ronning, JAG, TF Jungleer

STATE INCOME TAXES

With the April 15th tax deadline fast-approaching, Soldiers should begin to think about filing both their federal and their state income taxes. All 54 states and territories have their own rules and regulations regarding income taxes. The authority to extend the deadline for the primary states comprising the 41st Brigade are set out below:

Oregon: Oregon does not tax military income earned outside of the State of Oregon, but Soldiers still need to file tax returns. Oregon allows an extension for Soldiers deployed to a combat zone and eligible for the federal filing extension. Oregon allows the same additional time to file as you will receive on your federal returns. Oregon requires that the words “**COMBAT ZONE**” are printed in blue or black ink at the top of the return when filed. Oregon Department of Revenue Publication 150-101-657 provides detailed information. Soldiers can access the publication at: <http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/PERTAX/docs/101-657.pdf>

New Mexico: New Mexico also authorizes a 180 day filing extension for NM income taxes if a Soldier qualifies for extension of federal tax filing due to combat zone military service. Indicate the extension date and mark the extension box on the front of the New Mexico tax return. Write “**COMBAT ZONE**” in red across the top of the NM return. See New Mexico Tax Form FYI-311 for additional information. Soldiers can access the publication at: <http://www.tax.state.nm.us/pubs/FYI-311.pdf>

Nebraska: Nebraska will also follow the 180 filing extension for federal income taxes if a Soldier is authorized the federal extension due to combat zone service. No penalty or interest will be charged or assessed during this period. Spouses of military servicemembers are also covered when filing a joint return. To claim the extension, print “**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM**” in bold letters at the top of the income tax return when filed. Additional guidance can be found at Nebraska Tax Form 8-494-1991 or

<http://www.revenue.state.ne.us/info/8-494.pdf>. Soldiers can also call Nebraska Tax Assistance at 1-800-742-7474 / 1-402-471-5729.

Texas: Texas does not have an income tax. Therefore, servicemembers from Texas do not have to file state income tax forms and may simply rely upon the federal income tax extension described above. Two cheers for the Texas Constitution!

South Carolina: South Carolina, like OR, NM and NE, extends the time for filing and paying income taxes for the same period of 180 days, plus sliding scale, after leaving the combat zone as does the IRS. The extension is automatic and servicemembers do not need to file for the extension. When the Soldier files his or her tax returns, the Soldier should (1) attach a copy of the combat zone orders to the income tax return and (2) write the words “**MILITARY COMBAT ZONE – IRAQ**” across the top of the tax return. Additional information is available at: <http://www.sctax.org/default.htm> and key word search “**combat zone**” or within publication “South Carolina Revenue Procedure #08-3.”

Delaware: Delaware’s income tax filing deadline is 30APR10. Extension is not automatic in Delaware. An extension of time to file the income tax return is granted with filing of the Application for Automatic Extension (Form 1027). Soldiers can also file this form online at: <https://dorweb.revenue.delaware.gov/scripts/olp/olp.dll/pitext> (Form 1027I (last digit is capital “i”).

If an extension is not filed and if there is a balance due when the return is filed, a penalty will be charged for filing the return late. If Soldiers have doubt as to whether the final return will show a balance due, file Form 1027 for an extension. The Delaware Division of Revenue website is located at: <http://revenue.delaware.gov/>.

Finally, the Brigade Operational Law Team also has resources available to assist in answering basic tax questions. **Contact 1Lt. James Gardner at 318-833-5793.**



EO discusses sexual assault in the military environment

Story by Sgt. Linda Sanders, TF Volunteer

Sexual assault is a problem within the Army and DoD, but fortunately, trends within this brigade have not been as bad. Should you or a battle buddy ever become a victim of a sexual assault, you should report it and get the help you need.

There are two types of reporting options; Restricted and Unrestricted. The distinctions between the two must be understood by a victim because absolute confidentiality may not always be guaranteed.

This is vital when choosing to file a report because it affects both privacy and the ability to punish offenders.

