



The Official Newsletter of the 116th Brigade Combat Team

Firemen and 116 BCT conduct mini-MASCAL

*by Capt. Monte Hibbert,
116th BCT Public Affairs*

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq – Medics from the 116th Brigade Combat Team’s Ivory Combat Clinic (ICC), contract

firemen and ambulance crews based at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq, practiced their emergency response to a simulated rocket attack with injuries May 4.

The small-scale mass casualty exercise (MASCAL) allowed participants to practice their skills on three “patients” with simulated wounds, presumably from a rocket attack.

“The ICC holds a battle drill on the average once a week to practice and maintain skills necessary should a real MASCAL occur,” said Capt. Tobin Hill, a registered nurse from the 116th BCT’s C Company, 145th Support Battalion. “The reason the contracted firemen were involved was because Charlie Company has been assisting in training the firemen in rendering medical care and triage since February when it was decided that their services may be needed should a catastrophic event happen on the FOB.”

Hill was made medical director over the contract firemen after Maj. David Hale of Hawaii’s 2nd BCT

Commander’s Corner

by Brigadier General Alan Gayhart, Commander

Fellow Warriors,
Our #1 mission here in Iraq is to train the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) so that they can assume full responsibility for security upon our departure. As we conduct our missions, remember that you should use every opportunity to guide and mentor your Iraqi policeman or soldier. They are learning new methods of ensuring security and peace for their Nation. Continue to show

them the right way of protecting not only the people, but the rights of the citizens. All citizens of free Iraq will be treated with dignity and respect. Continue to treat all citizens, regardless of ethnic group, religious beliefs, or political views with the same respect that Americans are known for. Keep up the fight, remain safe, and remain alert.

“Warriors First”



BG Gayhart



Spc. Cleveland of HHC, 116 BCT, attends to a patient during the “mini” mass casualty exercise May 4.

CSM Briefing

by 116th BCT Command Sgt. Maj. Leroy Lewis

I hope everyone who falls under the bonus program is taking advantage of it. That is a lot of money that you can get tax free now, but when you leave theater they will take out taxes. \$15,000 goes a long way if you use it right. My wife would make sure we spent it the right way. It’s too bad everyone did not qualify for it. I want to thank everyone for keeping in uniform, we still have some violators, but we will deal with them when we catch them.

For the most part, everyone is looking good. I know it is hard when the Air Force has a different standard, but we are not in the Air Force. We just have to maintain the standards, and most have been doing a good job. We do not want to get complacent, and let our guard down. We are over half way there and letting our guard down could get someone hurt or killed.

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CSM Lewis

returned home. Hale developed the initial concept of having contracted firemen become part of the initial response team in case of a mass casualty event, both as

primary responders and to augment the ICC staff.

“The firemen have been receiving classes twice a

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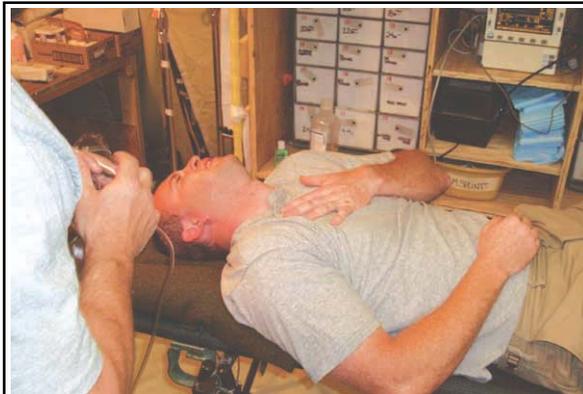
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Increase your IED awareness ... Pg 4

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A contract fireman acts the part of someone with difficulty breathing, during the “mini” mass casualty exercise.



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.



Snakebite Staff

Capt. Monte Hibbert
Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Jack White
Public Affairs NCO

Spc. Cathy Alberto
Public Affairs Specialist



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.

Potential scam targets guardsmen

Kelli Reid, Idaho Family Assistance Center Coordinator

Sgt. James Van Meter of HHC, TF 2-116 Armor, is home on leave and received the following E-mail on his wife's E-mail account. He is concerned and offended by this scam and wishes everyone be made aware of it.

