



Working together with the Iraqi National Guard

Commander's Column:

Volunteer! A word, which in the past few years represents the key to the Army's success in one of our most important areas - Family Readiness Groups. Those wonderful volunteers who are always busy working to disseminate information, coordinate events, create news letters, host and attend meetings, and always willing to assist other spouses in need - these people are the reason the Aviation Brigade has such a strong FRG. These are the same people who, more often than not, are fully engaged caring for their own home, cleaning, washing, cooking, commissary runs, and all the children/parent related tasks of homework, talking to teachers, sport events, sleepovers, pets, etc.

I want all our volunteers to know how much the Soldiers and all commanders appreciate their support. I hope each of you realize the happiness, comfort and peace of mind you bring to all the spouses you interact with on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

For most, the act of volunteering ones time is done without any consideration of recognition; they simply do it because they want to help and be a part of their Soldiers unit. This simple act of raising your hand when the call for help goes out epitomizes the statement "Taking care of our own". The true reward is that warm feeling inside

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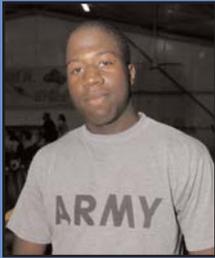


Photos by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

The partnership continues to grow as the US military have been training and working together with the Iraqi National Guard. Tremendous strides have been made, which will help Iraqi soldiers prepare for the challenges of establishing their own democracy. (upper left) The Iraqi Squadron pose with Air Force Lt. Col. Tate. The Iraqi National Guard worked together with US Air Force to help establish their own Air Force. (upper right) Col. Tuggle welcomes Brig. Gen. Jaleel as he arrives to Camp Taji airfield. (center) An Iraqi National Guard scout platoon help US Soldiers find this weapons cache northwest of Baghdad.

Who will be in the NBA Finals?

"The Pistons have awesome "D." In the West, I like Denver because of the dynamic duo of Carmelo (Anthony) and Camby. In the end, the Pistons will take it in six."



Pfc. Bruce Wise, Alpha Co. 603rd Aviation Support Battalion.



Spc. Amy Davenport, HHC Aviation Brigade

"I'm a big Kings fan, so I'm thinking the Kings vs. the Heat. Sacramento is due so they will take it in seven games."

"My teams are Detroit and Dallas. They are good teams and that would be a good match-up. I choose Detroit to repeat because they have NBA Finals experience."



Olantunde Olatunji, HHC Aviation Brigade, Personnel Office



2nd Lt. Nicole Smay, HSC 603rd Aviation Support Battalion

"Phoenix is good this year and I like them in the west, but I think the Celtics will beat them."

Commander: Volunteerism

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you that lets you realize you have helped someone. That someone might have been a stranger and is now a friend.

The National Volunteer Week, which was recently celebrated at Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield 17 - 22 Apr, was a time to recognize all of our volunteers. As a part of that celebration, the Stewart and Hunter communities took the time to recognize several deserving individuals for their efforts, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them. One of the spouses in our brigade, Mrs. Julie Opperman was recognized as the Hunter Army Airfield Volunteer of the Year. As a member of the Falcon Brigade family, we are both happy and proud that she was the recipient of this honor. Congratulations Julie on a well deserved award, and thank you for your tireless service to our Soldiers and the community!

We have many great volunteers within the brigade that have given us that precious resource that money can't buy - TIME. I know each battalion will recognize and thank the many volunteers within their units and I would like to recognize the volunteer leaders at the battalion level. I'm not going to try and list the names of all the volunteers within the brigade because I'm afraid I miss a few and I would hate to over look any volunteer. I truly appreciate every volunteers efforts and would encourage the members of the brigade (Soldiers and family members) to pass their thanks along to the volunteers that have a direct impact on your respective unit.

