

TIGER Tracks



Stars Visit the Tiger Brigade
Throw Me Something, Mister!
Sexual Harassment
Kids for Kids

To: _____

Photo by Spc. Chris Foster

256th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs Office

FREE MAIL

Please forward to your loved ones...Seal with tape or staples

To the Families and Troops

BG John Basilica, Jr.
256 BCT Commander



This is a period of transition. After the highly successful election, our overall strategy will change to help the Iraqi people win their struggle for democracy, as opposed to winning it for them.

Everything that we do should be designed with this philosophy in mind.

In addition, we are in transition from the leadership of the 1st Cavalry Division to the 3rd Infantry Division. This is a huge task with many moving parts. The 256 BCT will play a critical role in this transition as we are:

- 1) first to begin implementation of the new strategy
- 2) represent the agents of continuity (along with our sister BCT from 2-10 MTN) for Task Force Baghdad. We have the responsibility to capitalize on the momen-

In the four months that we have been in Iraq, we have fallen under the command of the 1st Cavalry Division.

As you all know, the new higher headquarter-

CSM James Mays
256 BCT Sergeant Major



s will be the 3rd Infantry Division. I want each and every one of the Soldiers of 3rd ID to know that the 256th Brigade Combat Team are good Soldiers who want to start on a good note with them. We have put out a Multi-National

tum gained from the decisive victory of the elections and leverage the success of the increasingly successful and capable Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) defend and fight against the enemies of freedom.

We were honored to host the two most senior officers in the theater. CENTCOM Commander Gen. Abizaid and Multi National Force - Iraq Commander Gen. Casey both visited the Tiger Brigade. I was proud to expose these two distinguished officers to the superb Soldiers of the 256 BCT.

I would like to advise the command of a change in policy regarding the combat patch. I have recently been advised of the Corps Commander's policy on the subject. His policy allows Soldiers a choice of patch. Therefore, effective immediately, Soldiers will be allowed to choose which patch to wear (Division or Brigade) as their combat patch.

I would also like to echo and reinforce the comments of CSM Mays below. Leaders at every level must enforce the standards. Soldiers should exercise personal discipline and learn and comply with the standards especially as they relate to safety. Continue to look after one another and stay focused on the mission. Tiger Brigade!

Conduct). Make sure that you all read the policy letter dated 02 December 2004, and conduct yourselves in accordance with the policy.

Movement in the logistical support area (LSA) and Motor Pool is too fast. We have put up signs all over Tigerland posting the speed limit. Slow down before someone gets hurt. Especially in track vehicles, the view is not as good. I see too much vehicular movement without the use of ground guides. This is another area that has got to be fixed. The LSA is off limits to all tracks. This is for safety reasons.

There is a lot of personnel movement in the LSA, so bear with us. We are not doing this for harassment. We have to meet the standards, and these are the standard guidelines for the living area. After this is complete, there will be no more movement of Soldiers in the LSA. I am sorry for the inconvenience, but this has to be done.

Force Iraq Policy-05-05 (Uniform Wear, Appearance, and

Chaplain's Corner

**Ch. Raymond M. Gillett,
1088th ENG BN and 3/156 TF Bandit**

As a Chaplain, I've had many people come to me wanting to know what direction they should go, wondering where God is in the midst of very difficult issues. The poem "Footprints" aptly describes that in the most difficult of times God is the one who is carrying us.

At times, it might appear that we are all alone but in reality, He is near us. In those times He is actually carrying us. God doesn't abandon us and leave us stumble along the best we can by trial and error.

Much of Scripture is an example, can be classified as "travel notes" - notations on life's journey as it is traveled in faith. In this simple verse, though, we can see that God wants us to do the right thing. Often people come to me who have gotten into trouble and now want God to

bless their ways, but in reality, God would not be pleased with the directions they have gone.

My encouragement is to turn in the right direction now and seek His mercy for wrong turns you may have made in the past. Then, your steps will be made firm by the Lord, because He will be delighted in your obedience to follow His will.