From: Sgt John Sam. Hello, I am Sgt John Sam, a soldier and photo Journalist, serving in the military. I am with the 248th Engineer corp. in the

National Guard. I am writing this message from ar-ramadi in Iraq. We hit Iraq last may 2003 and have moved around a few times building up f.o.b.'s around the western side of the country as well as missions into Bagdad. With attacks by insurgents everyday and car bombs, we managed to move funds belonging to Saddam Hussien families. The total amount is US\$25 Million Dollars in cash, mostly 100 Dollar bills. We want to move this money out

of iraqi. no strings attached, just help us recieve it, Iraq is a warzone although partially ended. We plan on using diplomatic courier to ship the money out in one large silver box, using diplomatic immunity. If you are interested I will send you the full details, When you respond with this letter, kindly response with your interest including your most confidential telephone/fax numbers for quick response also your contact details. Respectfully, Sgt. John Sam.

Soldiers get new mailing addresses

There has been an address change for the soldiers in Iraq.

If you or your soldier is a member of Headquarters 116th BCT it is as follows:

SPC Sam Spade
HHC, 116th BCT
OIF III, FOB Warrior
APO AE 09368

All other units are as follows (2 Examples):

SGT Sam Spade
Co B, 145th Spt Bn
OIF III, FOB Warrior
APO AE 09338
SGT Sam Spade
Co B, 145th Spt Bn
OIF III, FOB McHenry
APO AE 09338

The APO address change is for all units except HQ Brigade. If you or your soldier is stationed anywhere besides the two FOBs used, below is the APO for all of the FOBs. You will still get their mail if you use the old address, but this new address lets you receive your mail a few days earlier.

All current AO Liberty Zip codes now in effect, both geographic and unit-specific, are as follows:

Anaconda 09391
Bernstein 09393
Brassfield-Mora 09393
Caldwell (FOB) 09324
Cobra 09324
Danger 09308

Dagger South-Headquarters, 1/3d BCT 09383.
All other 1/3d units 09393

Gabe 09336
Gaines-Mills 09338
McHenry 09338
McKenzie 09391
Omaha 09393
O'Ryan 09391
Normandy 09336
Paliwoda 09391
Remagen 09393
Speicher 09393
Summerall 09393
Scunion 09336

Warhorse -
Headquarters 3 BCT 0939.
All other 3 BCT units 09336

Warrior- Headquarters
116 BCT 09368. All other
116 BCT units 09338
Wilson 09393

Get your very own Personalized Dog Tags, Mugs, Magnetic Ribbons, and More!

The Idaho National Guard Youth Group has coordinated with Designs on Demand (a web-based company that produces personalized dog tags, mugs, magnets, and numerous other items) to create a web page specific to the Idaho National Guard Youth Group. On this web site, people can place orders for these personalized items, with a portion of all purchases being donated to the Idaho National Guard Youth Summer Camp Fund. This fund will help pay for kids to get to summer camp this year.

Each area needs to ensure that your Youth are participating in available fundraising efforts. There is a lot going on right now and the opportunities are huge! The Youth are selling coffee, hot chocolate, t-shirts, and our newest addition—CANDY!! The Youth who are participating and doing their part will benefit from the fund and receive the assistance they need to get to camp in July! If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions, call Tanya at 422-4387.

Please check out this web site and see what they have to offer! Their prices are reasonable and their quality is high. These personalized items also make great gifts, so spread the word and help contribute to the Idaho National Guard Youth Summer Camp Fund!

Website: <http://www.designsondemand.com/vng.html>

Snake River 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 Protestant Worship Svc.
1130 - Catholic Mass
1900 - Traditional Protestant Worship Service
2000 - Latter-Day Saints @ the LRC

Monday

1900 - Ladies Fellowship
1945 - Godly Fathers/Husbands Bible Study (Chapel Admin. Office)

Monday-Thursday

1130 - Catholic Mass

Tuesday

1900 - Weekly Catholic Meditation @ the LRC
1930 - Protestant Band Practice

Wednesday

1900 - Bible Study
2130 - Praise & Worship Rehearsal

Thursday

1930 - Protestant Band Practice

Friday

1900 - Gospel Service

Saturday

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

The Pulpit: What will we be remembered for?