A Restricted Report of sexual assault is meant for victims who want anonymity, counseling services, and medical treatment only. It is designed to help the victim retain privacy about the incident and still get help.

If you want the report to remain confidential (restricted), there are only four individuals that you can tell about the assault: a DSARC, Unit Victim Advocate, Chaplain, or Medical personnel.

You must assert your right to keep the information restricted and state your desire clearly to one of the four. Tell no one else of the assault.

A Restricted Report means that your chain of command will not be informed of your identity. No Criminal Investigation Division notification will be made, no investigations will be conducted, and no offenders will be punished.

Additionally, because the incident is only known to a select few, your chain of command will not be in a position to protect you should the need arise.

An Unrestricted Report is appropriate for victims who want an official investigation conducted. Your chain of command will be informed of your identity

and the circumstances of the assault. This option gives commanders the ability to protect the victim from the offender. A criminal investigation will be started and offenders may be punished criminally and administratively.

As a victim of a sexual assault, you have the right to change a restricted report to an unrestricted report, but sometimes circumstances may dictate that the report be unrestricted, even if you initially intended to file a restricted report and indicated so to the correct people.

For instance, if you tell a friend or battle buddy about the assault at any time, it may automatically become an unrestricted report. If you report the assault to your chain of command, it is automatically unrestricted.

Another example, if your personal safety is in jeopardy, the chain of command may have to be notified so that your safety can be assured. Thus making a restricted report unrestricted.

Sexual Assault is defined as unwanted touching of the breasts, buttocks, groin or inner thigh. Statistics suggest that somewhere between 75-80% of sexual assault cases are not reported. If you feel that you have been a victim of a sexual assault, either male or female, report it and get the help you need. Sexual assault is unacceptable.

Victims should do their part to help identify and punish perpetrators, but only after evaluating the personal privacy trade-offs of restricted versus unrestricted reporting.

Leaders also need to do their part to maintain a healthy unit climate which reduces risks and encourages proper relationships within and outside the unit, and to understand sexual assault for the problem it is.

Life mottos, quotes keep us going

Story by Cpl. Mae Miller, TF Guardian

Scattered throughout the newsletter are favorite sayings of 1st Plt. B Co., 1/186 IN. Can we honestly say we know who the person is on our left and right?

The responses were, family sayings, lyrics from favorite artists, lines from books they had read, and others were unique to the person's experiences. Whenever they pulled these wisdoms from, each is a piece

of who they are and what their life has meant.

I was enlightened to hear what these people chose as their personal codes for living.

I believe we can learn and grow even in small ways by the individuals we meet.

The Soldiers have offered to share a vital part of who they are.



Hard-charging studs of Roseburg nearing finish line

Story and photo Spc. Scott Tyrell, TF Atlas

In the New Year, most people are recovering from indulging in food, family, and fun. Being deployed brings about some of the usual resolutions. C Co. 1-186 IN has resolved collectively to continue our physical fitness regime.

Most often, nutrition and unhealthy habits are the root cause poor physical fitness.

Spc. Woodrow Kingsolver wants to put on more weight. He has been hitting the gym regularly to increase his size from 152 to 163 pounds.

Spc. Alex St. Julian wants to quit smoking. His Army Physical Fitness Test score has increased by 35 points. His last run time was 14:35. For someone his stature, 6'4" and 245 pounds, the time was respectable. He hopes that by quitting his habit it will help to get into a 13:00 time on his next APFT. Pvt. 1st Class David Derby and Pfc. Zackrey Rowe also plan to stop smoking.



Some Soldiers have lost up to 40 pounds since being deployed. All feel it is an opportunity to return home physically fit.

Pvt. Christopher Funderburg has lost over 40 pounds since being deployed. Pvt. Christopher Alexander has lost 50+ pounds.

Charlie Co. has incorporated nutrition classes, a regular diagnostic APFT schedule and a team oriented physical fitness program into their training schedule.

With the wonderful dining facility at Camp Korean Village, monitoring diet has been a major focus.