Prayer for Troops:

God, you have given freely by both counsel and example. Give also a strong spirit of perseverance that I may not falter as I walk the way you have pioneered for me in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Chapel Schedule

Sunday:

0900 Roman Catholic Mass - Sanctuary
1030 Contemporary Protestant - Sanctuary
1230 Gospel Protestant - Sanctuary
1500 Traditional Protestant - Sanctuary
1900 Non Denominational Christian - Sanctuary
2000 "Purpose Driven Life" - Prayer Room
2130 Evening Christian Service - Sanctuary

Monday:

0900 "The Gospel of Matthew"- Prayer Room
1730 "Rosary" - Prayer Room
1900 "R.C.C. Catechetical Instruction"- Prayer Room
2000 "Tough Questions Bible Study"- Sanctuary
2100 "The Gospel of Matthew" - Sanctuary

Tuesday:

1900 "Purpose Driven Life" - Prayer Room
2000 Lenten Series - Sanctuary (Feb 15)
2000 "Wild At Heart" BS - Prayer Rm (Feb 15)

Wednesday:

0900 "HIS Story – O.T. History as it
Prophecies Christ as Prophet,
Priest, and King" - Prayer Room
1030 EML Briefing - Sanctuary
1500 "Chaplet of Divine Mercy - Prayer Room
1800 Catholic Choir Practice - Sanctuary
1900 Midweek Worship Service - Prayer Room
2000 "HIS Story – O.T. History as it
Prophecies Christ as Prophet,
Priest, and King" - Prayer Room

Thursday:

0900 "Revelation – Church Victorious" - Prayer Room
1900 Praise Team Practice Session - Sanctuary
1900 "Revelation – Church Victorious" - Prayer Room
2030 Evening Service Musician's Practice- Sanctuary

Friday:

1900 Bible Study- Prayer Room
1900 Gospel Choir Practice (Instr. Only)- Sanctuary
2000 "Marriage Enrichment" - Prayer Room
2000 Prayer Group- Sanctuary

Saturday:

0900 Lutheran Worship Service- Prayer Room
1030 EML Briefing- Sanctuary
1800 Women's Bible Study- Prayer Room
1900 Catholic Mass- Sanctuary
1900 Intercessory Prayer Group - Counseling Room
2000 Gospel Choir Practice- Sanctuary
2100 "So You Call Yourself A Man"- Prayer Room

***"Our steps are made firm by
the Lord, when he delights in
our way."
Psalm 37:23***

Stars Visit Tigerland



Spc. Eric Martinez, a mechanic, explains some new features on his vehicle to Gen. John Abizaid, commanding general of U.S. Central Command, during the general's visit to Camp Liberty, Baghdad Feb. 11. The general met with members of the 256th Brigade Combat Team during his stay in the Iraqi capital.

256th Soldiers See Stars



Gen. John Abizaid admires his 1st Battalion, 141st Artillery Regiment T-shirt after he visited Soldiers at the "Hot Gun."



Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF) (shown above speaking to Brig. Gen. John Basilica) met with staff and leadership to share his vision for the future of Iraq. He said that there is one consistent message: "Iraq's destiny belongs to the Iraqis. The more they do for themselves, the more they will value the results."



Sgt. 1st Class David Shaw, of HHC 1st Battalion 156th Armor Regiment shows Gen. John Abizaid, the new add-on rear armor protection for his vehicle.

Sgt. James Chamlee, a mechanic for 1/156th, receives a coin for his hard work from Gen. John Abizaid.



Kids for Kids

1/141 Helps the Community

**Lt. Col. Jordan Jones,
1/141st Field Artillery Battalion
Commander**

"There are millions of people all over the U.S. who need our help, why should we help the Iraqi children? They're thousands of miles away and they're not my responsibility. I have my own problems with which to deal!"

We can all understand these perspectives because they're true right?

Yes, we lead complicated lives filled with our own unique set of issues. But the answer why we should assist is simple. We are Americans, we care, and this is a great way to contribute to the liberation of these oppressed people! And isn't America filled with compassionate people from all over this planet?

Pick a country and we have U.S. citizens whose family originated there. Do the Iraqi children need help, you betcha! The Iraqi children speak a different language from our own children and live a different culture, but where they're exactly the same is in their need to be cared for, fed, clothed and loved.

That's what the "Kids for Kids" program is all about. When our friends and family members ask what they can do to help our Soldiers or support the war effort we tell them to contribute to this great program. If we can show the Iraqi children that we care about them, then just maybe we have a chance to influence a generation bent on improving the quality of their own people rather than imitating those dedicated to ruining it! Kids for Kids originated from our 256th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), currently stationed in Baghdad, Iraq.