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

It's kind of sad that folks don't know enough history – including the former Iraqi régime. An awareness of history is knowing how big life's horizons are. Near my CHU (Containerized Housing Unit) there is a tell. A tell looks like a mound of dirt, but actually used to be a city or even a series of cities on the same location. Tells are formed as each successive civilization is conquered and destroyed and their city-site rebuilt on the rubble. Because the tell in question has been dug into, there are exposed pottery shards. When the pottery "pots and pans" of the ancient city broke, people just threw them out on the ground. We can now go over and pick up pieces of their kitchen ware, feel the thick lip so characteristic of their pottery, and wonder what happened to those people. On the grassy side of the tell is a pile of razor wire and some parts of an Iraqi jet: remnants of another brief, modern reign: the leader of which is in prison awaiting trial. What's left of his palaces and the country homes of his accomplices dot the landscape. His sons are dead, put six feet down into Iraq's ground. Saddam should have looked around his country and realized that the history buried in the very soil of this sad land would convict him and his sick male offspring.



Chaplain Worster

If we examine the issues that consume our lives and emotions, we should ask the question: are they substantive and enduring? When the remnants of our civilization are dug out of the soil by future generations, how will we be judged? Actually, since almost every thought, feeling and image of our lives are now immortally organized onto digits, we will be subject to the most merciless scrutiny. To our grandchildren, will we be judged wise, or silly, noble or base? Sadly, as we frantically run from one crisis to the next, there is little time for such ruminations.

Religion, understood as our response to what we know about God, considers these things. It does so because it is aware of life's big horizons. Religion is aware that "Wise men and fools must both perish, and leave their wealth to others." People with faith are aware of how short life is. They live their lives with that in mind, knowing to embrace big, lasting projects: like raising a family, helping human beings to live dignified, decent lives. When Coalition Forces leave Iraq, we'll leave behind not rubble, but schools, mosques, water projects and friendships – enduring things that we'll be remembered for and that will endure.

Don't Forget!

Important Dates to Remember:

30 May - *Memorial Day*

4 July - *Independence Day*

14 June - *Flag Day*

19 June - *Father's Day*

21 June - *First day of summer*

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

CSM Briefing...

Continued from page 1

Remember OPSEC, do not throw anything away with your address on it. They caught some of the guys we hire going through the trash, and getting addresses. These individuals were fired, but it is a constant reminder that we

have to be really careful. Remember safety and speed limits on the FOB. I got caught in one of my own TCP's for going too fast. I was in the wrong and 10 miles an hour seems pretty darn slow, but that is the speed limit. Speeding and seat belts was what got most people and there were a lot of them caught. Also, be

sure and call home as often as you can, because your families worry about you all the time. Once again, if anyone has any questions about the bonus program, give me a call and I will hook you up with the man that knows all the answers...

Warriors First
CSMLewis

Question of the Week

What do you miss most about back home?



Staff Sgt. Brandon Fletcher
B Co., TF 3-116 Armor

“My kids and wife.”



Spc. Patrick Haas
D Troop, 2-104th Cavalry

“My friends.”



Spc. Philip Crystal
B Co., TF 3-116 Armor

“Snow-boarding.”



Sgt. Barry Christopherson
B Co., 145th Support Bn.

“Being with family or friends”



Spc. Colter Terry
B Co., TF 3-116 Armor

“My Family.”

‘5-and-25’ campaign increases IED awareness for Soldiers

by MNC-I Public Affairs

Improvised explosive devices are the number one killers of America’s sons and daughters serving in Iraq, and the Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory is kicking off an information campaign May 25 in an effort to increase IED awareness and save lives.

The “5-and-25” campaign, as it is called, is designed to increase IED awareness and reduce the effectiveness of the mountain of makeshift bombs being produced by insurgents. Officials say the deceptive devices account for more than

half of the coalition deaths that have occurred since the start of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Efforts to date have reduced the IED casualty rate by more than 45 percent during the period of April 2004 through February 2005 – but that is not seen as enough.

“IEDs are our number one killers here,” said Eric Eglund, who works at the Iraq headquarters of Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory. The task force is responsible for developing innovative ways to rid the country of IEDs.