Charlie Co.'s goal for the APFT score is an average of 240 with 100% passing.

With the deployment nearing an end, the goal is getting close to being realized.

Roseburg won't recognize the hard-charging physical studs on Charlie Co's return home.

Celebrate coming home with the Eugene Marathon

Story by Capt. Kyle Akers, TF Volunteer

You are invited to participate in the Eugene Marathon, May 2, 2010. The Eugene Marathon has been very gracious in allowing Soldiers to register for the 2010 Marathon at a discounted rate of \$75.

It will be a great tradition to start within the Battalion and the Oregon National Guard to have a large group of Soldiers participating and committing to the training that goes into finishing a marathon.

I plan on making this event Soldiers can participate in every year.

2010 is unique since the Brigade is returning to Oregon. The run will mark the one-year anniversary of the largest deployment since World War II.

You must mail in your registration with **check** to get the discounted rate

WRITE 2ND BATTALION ON YOUR REGISTRATION TO RECEIVE THE DISCOUNT

You still have plenty of time to train:

- 16 week training plan starts now; most beginner plans take only 16 weeks
- Great goal to keep you focused on physical fitness for the rest of the deployment

Contact: Capt. Kyle Akers

Kyle.akers@us.army.mil

Information about Eugene Marathon:

www.eugenemarathon.com

Mail in registration form:

http://www.eugenemarathon.com/site_media/dynamic_media/2009/12/Mail-In_Registration_10.pdf

Marathon Training Plans:

- www.runnersworld.com
- <http://www.furman.edu/first/>



The war against excess

Story by 1st Lt. Daniel Cotton, TF Atlas

For the past six years the United States military has poured money, Soldiers and equipment into the country of Iraq.

Now, at the tail end of the war here, the Soldiers from the 41st IBCT face the daunting task of getting all of the stuff out of the country that has accumulated for the past six years.

In the past few months D CO 2-162 has turned in over 13 million dollars of equipment with another 20 million more ready to get turned in within the next few days. The point of pride in the process is the

TF Atlas thanks fellow servicemen for their service

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Janyce Prine, TF Atlas

Task Force Atlas would like to take this time to welcome the Combat Stress Team (CST) from the 1059th Medical Detachment. They have joined us from around the U.S. and are eager to begin working with our Soldiers. They jumped in with both feet and provided an opportunity to conduct a meet and greet with all the companies as well as joining the various companies on their missions. As the 1059th Medical Detachment arrives at Al Asad, the 55th Medical Detachment departs.



TF Atlas was fortunate to have the CST from the 55th Medical Detachment here to support our Battalion. In doing so they provided

multiple services here on Al Asad as well as at Camp Korean Village. The team traveled with our companies. For a short period, they allowed multiple Soldiers in the TF to help care for the Combat Stress dog, Bella, prior to her early return home.

opportunity to send much needed vehicles and equipment to the Soldiers in Afghanistan.

Despite the ever changing requirements and chaos that moving equipment like this presents, the Soldiers of the 41st have an opportunity to make a difference in two wars at the same time.

In a few short months the men and women of the 41st IBCT will be headed home. We can leave this country with our heads held high knowing that we truly have left this country in better condition than we found it.

TF Atlas thanks the 55th for all their hard work and the support they provided during our overlapping tours. Lt. Col. Brian James presented the team with AAMs, days before their departure.

TF Atlas would also like to take this time to thank the 8th Communications BN Marine Corps. Their hard, energetic work helped to keep our communications up and running through all the changes to our new location, especially all the times fiber wires were cut. Friday, January 8, Headquarters and Headquarters Company honored the Marine Corps with awards and a barbeque to show our gratitude and willingness to work proficiently with our communications and signal shop.



“THE END IS ALWAYS THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING ELSE.”



Abraham's Oasis: relief in the desert

Story Spc. Scott Tyrell, TF Atlas

Prior to this deployment, many Oregon Soldiers have never experienced a barren land where water was needed to continue travel. During the holiday season, 141 TF Atlas Chaplain Capt. Michael Lanigan gave some Oregon Soldiers the opportunity to have a visual representation of a biblical account.