In the words of Staff Sgt. Shaun Warren and Sgt. Keith Bonnet, founders of childrenofbaghdad.com:

dad.com:

"We aim to better the lives of children in the Baghdad area. Our operation was originally designed to create relationships between American schools and Iraqi schools; however, in the planning process alone we were overrun with people asking how they could help. The decision to ask the public for aid was made and childrenofbaghdad.com



Staff Sgt. Shaun Warren gets a hug from his new friend after giving her a hat and toiletries

was born.

"The public has shown tremendous interest in helping out from businesses, to schools, to individuals from all walks of life. The response from the public has really been outstanding! We've received over eight thousands hits on the website in just a few weeks and the counter is steadily climbing.

What makes this program special is that it was these fine soldiers who developed this idea and have done all the work themselves. This effort originated from the desire of these Soldiers to help children in need and leave a positive legacy of their unit in OIF III. Both sergeants are members of the 1/141st Field

Artillery Battalion, "The Washington Artillery" who is deployed with 256 BCT.

Warren and Bonnet have also coordinated with the other battalions w/in the 256 BCT who are anxious to help pass out all donations received from the U.S. to the children in their areas of operation.

Warren and Bonnet will solicit the assistance of other Soldiers to pass out these donations throughout the Baghdad area. These soldiers will be able to leave this country knowing that they contributed to the future of Iraq; the children. And they'll have stories to tell their grandkids!

There are three ways to donate:

1) Monetary donations (tax and non-tax deductible should be sent to WAVA KIDS FOR KIDS, PO Box 7584. Please make checks payable to the "Washington Artillery Veterans Association." Please include a request if you need a tax deductible receipt.

2) Tax deductible material donations should be sent to: WAVA - KIDS FOR KIDS, PO Box 7548, Metairie, LA 70010. Please include a request if you need a tax deductible receipt.

3) Non-tax deductible material donations. If you don't require a tax deductible receipt, your donation can be sent directly to: OPERATION KIDS FOR KIDS, HNB 1/141st FA BN, 256 BCT, APO AE 09326.

For more information, visit our website at: www.childrenofbaghdad.com

Valentine's Day

Day of Romance

Valentine's Day History Rich with Tradition

By Jamie Babbitt

Published: Monday, February 14, 2005

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...

-Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Each year on February 14, couples profess their love for one another by giving cards and gifts, planning intimate evening festivities, and sometimes even making the ultimate commitment by proposing marriage.

Some people say Valentine's Day is a holiday created by greeting card companies to increase revenue between Christmas and Easter. But the celebration of love on this date has been a long-standing tradition-- dating back before greeting cards even existed.

The entire month of February has been regarded as the month of romance for hundreds of years. But Valentine's Day has become so commercialized that many do not know the origins of it.

The Legends of Saint (Saints?) Valentine

This holiday of love was named for Saint Valentine. There are several legends of saints named Valentine who were all martyred in the name of love, so the history of the holiday is not completely clear to this day.

One legend, and perhaps the most well-known, originates from third century Rome. Emperor Claudius II forbade marriage among young men because he thought that single men made better soldiers than men with wives and children. Valentine, who was a priest serving in Rome during this time, continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret despite Claudius' law. Valentine was soon caught and put to death.

According to another legend, Valentine fell in love with a young girl while serving time in prison. Some believe that the young woman was his jailor's daughter. She would visit him often and before he died, he wrote her a letter signed with the traditional Valentine's greeting, "From your Valentine."

Why We Celebrate Valentine's Day?

The idea of a man sacrificing himself for his love is so romantic that many thought it deserved its

own holiday. But nobody knows for sure why February 14 was chosen as the day to celebrate love.

Some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated to remember Saint Valentine on the day of his death or burial. Others believe that the Christian church began the celebration to "Christianize" the pagan Lupercalia fertility festival.

In ancient Rome, Lupercalia, which began on February 15, was dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. On this day, Roman priests would gather at the ancient cave where Romulus and Remus were cared for by a she-wolf, and they would sacrifice a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. The goat's hide would then be sliced into strips, dipped in sacrificial blood, and taken to town. The boys in town would then slap women and fields of crops with the goat hides to make them fertile in the coming year.

Later in the day, the women in the town would place their name in an urn. The single men would choose a name out of the urn and the two would become a couple for the year. Often these matches led to marriage. This "lottery" system of coupling was soon outlawed because the church believed it to be unchristian.

