

March 31, 2005

Special Edition

Volume 2....Issue ....1

# TIGER

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FREE MAIL

To:

256th Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs Office

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

Designed by: Spc Foster

# SPECIAL EDITION

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## The Tiger Track's Staff

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Note to Readers:  
 The next edition of *Tiger Tracks* will be on  
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The *Tiger Tracks* is a publication of the 256th Brigade Public Affairs Office. This Soldier and Family Support Group newsletter contains official information and complies with the provisions of AR 360-81 and AR 25-51. Questions or concerns can be directed to the editor at [taysha.deaton@us.army.mil](mailto:taysha.deaton@us.army.mil) or Soldiers can call DNVT 242-4644.

# To The Troops

**BG John Basilica, Jr.**  
**256 BCT Commander**



In this edition of the Tiger Tracks, I would like to talk about a very serious subject that I am concerned about ... drugs and alcohol. There is no place for drugs and alcohol in a combat zone. Use of drugs and alcohol will impair your ability to make decisions and to react to situations.

I do not have to tell this Brigade Combat Team that we operate in an extremely dangerous area of operations. Soldiers are on call 24/7 and must be ready to accomplish their mission in a moments notice. Soldiers cannot operate at peak performance while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Soldiers who think they need performance enhancing drugs (like steroids) or relaxers (like valium) to "come down" after combat patrols are fooling only themselves. These drugs are a crutch and eventually they can do permanent damage to your body and mind. More importantly, no Soldier wants to rely on another Soldier to watch his

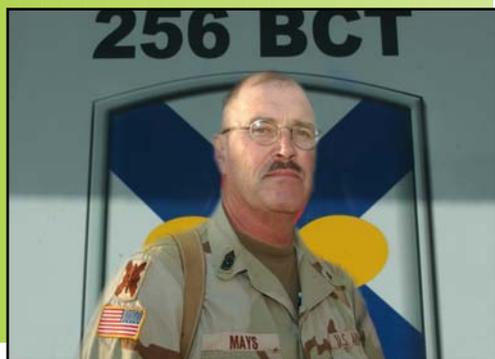
back who is drunk or under the influence of some kind of drug. It's a force protection issue; not only for yourself, but for your fellow soldiers.

I am aware that drugs and alcohol are readily available to soldiers. This is unfortunate and illegal. Civilians caught selling or trading for drugs and alcohol will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Soldiers that are caught will face severe consequences IAW the Uniform Code of Military Justice (see page 13). It is a felony to transport drugs through the US mail system. A single incidence of misconduct regarding drugs can ruin a career for life.

If you are having difficulty coping with the stresses of combat or this deployment in general, there are numerous services available to you for help. Simply go to your chain of command and they will assist you and arrange for the appropriate services to be provided. Taking advantage of these services is not an indication of weakness but rather an indication of a Soldier who knows how to leverage all of the combat multipliers available to him.

Do not ignore the obvious signals of a Soldier who is using and abusing drugs or alcohol. Do the right thing and lead the Soldier away from trouble and get them help if they need it. There is no place for drugs or alcohol in the Tiger Brigade especially while we are deployed. Take care of one another. **TIGER BRIGADE!**

**CSM James Mays**  
**256 BCT Sergeant Major**



**NCOS:**  
**ENFORCE**  
**THE**  
**STANDARDS!**  
**DISCIPLINE &**  
**SAFETY!**

Soldiers of the Tiger Brigade, I am proud of each and every one of you that

brigade would not be able to accomplish the mission at hand, let alone be as successful as we have been.

Again, thank you to the Soldiers that re-enlisted. You are appreciated. Let's remember to do the right thing.

## Editor's Note

Dear Soldiers,

I would like to get more feedback from all of you. What do you want to see more or less of in the Tiger Tracks? Please remember this publication is yours. If you have photos, story ideas, or even your own submissions, please feel free to email them to us or bring them by the PAO office. Please keep in mind, that not all submissions will be printed, but we will showcase as much of your work as possible. I know there are writers and photographer among you, so please send us your stories and pictures.

1 Lt. Taysha Deaton  
256th BCT PAO

# Chaplain's

# Corner

*Lt. Col. Robert Baker, Jr  
256th BCT Chaplain*

What a marvelous time we have experienced this holy week together here in Baghdad, Iraq. We have had many opportunities to worship together as Soldiers and warriors this week. This Easter we had the privilege to baptize 12 soldiers who have confessed Christ as their Savior and Lord, and wish to follow Him in believer's baptism.

God is moving by His spirit all over Iraq and in the forward operating bases throughout this country. It is such a blessing to be part of what God is doing, and if we wish to be used by God we need to find out what God is doing and where He is doing it, and get involved in it.

Even in time of great need and sorrow, we can see God move by His Holy Spirit in the lives of the Soldiers and others who live here with us. On this Easter, we celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We as

Christians are the most hopeful people on earth. For those of us who do know Him, we also are crucified, buried and resurrected with Him to rule and reign in this life and the one to come. Jesus said that He came to give us life more abundantly. I hope that all of you are experiencing everlasting life that comes by submitting yourself to the Risen Savior.

We Christians do not give up on something, but rather we take on many great things. Knowing that Christ lives in us, and that our sins are as far the east is from the west and are cast into the deepest sea. Living a life free of guilt, anger, and malice are just some of the benefits being a Christian. On this holiest of Christians Holidays, I wish you peace and grace found only in the resurrected Christ.

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## Easter Baptism Service

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*Pvt. 1st Class. Emily Hamilton  
HHC 1088<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.*

Although far from home for the Easter holiday, Soldiers of the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team kept the day spiritual and uplifting. No one even noticed that the chapel was under construction, and the renovations did not hinder the holiness of the atmosphere. Twelve Soldiers were baptized with Maj. Raymond Gillett, chaplain for the 1088<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, presiding.

"This was our first baptismal service in Iraq, which is extremely special," said Lt. Col. Robert Baker, 256<sup>th</sup> Chaplain. "God is definitely working here and the spirit is manifested through many bodies."

Smiles and happiness decorated the chapel and were most evident on the faces of those Soldiers who were baptized. The songs were so uplifting that vibrations could be felt under the feet of the participating voices. It was impossible not to notice the amount of people present, and most significantly, the chaplains from other units sitting together. Their obvious pride and strong levels of faith were, without a doubt, a morale booster for all. As Chaplain Gillett lead the congregation in singing, his hands were raised upward in praise to God.

