

Snakebite

The Official Newsletter of the 116th Brigade Combat Team

TAG for Idaho visits soldiers in Warrior AO

by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq - The Adjutant General (TAG) for Idaho, Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz, the state's National Guard commander, took time to visit soldiers and leaders of the 116th Brigade Combat Team's 145th Support Battalion and Task Force 2-116 Armor who are station in Kirkuk, Iraq, April 20.

Both Task Forces visited are headquartered at Forward Operating Base Warrior, but some soldiers are located at fire bases in downtown Kirkuk. About half of the soldiers that make up the 116th Brigade



Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz talks with Chief Warrant Officer 2nd Class Gipson, during his visit to FOB Warrior, Iraq.

Combat Team are Idaho Guardsmen and women and the 145th SB and TF 2-116 Armor are headquartered in Caldwell and Twin Falls, Idaho, respectively.

The visit included tours of each battalion's headquarters, as well as time talking to soldiers.

Lafrenz told soldiers that the main reasons he came to Iraq was to thank soldiers for the excellent job they are doing as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III and to bring greetings from the people of Idaho.

On April 21, Lafrenz traveled by helicopter to

Commander's Corner

by Brigadier General Alan Gayhart, Commander

Fellow Warriors, As we conduct our mission here in Iraq, there may be instances where individual problems or issues are not being resolved by the immediate-chain-of-command.

I charge the chain of command to be fully aware and reactive to the concerns of their Warriors. I want to remind each of you that you have various avenues to resolve your concerns. I encourage you to utilize the immediate chain of command (squad leader, platoon sergeant, 1st Sgt, platoon leader, company commander) as

the first means of solution. If this is an unworkable means, each of the commanders has an open

door policy that you can utilize to bring sensitive issues directly to the command. Company commanders, battalion commanders, and yes, even I have an open door policy that you can use to address your concerns.

The Brigade also has a resident Inspector General (Lt. Col. Conilogue) who impartially looks into



BG Gayhart

Continued on page 9

CSM Briefing

by 116th BCT Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Lewis

I do not know about you, but I am looking forward to going home on leave. When I first got here, I thought I might not go, because it did not look like there was going to be enough allocations. Multi-National Force Iraq has assured us that there will be enough seats for every Soldier to take leave. I look forward to it because whether you know it or not, you are



CSM Lewis

under a lot of stress. This will be a good chance to relieve some stress, kick back and spend some quality time with the family. Remember what your families have endured since you have been deployed. They also have been under a lot of stress and need this time with you. I talked with some of the soldiers who have

Continued on page 9

Forward Operating Base McHenry and then on to FOB

Gaines-Mills, two bases in the

Continued on page 7



Cpl. Arwen Ratto, a Soldier of HHC, 116 BCT, uses her talent to gives the Brigade TOC a new paint job. (See story and photos, page 7)

Inside

Free Film Tribute ... Pg 2

Free Stuff ... Pgs 4-5

Battalion Updates... Pgs 8-13

Homestate Briefs/ Iraq News ... Page 15



Snakebites is a product of the 116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office. It is the official command information publication of the 116th BCT. This publication's intent is to provide timely and relevant information to the soldiers, families and employers of the 116th BCT.



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Submission Policy

The *Snakebites* staff welcomes submissions from its readers. If you have an article and/or photo that you feel would be appropriate for this publication please e-mail it to monte.hibbert@us.army.mil or drop it by the PAO office at Bldg. 370, FOB Warrior.

Media Interview Tips

- Always tell the truth.
- Assume that everything you say will be used and attributed to you. Avoid "Off the record" conversations with reporters. If you don't want to see it in print or on television, don't say it.
- Stay in your lane; talk only about things for which you are responsible.
- Do not speculate.
- It's ok to say: "I don't know."
- Refer specific recruiting questions to your recruiter.
- If you can't answer a reporter's question, explain why. For example, if the incident is under investigation, just let the reporter know.
- Always remain calm and professional.
- Practice what you want to say in front of a mirror or a friend to become more comfortable.
- Be yourself. You have a great story to tell and your community wants to hear it!
- Discuss what you know, provided OPSEC is not violated.

*****ATTENTION MEDIA OUTLETS*****

The 116th BCT has no release authority for information about casualties or deaths. This falls to our higher headquarters. Please don't query us directly for this information. Thank you.

Governor and Paul Revere to run free film tribute for 116 BCT families

by Tom Obstarczyk, Family Assistance Coordinator

To all military families:

On April 30, 2005, the Governor of the State of Idaho, the Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, has announced a tribute to the deployed soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team and their families. This is a joint effort in association with the Ride to the Wall program.

When the Governor was in Fort Polk, Louisiana with Paul Revere and the Raiders, they made a film of their

time there with the soldiers of the 116th BCT. The film will be shown at the Egyptian Theater on the 30th.

The showing of the film is free to all military families and copies will also be available to buy of the film, for production cost only. RSVP is mandatory, so we need an accurate headcount as seating is limited. This event is open to all families state-wide.

There is no money available to pay for families to travel to Boise. Arrangements may be possible for limited GSA

vehicle usage and for housing on Gowen Field if requested, at the familie's expense (about \$10-\$15 a night).

This film will also be shown at each of the Roundtables being conducted throughout the state. Again, RSVP is mandatory.

For more information, please contact; Tom Obstarczyk Family Assistance Coordinator 4150 Cessna St Bldg 218 Boise, ID 83705 (208) 422-4355 or cell (208) 866-5378 thomasobstarczyk@idnbgamymil

Don't Forget!

Important Dates to Remember:

8 May - **Mother's Day!**

21 May - **Armed Forces Day**

30 May - **Memorial Day**

14 June - **Flag Day**

19 June - **Father's Day**

21 June - **First day of spring**

You don't want to forget your loved one's anniversaries or birthdays! Start planning now!

Letter from 116th's new EO Advisor

by 1st Sgt. J. Bruce Head,
116 BCT EO Advisor

I am greatly honored to be serving with the 116th Brigade Combat Team. I volunteered for this deployment so I could work with this brigade so we could all continue the tradition and pride of the Brigade Warriors first, people always.

I come from HHC, 142nd Signal Brigade in Decatur, Alabama. We

are a multi-component, which worked for the 1st Corps out of Fort Lewis, Washington. I have been assigned to the 42nd ID as part of their NGB specially-trained EO team and now am reassigned to the 116 BCT as your EO advisor.

Please feel free to talk with me at any time, I'm located at the Warrior Gym. 1st Sgt. Head 116th BCT EO Advisor DSN: 460-0068

We would like to clarify that in the Last Edition of *Snakebites* Vol. 5, Ed. 18, it was erroneously reported that C Co., 145th SB conducted a MAV in the village of Saadina, when in fact the MAV was conducted by medics of TF 1-163 Infantry, assisted by C/145th SB.

The reporter apparently did not verify his information. In the top right picture is Lt. Swanson, a Physician's Assistant with TF 1-163 IN. The bottom left picture is of Lt. McCabe, also one of the awesome PA's with TF 1-163 IN.

Army Chapel Schedule

Sunday

0900 - Catholic Mass
 1100 - General Protestant Worship Service
 1400 - Catholic Mass
 1530 - LDS

Monday

1830 - LDS Family Home Eve. CP18, Pod 15
 1900 - Praise Band Rehearsal

Tuesday

1930 - Men's Fellowship

Wednesday

1900 - Bible Study

Thursday

1930 - Bible Study

Friday

1200 - Muslim Prayer Service @ Base Mosque

Saturday

1930 - Gospel Service

Freedom (Air Force) Chapel Schedule

Sunday

0630 - Protestant Morning Prayer
 0800 - Gospel Service
 0900 - Latter-Day-Saints (@ the LRC)
 1000 - Contemporary Worship Svc.
 1130 - Catholic Mass
 1830 - Protestant Evening Prayer
 1900 - General Protestant Worship Service

Saturday

1900 - Catholic Mass
 2030 - Lutheran Service
 2115 - Rosary & Mass (DFAC)

116 BCT commander holds town hall meetings

Story by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116th Public Affairs NCO

In the last couple of weeks, The Commander of the 116th BCT has been holding Town Hall meetings with the soldiers of his command.