Valentine's Day Fun Facts

-Pope Gelasius of Rome declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D.

-During the Middle Ages in France and England, February 14 marked the beginning of the mating season for birds, which added to the idea that the middle of February should be for romance.

-In Great Britain, friends and lovers began exchanging small tokens of affection or notes during the eighteenth century.

-The oldest known Valentine card, which dates back to the 1400s, is on display at the British Museum.

-According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion Valentine cards are sent each year.

Black History Month

Where it All Started

The History of Black History by Elissa Haney

Dr. Carter G. Woodson

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied-or even documented-when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

Blacks Absent from History Books

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population-and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Established Journal of Negro History

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History.

In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. However, February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in black American history. For example:

February 23, 1868:

W. E. B. DuBois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, was born.

February 3, 1870:

The 15th Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.

February 25, 1870:

The first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels (1822-1901), took his oath of office.

February 12, 1909:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City.

February 1, 1960:

In what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, N.C., college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.

February 21, 1965:

Malcolm X, the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims.

Sources:

www.wilkesbeacon.com and www.infoplease.com

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Throw Me Something, Mister!

**By Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs**

Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team generally hear the phrase, "Throw me something, Mister!" from Iraqi kids in the streets of Baghdad, but on Sunday, February 7th, they heard it in the true Mardi Gras sense that it was intended. Although the Louisiana Brigade is thousands of miles from the Mardi Gras celebration, an ocean could not separate the enthusiasm that the Soldiers have for the holiday.

"Mardi Gras" literally means "Fat Tuesday," and the holiday is obviously celebrated on that day of the week. But since the majority of the Soldiers are off on Sundays, the leadership decided that it would be best to celebrate it then.

The history of Mardi Gras, surprisingly enough, is a Catholic tradition. It begins 12 days after Christmas, on January 6th. That day is called "12th Night," or "King's Day" and it celebrates the visit of the three

wise men bearing gifts to the Baby Jesus. In a related Mardi Gras custom, a dessert, called a "king's cake" is made into a circular pattern to signify the

Maj. Freddie Morris, 256 BCT Automation Manager, shows his Mardi Gras Spirit while he sits on top of his John Deere Gator, as the reigning king of this Mardi Gras Parade....at least, HE likes to think so.



round-about route that the Christ Child.

three kings took to get to the



The "Bayou Bandits" flag flies high, representing Soldiers of 3/156th. In the background, workers of the 256th BCT emerge from their offices to enjoy the festivities.

This was to confuse King Herod, who wanted to kill the baby.

In ancient tradition, a small coin or bean was placed in

Tigers Celebrate Mardi Gras

the center of the cake and

whoever found it was said to have good fortune throughout the next year. In Louisiana, however, bakers insert a plastic baby instead, to symbolize the Baby Jesus. The recipient is obligated to host the next cake party.

The meaning of the name "Fat Tuesday" refers to the day before the Lenten Season begins, or the day before Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40 days and nights prior to Easter when Catholics fast to cleanse their bodies and souls to prepare for the day that Jesus will rise into Heaven after the crucifixion.

Traditionally on Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, a fatted calf was slaughtered and Catholics feasted on meat, wine, and good times.

The colors of the celebration also fall in line with tradition; purple is for justice, green is for faith, and gold is for power.

The date for Mardi Gras can fall in anywhere between February 3rd to March 9th, depending on the Lunar calendar. Catholics use this calendar to determine the date of Easter, and Fat Tuesday is always 47 days prior.

The Tiger Brigade brought the tradition and craziness to the streets of their camp in Baghdad, and the stunned spectators from other units took to it like true first-timers.

Throughout Camp Liberty, Soldiers emerged from their offices and rooms to see what



1Lt. Kaylor Fredrick of HHC 2/156th hams it up in true Fat Tuesday Style!

pull off a nice presentation."

He also said that it felt good to bring a taste of the Louisiana tradition to the rest of the camp.

"Everyone enjoys a good party," he said, "and I think that we gave everyone around us a feeling of togetherness and were able to include many people into the event."

He said that it showed the open personality of Louisiana. Along the parade route, the riders threw beads,

sions, and those peeking out of their front doors were greeted with a rain shower of Mardi Gras trinkets. Everyone got into the celebration as the spectators lined the streets and rooftops to catch the traditional items.