When the time finally came for the Soldiers to be baptized, they collectively walked to the baptismal font. Lt. Col. James Waskom, battalion commander of the 199<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, participated in the life changing event.

"It took me 42 years to take this step, and now I am at the stage where I know I won't be leading a hypocritical life," he said.

Standing before the congregation in wet clothes and a cleansed soul, he expressed his feelings with confidence.

"I feel great," he said, "and I hope to have more peace of mind and patience after the step that I've just taken."

Pfc. Rocky Bordelon, of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, was baptized as well, and had some lasting remarks about his own personal experience and how he came to be baptized.

"A couple of times, at the services, it felt like someone was telling me to get saved, but I was always worried about what others would think," he said.

"About a month and a half ago I was sitting in church and it felt as though the words out of the chaplain's mouth were directed towards me and I went to the alter to get saved," he said.

Bordelon said when he returns home from the deployment, this will become a family affair, and his wife will join him in his spiritual journey.

Maj. Orlando Madrid, chaplain for the 199<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, expressed excitement at the turnout for the Easter baptism service.

"This is such a great experience for all of us together," he said. "God is still at work in the midst of combat."

# Soldiers Take Oath...Again



**Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Chief of the Army National Guard Bureau, swears in 256th Soldiers. (Photo by Spc. Chris Foster)**

By: Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256<sup>th</sup> BCT Public Affairs

Raising their right hands and swearing to “support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic,” 256 Soldiers of the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team officially extended their service to the Army National Guard, in a ceremony with the perfect facilitator—Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the Army National Guard Bureau.

“People back home look at you as superheroes,” Blum proudly informed the Soldiers. “You have tremendous support.”

To date, 334 Soldiers of the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT have opted to re-enlist, and with a year-end goal of just under 1000, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Philip Flowers has faith that the numbers will remain steady. Flowers is the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT retention non-commissioned officer in charge, and said if events continue along their current pace, there will be no problems reaching the goal.

Currently, the 256<sup>th</sup> is tracking roughly 26 extensions per week.

Though there is a significant bonus involved, Flowers feels that the Soldiers who extend care about more than the money.

“The bottom line is, if you want to get out, you’re going to get out, and

no amount of money can make you stay in,” he said, “I think that it says a lot for the leadership of the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT, when you consider how many Soldiers are sticking around.”

He also believes National Guard Soldiers are taking more pride in their jobs, now that they are able to perform them to full capacity.

“During our regular status, Soldiers come to drill, train, and never really get to put to use the skills that they have learned. Since the deployment, though, they have been able to do their jobs, and they have done them well,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Melchiorre L. Chiarenza, personnel strength non-commissioned officer for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment has extended his service after racking up 15 years to his credit.

“After that long, six more doesn’t seem like much time out of my life,” he said.

A school teacher from Staten Island, N.Y., Chiarenza not only signed up for more time with the National Guard, he is also considering making it a full-time career.

“I’ll be doing the same job that I’m doing here in Iraq, either with the 1/69<sup>th</sup> or with the Louisiana National Guard.”

*Continued on Page 7...*

## The Future of Iraqi Police

### *Tiger Brigade recruits next generation of Iraqi Police*

Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256<sup>th</sup> BCT Public Affairs

In a collaborative effort to build the security forces in Iraq, several elements of the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT participated in their second Iraqi Police recruitment.

Maj. Kenneth Donnelly, from New Orleans, La., is the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team Provost Marshal, who said this recruitment event was so successful that he requested more slots and received them, due to the large turnout. In the end, a total of 331 IPs were given a letter of acceptance—195 for the Baghdad Academy and 136 for the Jordan Academy.

Donnelly contributes a large portion of the success of the recruitment to the success of the recent elections.

“The economy has a lot to do with it, there are so few jobs,” Donnelly said. “But in the large spectrum, overall recruitment is up and I think that after the public saw how their own people got out there and protected and saw that they were capable, it gave them a whole new respect. Now they want to be a part of it.”

The first step, as with any career move, is for the recruits to fill out an application. The forms are written in English and Arabic, and an instructor uses an overhead projector with an identical transparency of the application for the recruits to follow along with him. This provides extra insurance that no mistakes are made in the process. Once the application is complete, the recruits begin moving in a round-robin scenario, going through different stations in order to complete the recruitment exercises.

“Some will go to the literacy test, some do their background checks, and they also have to go through a

*Continued on Page 6...*



***Spc. Karen Gangloff, a Medic with C Co., 199th Forward Support Battalion, from Lafayette, La., checks the blood pressure of a potential Iraqi Police recruit.***

***(Photo by Spc. Erin Robicheaux)***

***Continued from Page 5***

medical exam and a physical fitness test,” said Capt. Jeff Musumeche, 256th BCT strength accounting officer. Musumeche, from Youngsville, La., is the officer in charge of the Iraq Recruiting Processing Center, and said the recruits will finish in the same place that they begin—with him.

“They begin with me in the application process, and after completing each station, they bring all of their paperwork with their scores on it, and out-process through me,” he said.

When Musumeche sends a recruit away, hopefully it is with a letter of acceptance and a date to report back for the Jordan and Baghdad Police Academies. The recruitment lasts for two days and the potential police officers are referred from a variety of places. Task forces of the 256th BCT are given a quota to recruit from their areas of operation, and this generally comes from their local contacts, people they meet while on patrol.

The IP recruits also make their way to the medical station, where they are screened for any illnesses or injuries that may prevent them from living the life of a police officer.

Spc. Karen Gangloff, a medic with C Co., 199th Forward Support Battalion, volunteered to participate in the event. The Lafayette, La, resident said it felt good to have the chance to work with the Iraqi population.

“My usual duties include running sick call and taking care of any traumas that might come in,” she said. “Working with local nationals is something that I rarely get to do, and it was neat to get outside and see something different.”

She and the other medics checked vital signs and any major problems, they were sent to the physicians.

# Future of the Iraqi Police

According to Gangloff, though, they were mainly in good health, and she enjoyed their company.

“This is a good experience,” she said.

Perhaps the least favorite part of any security force screen is the physical fitness test, but two Soldiers from the 256th BCT Civil Affairs Office did their best to make the occasion a little more bearable.

Master Sgt. Tony Harrington and Sgt 1st Class Natasha McZeal oversaw the PT portion of the recruitment process, and said that they wouldn’t accept failure from anyone.