Soldiers from TF 1-163 Infantry were visited recently by Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, commander of the 116 BCT,

then with HHC, 116 BCT this week, as well as a meeting with the HHC NCOs.

After the general addressed the troops on a variety of subjects including R & R leave, a variety of safety issues, the turn-over of FOBs to Iraqi security forces and maintaining our battle-focus, he then opened the floor for questions.

The Soldier's questions ranged from tub armoring in HMMWVs, to questions about lack of latrine facilities, to under-manning in sections, to the lack of in-theater promotions for qualified individuals.

These sessions provided a forum for resolving issues affecting the soldiers of the entire brigade.

Nature is never false

by Chaplain (Lt.Col.) John Worster, 116th BCT Chaplain

The Old Testament Wisdom Literature reminds us that God creates and renews our world: "You, O Lord, have created all things that they might have life; there is not a destructive drug amongst them." In Iraq, it is not hard to see that destruction is the opposite of creation, and that the rebirth of the land, nature, human institutions is remarkably easy once hate, discord and war are made to cease.

I noticed the other day in a wildlife magazine something that the mainstream media seldom, if ever reports: good news. Americans are rebuilding the delta and marshland between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. This effort to re-establish wetlands and the bird populations they sustain will permit this place to once again be called "Mesopotamia" – that is, "Between The Two Rivers."

Birds are among the most delicate of God's creatures. Made for flitting, soaring and swooping, they don't do well in the ravages of war. Now that

things are settling down, birds seem to be appearing. It's a rather nice, maybe ironic contrast, to see a sparrow using razor wire for a perch. I saw one of the little fellows using the mouth of a cannon as a place to rest and sun himself. There are falcons here, drawn by the abundance of doves and squab. It's only a matter of time before one swoops down and takes a dove in the air. A marvelous bird of the plover family is moving through our area – staking



Chaplain Worster

claim to open, newly green fields.

Saxton Pope, one of the fathers of American bow hunting observed, "Nature is never false; nature is always true." Now that Iraq's wildlife is reappearing, positive judgment is being passed on our efforts. An American Indian prayer comes to mind: "We have wept the blood of countless ages, as each of us raised the lance of hate. Now is the time to learn the dance and chant of the lifecycle. Tomorrow dances behind the sun in sacred promise of things to come for children yet unborn. Now let us lay the lance of hate upon this soil."

Patriotism alive and well on the homefront

by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT Public Affairs NCO

The wife of a Soldier suffered a car break-down recently on an Interstate, which normally would have been a catastrophe,

but instead came as a blessing in disguise.

It seems that she was driving down the Interstate when her old car Developed mechanical problems and stopped running.

She was later to learn that it had blown a head gasket. What is a head gasket you ask? Answer: about \$800-\$900 plus labor, to fix.

She immediately contacted someone, who contacted a towing company to bring her car to an auto dealership for repair. A check done by a mechanic there, revealed the major damage which the owner of the dealership then called back to report.

A pretty pickle in the best of circumstances, but with her husband currently deployed with his unit in Iraq, the woman would undoubtedly have found herself unhappily afoot.

Realizing the situation which she now found herself in, the auto dealership informed her that they would not be fixing her older car. Instead, they would be giving her a new car which she could pick up on a few days later, plus presenting her with \$500 to pay for the tax and licensing fees. Who says there's no patriotism? This is what America is all about.

Question of the Week

What are you planning on doing for your mother on Mother's Day?



Spc. Gregory Warden
HHC, TF 1-163 Infantry

"I'm going to send her flowers and probably call her."



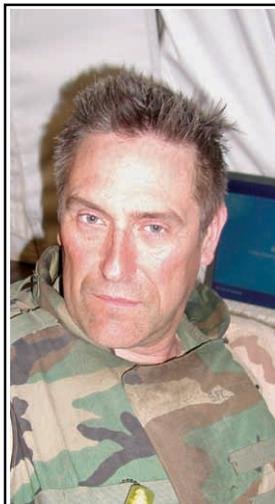
Spc. Nate Loomis
B Co., 145th Support Bn.

"Take her out to Red Lobster for dinner, buy her whatever she likes."



Sgt. Paul Leach
HHC, TF 1-163rd Infantry

"Call her and give her an IOU and tell her I'm kind of occupied at the moment."



Sgt. 1st Class Rico Galli
HHC, TF 1-163rd Infantry

"Nothing. I'm not in Montana. If I were there, I'd go up and see my mother with my wife. The same thing I did for our anniversary, my kids birthdays, Christmas, New Years, etc. Nothing this year."



Mstr. Sgt. Richard Allen
HHC, TF 1-163rd Infantry

"I'm going to try and give her a call."

Protecting your eyes

by Maj. Bill Miller, 116th BCT Safety Officer

While checking the medical logs coming from our clinic I noticed some cases of soldiers getting chemicals in their eyes. I bet brake fluid and radiator fluid in the eyes is painful. There really isn't much to say about protecting your eyes other than you would be foolish not to. That goes double for individuals performing general soldiering activities off the FOBs. The standard is to wear your eye protection.

Eye protection devices have been used in the construction industries since 1910. The original eye protection devices were somewhat limited; today there are eye protection devices for every type of exposure. Wearing eye protection at all times is strongly encouraged. Many projects demand workers wear eye protection. Just a few of these are:

- Chipping, sledging and hammering on metal, stone or concrete
- Use of manual, pneumatic and power impact tools
- Caulking, brushing and grinding
- Drilling, scaling and scraping
- Babbitting, soldering and casting hot metals

- Handling acids, caustics and creosoted materials
- Gas welding, cutting and brazing
- Drilling overhead
- In environments of excessive dust
- Electric arc welding and cutting, and other operations that expose the eyes to flying particles, dust, hot liquids, molten substances, gases, fumes and liquids.

"You can see a lot better out of a properly fitted eye protection device than you can out of a glass eye."

Maj. Bill Miller
116 BCT Safety Officer

Some people just don't like to wear safety glasses and goggles. One of the complaints is that goggles tend to fog up. Fogging happens when sweat vaporizes and coats the inside of the lens. If you have this problem with goggles and glasses, wear a handkerchief or sweatband around your forehead to keep perspiration out. I bought some anti fogging compound to apply to the inside of my Wiley-X eye protection.

Another complaint is that eye protection devices are uncomfortable, but usually this is because the eye protection device does not fit properly. Make sure that you have the device properly adjusted for the correct fit or simply get another that fits better.

Eye protection is there for you and your eyes. Be smart and use eye protection at all times when on the job. What have you got to lose? Your sight?

Free Journal subscription

by Kelli Reid, Family Coord., Assist. Cntr. Idaho Natl. Grd. Fam. Programs
Eastman's Hunting Journal is donating free subscriptions to soldiers deployed overseas.

To receive your free subscription to the Journal, you can be submitted your military address to:

POBox 798 Powell, WY 82435, or Email-stacy@eastmans.com, or call at (800)842-6887.

For more information, contact Kelli Reid, Family Assistance Center Coordinator, Idaho National Guard Family Programs.

(208)237-3700 ext 7187
Com, (208)422-7187 DSN, or (208)680-2233 Cell.

NCOES now requires mandatory attendance

Due to a steadily growing backlog of soldiers scheduled for attendance at Non-Commissioned Officer Education Courses and the number of no-shows to those courses, the U.S. Army Director of Training has announced a policy change. Attendance at all NCOES courses for all enlisted personnel will be mandatory as of April 7, 2005.

According to Brig. Gen. Louis W. Weber, the U.S. Army Director of Training, the development of our future

leaders is being put at high risk by the practice of soldiers cancelling or not showing up for scheduled training. This will cease immediately.