In Genesis, Abraham is told to leave Ur, in Chaldea, for Haran. Local tradition calls the site "Abraham's Oasis," now known as Eyen Al Asad (Spring of the Lion).

The site is considered a holy site by some of the local population. It has a history of frequent use by the traveling Bedouin over the last 4000 years. The Bedouin farmed the dates from the palms at the oasis.

Abraham is considered to be the father of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Abraham, as explained in Genesis, means "father of many nations." Soldiers also understand the importance of the well.

The journey



Photo from latimesblogs.latimes.com



Photo from army.mil

from Ur to Haran, is a 700 mile trip which may have taken two months to travel. Haran is located 60 miles from the Euphrates, in southern Turkey, near the Syrian border. The oasis is roughly 6 miles from the Euphrates and the last oasis of importance in a barren land.

The Bedouins and some local residents were evicted for a time from the oasis under Saddam's regime. In 1985, an Iraqi air base, currently used by US military, was constructed around the site. Although, the oasis is not mentioned by name, nor is any stop recorded in the Bible or Quran, the site is still considered by locals to be the oasis used by Abraham's family in their journey.

The tour to "Abraham's Oasis" requires approval from the Iraqi Army. IA Soldiers are posted there and they provide the security.

U.S. Soldiers are guided by Ch. Lanigan as they tour "Abraham's Oasis." This provides the chaplain a time to bond with his Soldiers more intimately and he offers a prayer for the Soldiers.

The tour is an opportunity for Soldiers to share an experience they have in common with the people of the country in which they are supporting.

"IF YOUR GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP WALKING."

SPC. STEVEN BRANDON

"THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN, IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART."

SPC. STEVEN NOVAK

"IN EVERYTHING I DO, I STRIVE TO GIVE GOD THE GLORY."

SPC. MICHAEL BIGELOW

"FOOLS LOOK TO THE FUTURE FOR HAPPINESS. A WISE MAN PLANTS IT BENEATH HIS FEET."

SPC. JOHN BROWNING



Charlie Company 2/162 still training to the end

Story by 1st Sgt. Scott Shobert, TF Volunteer

Charlie Company, 2/162, protects military and civilian supply convoys that sustain neighboring bases. Completion of the mission is paramount, as is safety. Not all elements of a mission can be controlled, but a crew proficient with their vehicle, weapons systems, route dangers, and medical training have a far greater chance of returning home safely.

The Soldiers are Combat Lifesaver Certified. They receive training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, trauma, and thermal injuries. They are capable of initiating intravenous lines, needle decompressions, nasal pharyngeal airways, and handling acute shock.

The Soldiers are also capable of setting up helicopter landing zones for medical evacuation. They can call in and interface with the helicopter crew, all while in the scenario of being under enemy fire. Combat Lifesavers are the first line of medical care before being assessed and treated by a field medic.

The Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's), or roadside bombs, pose the greatest threat to our Soldiers. Enemy weapons (IED's) and tactics are constantly evolving, causing the convoy commanders to change their procedures and equipment to counter enemy changes.

During the mobilization training, Soldiers are trained on past enemy tactics. Soldiers also receive current training once they enter their theater of operations. Classes are held both in the classroom and in the field.

In the classroom, power point slides/photographs of recovered munitions, videos of attacks on convoys, diagrams of attack scenarios, and schematics of enemy weapons are shown. The examples give Soldiers a greater picture of what they may face. Later, Soldiers put what they have learned to use in real world scenarios. They spot simulated IEDs, while mounted in

their vehicles honing their spotting and communications skills.

Effective weapon system usage is every bit as critical as are medical skills and the spotting of IED's. Weapon systems such as the M2, .50 caliber machine gun, the M240B 7.62 mm machine gun, and the M4 5.56 mm assault rifle are the main lines of defense not involving an IED. These weapons systems require a diligent, disciplined, and proficient operator to man them.