“I haven’t had a no-go yet,” said Harrington.

“Everybody will pass. They are only allowed to take the test once, but we make sure that they are motivated enough to pull through.”

McZeal said the law enforcement prospects all had a good outlook and she commended them for their determination.

“These guys are coming here and risking their lives, not only to take a test, but to become Iraqi police officers,” she said. “We (Soldiers) risk our lives, too, but they have to stay here.”



***Iraqi Police recruits participate in a physical fitness test, where they were required to perform 10 push-ups and sit-ups, and run a 440m dash.***

***(Photo by Spc. Erin Robicheaux)***

# *“People back home look at you as superheroes.”*

*Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum*

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**Selected Soldiers of the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT sit down and eat with Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Chief of the Army National Guard Bureau.  
(Photo by Spc. Chris Foster)**

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**Soldiers of the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT give a helping hand to Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, and Brig. Gen. Basilica as they cut the cake.  
(photo by Spc. Chris Foster)**

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## **Continued from Page 5**

Chiarenza has made so many new friends as a result of the deployment, that he might possibly decide to make a permanent move to Louisiana.

“I’ve been working with a great group of people, and it’s going to be hard to let them go,” he said.

Blum reflected on the significance of National Guard Soldiers re-enlisting in a combat zone, and said that he was impressed at how many signed up for more time with the military, especially when they are still just under halfway through their tour in Iraq.

He also noted that the same Soldiers who postponed civilian careers and college educations to fight the war on terrorism, were still patriotic enough to raise their right hands and promise to protect their country.

“They care about what they are doing here and know that what they are doing is making a difference, and will make America safer,” he said. “They are truly an American treasure.”

Sgt. Corey Allbritton, from New Orleans, La, of Headquarters Co., 256<sup>th</sup>, has been a member of the Louisiana National Guard for almost nine years. Just prior to deployment he was performing force protection duties in his home state, but said he will eventually go back to school.

“I’m interested in biology and will probably major in a

science related field,” said he.

Allbritton will pursue a civilian education, but has full intentions of staying in the guard for twenty years.

“Quitting after almost nine years would be like quitting high school when you’re 16 years old,” said he.

In addition, he has high aspirations for his military career.

“My goal is to be a Brigade Sgt. Maj.,” said Allbritton.

“It’s funny, though,” he said, “when I was a Pfc. it was simple, I just wanted to be a sergeant.”

Should Allbritton and his fellow “citizen Soldiers” get the call again to serve, Blum said it won’t be anytime soon. According to him, the National Guard will not be used at this rate all the time, and the troops’ patriotism and willingness to serve will not be abused.

“We need to make sure that when these Soldiers return home, we don’t call them for another five or six years,” he said, “We need to give the families, the employers, and the Soldiers some predictability and certainty.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Blum walked through the ranks and shook all 256 hands that had just been raised in promise to the United States.

He told the Soldiers, “Ladies and gentlemen, you have just re-enlisted in the Tiger Brigade, and I salute you.”

# Driven by the Love of the Fallen



***A blue septic tank, used for a weapon cache, was uncovered by the Soldiers of Charlie Rock 3/156th.***

***(Photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Bordelon)***

***“After Losing four of my Soldiers I was determined to find those responsible.”***

***Cpt. Jody Guidry***

***Spc Chris Foster  
256th BCT Public Affairs***

After the loss of four Soldiers, Charlie Rock of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Regiment, currently attached to 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment was determined to find the insurgents that were responsible for taking the lives of their comrades. With observation points in place, they began to monitor particular houses that were known to be supporting members of the Anti Iraqi Forces (AIF). As Charlie Rock did dismantled patrols throughout the area. The local Iraqis gave them information on recent activities and locations of the AIF. On March 23, 2005 a group of Iraqi Commandos raided one of the targeted houses, and killed a member of the AIF when he confronted them with a weapon.

March 25, 2005, Charlie Rock conducted a Mosque monitoring while two Soldiers, Sgt. Westley Leitz, a native of Church Point, La and Sgt. Curtis Hodges, from Iowa, La, both with Charlie Rock pulled security in the area. They discovered a septic tank buried in the ground, and realized that it was a weapons cache. They found one of the largest weapons caches in their sector. While Leitz and Hodges secured the cache site, the rest of the team searched the house of the person that they suspected to be the owner the land. The platoon searched the empty house and found military documents and rank from Saddam's former army, and they established an observation point on his house.

The following day the "Mohawk", motor platoon from

1/156th Armor Regiment, did another heavy recon of the area with mine detectors and a bomb dog. They found another weapons cache and other weapons hidden in the canal banks; they also detained eight members of the AIF that were in the targeted houses.

March 27, 2005, the units dismantled into the streets and fields of the cache site with bomb dogs and several mine detectors to help uncover any remaining weapons caches that would be invisible to the human eye. Within a couple of hours, they uncovered eight weapons caches that contained a range of explosives.

On March 28, 2005, the units uncovered three more weapon caches in the area. Charlie Rock and the Mohawk eliminated the threat the enemy posed against the Soldiers patrolling its streets. They were driven by the love for their fallen brothers, determined to find the men that killed them.



***An assortment of explosive and munitions found during a mission conducted by Charlie Rock 3/156th and the Mohawk Platoon 1/156th.  
(Photo by Spc. Nathan Faust)***

# BUFFALO ADDED TO 256TH ARSENAL



***The 23-ton Buffalo is the most recent piece of equipment Operation Iraqi Freedom Soldiers have to defeat improvised explosive devices. it is a heavily-armored vehicle designed for route clearance, giving patrols a closer look at suspected IEDs.***

*Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256<sup>th</sup> BCT Public Affairs*

A new Soldier has been initiated into the Tiger Brigade family and have taken up residence with the 1088th Engineering Battalion. The Buffalo is the most recent equipment to defeat improvised explosive devices and just like its name suggests, the 23-ton machine is made of monstrous proportions, and appears to be virtually unstoppable.

It is a heavily-armored vehicle designed for route clearance, giving patrols a closer look at suspected IEDs. This way it can be confirmed that an IED is present before bringing an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team onto the scene.

1st Lt. Cecil Piazza of Alpha Co. 1088th En. Bn. has played an active role in bringing the new addition to the 256th Brigade Combat Team. He explained how the machine works.