I want to thank our FRG Leadership for all their efforts in pulling these large groups of families together by passing information and coordinating events: Charla Almeida, 1-3 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion; Traci Bannon, 2-3 General Support Aviation Battalion; Cindy Lamb, 3-3 Attack Reconnaissance

Battalion; Anne Haraldsen, 4-3 Assault Helicopter Battalion; Rose Rice, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion; Melanie Brockhardt, Aviation Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and Laurie Owen, Delta Company, 1-58th Air Traffic Services. Your role is immense and our Soldiers and families are very fortunate to have you as the FRG Leaders within your unit. These spouses receive tremendous help from the many volunteers within their units; the company FRG Leaders, those that volunteer to make phone calls to other spouses, those that write the FRG Newsletters, and those that act as treasurer and secretary within the FRG and the list continues. Our FRG's are stronger than ever thanks to the dedicated efforts by all of our volunteers.

Additionally, I also know that there are those of you that volunteer within the local Savannah community. I'm certain these communities are better places because of you efforts. From the Scout Leader or Brownie Troop Leader, to the school room mother, the Sunday School teacher, and the soccer moms to name a few, our children, and communities benefit greatly from your service and time. Thank you all for your efforts. We are a better Army, unit and community because of YOU!

Finally, I want to let all of you know that your spouse is continuing to do great things here. Regardless of what you may read, see or hear in the news, we are making a difference in the lives of the everyday Iraqi citizen. Everyday, there is progress being made, and you can be proud of what your spouse is doing.

Thank you all for your support on the home front. Knowing that families are being taken care of gives the Soldier piece of mind and allows them to focus their efforts on the mission at hand.

"WINGS OF THE MARNE"
COL. TUGGLE

Iraqi National Guard Visits Brigade

Falcon Brigade welcomes ING Generals

by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

The partnership of the Iraqi National Guard (ING) and the U.S. military was evident when Generals and soldiers of the ING visited the Falcon Brigade April 12. The handshake between Brig. Gen. Khalaf Shweil Jaleel, ING 1st Brigade commander, and Col. Ronald Tuggle, Aviation Brigade commander, as Jaleel stepped off the Blackhawk was a representation of the joint venture that is taking place to help Iraqi soldiers prepare for the challenges that they will face as Iraq continues to develop their democracy.

Jaleel and other ING soldiers visit began with a tour of the flight line and a first hand look at the brigade Chinooks, Blackhawks and Apaches. Through an interpreter, brigade pilots informed the ING soldiers of the ins and outs of the different aircrafts, how they function and how the weapon systems work. They were very impressed by the aircrafts and their capabilities.

"We are very impressed by the resources that the Army has," said Brig. Gen. Hider Rasul, ING 302nd commander. The helicopters are of a great help to the ING, he added.

Jaleel then had the chance to sit in an Apache simulator and feel the power of the Army's elite fighting helicopter. He had the chance to take off and engage virtual tanks during the simulation. "This is better than Playstation!" exclaimed one Iraqi soldier as he watched Jaleel maneuver through the virtual terrain.



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Capt. Matthew J. Kukla shows Brig. Gen. Khalaf Shweil Jaleel how the Apache functions.



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Brig. Gen. Khalaf Shweil Jaleel, 1st Brigade ING commander, gets to experience the Army's most powerful attack helicopter first hand when using the Apache simulator while Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Ali looks on.

After lunch the ING Generals and soldiers had a meeting with Tuggle, where the ING soldiers learned the brigade's mission, organization and how the brigade benefits the ING. Col. Muhammed Raulif, 303rd ING commander, is happy with the partnership between the US and Iraqi forces.

"I have worked with American Forces for two years now, and I couldn't be happier," said Raulif. "The future holds high hopes as long as we continue to work with American Forces as one team."

Aviation brigade and ING leaders had a chance to eat together at the Dining Facility before their flight out. For Rasul, the meal represented more than just the time of day to dine.

"It is good to be able to sit and eat with the American Forces," said Rasul. "We are all very glad to be here, working and being together like a family."

During the dinner, Tuggle and Command Sgt. Major Richard Stidley, Aviation Brigade sergeant major, presented the Generals with coins and pictures to commemorate their visit, and expressed the importance of their partnership. For Jaleel, it would be a moment he will always remember.