Monthly training is conducted at one of many shooting ranges. Soldiers engage targets, while moving from one protected position to another, covering the movements of their team members. These scenarios mirror possible real life engagements to refresh teamwork and communication skills, while sharpening shooting skills.

The tactical vehicles used during the mobilization training were mainly Humvees. As Soldiers enter the Iraq theater, they immediately encounter tactical vehicles they may not have used before. These are modern, better armored, fast and have more internal room than what they may have experienced.

With each new vehicle come new challenges. More armor means a bigger engine and more sophisticated equipment, therefore, requires a greater training regime to properly indoctrinate new crews to their vehicles.

Training is of the utmost importance and is evident by the constant alteration and improvement of training plans, to meet changing needs. When a flaw is spotted or a new need arises, training is or altered to meet the need. The mission is important, but equally important is the safety of the Soldiers conducting that mission. No NCO's or Officers are satisfied with anything but the best training for their Soldiers.

WHEN GOD FEEDS YOU CROW, TAKE BIG BITES AND GET THROUGH IT." - "A WISE MAN - MY FATHER"

2ND LT. RAMSEY MORGAN

"GO HARD OR GO HOME."

CPL. NICK LICHNER



TCNs are a new challenge for Battery A

Story by 1st Lt. Eric Zimmerman, TF Atlas

During the first several months of the deployment, Battery A 2-218 FA escorted American contractors throughout Iraq in their mission to deliver commodities. Unlike many convoy security companies, Battery A was not assigned to escort the third country nationals (TCNs). As the deployment now begins to shift in preparation for the incoming units taking over our mission, not all companies conduct their original security mission. Battery A has picked up the additional missions.

As Battery A prepares to escort TCN drivers, mission preparation and the level of teamwork between gun trucks and commodities is expected to change.

With American drivers, the inspection and mutual understanding regarding the vehicles and how to operate on the road are well understood and best classified as teamwork. The contractual restrictions and language barriers with the TCNs do not allow for the same type of teamwork and mutually helpful operations on the road.

Battery A Soldiers are restricted in the amount of support they can provide to TCN drivers. This is in stark contrast to the level of assistance Soldiers

can provide to American contractors. Chief among the new concerns for the TCN convoys are frequent vehicle breakdowns and the efforts made to get the convoy moving again.

Business in the TCN convoys reflect the differences between American business ventures and other countries. When working with American contractors, Soldiers do not need a cultural adjustment to understand the motivations and organizational norms in the business of moving commodities around Iraq. TCN contractors operate with a variety of business practices that American Soldiers may find difficult to interpret or fully grasp. As Soldiers inspect vehicles they are bribed, bartered with, and exposed to many practices that would be unquestionably rejected in American business.

To date, Soldiers of Battery A have had a good level of success with their TCN convoys and continue to enjoy their constant mission set.

Adding a new factor to the mission has given Battery A Soldiers an added focus as they prepare to hand off their duties to the next unit preparing to escort American and TCN contractors throughout Iraq.

The Silent Ranks

Poem by Sgt. 1st Class Tanya Hall, TF Volunteer

*I wear no uniforms, no blues or greens.
But, I am in the military, in the ranks rarely seen.
I have no rank upon my shoulders. Salutes I do not give.
But in the military world is where I live and am rarely seen.
I am not in the chain of command, orders I do not give or get.
But my husband is the one who does, this I cannot forget.
I am not the one who fires a weapon, Who puts his life on the line.
But my job is just as tough, I'm the one who is always left behind.
My husband is a patriot, a brave and pride filled man.
And the call to serve his country not all can understand.
Behind the lines, I see things needed to keep this country free.
My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do my kids and me.
I love the man I married. The military is his life.
So I pledge to support my hero and stand among the silent ranks known as
THE MILITARY WIFE.*



CLS training boosts confidence and skills

Story by and photos by Cpt. Jamie Wolhar, TF Volunteer

In March 2009, Soldiers from the 262nd accomplished the task of getting more than 130 Soldiers certified as Combat Lifesavers during a three day course. Each Soldier left the training feeling more confident and ready to deploy.