"It is equipped with a 30-foot extension, called an Ironclaw, which is operated from within the vehicle. Once an IED is spotted by a route clearance team, it can be investigated without getting physically on the ground to look at it."

The operator uses the ironclaw to probe debris and dirt from around the questionable device and also has an

extra set of eyes mounted on top to help decipher the identity of the object. Working hand in hand with a television screen inside the vehicle, a 200X zoom video camera has a bird's eye view of everything. According to Spc. Chris Johnson from Iowa, La., it has the capability to help the crew see clearly.

"Yesterday I was familiarizing myself with the camera, and I zoomed in on a Soldier who was working in that building over there in the motor pool."

The building in question was more than 150 yards away.

The Buffalo seats six, with the driver and operator at the front and the four remaining Soldiers behind them designated for "eyes." The crew is seated about 10 to 12 feet off of the ground and will also have access to an extra set of searchlights that are maneuvered from inside the vehicle. With the lights, the camera, and the 30-foot "arm," they will be able to search any-

where they feel there is a threat.

Piazza said he and his men received a course on the specifications and operations of the Buffalo. They were trained by the 458th Engineers and received classroom instruction, as well as on-the-job training. They were afforded the opportunity to go with the team on missions, and about 75 percent of what they learned was from actually conducting route clearance in the area of operation. Since his unit's main mission has been to escort EOD, Piazza feels there is no one better for the job than he and his men.

"We know every single route in the brigade's area of operation," said he. "We know the trends, and we know the patterns and habits like the backs of our hands."

Based on the intelligence gathered through patrol debriefing and information sent down to the company level, the Buffalo will be tasked out to the desired patrols. This is the most recent example of the Tiger Brigade receiving the latest high-tech equipment to help battle the war on terror. The Buffalo's purpose is to keep Soldiers protected from IEDs. Piazza and the A Co. Soldiers will accompany the patrolling units, and he has faith that this will prove to be a viable asset.

"In light of the activity and tragedies in December and January, the Buffalo will be a great asset and resource for the brigade to have," he said.

# Soldiers of the Quarter



**Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Mays, awards an infantryman with A Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Infantry Sgt. Robert Baggett, the honor of Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter. (Photo by Sgt. Shelley Landry)**

*Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th BCT Public Affairs*

Soldiers from the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team competed for the distinguished titles of Enlisted Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter, but only two were able to win the coveted honor.

"It's an honor, and it's something I'm really proud of," said Sgt. Robert Baggett.

Baggett, an infantryman in the Louisiana National Guard, and a junior sociology major at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., has nine years total of military experience to his credit.

After serving in the Marine Corps, he returned to his hometown of Ragley, La. to attend school, and became a member of A Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT. His service over the past several years has given his leadership and peers a high opinion of him, so high, in fact, they felt he should be the one to represent their company at the battalion level competition.

"Initially, my platoon and platoon leaders selected me to compete at the company level," he said. "I ultimately won the company and battalion level NCO of the Quarter competitions and went on to compete at the brigade level."

Spc. Jon Vandebogert, of B Battery, 126<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 141<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery of the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT, is a fire direction specialist from Milwaukee, Wis. His primary function is to prescreen local nationals coming onto Camp Liberty, and as a result of his sharp attention to detail, he was selected by his leadership to compete in the battery level Enlisted Soldier of the Quarter, which ended up taking him to the brigade level competition.

"I was chosen for observing a cell phone (detonator) trying to come onto the point," he said.

Both Vandebogert and Baggett, along with roughly 20 other Soldiers, appeared before the brigade panel, which was comprised of all sergeants major from the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT. They were judged on uniform inspections, drill and ceremony and common task knowledge.

After the questioning of all Soldiers was complete, the points were totaled and the enlisted and NCO with the highest scores were the winners. There will be two more competitions of this kind, and then at the end of this rotation, the best of the three quarters will compete for the enlisted Soldier and NCO of the Year.

Each Soldier spent hours upon hours studying from the Army Board Study Guide, and the two winners felt well prepared for the competition.

"I pretty much studied night and day, memorizing army regulations and field manuals," said Vandebogert.

Baggett studied so much, he said he would have been surprised if he didn't win at the brigade level.

"I learned about three years worth of information in three weeks," he said, "I knew most of it, but some of it I'd never even heard of before."

Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Mays, from Pineville, La., is the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT sergeant major. He said the two Soldiers chosen for the recognition exemplify what the Louisiana National Guard has to offer.

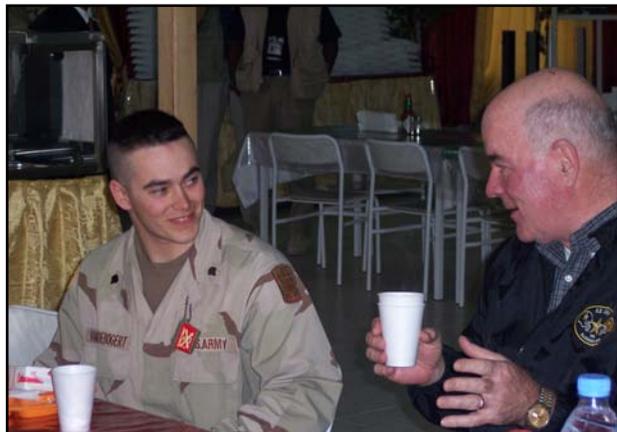
"They stood out," he said. "They knew the answers to all of the questions, and they presented themselves well and as good Soldiers. They're the best Soldiers in the front, the ones who want to step up and be front line leaders."

# Secretary of the Army

## Visits Camp Liberty

*Spc. Jon Vandebogert, of B Batt. 126th Field Artillery, attached to 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery is all smiles as the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Francis Harvey, inquires about his life.*

*(Photo by Spc. Erin Robicheaux)*



By: Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256<sup>th</sup> BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division welcomed a distinguished guest for breakfast on March 18 at the Tiger Den Dining Facility. Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey paid a visit to the troops serving in Baghdad to find out from them what the experience has been like.

Spc. Jon Vandebogert from Milwaukee, Wis., B Batt. 126<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 141<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery of the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, was chosen by his leadership and peers to represent them for the event. Vandebogert was one of four Soldiers chosen by the 256<sup>th</sup> and said that in a one-on-one conversation with Harvey, he felt he was an important part of the war on terror.