It is imperative that Commanders, Cmd. Sgt. Majors and 1st Sgts. enforce NCOES course attendance in order to fill every available seat. Commanders are reminded of their authority in regard to appropriate administrative or punitive action for those failing or declining to comply with Army requirements. Declining

attendance to ANCOC, BNCOC or PLDC is not authorized.

This policy applies to all Regular Army, USAR, (AGR) and mobilized enlisted soldiers. The only option for a soldier not to attend a scheduled NCOES course is to have an approved deferment.

Commanders of units deployed to OEF/OIF and other areas in support of the Global War On Terror (GWOT), will identify affected soldiers and notify the

Commander, HRC, Alexandria, ATTN: AHRC-EPT-TM of their deferment requirements, only through their division G1. All deferments must be fully justified through the division Cmd. Sgt. Maj., to the first General Officer in the chain of command, then must be submitted directly to HRC.

The request may be disapproved at any level in the MACOM chain of command. IMA, IRR and AGR soldiers are scheduled

by unit (TPU) and HRC - St. Louis. Soldiers selected to attend the Sergeant Major course in conjunction with a PCS who decline to attend, who have more than 19 years, 6 months active service, must submit a retirement application within 30 days of notification of selection.

Points of contact for questions are; Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Lionel Parker, COM-(703)614-9812, Sgt. Maj. Daniel Alltop, COM-(703)614-9700, or Ron Schexnayer, DAMO-TR, COM-(703)614-9701.

Free stuff for Soldiers deployed overseas

<http://www.operationhomelink.org/> - Free computers for spouses or parents of deployed soldiers in ranks E1 - E5.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2004/2/prweb106818.htm> - free mail/gifts sent to children of deployed soldiers.

<https://www.operationuplink.org/> - Free phonecards.

<http://anysoldier.com/ForSoldiersOnly.cfm> - To sign up for sponsoring soldier care packages for theater.

<http://www.appreciateourtroops.org/forourtroops.shtml> - To have commander sign up for mugs for unit troops.

<http://www.operationshoobox.com/> - free shoebox care package.

<http://www.treatthetroops.org/> - free cookies.

<http://bluestarmoms.org/airfare.html> - lowest airfare available.

<http://bluestarmoms.org/care.html> - free care packages.

<http://66.241.249.83/> - free air conditioners/heaters.

<http://www.heromiles.org/> - free air travel for Emergency Leave, and for the family members of injured soldiers to travel to Medical facility.

<http://www.bluestarmoms.org/airlinespecials.php> - Airline discounts for R&R.

<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/forum/index.php> - free books, DVD's, CD's.

<http://prayercentral.net/engage/militaryprayer/daily.php> - daily prayer and scriptures.

<http://www.militarymoms.net/sot.html> - free care packages (your family member signs up to have sent to you).

<http://operationmilitarypride.org/smsignup.html> - free care packages.

http://www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/submit_a_soldier.php - get adopted to receive stuff.

<https://www.treatfortroops.com/registration/index.php> - free gifts and care packages.

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Nov2004/n11232004_2004112312.html - free shipping/packing materials for shipping to troops.

Forward-Deployed Troops Offered Chance to Show Mom They Care

by Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 18, 2005 - Servicemembers in remote locations may be wondering how they're going to get even a simple Mother's Day card to dear old Mom this year.

Cardstore.com, a partner in DoD's America Supports You campaign, has the answer to that dilemma.

The company is offering forward-deployed troops in Afghanistan and Iraq the opportunity to send their moms a Mother's Day card at no cost. Just by logging into the company's Web site and

taking a few simple steps, starting with picking a card, servicemembers in the two countries can send their mothers a traditional paper greeting card from wherever they may be this Mother's Day.

Servicemembers choose a card, write a message and then tell Cardstore.com when the card should be mailed. The company prints a "high-quality greeting card" and sends it through the U.S. Postal Service.

"They can actually put a photograph of themselves on the face of the card," said Al Hulvey, Cardstore.com's chief executive officer. "They can

make it a very personal kind of touch to their mothers."

A special code is needed to access this offer on the company's Web site. Servicemembers serving abroad can find the code in ads that will appear in Middle East editions of the Stars & Stripes newspaper beginning April 22. Three of those ads will run over the course of a week.

The Emeryville, California-based online greeting card company was looking for a way to reach out and do some good, Hulvey said. He said company officials realized what troops give up while they're deployed in regard to

maintaining communication with loved ones.

"When we looked at helping, reaching out and doing something for a group of people, ... we looked at where there was a need and where we could bring our business concept to really help in that process," Hulvey said. "It's obvious that the military folks are sacrificing a lot for this country and it's very difficult for them to keep in touch with the people they care about."

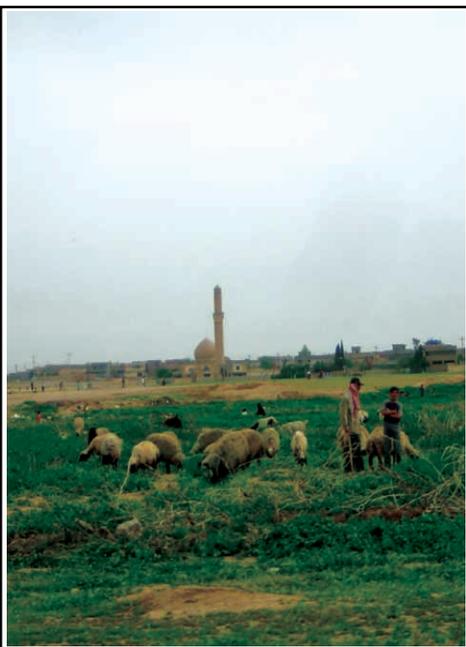
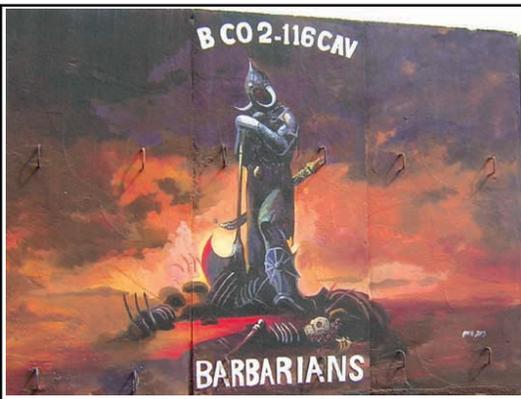
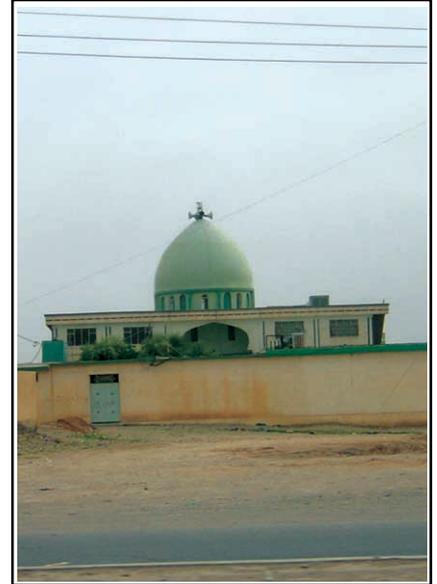
It just seemed like a natural thing for the company to do, he said. The America Supports You team

is excited about Cardstore.com's support of the troops. "We are thrilled that Cardstore.com has joined the team and is supporting our military men and women in the Middle East," Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Allison Barber said in a joint America Supports You/Cardstore.com press release. "We applaud them for helping troops stay in touch with their families back home through this unique Mother's Day opportunity."