Command Sgt. Maj. Homer Stelly from Delcambre, La. of 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, set up his sound system on his battalion's float and blared zydeco music for the parade.

"The music makes everything," he said, "cajun

the chaos was all about. What they saw were military vehicles of every shape and size transformed into Mardi Gras floats.

Thanks to many krewes from Louisiana and the Family Readiness Groups (FRGs), who donated beads, masks, and festive decorations, the parade was a huge success.

Spc. Chris Golden, from Abbeville, La. of Headquarters Co. 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, said that Mardi Gras in Baghdad was a nice touch, even though the supplies and spectators were limited.

"With the amount of shortcomings that we had as far as equipment and planning, we were still able to



Soldiers of the 256th BCT participate in the Mardi Gras fun, as they attempt to catch

music and zydeco music are part of Louisiana culture and we just couldn't have a Mardi Gras parade without it."

A favorite Louisiana phrase is "Laissez les bon temps roulez!" which means "Let the good times roll!"

candy, and cups to anyone within range. Civilian employees passing by in cars, fellow Soldiers from other units returning from mis-

On Sunday, February 7, 2005, thousands of miles from home in the streets of Baghdad, Louisiana Soldiers did just that.

The parade route with continuous Mardi Gras floats covered all of Tigerland.



Sexual Harassment

By Spc. Johnnie Brown, Jr.
102nd HQ PAO Staff

*How Do You Help
Yourself?*

You are in the presence of several of your fellow Soldiers and when you walk away, one of them makes a loud whistle directed towards you, and also makes the comment of how they would like to do certain things to you. The American workforce is more co-ed than it has ever been, and it is this new reality that the Army is diligently trying to educate its members about. As a result of this diversity in the workforce, sexual harassment is a problem that the Army seeks to prevent. It has regulations to protect Soldiers against this act and whoever violates the regulations can be punished under the Uniform Code Military Justice (UCMJ).

The Army has defined sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination that involves unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of any sexual nature, when:

1. Submission to such conduct made either explicitly or implicitly term or condition of a person's job, pay or career
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that person
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Sexual comments, jokes, whistling, and barking are examples, to name a few. Physical sexual harassment contains such actions as stroking, grabbing, patting, hugging, or giving suggestive pictures or cartoons to someone. These types of harassment are manifested in several ways that can be harmful to the individual and the unit.

Each individual is affected differently by sexual harassment, but the internal battle remains the same. Initially, a person begins to deny that the situation even exists.

If the unwanted advances continue then the victim oftentimes blames themselves. If the sexual harassment is allowed to continue it can result in a confrontation. If the circumstances have not changed between the denial phase and the confrontation stage, the unit as a whole can suffer from the internal damage and possible external pressures that are created.

If the victim reports the behavior or actions

and nothing is done by supervision then a "hostile environment" is created and the unit begins to suffer. This "hostile environment" can seep into the unit like a cancer and cause the morale of the members to erode. At this point, you may be asking yourself, "How do you know if you are being harassed? Am I harassing someone?"

There is a simple four-question test that you can use to determine whether you are harassing someone or being harassed by someone.

1. Was the behavior or innuendo sexual in nature? Was the behavior unwelcome?
2. Does the behavior create a hostile or offensive work environment?
3. Have sexual favors been demanded, requested, or suggested--especially as a condition of employment or career and job success?

Take the situation in question and if you answered yes to any of the questions from above then it is conceivable that you were either harassing or were being harassed by someone. An unwelcome advance can consist of repeated requests for a date, obsessively following someone (stalking), uninvited visits to personal quarters, and unwanted phone calls.

The Army is very explicit in its policy on sexual harassment and the possible punishments reflect this commitment to protecting the members. Depending on the actual circumstances a soldier can be charged with various articles of the U.C.M.J. The punishment can be administrative, like counseling, or the member can be discharged. The member can also face criminal charges.

What should I do if I feel as though I have been harassed?

To assist in the investigation the victim should keep a private journal of the incidents. The journal should contain such things as: date, time, place of the incident, witnesses, and the actions of the offender. This also serves as a way to decide if you want to pursue the matter further.

"The Army encourages soldiers to try and take care of such complaints at the lowest level possible. The first step is as simple as talking to

the offending individual about the indiscretion," states Capt. Sam James.