"He was very interested in my civilian life and asked me a lot of questions," said Vandebogert. "And when he realized that I was a National Guard Soldier, he told me he's noticed that the Army is truly becoming an Army of one, and that a lot of National Guard troops are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Harvey later recalled a realization that he'd recently had while attending a briefing in Afghanistan with the 76<sup>th</sup> Brigade, who is in charge of training the Afghan National Army.

"In the middle of the briefing I suddenly realized that it was a National Guard unit," he said. "And there was no difference in the organization, the dedication, or the commitment."

He went on to compliment the contributions of the National Guard and Reserve units involved in the war on terror by saying all Soldiers, active duty or otherwise, realize they are a part of something important and that they are spreading democracy and freedom. He mentioned he has also heard talk from Guard and Reserve Soldiers of making a permanent transition to active duty.

Retention, then, is not a problem for any aspect of the Army. Harvey said where the challenge comes in, is recruiting.

"We're cautiously optimistic," he said. "We're putting a lot more recruiters out there and we're increasing incentives."

He admitted it is a challenge, but said the Department of the Army is not giving up. The active duty component is up to 94% of its goal, while the Reserves are hitting 90% and the National Guard is reaching 75%.

"It's only March and we're talking about a goal (to reach) at the end of the year, and we're working very hard to do that," said Harvey.

The Secretary of the Army praised the United States' forces for the job they have done to help the Iraqi people in rebuilding their homes, security force, and government. He enlightened the Soldiers on the big picture of the projects they have personally participated in, and gave an overall spectrum of the events of reconstruction.

In the past four months, growth has occurred so rapidly that the projects have jumped from 200 in December, to 2000 to date.

According to Harvey, the military, and security overall, in the country of Iraq has grown significantly due to the presence of Multi-National Forces. For example, 150,000 Iraqi troops are trained, equipped, and organized into 96 battalions, with a projected 50,000 preparing for training. The goal is to have 300,000 security personnel, and Harvey attributes this to the teamwork of Iraq and the United States.

"We're starting along that line of doing it together, and eventually, they will do it alone, and this is just tremendous progress in the area of security and stability," he said.

Harvey stated the Iraqi government has seen great success, first with the elections, and recently, with the first meeting of the Iraqi Interim National Assembly.

Following the breakfast, Harvey viewed a demonstration by 612<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. of the 36<sup>th</sup> Eng. Group on the Buffalo, a mine sweeping vehicle that is the latest technology for effectively recognizing improvised explosive devices.

Following the demonstration, Harvey told the Soldiers, "if I were an insurgent, I'd be really discouraged; I have two words to describe what I have seen in the last day: solid progress."

HAPPY  
EASTER  
FROM  
YOUR  
LOVED  
ONES  
BACK  
HOME.



Families of the Soldiers of Alpha Co. 3/156th, get together for Easter and search for easter eggs at the picnic.

Shelly Lee and her son Drake Lee, wife and son of Cpt. Bobby Lee, build a mini airplane at an Easter party.



Samantha Allen and Corey Savoy want to wish their fathers Staff Sgt. Brian Allen and Sgt. Derek Savoy a Happy Easter!

Hacie Stelly, daughter of Command Sgt. Maj. Homer Stelly, opens up her Easter presents.



Children of the families for A. Co 3/156th, climb a tree to search for easter eggs at the FRG picnic.

# Announcements

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Sgt. Michael McClauley and Mrs. Jericka McClauley  
for the birth of a baby boy

Weight: 6 lbs 5 oz

Height: 19 in.

## 256th Court Martials

### Justice Reigns in Tigerland

During the last week of March, Tiger Brigade Prosecutor Capt. Dirk Thibodeaux tried two Special Courts-Martial and one General Court-Martial convened by the Commander, 3rd Infantry Division against Tiger Brigade Soldiers. On March 25, 2005, Pvt. Okpara O. Arnold, HHC 1/156th Armor, was found guilty at General Court-Martial of disrespecting two commissioned officers, disobeying a commissioned officer, disrespecting three noncommissioned officers, provoking speech or gestures, assault of a noncommissioned officer, and wrongfully communicating threats to two noncommissioned officers. Among other punishments, Arnold was sentenced by the Military Judge to 10 months confinement in a military prison, forfeiture of \$750 per month for 10 months.

On March 29, 2005, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony S. Wade, Co. D, 101 Cav, was found guilty at Special Court-Martial of making a false official statement. Among other punishments, Wade was sentenced to forfeiture of \$750 pay per month for seven months, 45 days hard labor.

On March 26, 2005, Spc. Brandon L. Landry, Co. A 1088th Engineer Battalion, was found guilty at Special Court-Martial of larceny at the PX, wrongful use of marijuana in the hashish form, wrongful use of valium, wrongful possession of valium, and violation of 256th BCT General Order No. 1 by consuming alcohol. Landry was sentenced by the military judge to nine months confinement in the a military prison, forfeiture of \$750 per month for nine months, reduction to the grade of E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

According to Thibodeaux, as the Tiger Brigade moves closer to redeployment, the possibility increases that Soldiers who commit offenses punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice will be held in Iraq for courts-martial by the 3rd Infantry Division while the Brigade returns home to Louisiana. "I hope that Soldiers who are doing illegal drugs realize that if convicted, they will potentially serve a substantial amount of time in a military prison in Kuwait while the rest of us are comfortably at home on our lazy-boy or tailgating at the ball-game," Thibodeaux said.

All of the Soldiers who have received confinement as part of their court-martial sentence, have served their sentences in Kuwait. Even the soldiers who have received bad conduct discharges have remained in Kuwait for confinement due to lack of capacity in stateside confinement facilities.

According to Thibodeaux, Soldiers who are considering college or were in the middle of college education must consider the ramifications of a punitive discharge. A punitive discharge, such as a bad conduct discharge, effectively eliminates all possibility of financial assistance for college from all government sources and many private sources. A Soldier sentenced to a bad conduct discharge or dishonorable discharge loses the Louisiana National Guard Tuition Exemption, Student Loan Repayment, the G.I. Bill, the ability to make Federally-Guaranteed Student Loans, Pell Grants, and TOPS. Most, if not all, veterans benefits are lost due to a bad conduct discharge or dishonorable discharge.