"This is a historic moment in my life," Jaleel said. "I appreciate all the hospitality the brigade has shown us. I am very lucky to be here and shake the hands of our friends."

Jaleel also made the invitation to have the next dinner on him.

"You are all invited to Saddam's palace for a delicious fish dish!" he exclaimed.

Bde provides Church services, morale for Butler Range Soldiers

by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Soldiers at Butler Range might not have a PX, Burger King or Bazaar, but what they do have is the spiritual guidance provided by the Aviation Brigade Unit Ministry Team (UMT).

Every Thursday, Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Kilmer, Brigade Chaplain, and other members of the UMT fly to Butler Range and provide a Protestant and Catholic service for the Soldiers there. There is no Chaplain assigned to Butler Range, so for the few hundreds of Soldiers who are stationed there, it is a valuable asset to have the UMT visit them on a weekly basis.

"It is great to have Chaplains giving service here," said Spc. Jose Cinco, 3-13 Field Artillery. To be able to celebrate my faith makes his job easier, he added.



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Chaplain (Capt.) Felix K. Kumai, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Recon), prepares the communion during the Catholic service at Butler Range.



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Kilmer, Aviation Brigade Chaplain, provides the Protestant sermon to Soldiers at Butler Range.

The UMT's presence not only gives Soldiers at Butler Range an opportunity to practice their faith, but also makes Chaplain's available for counseling if Soldiers need to talk. Kilmer believes having a Chaplain available is very important to Soldiers.

"These services are important to the Soldiers here, because not only are they isolated from home being here in Iraq, they are also on an isolated range," said Kilmer. "We give them a chance to practice their faith, and it also gives us, the UMT, a chance to maintain battle focus because we get a chance to know what's going on with troops outside of Taji."

Battle focus is important, but for Capt. Felix K. Kumai, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Recon) Chaplain, it is the Soldiers that keeps him motivated to give services every week.

"I want to give every opportunity for worship for these Soldiers," Kumai said. "It's not just for service, we want to be present and available for their spiritual welfare and if they need counseling."

Capt. Kemperal J. Hinsley, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Recon) Chaplain, agrees that the UMT's presence is important and has a positive affect on Soldier morale.

"Our job is very important to mission effectiveness and combat readiness of the Soldiers," he said. "UMT acts like a liaison between the Soldier and the command group. We try to assure our soldiers morale is good by being there to take care of them."

Another important piece of the UMT is the Chaplain's assistants, who help each Chaplain complete their services, help protect the Chaplain and can be another ear for Soldiers who need counseling.

"We assist the Chaplain to help provide religious support while we protect them," said Spc. Jerry Thompson, 3/3 ARB Chaplain Assistant. "I love my job. It is definitely the best fit for me."

Kilmer believes having an assistant plays a pivotal role in the effectiveness of the UMT.

"We can't do our job without
see CHURCH, page 9

Iraqi army receives training on disease prevention, sanitation

by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Throughout history far more casualties have occurred from disease and non-battle injury (DNBI) than combat related injuries. American forces established preventive medicine teams during World War II as a response to malaria control and this later expanded into vector control and preventive medicine. However, the Iraqi army has never received training on combating sickness until now.

The Aviation Brigade environmental science officer, along with Soldiers from the Division Support Brigade, 988th Medical Detachment and Air Force Vector Control Team held a three-day field sanitation course here recently for members of the Iraqi army.

Capt. Lalini Pillay, Aviation Brigade environmental science officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Aviation Brigade, led the course, which taught 19 senior non-commissioned officers from the Iraqi army, mostly sergeant majors and first sergeants, how to prevent diseases and non-battle injuries, and why doing so is critical for them to accomplish their mission.

"Training and educating Soldiers are the key to preventing diseases such as leishmaniasis, cholera, malaria and other preventable diseases," said Pillay.

Topics that were included in the course were personal hygiene, heat and cold injury prevention, insect and animal control, food sanitation, medical threats and waste disposal, she added.