Fast forward to Iraq 2010. The Soldiers are well into their tour and are deeply entrenched in their missions. The Combat Lifesaver Course they took last March, certifies each Soldier for a 12-month period. To be recertified for another 12 months, a combat lifesaver must pass a series of re-certification practical examination before his certification expires. All performance tasks do not need to be completed for re-certification.

One of those tasks includes how to clear an airway. The tube is inserted to clear an airway for the casualty to breath unobstructed. It is measured, lubed, and inserted. No time for second guessing. It's completed in less than 30 seconds.

"It's a real boost in your confidence as a Soldier", states Spc. Benjamin Fazio. "I learned how to insert the nasopharyngeal tube and I also understand what it feels like to be given the tube."

Cpl. Eric Wilt was especially impressed on the illustration of how to stop bleeding in the femoral artery close to the groin.

"They showed us a new technique that we did not learn in the first class. This training is definitely worth it. It makes me more aware of my surroundings when I am on the road."

It is critical for the Soldiers to learn the techniques



of a Combat Lifesaver.

"The medics get a lot of attention in this mission, but it is the combat lifesavers who are saving the lives in trauma situations," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Graciano, of the 262nd OD assigned to the Battalion Aid Station. "They get there first, treat the blood loss and control the hemorrhaging which is the most important step."

The most important thing the Soldiers take away from the CLS recertification class is the ability to perform three tasks.

"First they must return fire until the enemy is suppressed, before any aid is rendered," said Spc. David Thomas, of the 262nd, one of the CLS instructors. "Second, the CLS must stop any life threatening bleeds with the Combat Application Tourniquet, (CAT tourniquet). Lastly, they must be able to open and maintain the airway if a casualty is unable to breath."

As the Soldiers of the 262nd OD complete their tour in support of OIF 2009-2010, there are many more training requirements will be met. Counter Improvised Explosive Device training, rules of engagement given by the Brigade Judge Advocate General's staff, Counter Radio-Controlled Electronic Warfare and individual weapons training are continually needed throughout the deployment.

Although, all of these are important, it is safe to say the members of the 262nd OD have placed the combat lifesavers and recertification course high on their order of merit list. As they head out on another mission driving the roads of southern and central Iraq, it is

good to know that these Soldiers are prepared to take care of one another if the situation arises.



Soldier unemployment and reintegration top priority

Story by Sgt. Candace Westlund, TF Jungler

The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Tigard, Ore., is winding down its mission in Iraq.

As leaders work to keep their troops focused on the mission, there are many Soldiers without jobs who will be thinking about their situation upon redeployment.

A priority of the command team is to ensure Soldiers are aware of their rights to unemployment insurance.

Col. Dan Hokanson, the commander of 41 IBCT, from Keizer, Ore., said, "One of my top priorities is to determine the number of Soldiers who will be unemployed when we return, and the communities they live in. We will use that information to work with the reintegration team to plan and coordinate with potential employers in those areas to conduct job and career fairs."

We estimate that more than 800 Soldiers in the 41 IBCT are unemployed, with anywhere from 18% to 35% of a Task Force affected by this situation.

The highest affected counties are Linn, Multnomah, Jackson, Clackamas, Deschutes, and Washington; with at least 50 Soldiers in each county who will return home jobless, based on surveys.

The information was gathered and given to Hokanson, explained 1st Lt. Kristy Boucher, the Brigade Assistant Human Resources Officer, from Salem, Ore. "The bottom-line is we want to inform our Soldiers on the benefits they have earned," said Hokanson.

Soldiers will receive a brief from the Oregon Employment Department as a part of the demobilization process at Fort Lewis, Wash. The brief will include information about eligibility, and the process for getting unemployment insurance.

Currently, Soldiers are entitled to the maximum amount of benefits. Unemployment insurance benefits are available for 52 weeks, but it may only be collected for 26 weeks of that time period.