# Contributions By the Soldiers



*I would like to wish a Happy Easter to my son Jonathan, from a very talented young patriot. Daniel, his sisters, Brittani, Heather, Hillary, Claire, his brother Hunter, and his mom and dad Dr. Mike and Wendy are probably the most patriotic family in this city. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to this great country. They are always supporting our troops and are quite involved in promoting the USA in this community. By the way, not only can Daniel draw, he sings God Bless America wonderfully.*

*Vicky Blanchard FSG C.Co 3-156th, Crowley, LA*

Hi ,my name is Staff Sgt. Howard Turner. III. I am a Bradley commander in 2nd platoon, Charlie Co. 2/156th 256th BCT. We are known as the "Black Sheep". Since our arrival in October, eight of my friends have given their lives. I did not

## War Time Thoughts

think that it would be this bad. I wrote this poem at the National Training Center I believe in this more now than when I wrote it. I just wanted to share it with you.

*I'm sitting here thinking, thinking about what will come in the near future. Thinking about what will transpire from day to day. I'm going to war for a second time to defend a nation. A nation full of individuals. Individuals who want what they want when they want it, but it must be accomplished in a nice way.*

*Defending a nation costs. It cost money. It cost time. It also requires the ultimate sacrifice. Death. A scary word, but an inevitable fate that will consume us all. War. Another scary word but the two words are often synonymous. Death. How will it come to me? War. There is no easy way about it. No easy way through it.*

*War and Death. Two words that are instilled into the minds of the Chosen. The Chosen. A selected group of people with the courage and piece of mind to understand the over all process of defending a nation. War. A terrible situation for the Chosen. What is the ultimate goal of a War? To win. To destroy as much of the enemy as possible. Destruction in every way possible. But mostly, Death.*

*Individuals want to be safe. Safe in their every day habits. Safe in Ordinary Life. Safe when they sleep. They sleep under a blanket. A blanket of safety. A blanket that was woven with blood. Blood, Sweat, and Sacrifice. Sacrifices given to them by the Chosen.*

*Stress is encountered by the Chosen. The stress of wondering how your family is surviving. The stress of imagining what will happen from one moment to the next. The uncertainty of War. The inevitability of Death. How they are dealing with the reality that their loved ones are at War. One of the Chosen.*

*When will it end? Will it end? As long as we are the free nation that we are, the answer is No! As long as we are free to chose what we want. What will become of our lives, until Death, is our choice. As long as that privilege is ours, we will be hated by those who want what we have.*

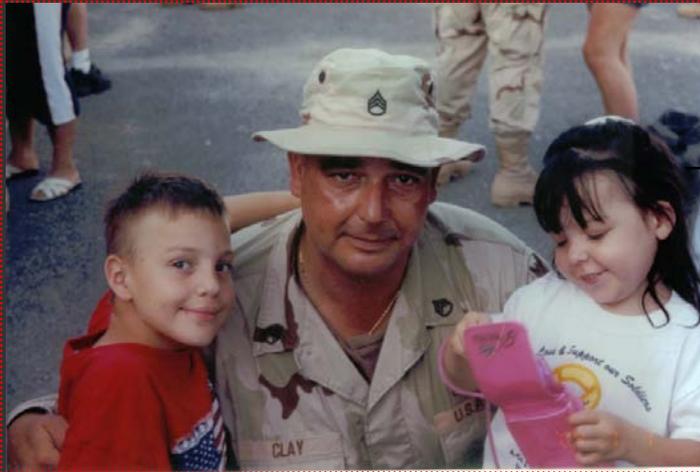
*This War isn't about Oil! It is about that blanket of freedom that has a big hole in the middle. A hole that was made by individuals who pulled that blanket back and woke us up. Made us realize we were not as safe as we thought. Now it is time for the Chosen to fill that hole and let it be known. It will be known that when you pull back that blanket you will wake a sleeping Giant. You will awaken the Chosen.*

*Howard J. Turner III  
SSG, U.S. Army*

# and Families of the 256th Tiger Brigade

**Sgt. 1st Class Charles Clay,**

*We wanted you to know how proud we are of you and your troops. You guys have done an outstanding job and I am so proud to call you my husband. I didn't realize what you have been going through until you came home for your two weeks of R&R in March. I cant thank you enough for all the sacrifices you have made.*



*The entire time you were home you were more concerned with giving me a break from all the duties I have been left with than getting rest for yourself. You are truly a wonderful husband. You were so worried by the time you got home the kids and I wouldn't need you for anything because we adjusted so well when you left. I want you to know it was not easy. We just knew we had to do it because you had a more important job at the time and we supported you. It was difficult on all of us,*

*Korey started High school and will turn 16 with you away and is now driving, Kris has come such along with turning 15 and poor little Taylor at 9 misses his fishing buddy. Ma ma just doesn't do it like you do. Then of course we have Daddys little girl Kaylie she was only 4 when you left and now when you come home she will be a big girl and in school. She misses you so much but you will be proud to know everyone we meet she is sure to tell them that her daddy is helping people in Iraq.*

*We are so proud of you and it is hard here without you, you are very much loved and missed and we cant wait until you can come home for good. You just don't know how good it is to go to our family support meetings and have the family members tell me how well you have taken care of their soldiers and that makes me even prouder. You are doing a great job as a platoon Sgt. and as a soldier but more so you are still a great husband and father.*

*Loving you always,  
your wife, kids and family*

*Kimberly Clay  
A Co 3-156 INF(M) Warriors  
Family Readiness Group Leader*

## Dear US Soldier,

*I would like to start by telling you a few things about myself. I am twelve years old, my name is Hallie, and I am in the sixth grade at Holden High School. I am honored to say thank you for your selfless act of service to our country.*

*I pray each night that God will protect you, comfort you, and free you of all your fears. I ask that he will send you peace and place a wall of protection around you.*

*I thank you for leaving your family and friends to go to a remote area where you risk you life everyday.*

*Your sacrifice is more than amazing to me. I am filled with great emotion every time I see Old Glory dancing in the wind.*

*The love and bravery you have for your country is outstanding. I know you long for a nice hot meal, or a comfortable bed, or even a small bath. I believe God will send you home safely and soundly to all to these things.*

*Your courageous, loving heart has saved our country. I am eternally grateful to you for that. While I get to enjoy the privileges of a civilian life, you are generously giving of yourself to our country.*

*Spending time with my family or going to church to worship are more meaningful and appreciated than ever before. To end this letter I would like to leave you with this thought.*

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*

*-Philippians 4:13*

*God bless you and thank you so much for all of your sacrifices.*

*Hallie Gloyd, 12 years old  
6th grade student at Holden High School*

# *Shamrocks and Leprechauns*

By: Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th BCT Public Affairs

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**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brian Rathburn,  
Executive Officer for B Co.  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Regiment of the plays the  
bagpipes during the St.  
Patrick Day Celebration at  
the Tiger Den Dining  
Facility.  
(Photo by Sgt. Thomas  
Benoit,)**

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It may not have been the all out St. Paddy's Day bash in New York City, but Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team were able to enjoy the holiday that celebrates the "luck of the Irish" thanks to the leadership of the BCT.