The Iraqi soldiers began the course with many basic preventive measures, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Rafael Serrano, an environmental specialist with the 200/ 201st Red Horse Unit, who was also an instructor. "Some of the things we taught them were to simply wash your hands before and after each meal or when you use the latrine to control illnesses such as diarrhea. That can severely decrease a unit's combat effectiveness."

The Iraqi army leaders learned that anything unsanitary can create more problems, said Serrano. This is a concept known to field sanitation specialists as "the Circle of Filth."

"An example of the circle of filth is trash left in an area. The trash will attract flies, then mice, rats, snakes, cats and dogs. Sand flies carry diseases like leishmaniasis, and rats and mice carry fleas and can even bring plague. The mice will also attract hungry snakes. Cats and dogs are attracted to these other animals and can carry rabies. It is all a cycle of uncleanliness perpetuating more uncleanliness, but it can all be avoided just by keeping the area clean," said Serrano.



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Capt. Lalini Pillay, Brigade environmental science officer, taught the course that educated Iraqi soldiers on field sanitation and how to prevent diseases.

"Training the leadership is a great start. Now it's up to them to take the information and disseminate it to the troops. They need to enforce more strict preventive medicine measures and sanitation habits, contributing to a healthier, more effective force," said Pillay.

Despite the Soldiers having no background in the subject, Pillay said the class went very well and the Iraqis were enthusiastic about learning the material. "The only challenge we faced was the language barrier, but after a little practice working with our interpreter, it became no problem," said Serrano.

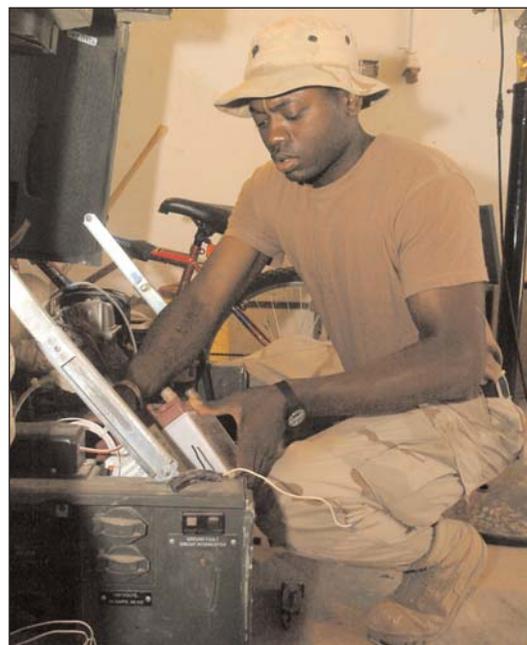
"It went so well that we plan on holding this class every few months to train and certify as many of the soldiers as possible," said Pillay. "I am optimistic they will use the information wisely, and believe we have made a difference."

Aviation Soldiers In Action

Photos by Spc. Derek Del Rosario



Staff Sgt. Derrick L. Ellis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Aviation Brigade, maintains the rifles and weapons of Soldiers while they are on leave.



Spc. Christopher J. Ashby, Bravo Co. 603rd ASB, inspects a voltage regulator in the generator maintenance shop.



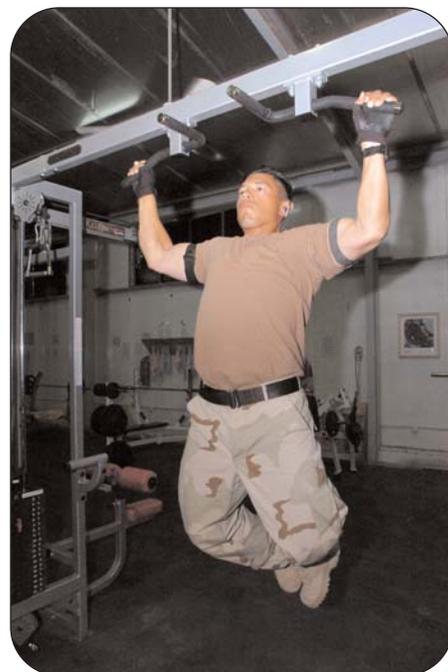
Capt. Felix K. Kumai, 1st Battalion, 1/3 ARB Chaplain, enjoys a game of table tennis after performing a service at Butler Range.