This typically resolves the matter before it escalates to the level of involving the Company Commander or the Equal Opportunity Advisor (E.O.A.) Ultimately, it is incumbent on the Soldier to know how to treat other Soldiers with respect and in a dignified manner. Failure to do so can have serious consequences. If more immediate information is needed, contact Capt. Samantha Wade or go through your chain of command.

There are two forms of sexual harassment: verbal sexual harassment and physical sexual harassment.

Verbal sexual harassment consists of actions such as off-color jokes.

What is the Purpose of the Equal Opportunity Program?

The Equal Opportunity Program is to ensure fair treatment for all persons based solely on merit, fitness, and capability in support of readiness. The goal is to provide EO for military personnel and family members, both on and off post and within the limits of the laws of localities, states, and host nations.

Create and sustain effective units by eliminating discriminatory behaviors or practices that undermine teamwork, mutual respect, loyalty, and shared sacrifice of the men and women of America's Army.

The EO complaint process addresses situations that allege unlawful discrimination or unfair treatment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, and national origin.

There are two type of EO complaints; informal and formal complaints. An informal complaint is any complaint that as soldier, family member or DA civilian does not wish to file in writing. Informal complaints may be resolved directly by the individual, with the help of another unit member, the commander or other person in the complainant's chain of command.

A formal complaint is one that complaint files in writing and swears to the accuracy of the information. Formal complaints require specific actions, are subject to time lines, and require documentation of the actions taken.

What are Some Techniques to Deal with Sexual Harassment?

(1) Direct approach.

Confront the harasser and tell him/her that the behavior is not appreciated, not welcome and that it must stop. Stay focused on the behavior not the impact. Use common courtesy. Write down the thoughts before approaching the individual involved.

(2) Indirect approach

Send a letter to the harasser stating the facts, personal feelings about the inappropriate behavior and expected resolution.

(3) Third party.

Request assistance from another person. Ask someone else to talk to the harasser, to accompany the victim, or to intervene on behalf of the victim to resolve the conflict.

(4) Chain of Command.

Report the behavior to immediate supervisor or others in the chain of command and ask for assistance in resolving the situation.

(5) File a formal complaint.

Details for filing an informal or formal complaint are in **AR 600-20, App E**.

If you have any EO complaints,
please contact Capt. Samantha Wade,
256th BCT Equal Opportunity Advisor.
DNVT: 539-2038

Soldier's Voice

In Their Own Words

Sending a Happy Valentines to their love ones back home.



Pvt. Damien Zerzos
A Co. 1/69th
Brooklyn, N.Y.

" I would like to tell my wife Happy Valentine's Day. I

love and I miss you. I will be coming home soon and kiss the kids for me. I love you! "



Spc. NeKia Lazard C
Co. 199th FSB
Lake Charles, La.

"I miss every one back home. Happy Valentines Day to Mom and Dad, all my little brothers and to my baby Ronald, I love you forever and a decade".

Sgt. Eugene Matthews
HHC 1/156th
Shreveport, La.



" I want to wish my wife Shakira Matthews a Happy Valentines Day. I love you and miss you. Wish I could be there with."



Pfc. Nicholas McCart
A Co. 1088th
Natchitoches, La.

"Happy Valentine's Day, Mom and Dad! I love you."



Staff Sgt. Michael Banks
HHC 1/156th
Natchitoches, La.

" I want to say Happy Valentines Day to my wife. I miss you and love you. "

256 BCT Families

One Big Happy Family

First Sgt. Lumus St. Julien , "Charlie Rock" 3/156, and his brother, Staff Sgt. William St. Julien, Commo Sgt. for HHC 1/141, from Lafayette, La., are spitting images of each other.



Sgt. Bryan Sellers, a Ground Surveillance Rader (GSR) Specialist for 256th MI Co., and Spc. Mathew Sellers, a Military Policeman for HHC 256th, are brothers who are each making a difference in Iraq. They are from Lafayette, La.

Attention: Soldiers and Family Members

If you would like to express yourselves or have something you would like to share (ie. poems, stories, issues you would like to address, quotes, pictures from home, etc). Please send us your submissions for the next edition, Feel free to email us at

taysha.deaton@id3@us.army.mil or any of the PAO staff members. We want your VOICE!



Capt. Chris Daniels, Cdr. of HHC 1/69th, showing a little brotherly love to his younger brother, 1st Lt. Rob Daniels, Executive Officer for A Co, 1/69th.