The event was in honor of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, also known as the Fighting 69th, who are a unit of the New York National Guard attached to the 256th. Following a mass service to honor St. Patrick, the Soldiers participated in a celebration at the Tiger Den Dining Facility.

"The dining facility has been decorated in traditional Irish colors and we have tried to make the atmosphere as genuine as we possibly can," said Col. John Angelloz, deputy brigade commander for the 256th BCT.

"We wanted to pay homage to the Soldiers of the 69th, and this is a special day for them," he said.

The staff of the Tiger Den Dining Facility and employees of Kellogg, Brown, and Root worked very hard to create a genuine atmosphere for the lunch meal, in honor of the New York Soldiers.

Everything was prepared with the land of Ireland in mind, and foods native to the country were served. Shepard's pie, potatoes, baked cabbage, and more special touches, added enhancement to the traditional Irish menu.

Lillian Robertson, from Columbus, Ga., is the manager for the Tiger Den and says that doing something special for the Soldiers is always important to her and her staff.

"I've been doing this for 17 months, and I love what I do," she said. "We only want to make everything the best that we possibly can for the Soldiers."

Robertson says that their goal is to put smiles on the faces of the troops as soon as they walk through the front door. She and her staff coordinated with Angelloz and several Soldiers from New York in order to be as true as possible to the ideals of the holiday.

The facility itself was decorated with the colors of the country that was home to St. Patrick, and decorations symbolizing Ireland and New York could be seen throughout. Flags, green tablecloths, and a carving of the Statue of Liberty were only accessorized for the evening meal, by

candlelight and a dimly lit restaurant style scene. With songs of old New York in the background, to some Soldiers, it truly set them into a New York state of mind. The decorations, a gift from the family readiness groups in New York, were a crucial piece to making the day a success.

Perhaps the most significant decoration was the Executive Officer from B Co. 1/69<sup>th</sup>. The St. James, NY native has been playing the bagpipe for eight years, and says that he learned because he is "the stereotypical Irish cop from New York."

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brian Rathburn saw a sign for lessons and jumped into the year long class. He plays with a local band at home, but said playing for his fellow Soldiers in Baghdad is an honor. He has played at all memorial services for the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>.

"If I can honor a fallen Soldier in any way or do what I can to make the service more meaningful, I get a lot out of that," he said.

Ironically, the bagpipe originates from the Middle East when snake charmers used a special reed to "tame" the serpents. Rathburn said today the instrument is played mainly at weddings, backyard barbecues, and political functions, and people's reaction to it is generally cut and dry.

"I've never heard someone say, 'well, they're okay,'" he said, "either you love the bagpipes or you hate them. I've heard some people say that it sounds like you're strangling a cat, and some people are deeply moved by them."

According to Angelloz, the day is special to the 69<sup>th</sup> because it dates back to the formation of their battalion. The immigrants were all Irish at that time, and though now they are comprised of Soldiers from all nationalities, St. Patrick's Day is a very important holiday in the heritage of their state.

"It's also very significant because New York is where the war on terror started for a lot of people," said Angelloz. "A lot of consciousness was awakened that day and a lot, if not most, of these Soldiers have been activated since the events on September 11, 2001."

# Soldiers Celebrate Women Who Changed America



Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Gaines, the Headquarters Company, 256th BCT Control Mail Supervisor. She read the tribute to women.  
*(Photo by Spc. Erin Robicheaux)*



*Women of the 256th Brigade Combat Team gather around the Tiger with BG Basilica.*

*"We're always in uniform, but tonight I actually felt like a woman again."  
Spc. Diana Adams*

*By: Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th BCT Public Affairs*

The theme for this year's Women's History Month is "Women Change America," and in the Tiger Den Dining Facility, Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team hosted a program to honor those women.

Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr., from Baton Rouge, La., the commander of the 256th BCT, said he paid tribute not only to the women who changed America over the course of history, but also, to his Soldiers who are altering the course of history in Iraq.

"Famous people and historical figures are nice, but I'd rather talk about the 185 or so females making history in the 256th BCT," said Basilica. "They serve in most every capacity, inside and outside the wire, they're doing it all and I couldn't be prouder of them."

The program began on an emotional note with a video tribute to fallen female Soldiers of Operation Iraqi Freedom, followed by highlights of several women's contributions to society. Women such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Delores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union, and Elizabeth Blackwell, who was the first woman to receive a degree as a Doctor of Medicine, and the current U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, were honored.

Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Gaines, from Lafayette La., is the Headquarters Company, 256th BCT Control Mail Supervisor. She read the tribute to Rice, and said it was an honor to participate in a program that recognised such pioneers.

"It was wonderful being out here with all of my fellow female Soldiers and educating everyone as a whole on the

accomplishments of women throughout history."

Gaines said she takes her role as a female senior non-commissioned officer very seriously.

"I came here on a mission, and that is to do as much as I can," she said. "This is a first for the Louisiana National Guard, and as far as being in a foreign country in a combat situation, it's also a first for most of the female Soldiers of the brigade."

Hand in hand with uplifting songs from the Tigerland Choir, Soldiers performed an inspirational dance set to the song, "Don't Cry," which surrounds the events of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The suffering and tears of his mother, Mary, were depicted in the act, as well as the rejoicing realisation that He was alive.

Spc. Diana Adams from Thibodeaux, La., is the morale, welfare, and recreation coordinator for the 1088th Engineer Battalion. She was one of the three dancers and claimed that in addition to feeling daily that she is appreciated by her unit, the program made her feel more feminine than she has in months.

"We're always in uniform, but tonight I actually felt like a woman again."

Adams said that being a female Soldier is very important to her, and she realizes the significance of the part that she, herself, is playing in the history of women in the military.

"If you look back at the past, women had to disguise themselves in order to serve their country and I feel special because of the family support that I am receiving from home. It's for the males of my family, like my brother or my uncle, it's for me," said Adams.