Pfc. Roddrick C. Grady, Bravo Co. 603rd ASB, fixes the wiring on a generator.



Staff Sgt. Sandy L. Spencer(right), Bravo Co. 2-3 GSAB, performs a pre-flight inspection on one of his soldiers.



Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Martinez, Charlie Co. 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Recon), gets in a lunch time workout by performing pullups at the Camp Taji fitness facility.



Staff Sgt. Sabrina R. Smith, HHC 603rd ASB, performs a search on a dining facility patron as part of her guard duty.



Sgt. Christopher Hensel, Alpha Co. 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (General Support) gets his blood pressure taken by Spc. James Long, HHC 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Recon) at the Medical Center at Camp Taji.

2-3 Battalion Soldier ready to rumble

by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

During the hot afternoon hours in the motor pool of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (General Support) a soldier sits in a small trailer, cramped inside a room where just stretching his legs become a chore. The sweat beads up under his brows as he types on the computer keyboard, recording and tracking vehicle parts. Patience, composure and self-control are all practiced in the confines of this little room. Fast forward a few hours later. The same soldier is in the fitness center and has gone from composed to intense in the matter of minutes. The soldier now focuses his energy on a heavy bag; every blow a concentrated and calculated strike. For this deployment, this is the life of Sgt. Eric K. Eshun of 2/3 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, logistics specialist by day, boxer in training by night.

Eshun's interest in boxing began when he first joined the Army in 1999. He would watch the boxing matches that he never saw on television while he was growing up.

"The way that people show interest in basketball or football and know players and their stats, that's how I know boxing," said the 5-foot 11-inch tall athlete. "Watching great boxers like Roy Jones Jr., Felix Trinidad and Oscar De la Hoya got me really interested."

His interest in boxing led to him buying a pair of gloves and train like the boxers he emulated. After being deployed here to Taji, Eshun saw the flyer for the Friday night fights while at the gym.

When he saw the flyer, he knew it was something he had to do, Eshun said. "I wanted to be able to say that I wasn't just a spectator to the sport I love so much. I wanted to be a participant at least once and maybe even have some fun at the same time."



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Sgt. Eric K. Eshun, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2-3 GSAB, hits the heavy bag at the Taji Fitness Center. After finishing his day in the 2/3 GSAB Motor pool, Eshun will usually train for his boxing match.

As long as his schedule allows him, Eshun tries to get to the gym every night in order to train for his match. Eshun routine begins by running on the treadmill for at least three miles, followed by some push-ups and heavy bag work. The 190-pound Eshun maxes out his Physical Fitness tests, but knows that training is still essential in order to match up in the ring.

"I'm in the Cruiserweight class, so there could be some pretty strong guys in my class," he said. "I think endurance will be the key. As long as I don't get tired and can last the rounds, I think I will be alright."

Eshun draws upon some of his characteristics in the motor pool to help him in his training by using the same hard-work attitude. As part of his job, Eshun orders parts for the vehicles and mounted weapons of the 2/3 GSAB. He also helps in the maintenance of vehicle deficiencies and the dispatching of trucks. Eshun always keeps his mind on the mission, and he plans to use his commitment to the mis-

sion to remind him to stay focused on training.

"The (Battalion's) mission can't get accomplished without transportation. My job is to stay focused on the maintenance of these vehicles," said Eshun. "I am very determined when it comes to my job, and I want to transfer that determination to my training to help me in the ring."

Eshun represents his battalion, as he is the only Soldier in 2-3 GSAB to sign up for Camp Taji's Friday Night Fights. Win or lose his fight, Eshun knew that participating in this event was something he had to do. For him, it wasn't an issue of victory, respect or pride, but rather an issue of character.