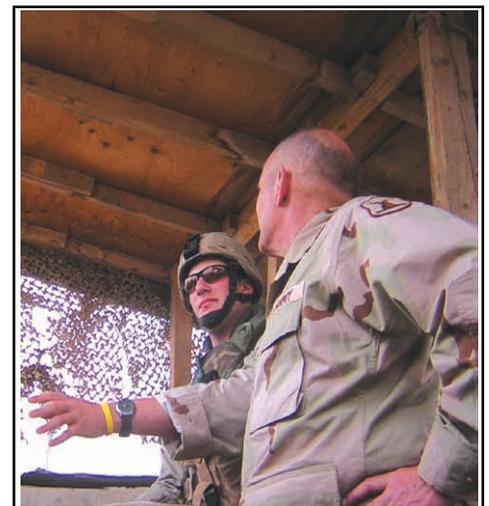
Orders can be placed from April 22 to May 8, Mother's Day. Though to

Continued on page 9

Idaho TAG visits Soldiers at FOB Warrior



Top Left; Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz, The Adjutant General of the State of Idaho and Lt. Col. Woods, commander of TF 2-116 Armor, take in the view at FOB Warrior, Iraq. Left & Above; Barbarian base. Below, Center; Maj. General Lafrenz shakes hands with a 145th Support Bn. soldier with . Below, Right; Maj. General Lafrenz talks with a TF B/2-116 Armor soldier on lookout duty.



Idaho TAG visits...

Continued from page 1

western portion of Kirkuk province, to visit TF 1-148 FA and 116 Engineer soldiers stationed there before returning to FOB Warrior to continue visiting Idaho citizen soldiers here. About half of the soldiers that make up the 116th Brigade Combat Team are Idaho Guardsmen and women and TF 1-148 Field Artillery, the 116th Engineer Battalion and many smaller units are headquartered in Pocatello, Lewiston and Boise, Idaho, respectively.



Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz (right), the TAG for Idaho and Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, 116th BCT commander, survey the surroundings while standing atop the one-time home of the infamous "Chemical Ali." The mansion now serves as a coalition forces command post at FOB Gaines-Mills, Iraq. (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)

The visits included tours of the 116th Engineer's C

company command post, TF 1-148 FA's howitzer firing positions and fire direction center as well as time talking to soldiers and inspecting living conditions.

While this is Lafrenz' first visit to 116th BCT units as Idaho TAG, he has personally visited the unit several times during their current deployment in support of OIF III, including visits to both Texas and Louisiana, while he was serving as Deputy Commanding General, Army/Assistant Adjutant General of the Idaho National Guard.



Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz, the AG for Idaho, visits with soldiers of the 116th BCT's TF 2-116 HHC at their company command post on FOB Warrior, Iraq. (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)



Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz, the Adjutant General for Idaho, visits with soldiers of the 116th BCT's C Co., 116th EN Bn. at their company command post on FOB McHenry, Iraq, April 21. (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)



Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz, the Adjutant General for Idaho (center), enjoys his first cup of the Iraqi tea "Chai" with ISG Michael Kish (left), C Co., 116th EN Bn. at the company command post at FOB McHenry, Iraq, April 21. It was prepared and served by Sgt. Dawn Steele (right) also of C Co. (Photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT Public Affairs)

116 BCT gets a new paint job

by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116 BCT Public Affairs NCO

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq- To achieve a large symbol of pride befitting the organization, Corporal Arwen Ratto has

volunteered her time and considerable talent to assist in the beautification of Forward Operating Base Warrior.

Cpl. Ratto entered the guard at 23 years of age and

will have three years of service by the time she leaves Iraq. She had just started college before being mobilized and hopes to major in commercial arts at the College of Southern Idaho.

"I've been doing art since I can remember, since I was very little. My mom and brother are my teachers," she said.

"Art is an inspired thing, it's like the waves. I can do it at that moment, make myself do it. The really good drawings come from inspiration. It can't be forced on me. It's not my job, it's my talent."



Soldiers of A Co., TF 2-116 AR gathered to meet and listen to Maj. Gen. Lafrenz, as well as to ask him questions. The General visited several units at FOB Warrior.

Her opinion of the 116th BCT? "We actually had time to be trained. We all get along very well as a team, and get to help alot of people."

Her efforts are typical of the 116th Soldiers-

multi-talented and dedicated people who succeed at everything they touch. The command is enormously grateful for her efforts and the end result.



Cpl. Arwen Ratto, a Soldier of HHC, 116 BCT, demonstrates her artistic talent as she begins the second pair of two crossed sabres. The work took her several days to complete.

145th Support Battalion

145 SB finally settling in!

by Lt. Col. Terry Harrell, 145th SPT Bn. Commander

In theatre almost five months and look at what this Brigade Combat Team has already achieved: participated in the first free election ever experienced by the Iraqi people, developed a relationship with the Iraqi people where we are referred to as the "New Americans", and provided a more secure safe environment in which the Iraqi people have not experienced in over forty years.

The Support Battalion is sometimes lost in the glare of the spotlights shown upon the accomplishments of the Maneuver Battalions, but believe me, your achievements do not go unnoticed or without thanks by the Brigade or this command. Each one of you and your

accomplished tasks are extremely important to the success of the Brigade. As the quote below highlights, your contribution to our mission is what makes us successful.

What have we accomplished over the last five months?

- Participated as the first 145th Support Battalion soldiers in combat.

- Managed Brigade logistics issues over an area of 20,150 square miles.

- Provided support for nine separate detachment, platoon or section sized units.

- Processed 26 million dollars worth of supplies and nearly 75,000 requisitions.

- Produced 400,000 gallons of potable water and issued 425,000 bottles of water.



LTC Harrell

- Transported several thousand tons of food and supplies.

"The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the tiny pushes of each honest worker."

-- Helen Keller

- Issued 1.5 million gallons of JP8.

- Driven 156,000 miles.

- Completed 194 Combat Logistics Patrols.

- Accomplished 1,602 DS work orders.

- Performed 114 vehicle/equipment level services.

- Performed 518 organizational services.

- Performed 10,928 man-hours of organizational maintenance.

- Treated 2371 medical patients.

- Treated 308 dental patients.

- Conducted five Medical Assistance Visits treating 517 Iraqi civilians.

- Conducted three EMT Courses for the Iraqi emergency medical providers.

- Conducted two Dental Assistance Visits treating 76 Iraqi civilians.

- Maintained the best SSA, Property Book and maintenance program in the entire theatre, confirmed by Division and Corps.

- Have the only full spectrum brigade medical program in the Division which includes: SACM-VT, 91W transition, Combat Casualty Care Course, Level II care facility with lab, dental and mental health, EMT Course and a Combat Lifesaver Course.

As you can see no small achievement by anyone's measuring stick! Be proud and know that you are true heroes and an integral part of this Brigade Combat Team! Iraq is a dangerous place, but it is a heck of a lot safer because we have been here!

"Born of Pride!"

New water purification system eases burden for Gaines-Mills

by Sgt. Jeffrey Lucas, 145th SPT Bn. Historian

Unsanitary shower conditions will no longer be an issue for soldiers stationed at Forward Operation Base (FOB) Gains Mills. In the last several weeks, the 145th Support Battalion has set up a Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit or ROWPU to bolster the water capability at the FOB. Additionally, the water holding tanks have been thoroughly cleaned.

Before the ROWPU was delivered to FOB Gains Mills, soldiers had no water purification system. The soldiers had bottled water to drink, but showers were a

different issue. "The water issue should be solved permanently," commented 2nd Lt. Jacob Mong, Platoon Leader for the Water, Ammo, and Petroleum section. In fact, "the water we are providing (the soldiers) is cleaner than the bottled water they are drinking."

While the ROWPU system is effective, it is a temporary measure that should eventually be replaced with a more permanent system. "We are currently working on getting the pipeline system working, one does exist on the FOB, but it is not

necessarily clean," said 2nd Lt. Mong.

According to 2nd Lt. Mong, the size of the ROWPU's- 600-gallon per hour units- provide the FOB with a more secure water source. The ROWPU comes on a trailer with a generator and two large 10,000 gallon tanks. The system is designed to include all necessary equipment, supplies and chemicals to make it effective wherever it is needed. "You just hook it up and take it were you want," said 2nd Lt. Mong.