The deadly devices are considered a highly effective means of killing people because they can quickly be set up anywhere and be set to blow at any time. They have been disguised as virtually everything from tree trunks and dead animals to bicycles and pregnant women. Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. David Stockdale, deputy chair of the IED Working Group at Multi-National Corps-Iraq, said there is no limit to what insurgents will use for IEDs.

Stockdale, who serves as the equivalent of a colonel in the American

Air Force, has been actively working the issue of IEDs and their effects since arriving in Iraq a few months ago.

“The IED is one of the most dangerous threats to coalition forces,” Stockdale said. “To mitigate their effects, we wanted to put together an information campaign that would make the IED reaction drill a normal part of daily activities for the coalition forces.”

Eglund said several different counter-IED organizations were already delivering good messages and possible solutions out there, but with no real emphasis or

impact to the troops who needed it the most. “It wasn’t as good as it could be. Some channels just naturally don’t flow as well as others,” he said.

The working group, deputy-chaired by Stockdale, represents a cross-section of coalition forces formed as a result of this issue.

The group’s solution for getting vital information to the forces required three objectives: First, ensure information gets to those troops who need it most; second, develop an effective counter-IED organization

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Army/ Air Force compete in Sidewinder Combat Medical Challenge

by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq- The 116th Brigade Combat Team's 145th Support Battalion and 126th Forward Surgical Team, hosted the "Sidewinder Combat Medic Challenge" to test coalition medics' physical fitness and technical proficiency, in a joint competition in a simulated combat environment on Forward Operating Base Warrior April 23.

Twenty-two participants from both the U.S. Air Force's 506th Air Expeditionary Group and elements of the 116th BCT, competed as two-person teams to com-

plete a series of medical, physical, and soldier tasks as quickly as possible.

"We're not just medics, we're combat medics, and have to be tactically proficient and physically fit to take good medicine to bad places," said Sgt. James Billington, a Task Force 3-116 Armor headquarters company medic.

Billington and his teammate, Staff Sgt. Mike Creeden of TF 1-163 Infantry, set out to show their skills as combat medics by completing a series of challenging events, going head to head with ten other teams.

Events included a push-

up and sit-up station, road march, a nuclear/biological/chemical (NBC) station, disassembly and assembly of the M16 series rifle, trauma lanes, assembly of a single-channel ground and airborne radio system (SINGARS), transmission of a nine-line medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) request, loading of casualties into a four-litter ambulance, carrying a simulated patient through a litter obstacle course, and performing a vehicle recovery.

"Sgt. Billington and Staff Sgt. Creeden paired and rose above the competition to place first by successfully navigating the course in just one hour and six minutes," said 2nd Lt. Jason Smith, TF 3-116 Armor's medical platoon leader. "They are good examples of the medical professionalism and skill that keeps our soldiers alive on the battlefield."

The event was organized by Lt. Col. Colin Miller of the 126th Forward Surgical Team. Both he and the 145th Support Battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Whittier presented the soldiers with awards at the end of the event.



Sgt. James Billington (left), a Task Force 3-116 medic, and Staff Sgt. Mike Creeden (right), a TF 1-163 medic, treat a simulated casualty as part of the "Sidewinder Combat Medical Challenge" (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jason Smith, TF 3-116)



A Soldier acts the part of the patient as his partner administers an I.V., as part of the "Sidewinder Combat Medical Challenge" held at FOB Warrior April 23.



A team of soldiers navigates their way under a barbed wire barricade while transporting a simulated casualty, during the litter obstacle course event.

Messages from home

Even from ten thousand miles apart, I love you more than I thought I could possibly love anything. Though we can not be together this year on our special day, I will hold you close to my heart... Happy 10th Anniversary Staff Sgt. Coons! I love you, Debi.

Happy 21st Birthday, Spc. Matt Harvey! We are proud of you and support our troops. Keep on

keepin' on! Love from your family, Mom, Dad, & Megan.

Staff Sgt. Daman Hall, TF 1-163 Infantry, FOB McHenry! Happy Birthday, Son!!! From everyone back home... Salute with love, from your Family.

SPC James Dorman 116th Engineer Bn... I MISS YOU so much honey and am anxiously waiting for you guys to come home... Don't be too bored. Stay

safe and I love you more! Love you, Nicole Harden.