"I wanted to prove to myself that I can do it," Eshun said. "I know there are some skilled boxers out there, but it's not so much about winning or losing. I'm going out there and give it my all for those three rounds and prove to myself what I am made of." (story update: Eshun won his match by KO. His record currently stands at 1-0.)

3-3 Attack Recon Flight Operations Section keeps Apaches on track



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

(left to right) Capt. Cornelius Allen Jr., Sgt. Mitchell B. Vallesteros, Spc. Jason W. Dodge and Spc. Roland J. Young (standing) monitor apaches in the Flight Operations Section.

by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Sitting in front of maps, battle-tracking computers and a mountain of radios and other communication equipment, these Soldiers ensure the Army's most deadly hel-

icopter, the Apache Attack Helicopter, can maintain that reputation by informing pilots which areas of Baghdad require their support.

The Flight Operations Section for Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Helicopter) is responsible for Apache battle tracking and coordination between the pilots and ground units. It's an important mission because effective battle-tracking is the key to sending aviation assets to areas they can respond to activity in support of ground troops, said Capt. Cornelius L. Allen Jr., battle captain for 3-3 AHB.

"Our work deters anti-Iraqi forces and acts as a combat multiplier because it allows the ground forces to do their job more effectively," said Allen.

The pilots from 3-3 AHB work along with ground units such as 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 10th Mountain, said Spc. Roland J. Young, an aviation operations specialist with HHC, 3-3 AHB.

The Flight Operations Section's mission is vital to the success of Apache missions. Continuing to do their job ensures that the Apache's stay on track.

Church services boost morale

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them," Kilmer said. "They help us prepare and make it a lot easier to do our services. Our lives depend upon them and they provide for every UMT member."

Even though the UMT can provide a weekly service, Kumai understands that once a week sometimes doesn't agree with a Soldier's schedule.

"Mission comes first, so if the Soldiers are coming back from the field, they could be very tired," said Kumai. "Shifts can get in the way too, and sometimes it can get hard to get the Soldiers out to service."

No matter how many Soldiers are able to make it to their services, the brigade Chaplains go through many preparations before getting to Butler Range.

The UMT has a weekly meeting to discuss issues of counseling and what planning needs to be done for their services, Kilmer said. "We also prepare the bul-

letin for the order of worship. I also revise my lecture. I read the scripture text and pray about it, and then I take my congregation into account before I decide how I will lecture."

Kumai is the only Catholic priest at Taji, so his responsibilities can come with difficulties.

"I have a lot to do every week. I do all the Catholic services and it can take a lot out of me," Kumai said. "But my Soldiers need spiritual welfare so I feel good providing it for them."

Kumai can rest assured that spiritual welfare is what the Soldiers will get, as the teamwork among the UMT Chaplains assures a good service.

"Although we come from a wide variety of backgrounds, we work together very well," said Kilmer. "We have a diverse faith background, but we support each other and that's how the battalion Chaplains are able to deliver an awesome service."

Aviation Brigade Soldiers observe Asian Pacific Heritage Month

by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Following the "day that will live in infamy," Japanese Americans were unable to be drafted for war due to American hostilities as response to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The government reversed this decision on February 1, 1943, allowing Japanese Americans to join the Armed Forces. This gave way to the birth of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, which initially consisted of Japanese American volunteers, and would become one of the most decorated combat teams in military history. Among their awards during World War II were around 9,500 Purple Hearts. The 442nd's service and sacrifice was just one example that was used during a ceremony at Camp Taji's Warrior Chapel on May 3.

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter) sponsored the event that was for the observance of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. The event recognized the impact of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the armed services and exemplified the diversity of today's military.

Major Ina Yahn, Support Officer for 603rd Aviation Support Battalion and an American Samoan, was the guest speaker for the event. During her speech she touched on our diverse Army and how Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are part of that diversity.

"Asians and Pacific Islanders are one of the fastest growing demographic groups in our country," said Yahn. "We are all Americans with tremendous pride. Today we honor the sacrifices and achievements of



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Lt. Col. Johan Haraldsen(right), 4th Battalion 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Helicopter), presents Maj. Ina Yahn, Support Officer 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, with a commander's coin and an American flag as a token of appreciation for speaking at the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Observance.