The system was planned to be set up initially in only two weeks, but logistical

and weather-related issues delayed the completion of the project for nearly two months. The recent rains may have been good for the Iraqi farmers, but also made the soil too soggy and muddy for placement of the ROWPU system.

Another big issue was force protection. Sandbags and large sand-filled HESCO barriers had to be placed around the area where the ROWPU was to operate.

Force protection is also improved with fewer soldiers on the road convoys. Alpha Company's water section was trucking over 3000 gallons of

water out to FOB Gains Mills every week. "Now, I have no people from my water section on the road," said 2nd Lt. Mong, adding, "Since it only takes three people to run the system, they work on a rotation system," only going out to the FOB to rotate in or out.

Once the logistics were worked out for support of the ROWPU maintenance team, 2nd Lt. Mong was able to arrange so that "one soldier comes back to FOB Warrior every other week," providing the soldiers with an opportunity to experience life in the fast lane of FOB Warrior on a regular basis.

145th Support Battalion

Combat Patch

by Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier, 145th SPT Bn.

It seems a lot of talk is floating around about what Combat patch soldiers are going to wear regardless of the guidance sent out. General

Gayhart spoke in a meeting I attended on this matter, and asked why soldiers would prefer to wear the Big Red One over our own patch.

He went on further, asking what did our predecessor accomplish here that would warrant such awe and homage, that we are not equally doing, or doing better than they did?

He is right; we have accomplished so much in the last few months, in such a manner that to consider our own organization second to an Active Duty element is ridiculous.

Think of it this way. When we arrive home and restart our lives, do you want someone to ask you when were you in the army by your patch? Or would you rather have someone walk up to you and say "You were one of the 116 BDE soldiers that sacrificed your family and career for our nation weren't you?"

A whole lot more meaning goes into the fact you were a National Guardsman deployed



CSM Whittier

not by choice, than an Active Duty soldier that does it as a way of life, and does not leave behind all the private lives we have.

Those that choose to wear the 1st ID patch are living their history like an old man reliving his early years as a football player while in the bleachers. Do not get me wrong, the 1st ID is a first rate organization, but their heritage is theirs, and ours is in the making now. We are creating our right to stand among the giants with no shame what so ever, and place our page in the history books.

Many soldiers do not want to be here, which is understandable, but to blame the brigade for this is not right. No other army unit has gone beyond the call of duty to take care of us, and we have had to carry the ball the full distance of the field.

Be proud of what you have done, as not one soldier here has not contributed to this deployment in one way or another. Every one of you deserves a pat on the back, and the recognition of being one of Americas best. Be proud of your accomplishments, and display it proudly!

Mother of All Generators survives encounter with Mother of all IEDs

by Sgt. Jeffrey Lucas, 145th Spt. Bn. Unit Historian

Soldiers of the 116th BCT recently were involved in the 'mother' of all missions, when they found a 500-lb. bomb.

"We noticed a large dirt mound in front of where we had parked," remembers Spc. Zack Tracey of his recent encounter with the 500-lb. bomb during a support mission for the movement of the Mother of All Generators (MOAG), through the 116 BCT recently.

What appeared to be a badger hole in fact ended up being an emplacement for an Improvised Explosive Device, or I.E.D.

As soon as the soldiers realized what they were standing by, they immediately jumped into their vehicles and cleared the area. An Explosives, Ordinance and Demolitions team (EOD) was dispatched, who then cleared a mile and a half blast radius, the minimum safe distance and blew the bomb in place. The initial blast however, did not destroy the bomb, instead it just took off the fuses. The incident delayed Alpha Company's mission for nearly two hours. The MOAG mission was supposed to be a routine resupply and support

mission for TF 3-116 Armor.

Initially, A Co. was to provide food and fuel support for the MOAG mission just outside FOB Warrior. Instead of serving MREs to the hungry troops, Capt. West and company made sure the troops were served hot meals from the dining facility (DFAC). "They loved the hot meals and there were a lot of smiles," commented Capt. West.

"I believe our mission was very successful, and due to the support they got during the movement, they were able to finish two days early," said Capt. West.

*Happy Birthday,
Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Charles
Whittier!*

*We are so proud of the work you're
doing over there...*

Love, Karen, family and friends.

Show mom...

Continued from page 5

guarantee on-time delivery, orders need to be placed no later than May 2, Hulvey said. He said the company is looking at more opportunities like this, though there are no concrete plans yet. Hulvey

also said that he hoped Cardstore.com's program would emphasize that America supports its troops.

"When you talk about companies, companies are people. And there's people that really care about (the troops) and what they're doing and the sacrifices they're

making," Hulvey said. "Our troops are sacrificing for this country, and I think that, although everyone generally appreciates that, I think it's important for people to sort of get out of the bleachers and really do something about that. We just feel really honored that we can do this."

TF 1-148th Field Artillery

Halabja Memorial visit highlights results of tyranny, hope of freedom

Photos and Story submitted by Command Sgt. Maj. Green, I-148th FA Bn.

During a recent trip to AOSCORPIONEAST I had the opportunity to visit the city of Halabja. Halabja was the site of the single most deadly attack on the Kurdish people during the Al Anfal campaign conducted by Saddam's Army during the eight year Iraq-Iran War. During Al Anfal an estimated 50 to 100 thousand Kurdish People were murdered and hundreds of thousands of others forced to flee from their homelands to the nearby mountains or neighboring countries.

Halabja, a town of about 50,000 people, at the time of the attack, sits at the base of a majestic mountain range in Northeastern Iraq about nine miles from the Iranian border. The mountain range rises to heights approaching 10,000 feet and forms the border between Iraq and Iran, of which over 500 kilometers are within AO SCORPION.

The town itself sits in a rich agricultural area and other than the architecture of the buildings resembles many of the small farming communities in Idaho, as do

the mountains in the distance. Today the city is busy and bustling but the effects and the aftermath of the attack are evident everywhere. The actual attack on Halabja occurred late in the afternoon on March 16, 1988. In the initial phase of the attack Saddam's Army used only conventional bombs and artillery. The Iraqi officers knew that the Kurdish citizens would seek shelter in the basements and caverns beneath their homes and businesses. After this initial phase, while the local people were still sheltered beneath ground level, Saddam's forces unleashed the chemical weapons which included both air dropped and artillery delivered munitions. Saddam's officers knew full well that the chemical gases were heavier than air and once released would settle to the lowest level, exactly where the Kurdish People had sought shelter. The munitions delivered on that day were varied, but included the blister agent Mustard, as well as the nerve agents Sarin, Tubun



CSM Green

and VX. In a few short minutes approximately 5000 people perished, about 75% of them women and children, according to many analysts. Death came quickly, but not quickly enough to prevent the agony and pain these people suffered in their last moments. That pain and agony is apparent in the pictures and paintings in the Halabja Monument, built as a testament to the victims and the survivors.

The attack had no strategic importance in the war against Iran nor was it a result of collateral damage. Rather it was part of a large scale deliberate campaign against the Kurdish inhabitants of the region initiated by Saddam's regime. Al Anfal, which translated from the Koran means "The Spoils of War" or "booty," lasted nearly ten years and ended with the US invasion in 1990 during Desert Storm after the Liberation of Kuwait. The purpose of the campaign was to kill the Kurds or force them from their homes in Northern Iraq, the motive; ethnic cleansing or more simply in this particular region of Iraq – oil. The campaign was directed primarily at males of "fighting age". Saddam's intent was not only to take

the oil rich lands in Northern Iraq but to eliminate any future attempt by the Kurds to reclaim those lands. No evidence exists to suggest that Al Anfal would have ended if Desert Storm had not occurred.

The effects of the attack remain obvious today. Many people show the horrible scars of the blister agents. The water and the food supplies still show high levels of contaminants. The people of Halabja today suffer from respiratory diseases and certain forms of cancer at a rate that is four times as high as the rates in surrounding areas not involved in the attack. Young children contract leukemia and lymphoma at alarmingly high rates. Emotional scars, though not visible to me on such a short visit, surely remain as well.