Muharram, Ashura, and Arba`iniyyah

Muslim Holiday Activities Could be Detrimental

A Soldier's Guide

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar. As with all Islamic months, the first day of Muharram is determined by the sighting of the new crescent. Muslim scholars and clergymen generally do not acknowledge astronomical calculations to determine the beginning of lunar months, but rather depend on the detection of the crescent by visual means. This makes the calendar somewhat unpredictable. There is no way to accurately predict the first day of Muharram. To further complicate the matter, Sunni and Shiite Muslims in Iraq do not frequently agree on the date, nor do the scholars in one country often agree with the scholars of another.

This year, the month of Muharram will begin on or around February 9th.

Though important to Muslims of all sects, Muharram has special significance to Shiite Muslims. It is in Muharram that Imam Husayn, the third of the 12 Shiite Imams (spiritual leaders), was martyred in Karbala, Iraq. In 680 AD, Yazid, a contender for the rule of the nascent Muslim empire, beheaded Imam Husayn along with most of his family and personal guard. According to one story, Husayn had left his hometown of Madina (a city in what is now Saudi Arabia) to avoid confrontation with Yazid. He began his voyage north to Iraq on the first day of Muharram, and was slain in Karbala on the tenth day of Muharram, or "Ashura".

The observation of Muharram is not a celebration. Rather, it is a public ceremony of grief for millions of Shiites worldwide. For the Shiites in Iraq, it has also been a "show of force" to the oppressive government of Saddam Hussein.

The commemoration of the massacre begins on the first day of Muharram and continues for 40 days. During the commemoration millions of Muslims remember the massacre at Karbala and strive to feel some of Husayn's pain.

Tens of thousands of Shiite men and women of all ages will walk to Karbala, some of them barefoot over long distances to demonstrate their faithfulness.

Many arrive carrying black (for mourning), red (for Husayn's blood) and green (for Islam) banners, paying homage to Husayn.

Some will hold graphic pictures depicting Husayn's death and his severed head on a pike. Muharram is one of the four holy months in Islam in which war is proscribed unless in self-defense, or if the fighting is the continuation of earlier hostilities.

What to expect:

- Scenes of blood as the pilgrims beat themselves with sticks, chains and swords.
- Roads completely blocked with hundreds of thousands of the faithful.
- Possible terrorist attacks against the Shiite crowds and holy places.

Dos and Don'ts:

- Do have extra supplies of water to offer the pilgrims.
- Do prepare yourself for the shocking scenes of violent self-flagellation.
- Do be solemn and reserved.
- Do be aware of the potential for terrorist action - the events will provide a perfect opportunity for terrorism against the Shiite majority.
- Don't openly criticize the practices, regardless of how strange they may seem to you.
- Don't take photographs.
- Don't joke or laugh openly in front of the local population. This will be perceived as insensitivity at best and sarcasm at worst.

Last year:

- On Ashura in 2004, nearly 300 people were killed and more than 400 were injured in attacks on Karbala and Baghdad.

--Soldiers,

Please cut out this page out and place in your pocket as a guide during this holiday!!

Announcements

*What's New in the
256th?*

Recent Court Martials of 256th BCT Soldiers

1. Grubbs, Darrell R. Jr.

Article 86:

Failure to report to place of duty at appointed time

Article 91:

Disobeying a lawful order of a noncommissioned officer

Article 92:

Disrespect of a noncommissioned officer (X2)

Article 134:

Wrongfully communicating a threat

Punishment:

Bad conduct discharge

Reduction to E1

3 months confinement

2. Broderson, Stephen R.

Article 128:

Assault with a dangerous weapon

Punishment:

Reprimanded

Reduction to E1

4 months confinement

“There is a vast difference between court martial punishments under the Louisiana Code of Military Justice or the New York Code of Military Justice and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Misconduct in this environment is serious business. Soldiers are receiving much longer sentences than they do for similar offenses in a drill status. They need to realize that a federal conviction and a dishonorable discharge will ruin their lives.”

~~Lt. Col. John Dunlap
256th BCT SJA

ARMY ANNOUNCES CLOSE COMBAT BADGE

11 February 2005

In response to requests from field commanders and after careful analysis, the U.S. Army announced today a new badge for selected combat arms Soldiers in combat arms brigades who engage in active ground combat.