Asian Americans as part of the best military in the world."

The ceremony consisted of guest speakers from 4-3 AHB, a poetry reading, and a slide presentation honoring Asian American Soldiers who have received the Medal of Honor and who represented the Army values. The presentation also showed the impact of the 46,000 Asian Americans on active duty today. Lt. Col. Johan Haraldsen, 4-3 AHB commander, spoke about the diversity among today's military Soldiers and the common bond that binds them.

"The Army continues to grow more diverse. Today we highlight the public service of Asian Americans," Haraldsen said. "Whatever prefix we follow however, we are all lucky to be Americans."

For Yahn, it is very important to observe Asian Pacific Heritage Month because it helps her celebrate her heritage, it shows the indelible mark left by Asian Americans, and helps remind Soldiers that freedom is not free.

"I come from a different language and culture --my heritage gives me my identity," said Yahn. "We have had Asian Pacific islanders in every position in the military from enlisted to officers. From the 442nd Combat team to former Army Chief of Staff General Shinseki, Asian Americans have made a big difference in the Army. We should never forget what our forefathers did; it is important to recognize their contributions."



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Spc. Merlyn Cruz-Feliciano, HHC 4th Battalion 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Helicopter), recites a poem for Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

603rd shop keeps them talking

by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Our brigade is equipped with some of the most high tech military equipment. Maintaining items such as SINGARS radios, COMSEC equipment, chemical agent monitors, mine detectors, radiation meters and night vision equipment takes very specialized training, and is critical for Aviation Brigade to continue dominating the sky over Baghdad.

It is the mission of the Communications and Equipment Shop (C and E) with Bravo Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion to ensure the brigade's communications receives necessary repairs and maintenance.

They perform an extremely important job for the Brigade. Since the beginning of the deployment, the Soldiers in the shop have completed approximately 300 jobs on equipment to keep the brigade communicating, said Sgt. Douglas Powers, a radio and COMSEC repairman with Bravo Co., 603rd ASB.

In the past month alone the team has saved the Army an estimated \$1.5 million with the repairs they have done, said Powers.

Two of the most important items they maintain are night vision and COMSEC equipment, said Powers.

"Without night vision and



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Spc. Krystal A. Cotton of the C and E shop, Bravo Co. 603rd ASB, works in the NVG shelter servicing the night vision goggles.

COMSEC, none of the pilots could do what they do. They need us to quickly get those items back to get them in their birds," said Powers. "It's the same for the brigade's ground vehicles as well."

When a piece of equipment has a malfunction, a unit's comms shop will troubleshoot the problem, and if they can't fix it, the piece is submitted to the C and E shop for their expertise. They go through intense hands-on classroom training to learn how to fix anything that comes their way, and continue to cross train on the various equip-

ment, said Powers.

Their ability to fix equipment depends on getting the necessary parts, and the Soldiers in the C and E shop give credit to their leadership for finding them what they need to do their mission, said Staff Sgt. Terence Wiggs, quality assurance and quality checks non-commissioned officer in charge for the C and E shop, Bravo Co. 603rd ASB.

Bravo Co. continues to do their job effectively, ensuring that communication continues to flow.

Safety Corner: wear sun screen

by Capt. Lalini Pillay
Brigade Environmental Officer

Ultraviolet (UV) rays are a part of sunlight that is an invisible form of radiation. UV rays can be very dangerous to the skin and eyes. Not only do UV rays cause sunburns, they can also penetrate and change the structure of skin cells, which may lead to cancer. Just as repeated exposure of the skin to UV rays can cause skin cancer, repeated exposure of the eyes to UV rays can eventually cause eye diseases like cataracts.

Because UV rays can be dangerous, it is very

important to protect yourself from the sun. The best way to do this is to stay out of the direct sun if possible (especially between 10 am and 4 pm when sun is the most intense). If you must be in the sun...



- Wear sun screen of SPF 15 or above on exposed skin
- Wear your booney cap to protect your eyes and face
- Wear sunglasses with UV protection and with wrap-around coverage.