The people built the Halabja Memorial Monument on the outskirts of the city to remind the world of the terrible events that took place there on that March day 17 years ago. The monument was completed in 2001. Halabja

Hall contains graphic photos, paintings and sculptures depicting the tragic events that occurred that day. The names of all of the people who perished there are engraved on plates on the walls in another Hall called Halabja Heart. Three other halls in the monument house other exhibits of the tragedy as well as a 240 seat auditorium where visitors can watch video presentations about Halabja's history, and the attack itself. The victims of the mass murder are buried in a cemetery adjacent to the monument in graves marked with identical white headstones.

I will never forget my visit to Halabja. It was a very emotional experience to say the least. We, not only as citizens but as soldiers, too often take for granted the freedoms and liberties we enjoy in the United States. After all, isn't that why we are here, to help the Iraqi people build a society and a country based upon liberty and justice? The effects and the aftermath of this ruthless

Continued on page 14



The Halabja Cemetery adjacent to the Memorial Monument on the outskirts of Halabja, Iraq.



The Halabja Memorial Monument in Halabja commemorates the attack which occurred on March 16, 1988.

TF 2-116th Armor

2-116 conducts CLS training



Pvt. 1st Class North finds out that making sure your buddy is efficient in this task can save you a lot of pain in the end.

Combat Lifesaver training is a priority for the Task Force 2-116th Commander and the medical platoon is prepared to complete it's mission. TF 2-116th medics have been and will continue to conduct monthly CLS certification and re-certification while here at FOB Warrior, with a goal of getting as many CLS certified soldiers in the battalion as possible. Operation Iraqi

Freedom has shown the extreme importance of having the front line soldier equipped with the skills and equipment needed to aid himself or his buddy if injured during combat. Combat lifesavers save lives by extending the 'golden hour' it takes to evacuate a seriously wounded soldier to a hospital or medical facility.

2-116 gives Iraqi Army IV training



Pvt. 1st Class Schuldies works on a soldier with TF 2-116 Armor's Physician's Assistant Capt. Schroeder supervising.

Iraqi Army medics are learning important medical skills with the help of some of the medics of the 116BCT.

Training took place recently at the Iraqi Army Headquarters, where members of Task Force 2-116 Armor, gave classes on

properly administering an IV. The goal of the training is not only to provide valuable skills to the IA medics, but to ensure that they as trainers will be able to sustain the training when the coalition is no longer involved.

R & R leave mission

by Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin



Sgt. Maj. Chin

Rattlers, thanks for the excellent job you have been doing. The work and missions being conducted by this Battalion has by far exceeded the Army's expectations of us. I could never be more proud of the soldiers that are serving here in Iraq under the mighty 2 tank. Thanks again for the extended workdays, sleepless nights, and unquestionable desire to do your part in our operations. You've earned the respect of many. I would like to share with those who have not yet been able to enjoy a little R&R, what they can expect as they attempt a little different kind of mission.

It's time for you to get the well-deserved time off you've earned. We are proud of you and your families; you as Soldiers, for executing your military duties, and your families for keeping the home together. Thanks for your sacrifices and accomplishments you and your family have endured. Enjoy the time off with your families and friends. You've been

deployed for 7-8 months, so things might have changed on the home front. Be aware that it may take a little time to get back into the routine of things. Keep in mind that your family has gone through lots of changes and hardship with your absence. Make the most of your time by adjusting to their changes, instead of wasting your precious time trying to change things that probably won't last a week after you leave. If you have children, remember to give them some special attention. They have gone through, and are continuing to go through the temporary loss of one of the most important people in their lives, YOU. Let them know you care by spending equal, and quality time with them. Also take some time for yourself by exercising and

getting adequate rest. Don't try to make up for lost time by cramming too much stuff into your time home and limit your use of alcohol.

Here is some info on how your departure for leave will be:

Once you are briefed the Do's and Don'ts, and you signed out from the Bn. and Bde., you will fly 2.5 hours to Kuwait airport. From there you will get on a bus for a 45 minute ride over to Camp Doha. At Camp Doha you will be briefed, secure your Kevlar and IBA, and get your flight itineraries. The next day you will depart on a bus to Kuwait airport and get on a flight to Germany for 6.5 hours, where you will have a 2 hour refuel layover. From Germany you will fly for 6.5 hours to the states, Dallas Fort Worth. You can spend some time at the USO at DFW before you fly from there home. Have a great time on leave, you've earned it. Rattlers always remember to lead by example: enforce the standards and do the right thing. SINE MORA

2-116 Medics train while they fight



Pvt. 1st Class Schuldies works on a soldier with TF 2-116 Armor Physician's Assistant Capt. Schroeder supervising.

For the medics of Task Force 2-116 Armor, every day is a learning day at FOB Warrior. Whether it's participating in the semi-annual Combat Skills validation test, evaluating a simple cold, or something more serious like a laceration repair, the TF 2-116 medics rise to the occasion. Capt. Schroeder, medical officer, Pvt. 1st Class Schuldies, medic, and Spc. Harmon, an A Co. soldier, make every day a training day.

TF 2-116 Armor

TF 2-116/IPD gives school supplies



Supported by soldiers of TF 2-116 Armor, the Chief of Police for the Azadi Police Station, Ahmed Mohammed Fallmaz hands out packets of school supplies to the children of Shorja Primary School for Girls, on 28 February, 2005. The packets are the result of the generosity of Operation

Provide School Supplies, a program which American businesses and individuals contribute to.

He discussed the role of the Iraqi Police in Iraq providing security and peace for the people of Iraq and showed why they should be respected and appreciated.

Idaho company raising funds for climbing gear

A local Idaho company recently began a campaign to raise funds for climbing gear, when they heard soldiers were building a climbing wall.

Idaho Fire and Rescue Outfitters, Inc. has been working to raise money to purchase climbing gear for

deployed soldiers from the 116th BCT in Iraq. The company's president, Rob Webb, read an article in the Idaho Statesman (29 March edition) about a climbing wall some soldiers built in Iraq and felt he could support the project there by coming up

with donors and funds to send more climbing equipment.

So far he has raised about \$7,000 in donated equipment to be auctioned off. The goal is to raise \$15K in order to outfit 25 soldiers with their own, personal climbing gear and to pay for shipping costs.

To that end, Mr. Webb has set up an auction for donated goods to take place at the Crescent "No Lawyers" pub at 5500 W. Franklin Rd, 28 Apr with auction items on view beginning at 4 p.m., the auction beginning at 7 p.m. Mr. Webb extends a cordial invitation to all Idaho Guardsmen, their families and friends to attend this auction.

For more info, call Rob Webb at (208) 284-2146 or Rick Yetsko at (208) 484-4621.



More Idahoans deploying to 116 BCT for Operation Iraqi Freedom

by Lt. Col Tim Marsano, Idaho State Public Affairs Officer

More than a dozen Idaho Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team will depart for training next Tuesday, and then join their fellow soldiers in Iraq once that training is complete. Mission-specific training for this group of soldiers will take place at Ft. Carson, Colorado over the course of the next month.

The 116th Brigade Combat Team was certified as 'mission ready' by the U.S. Army before they deployed in December, 2004, however, some

personnel positions were left unfilled. This group of soldiers will fill some of those positions. They will attend mission-specific training and join the rest of the 116th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq when that training is completed. Soldiers in this group come from communities around Idaho.

These types of troop movements are expected to take place for the next several months. Other troop movements like this one took place in February and March. The soldiers will return from Iraq with the rest of the brigade in early

2006. These latest troop movements increase the number of Idaho Army National Guardsmen taking part in Operation Iraqi Freedom to more than 1,700, and the total number 116th Brigade Combat Team soldiers deployed, from some 20 states, remains at about 4,300.

Although a significant number of Idaho National Guardsmen are now deployed, there are still more than 2,500 Idaho Army National Guardsmen and Air National Guardsmen available to deal with natural or man-made disaster emergencies. receive the training and support they need."