# Fallen Soldiers



**A brother in arms clutches the dog tags of Sgt. Paul M. Heltzel and pays final respects (Photo by Spc Chris Foster)**

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*“There is on earth no worthier grave  
To hold the bodies of the brave  
Than this place of pain and pride  
Where they nobly fought and nobly  
died.”*

*Excerpt from Rouge Bouquet by  
Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant with 1-69  
Inf. during World War I*

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*By Spc. Matthew McLaughlin  
2/10th Public Affairs*

Soldiers mourned the loss of Sgt. Paul M. Heltzel, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Battalion, New York National Guard, March 22, 2005. Friends remembered Heltzel as a motivated Soldier and dedicated patriot with valuable combat experience.

“He was the best (non-commissioned officer) a Soldier could follow,” said Spc. Chad Rogers, one of Heltzel’s Soldiers. “He served more time in combat than most of us served in the Army.”

Heltzel was born September 29, 1965 in Indiana. He died March 15, 2005 while patrolling Route Vernon when a vehicle borne improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy. He died leading his Soldiers as he always did, said 1st Lt. Daniel Fritts, C Company executive officer. “He quickly established himself as a reliable team leader,” he said. “Even during the most stressful moments, he was always reliable.”

Rogers said other Soldiers respected Heltzel’s

experience in combat situations. He served almost 22 years in the military, 15 of those years were active duty. He served in Germany, Haiti, Panama and Iraq during Desert Storm. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom II and volunteered to go over again with 1/69 Inf. Rogers said Heltzel intended on volunteering for Afghanistan when they were done with Iraq.

“He had a combat patch for every day of the week,” Rogers said. “He said it wouldn’t be over until he saw the mountains of Afghanistan.”

Heltzel’s award include: the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, The Non-Commissioned Officer’s Professional Development Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Silver German Army Marksmanship Badge, the Bronze German Armed Forces Leadership Badge and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Heltzel is survived by his wife, Christie Heltzel, who resides in Baton Rouge, L.A.

# Remembered



**Cpt. Michael W. Hicks from Shreveport, La., is the commander of A Co., 1/156<sup>th</sup> AR pays his last respect to the fallen Soldiers. (Photo by Spc. Chris Foster)**

on his capacity to do the right thing. He avowed that what Godbolt gave, no leader could ask for more of a Soldier.

“He gave all,” said Jones.

Jones also witnessed for the family of the fallen Soldier that they are coping as best they can, and will continue to pray for the safe return of the Soldiers of the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT.

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Meziere, from Natchitoches, La, of A. Co.,

1/156<sup>th</sup> AR, paid homage to Sinclair and enlightened the crowd of Soldiers on Sinclair’s love of military life.

Sinclair has been an active duty Soldier in both the Army and Marines, and enlisted in the National Guard in 2002. Meziere joked about how his friend was in awe of a certain comic book hero.

“He collected Spider Man stuff!” he said jokingly.

Sinclair had a plethora of Spider Man memorabilia, including cereal boxes with the webbed one in his room. In true form, Meziere said that his friend had a reminder of his favorite comic book character with him on his last patrol.

“He was so full of energy, he ran or rode his bike everywhere he went,” said Meziere. He claimed that Sinclair was always prepared and always on the go. He thought back to their days of drill at the National Guard Armory in Louisiana.

“He either rode his bike or ran to drill, and he was never late. Yet, there were some Soldiers who lived less than a mile away and came in cars, but were still late at times,” he said.

Both Soldiers will be remembered for their sacrifices by their fellow Soldiers, loved and eternally missed by their families, and have the gratitude of countless Americans.

not have died in vain. Cpt. Michael W. Hicks from Shreveport, La., commander of A Co., 1/156<sup>th</sup> AR gave an emotional and tearful tribute to his two Soldiers, and reflected on qualities in each that he came to love and admire.

“He was always prepared to execute 24/7. Sinclair was dependable, squared away and liked things in order. We always said, if you want something secure, put Sinclair on it,” said Hicks.

He reflected on Godbolt, and his insane desire to learn more about his job, and how he had a positive effect on all who came into contact with him. In regards to both Soldiers, Hicks recognized that they were exceptional men who helped define the Citizen Soldier.

Sgt. John Roger, III, from St. Bernard, La, of A Co., 1/156<sup>th</sup> AR, was close to Godbolt and stated that his admiration was, at times, parental.

“I realized that being a non-commissioned officer is a lot like being a father,” he said, “you do your best to instill discipline, honor, integrity, and courage into your Soldiers, much like you would to a child. I guess that’s why I feel like I’ve lost a son.”

Lt. Col. Jordan Jones, from Luling, La., commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 141<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, boasted on Godbolt, on his dependability, and

By: Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256<sup>th</sup> BCT Public Affairs

“They’re our friends, our brothers...but please remember that our loss is Heaven’s gain.”

A somber Lt Col. Thomas Plunkett, Battalion Commander for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, of the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, bid farewell to two of his fallen Soldiers.

Sgt. Lee Godbolt from New Orleans, La. of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 141<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, attached to A Co., 1/156<sup>th</sup> AR, and Sgt. Isiah Sinclair from Natchitoches, La., and of A Co., 1/156<sup>th</sup> AR, were tragically taken from their families and fellow Soldiers on March 25, 2005, as the result of a vehicle born improvised explosive device. On March 30, the friends and leaders that they left behind gathered to celebrate their lives, and mourn their deaths.

Plunkett rejoiced in the legacy that his men became a part of, by honoring their sacrifice for their country. He referenced the founding fathers, that they sacrificed for nothing more than an idea and he forcefully demanded that his Soldiers will meet any challenge and defeat all enemies that their two fallen comrades would

# Fallen Soldiers

*In Loving Memory*

## A Soldiers Story

I was that which others did not want to be  
I went where others feared to go  
And did what others feared to do  
I asked nothing from those who gave nothing  
And reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal  
Loneliness.....Should I fail  
I have seen the face of Terror  
Felt the stinging cold of fear  
And enjoyed the sweet taste of a moments Love  
I Have Cried, Pained, and Hoped  
But most of all I have lived times  
Others would say were best forgotten  
At least I am able to say that  
I Am Proud of what I was....A Soldier

-Anonymous

**Sgt. Paul M. Heltzel**  
**Sgt. Lee Godbolt**  
**Sgt. Isiah Sinclair**