The first week is called a waiting week, in which

the Soldier must make a claim, but will not be paid. After waiting week, Soldiers will have until Saturday night to claim the previous week for payment. They will answer a series of questions about that week regarding their search for employment or if any opportunities for employment were presented to them.

Soldiers who are in college may also be able to collect unemployment insurance.

One Soldier, who wished not to be named, utilized unemployment insurance upon his redeployment from Afghanistan in 2006.

"I applied the day after my orders ended, got the full benefits, and used them for three months," said the Soldier.

He said they only had one period where he worked during the time he collected unemployment. The Soldier was called to state active duty to work during fire support season.

"That was the only time there was an issue. I notified the office ahead of time, but I was still paid for that timeframe and they had to take it back later," said the Soldier.

The biggest benefit to unemployment insurance, he explained, was the requirement to register with <http://www.iMatchSkills.org>. The website takes individual skills into account and matches the Soldier with jobs that fit their skill profile.

The Soldier said that he had continued to receive emails with job matches seven months after he had initially returned to work. He was matched with a job that enabled him to move his family from The Dalles, Ore., over to their current residence.

"Hands down, the most valuable part other than the peace of mind of a paycheck, is the job matching that iSkillsMatch continued to give me after I ceased receiving unemployment benefits," the Soldier said.

For more information about unemployment insurance, visit <http://www.employment.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/UI/index.shtml>.

"I TRY TO KEEP MY PAY TO WORK RATIO HIGH."

SGT. MATT DOYLE



Education: a open door for redeploying Soldiers

Story by Sgt. Candace Westland, TF Jungler

The government provides many different opportunities for Soldiers to receive financial help while attending college. The Montgomery GI Bill is one way Soldiers get rewarded for their service.

Most Soldiers in the 41st IBCT are eligible for the MGIB Selected Reserve program, which provides Soldiers \$350 a month, while enrolled in college, with a \$200 kicker for anybody that enlisted in the National Guard in a critical unit and got at least a 50 on the ASVAB.

Soldiers who served on active duty have their own benefits provided to them under Chapter 30, which involved the Soldier paying into the program during their first year of service. They are then able to utilize the GI Bill when they begin college and can receive up to 36 payments.

The new Post 9-11 MGIB, under Chapter 33, allows for Soldiers to receive a percentage of benefits based on how long they have served on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. To receive the maximum percentage of benefits, you must have served on active duty for a total of 36 months or more. The minimum amount of time served must be 90 days. Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training count as active duty time.

The Post 9-11 MGIB pays out for the following: tuition and fees (not to exceed the cost of the most expensive in-state tuition at a public institution), housing allowance based on the zip code of your school (not to exceed the cost of BAH for an E-5 with dependents, not available for those enrolled part-time or in distance learning), yearly books and supplies stipend of \$1,000, and a one time payment of \$500 to anybody relocating from a highly rural area.

For Soldiers who are eligible for any of the MGIB

programs, to include the Post 9-11 MGIB, you may make an irrevocable decision to cease prior benefits you have utilized in order to gain the benefits of the Post 9-11 program.

Another important component of the Post 9-11 program is the ability to transfer your benefits to your spouse or children, or any combination thereof. You must have served six years in the Armed Forces, and agree to serve an additional four years, or have already served ten years total.

Those eligible for retirement between Aug. 1, 2009 and July 1, 2010, do not have an additional service requirement. After July 1, 2010, the amount of service changes depending on when you become eligible for retirement.

If you are in a program that exceeds the cost that the Post 9-11 MGIB covers, and have served 36 months of active duty, you may be able to use the Yellow Ribbon Program.

The Yellow Ribbon Program is designed to pay the difference of your tuition costs if they are not covered by the MGIB.

There are many education benefits offered to you for your service, and there is bound to be something that fits your needs best. Take advantage of what is offered to you and consider making the next step in higher education.