Commanders Corner...

Continued from page 1

Soldier concerns, and determines the facts for resolution by the chain of command or other agencies that can solve the issue, such as finance, KBR, etc. He has the ability to freely find out the facts, without retribution to the Soldier.

Other available assets available to you are the great chaplain corps we have in the BCT, along with the numerous special staff such as the JAG, EONCO, combat stress teams.

Do not feel that no one cares about your concerns. We have many assets available to help you through the challenges of this deployment. Please use them as they are here to serve you, the great Warriors of this Brigade Combat Team.

"Warriors First"

CSM Briefing...

Continued from page 1

already gone on leave, and they say the hardest thing is coming back. Just remember, we have gone through a lot since June of 2004 and we almost have this behind us. Remember to do what General Gayhart says and take your uniform off and do not even think about this place until you have to come back. Kick back, have a good time, but remember that every day I hear about soldiers dying because of drinking and driving. If you are going to drink, make sure you have a designated driver. All the accidents that I hear about are of soldiers home on leave. Please be careful, have a good time and tell the family the CSM says hi.

Warriors First
CSM Lewis

TF 1-163rd Infantry

In Memoriam Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Davis

A memorial service was held here at FOB Gaines-Mills recently, for Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Davis, the acting Platoon Sergeant for Red Team, G Troop, 82nd Cavalry, was lost in action on April 8, 2005.

The memorial service was conducted by Chaplain (1st Lt.) Ream, before the entire unit as well as Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, 116th BCT commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Walsh, commander of the TF 1-163rd Infantry and several brigade staff members.

The ceremony began with the silent bearing of Staff Sgt. Davis' boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags by 82nd Cavalry soldiers where they were placed for presentation on a platform.

The eulogy was delivered by Capt. Chinen, G Troop,

82nd Cavalry commander. This was followed by heartfelt remarks from 1st Lt. Rogers, Sgt. Mosley and Spc. Hall.

After the reading of scripture by Staff Sgt. Fox, Chaplain Ream led all those gathered in the memorial prayer. 1st Sgt. Walz then conducted the roll call G Troop, followed by the firing of volleys, a 21-gun salute, and the playing of Taps. His fellow soldiers came before the presentation platform, where they were then allowed to pass and salute, paying their final respects to a great soldier.

Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Davis was born March 12, 1963. He enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard in 1989 as an



Staff Sgt. Kevin
Davis

Infantryman (11B) in the Lebanon Combat Support Company. In 1992 the Combat Support Company became Delta Company, whereupon he made a seamless transition to Tow gunner (11H).

He excelled in his role as a Tow gunner and soon became very respected among his peers for his skills with that weapons system.

Then in 1996, Delta Company became F Troop and again he transitioned. The consummate professional, Davis embraced the role of a light scout with enthusiasm and passion.

That enthusiasm and passion for whatever was asked of him will forever be hallmarked as his legacy. He remained with F Troop until June, 2004 when he

was activated for this deployment with G Troop, 82nd Cavalry. He served a vital role as a senior NCO and most recently as the acting Platoon Sergeant. The Red Team is a strong, professional and motivated group of soldiers because of his efforts and accomplishments.

Staff Sgt. Davis has served the Oregon ARNG with distinction. Nothing was too great of a sacrifice for his unit and fellow soldiers. He always put his soldiers first.

Davis was an avid outdoorsman and most of all a family man. He was a patient man and was considered as the father figure in the platoon. He was a good role model and mentor. He pushed those around him to strive

for excellence and to never settle for just the "standard." He excelled in everything he did, whether it was his Police work back home, or training the Iraqi Police here.

At this time, he has been submitted for a Bronze Star medal as a result of his actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He will also be awarded the Close Combat Badge. Previous awards were numerous from the Oregon Army National Guard.

He is survived by his wife Robbin, son Andrew and daughters Laurynn and Makenna.



Soldiers of G Troop, 82nd Infantry wait their turn to pay their last respects to Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Davis.



Celebrating Arbor Day in Iraq

by Gary Brienzo, National Arbor Day Foundation

Arbor Day 2005 took root in an unaccustomed corner of the world—Kirkuk, Iraq—thanks to David Woodall, assistant logistics chief in the 116th Engineer Battalion, Idaho Army National Guard,

servicing in Kirkuk.

Through the efforts of Woodall, a habitat biologist from Moscow, Idaho, trees native to the region are being planted in this northeastern Iraqi city.

"I never miss an Arbor Day and the opportunity to plant several trees around my own house," Woodall said. "I had already taken

upon myself to clean up the work area surroundings by cutting down the dead trees and trimming those that needed pruning. So when I had the opportunity over here to get ahold of these trees, and to plant new trees and flowers, I just jumped on it."

He and his planting companions got the trees

from a group of Iraqi contractors they saw planting trees in the city, and Woodall asked if he could have six of the trees to plant near their headquarters.

Woodall says that the residents of Kirkuk appreciate their efforts and the tree planting spirit behind it. "Our Iraqi interpreters are very

receptive and enthusiastic about all of our work to help rebuild Iraq," he said. "The Iraqi people in general love the colors and shade those flowers and trees can provide. The aesthetics that simple things like these provide make life better

Continued on page 14

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1. Bingo 2000 Karaoke 2130	2. Final Four 0200 80's night 2000
3. Shuffleboard/ Blackjack 2000 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab	4. JEOPARDY 1900 Madden 2000	5. NCAA Champ. 0500 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000	6. Dart League 1900 Spades 2000	7. Ping-pong/ Dominoes 2000 Spring Bash Events All Day	8. Latino Night 2000 Spring Bash Events All Day	9. Spring Bash Events All Day
10. KRAB IDOL 2000 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab	11. KRAB IDOL 2000	12. KRAB IDOL 2000	13. KRAB IDOL 2000	14. Ping-pong/ Dominoes 2000	15. Bazaar 1200-2100	16. Bingo 2000 Bazaar 0900-1700 Karaoke 2130
17. Talent Show 2000 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab	18. JEOPARDY 1900 Madden 2000	19. Texas Hold 'em/ 9-Ball 2000	20. Dart League 1900 Spades 2000	21. Ping-pong/ Dominoes 2000	22. Hip Hop Night 2000	23. Clamtina Closed Dining In
24. Gospel Night 1700 Dominoes 2000 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab	25. JEOPARDY 1900 Halo 2 /NCAA March Madness 2000	26. Texas Hold'em/ 8-Ball 2000	27. Dart League 1900 Spades 2000	28. Casino Night 2000	29. Country Night 2000	30. Bingo 2000 Fear Factor 1400 Karaoke 2130



Rec Schedule April 2005



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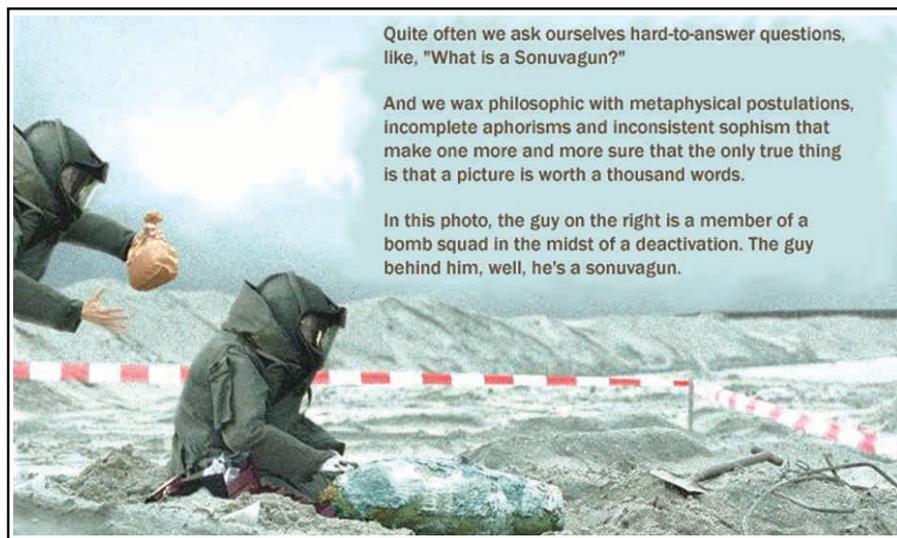
Arbor Day...