The Close Combat Badge will provide special recognition to ground combat arms Soldiers who are trained and employed in direct combat missions similar to Infantry and Special Forces who will continue to be recognized for their ground-combat role with the Combat Infantryman Badge.

The Army will award the CCB to Armor, Cavalry, Combat Engineer, and Field Artillery Soldiers in Military Occupational Specialties or corresponding officer branch/specialties recognized as having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat, and they must be assigned or attached to an Army unit of brigade or below that is purposefully organized to routinely conduct close combat operations and engage in direct combat in accordance with existing rules and policy.

The CCB will be presented only to eligible Soldiers who are personally present and under fire while engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires.

The Army expects to release in March an administrative message outlining exact rules and regulations. The CCB should be available for purchase in clothing sales stores and through unit supply this fall.

ATTN: ALL TASK FORCES

The Brigade Civil Affairs Team has **Humanitarian Aid supplies** available to any and all Task Force convoys that wish to receive them. Among the items available are school supplies, to include backpacks, Beanie Babies, candy and treats, and assorted winter clothes. All supplies are packaged in boxes for easy storage and transport. The only requirement that we ask is that we receive pictures of the distribution. If you are interested in receiving these items, please call the Brigade S-5 Office at 242-4338. We will gladly arrange a time for you to come get as much as you want.

The **256th BCT Tiger Store** is open to all Soldiers of the Brigade. The Tiger Store is located behind the Brigade TOC and hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 13:30-16:30. Stocked items are free and are donations through anysoldier.com and by various supporters.

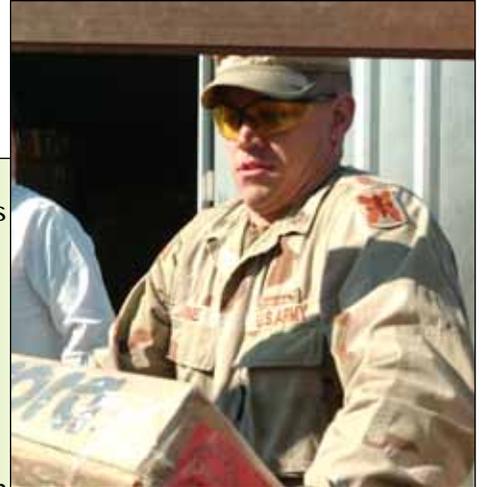
256th BCT Photo Album

Faces in the Brigade



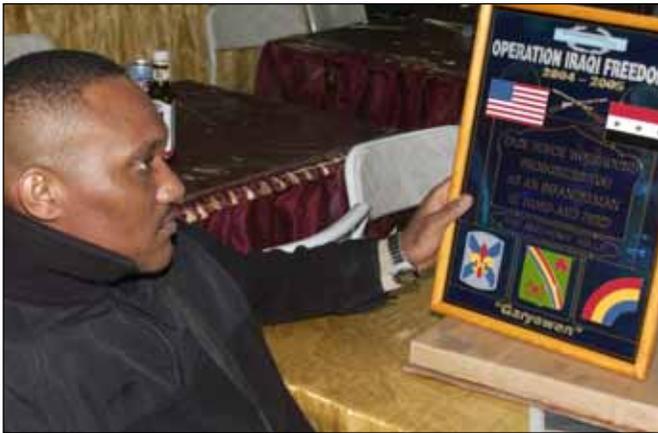
Staff Sgt. David Prince, Civil Affairs non-commissioned officer for 3rd

Battalion, 156th Inf. Bn., cleans out a little boy's eyes, while the father holds him and looks on gratefully.



Sgt. 1st Class Rufus Jones, Platoon Leader and acting 1st Sgt. for B Co. 3/156th,

loads a box full of frozen chickens onto a truck for Operation Copeland's. The chickens were delivered to people in the local community by various units of the 256th.



Sgt. Anthony Mills from Valley Creek, N.Y. admires his plaque that was awarded to him by the 1/69th Inf. Bn. Mills is the Unit Clerk for A Co., 1/69th and is not eligible for the Combat Infantry Badge, so the leadership of 1/69 took initiative and awarded Soldiers in Combat Service Support positions a plaque for their contributions.

Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team were able to enjoy the Super Bowl following the Mardi Gras Parade. In addition, they feasted on gumbo and cold beer donated by Anheuser Busch.