For more information, go to:

diane.beach@us.army.mil

<https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits/>

http://www.gibill.va.gov/gi_bill_info/CH33/Benefit_Comparison_Chart.htm

http://www.gibill.va.gov/school_info/yellow_ribbon/index.htm

“DEATH IS INEVITABLE, DON’T FEAR IT,
MEET IT WITH A SMILE!”

SGT. JAYERAMY RAUDEBAUGH

“EAT BIG, LIFT BIG, BE BIG.” -RHINO’S LIFTING TEAM MOTTO

CPL. DUSTY RICE



R & R activities around Oregon

Oregon offers a wide variety of activities throughout the year. Below are a few activities happening in the month of February.

Portland area:

Traditional Irish Folk Dancing Class: Monday nights year round except September 1, 2008. 7-9pm, Yeates Studio in the Arciform, Building, 4231 North Interstate Avenue, Portland, Oregon. 13 & older, drop-in fee \$3. Contact Irish Club 503.286.4812

Lake Oswego:

Lakewood Theatre Company presents Spider's Web: An original Agatha Christie mystery! A captivating 'whodunnit.' \$26.00 - \$30.00 Tues-Sat 7:30pm, Sun 7pm. Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State Street, Lake Oswego, OR 97034503-635-3901

Eugene area:

Live Glassblowing: Free. Experience the exciting world of hot glass in motion, in addition to a multitude of contemporary art works. Demonstrations can be viewed directly from the main gallery floor. Friday, Saturday. Studio West, 245 W 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 541-683-9378.

Science in the News – The Stevens' Family Cemetery: The exhibit includes coffin handles, clothing buttons, nails and screws unearthed during this summer's excavation of the Stevens family cemetery. The Stevens are considered the first pioneering family to have settled in the Springfield area. 11:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave, Eugene, OR 541-346-3185

Bend area:

Swing Night!: Cost: \$10 a class. Beginning West Coast Swing class at 7:00pm followed by a live band or DJ for Swing dancing all night. No need to bring a partner! Cost: \$10 a class. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Boondock's, Bend, OR, 541-610-2114

Redmond area:

All Aboard the Saturday Night Crooked River Dinner Train!: Climb aboard and step back into the 1800's as

the Crooked River Dinner Train operates each Saturday night with a western-themed murder mystery entertainment tradition along with dinner train theme nights. Board the train at O'Neil Junction, 495 NE O'Neil Way, Redmond, OR. For reservations or additional information, call 541-447-4485. Event Hours: 5 - 9 pm. Tickets: \$79/Adults; \$75/Senior (65 & over); \$39/Child (3 - 12) & \$20/ Infant (2 & under). Includes train ride, dinner and the show!

Canyonville area:

Dreamgirls: Last year the fabulous "fakes" of Greg Thompson's JEWEL BOX REVUE took the Seven Feathers Cabaret Lounge by storm! FREE admission with two-beverage minimum. Smoke-free shows are Sunday at 2 p.m. and Tuesday at 7 & 9 p.m. Must be 21. September 30-November 29, Tuesday – Saturday, 7 & 9 p.m. • Sunday, 2 & 7 p.m.

Seven Feathers

Frankie Avalon: <http://www.sevenfeathers.com/entertainment/concerts-and-special-events/316-frankie-avalon-in-concert>. Tickets \$29 & \$19. Purchase tickets online at sevenfeathers.com, in person at the Box Office, or call StarTickets Plus at 800.585.3737. Doors open at 7 p.m. Must be 21 or older. Seven Feathers Casino, 146 Chief Miwaleta Ln, Canyonville, OR 97417 1-800-548-8461

Elgin area:

Elgin Stampede Crab Feed: Great food, good company and a fun time. Fresh Shelled Crab is the main menu item but it will also include homemade potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans and hot garlic bread. Adults, \$27; Ages 8-12, \$17; Ages 7 & under, \$6. Ages 65 and up \$25. Don't Miss It! Elgin Stampede Hall, Wallowa Lake Hwy//Hwy 82 Elgin, OR 541-963-2136

For more activities go to OregonBeat.com