Continued from page 12

here and help build trust and long-lasting relationships between Iraqis and Americans."

Back in the United States, National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April, with Arbor Day 2005 falling on April 29. But for Woodall and his tree-planting companions in Kirkuk, Arbor Day just came a little early. And the spirit of cooperation and hope brought about by their efforts is justification enough for this early celebration, he says.

"I thought by cutting down some of the dead trees, cutting the grass, and



Quite often we ask ourselves hard-to-answer questions, like, "What is a Sonuvagun?"

And we wax philosophic with metaphysical postulations, incomplete aphorisms and inconsistent sophism that make one more and more sure that the only true thing is that a picture is worth a thousand words.

In this photo, the guy on the right is a member of a bomb squad in the midst of a deactivation. The guy behind him, well, he's a sonuvagun.

planting some flowers and new trees it would be a great way to celebrate what may be the first annual Arbor Day for Iraq," Woodall said.

"It will definitely be a work in progress, and hopefully others will continue our work."

More information on

Arbor Day and ways to celebrate it can be found at the website of the National Arbor Day Foundation, arborday.org.

Halabja...

Continued from page 10

attack left the city and the people of Halabja permanently scarred; the effects and the aftermath are evident everywhere. Although I saw despair I saw the hope of these amazing people as well. I saw the tragedy and I saw the triumph of their resiliency. I saw their tears, but more often I saw their laughter and their joy of life. Let's help them build a country that is based upon the rights and freedoms of the many and not the tyrannical greed and madness of the dictatorial few.

Homestate News Briefs

Compiled from Associated Press reports.

Cowboy wanna-be bulldogs blimp

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) - A would-be cowboy from Wyoming landed in jail over the weekend, after leaping over the railing during the NILE Invitational rodeo and onto a giant balloon bull, popping it. John Joshua-Roy Shedlock, 20, of Buffalo, Wyo., pleaded guilty Monday to a misdemeanor charge of being in possession of alcohol and was fined \$160. He pleaded not guilty to criminal mischief for allegedly causing \$3,000 in damage to the \$30,000 bull blimp. Judge Pedro Hernandez set Shedlock's bail at \$250 and allowed him to return to Wyoming while his case is pending. The Yellowstone County sheriff's report said Shedlock had been drinking and was at the bull riding event at the MetraPark Arena Saturday evening when he "jumped off the balcony onto an inflatable blimp."

Man wins village idiot award

STORY, Ind. (AP) - The competition was fierce and foolish, but a man who accidentally sawed through a live electrical wire and topped that by wrecking his truck only hours after buying it earned the honorary title "Village Idiot." Mark Carmichael's blunders won him the good-natured award that's been handed out for years in the tiny Brown County town of Story. The winner is whoever gets the most votes from regulars at the Story Inn's saloon. Carmichael won in part for an incident in which he cut through a live wire while using a circular saw to replace the inn's galvanized steel roof. But he also damaged his just-purchased 1998 Dodge truck the day after he got it. His foolishness earned the 27-year-old a \$100 bar

tab. Rick Hofstetter, who owns the inn, said the competition for this year's award was fierce. For example, two Story Inn regulars were nominated for knocking themselves unconscious while opening their car doors. Another was nominated for burning down his front porch after not fully extinguishing a cigarette in a full ashtray. Bartender Evan McMahon was nominated for opening an \$80 bottle of Chalk Hill Chardonnay to make a \$6.50 wine spritzer for a bar patron.

Man charges \$8,000 to give him new name

UINTAH HIGHLANDS, Utah (AP) - A company that hosts Web sites will give Matthew Jean Rouse a new middle name. The 31-year-old used eBay to auction the right to pick him a new middle name that would replace the despised "Jean." Bidding was cut off Monday when LucaHost.com agreed to the \$8,000 "Buy It Now" price. The company has not yet told him his new name. "I'm guessing it will be LucaHost.com," he said. Rouse undertook the move to rid himself of the moniker Jean after his grandfather, Jean Stelter because the two didn't get along. The highest bid was \$3,250, which eclipsed the top bid of \$1,500 from Rouse's brother, Bill, who wanted his sibling to keep Jean.

N.J. cops collect bullet-proof vests for soldiers

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - Some 1,750 bulletproof vests collected by New Jersey law enforcement agencies have been packed for shipment to Iraq, where they will be used to protect U.S. soldiers riding in

military vehicles.

"Together, we are making a difference. We are preventing injuries and we are saving lives," the governor said. Every soldier deployed to Iraq has personal body armor, military officials said. The donated body armor will be used by U.S. troops to line vehicles for addition protection against roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades. New Jersey has 1,500 National Guard soldiers in Iraq.

Soldier earns fifth Purple Heart

NAMPA, Idaho (AP) - A decorated Nampa soldier underwent two rounds of surgery in a German hospital after suffering his fifth combat injury in Iraq. Last week, Sgt. Larry Woodard was shot through the stomach and lost a portion of his liver. Doctors removed shrapnel from his body, but left one piece inside because it was in a non-vital area, said his father, Perry Woodard. He is recovering at the German hospital, while his injuries heal, Perry said. Larry Woodard joined the Army in 2002, and with the 1st Armored Division, was among the first troops to enter Iraq at the start of the war. Woodard went ahead of the tanks to give enemy coordinates to the Air Force and other military branches sending in artillery. Woodard's left arm had been injured three times during the deployment when he was struck by shrapnel from a nearby explosion, when he was hit with debris from a falling wall and when he was shot by enemy fire while trying to help another platoon in Fallujah.

Iraq News Briefs

U.S. Secretary of Defense visits Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The leaders of Iraq's emerging new government must not allow turbulence, incompetence or corruption to slow or foil progress toward building democracy and defeating the insurgency, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said. Rumsfeld arrived at the Iraqi capital aboard an Air Force C-17 cargo plane for his second visit in three months. The visit reflected a desire to push the political and military momentum that he believes has been growing since the Jan. 30 elections for a national assembly. Rumsfeld was meeting later with Interim President Jalal Talabani and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the Shiite Muslim who was designated interim prime minister. Once al-Jaafari has chosen his cabinet ministers and they are approved by the National Assembly, he and Talabani are to lead Iraq's transition to a constitutionally elected government by December. Rumsfeld told reporters he would press the new Iraqi leadership to avoid delays on either the political or security front at a time when U.S. troops are still being killed or wounded and billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars are being invested in rebuilding the country. "It's important that the new government be attentive to the competence of the people in the ministries and that they avoid unnecessary turbulence," Rumsfeld said. Some in the Bush administration are concerned that factional maneuvering during the formation of the transitional government could undermine the counter-insurgency effort that is a key to eventually pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq. Rumsfeld would not discuss his thinking on how soon the 140,000 U.S. troops based in Iraq could begin leaving.

Iraqi Police join forces with 3rd ID in combined raid

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Hundreds of U.S. and Iraqi forces on Monday launched their biggest Baghdad raid in recent weeks, moving on foot through a central neighborhood and rounding up dozens of suspected insurgents, the military said. About 500 members of Iraq's police and army swept through buildings in the Rashid neighborhood along with a "couple hundred" American soldiers, detaining 65 suspected militants, Lt. Col. Clifford Kent of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division said. One Iraqi soldier was injured but no American casualties were reported in the largest joint raid in Iraq's capital by U.S. and Iraqi forces since the Fort Stewart, Georgia-based 3rd Infantry Division assumed responsibility for the city on Feb. 27, said Kent. One suspected insurgent was also being treated for wounds, the military said in a statement.