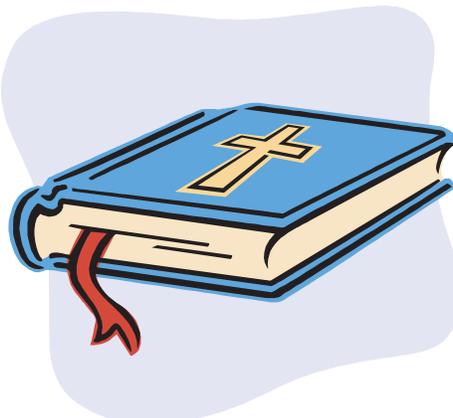
Chaplain's Corner: Dealing with Deployment

by Chaplain (Capt.) Felix K. Kumai

How do we cope with the challenges of deployment, separation from our families and friends and coping with loneliness, stress, sorrow and disappointments? Joe Matthews in his "Twelve steps to Godly success" writes of God's fundamental design for human beings focusing on what works and ignoring what does not work. First we need God in our lives. In the hierarchy of drives, there is pleasure, which has the lowest value. Next is power, which seeks to control and manipulate, and thirdly purpose/will, which is the highest state of existence through which God is served. Yes, on a daily basis, God ought to be worshipped and adored. Say a prayer for self, family and friends. Through prayer, draw strength from the divine to cope with eventualities. Prayer indeed changes the course of things. Praise and thank God in all situations. This attitude breeds a happy soul.

Secondly, set goals and establish a routine, and modify them with changing times. They help to motivate and refresh the soul. They help one to stay focus, alert and active. It is about maximizing one's interests/hobbies. It's about doing the little things well. It is in the daily duties of life that we make or mar destinies, and win or lose crowns. Faithfully performing the lesser tasks set us up for the higher missions. I see soldiers get together to play basketball, domino, cards, listen to music, read or take online courses and much more. This creates a sense of belonging, helps maintain a sense of direction, and celebrate the fellowship and solidarity that make us relational beings. No one should be made to feel like an orphan. We are each other's keeper because we share a common solidarity and comradeship.

Matthews also speaks of managing life according to values and



not emotional sentiments. This includes being creative and living in the here and now. Seek what is useful and valuable in people and events. Believing in human beings and their system and developing our world will certainly not stifle our interest in the hereafter. Developing positive attitudes help to initiate creative actions. Learn to be useful to those who need help. Our mission is to help create a safer and just world where love and peace reign, and where people can pursue happiness through equity and fair means.

Take responsibility for one's action and on how to perceive people and events because perception has basis in reality. Be flexible and opened to new and superior information and be not afraid to alter perception in the face of new realities. Be opened to blind spots and learn from those who know better. Reality changes when we open our hearts and minds to new information.

Learn from the past and from mistakes, and learn from the life and mistakes of others. Decide what is possible by looking back at the past and predicting what the future will hold. Design a future based on the past and the present. Note that insanity is doing the same thing over again and expecting a new result. King Solomon said, "As a dog returns to its vomit, a fool returns to his folly." One does not want to repeat the same mistakes. Be alert to the people

and resources that God sends to make new things and all things possible.

Act in accordance with held beliefs and be responsible for how words and actions impact others. Avoid pretense and compromise. Pay attention to what you are doing now if you are not satisfied with the result. Accept who and what is, without wishing things were some other way. Learn to love and forgive. Make the most of this time. Be at rights with others if you can help it.

Let us learn to be grateful. In sickness or in health, for better or for worse, give thanks and bless God. Try to make a list of ten things in life that are not good or not quite right. Then make another list of ten things that are good. Which is easier to compile? The default setting tends to celebrate misfortune and discomfort over fortune and comfort. Change the default setting by locking-in gratitude over regret and dissatisfaction. Through prayer, meditation and supplication, always give thanks to God for everything. This attitude is an antidote to unnecessary pain and misery. Remember, take one day at a time and enjoy what you do.

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