SPC Buddrius; Dear Alan, It is such a pleasure to be able to write to you and let you know how much we miss you. It sounds as if you are having more heat than anyone would want. Keep cool and know that we are so very proud of you and miss you a lot. We love you. Grandma Marilyn and Grandpa Bob

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE
YELLOW RIBBON CAMPAIGN of IDAHO's
HOME COMING

from IRAQ



FOR:

SPC Kyle Jo Daun

127 Military Police Company/231 MP Bn,

1:00 PM Monday (Memorial Day)

May 30, 2005 @

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING - POCATELLO

300 N. Johnson Av

TF 1-148 Field Artillery

April Scorpion Update

by Lt. Col. Russ Johnson, TF 148 Field Artillery Commander

Time marches on here in Iraq as we rapidly approach the mid-way point of our deployment. One soldier recently told me, "The days are often long but the weeks sail by." I concur. Another great quote from one of our warriors on the front lines is, "Don't count the days—make every day count!" Well said. As spring rapidly transitions to summer, the temperatures are rising and the days are lengthening, something the great Scorpion soldiers take in stride when they go about their daily tasks. As we move into our 6th month in country, these stellar young men and women continue to tackle a myriad of problems and generate unique solutions with continued zeal and enthusiasm.

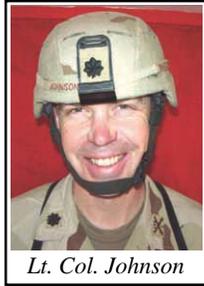
In late April, we fired our 500th round from our famed 155mm Paladin self-propelled howitzers, reaching yet another milestone in our deployment and Iraq's historic quest for freedom and democracy. The collective efforts of our cannoneers, fire direction personnel, observers, meteor-ological team, and fire support officers have directly enabled both the Iraqi security forces and the coalition forces to continue improving the stability and security throughout this fragile region.

Our motorized artillery batteries have logged thousands of miles in their daily combat patrols throughout northeast Iraq. In concert with the Iraqi Border Patrol forces, our teams have patrolled remote villages, monitored border control points, conducted sustainment training, and provided humanitarian

support to the great citizens of this country. Additionally, they have conducted traffic control operations, incident response, deliberate roadway clearance, and proactive vehicle and personnel searches— together with their Iraqi Security Force counterparts (Army and Police).

In April, we assumed a greater role in training and assisting the Iraqi Security Forces throughout our expansive area of operations. We established specialized training teams to work with the senior commanders and coordinating staff leaders of these growing organizations in order to provide them with the essential baseline capabilities to plan, resource, employ and control their security forces. Security agencies involved include the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi Police, and the Joint Coordination Centers (911 call centers). The Scorpion soldiers assigned to these teams have aggressively taken the reins and are making a significant impact on these critical security organizations. They grow stronger every day!

The achievements of your talented soldiers continue to expand. In April, these dedicated warriors safely logged over 95,000 vehicle miles directly supporting our many missions throughout this region. They drew and transported over 26,000 liters of bottled water, nearly 14 tons of food, over 12 tons of ordinance, over 9,000 gallons of fuel, and almost 24 tons of barrier and construction materials to some very remote locations. These missions



Lt. Col. Johnson

consumed nearly 14,000 gallons of high grade diesel fuel. Now, stop and think about that a minute—the miles traveled equate to 178 round trips between Idaho Falls and Boise, or 190 round trips between Salt Lake City and Boise.

Unit promotions surged in April for many deserving Scorpion soldiers. Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Howard from Rexburg was promoted to Master Sergeant and will be laterally appointed to 1st Sgt. upon redeployment home. Eight other soldiers and non commissioned officers were promoted across our Batteries and have assumed positions of greater responsibility. More promotions are in the pipeline for many of our hard working, deserving soldiers.

Many of our talented and capable soldiers received awards during the month, many for achievement but several for service. We pinned eight Army Achievement Medals, six Army Commendation Medals, and two Purple Heart Medals onto your proud warriors during unit formations throughout the month. Additional achievement awards are being processed and continue to be earned by our great young men and women.

One of our keys to success in this combat zone

is maintaining our equipment to the highest state of readiness possible. From the weapons we carry every day to the radios, generators, vehicles, facilities, and living areas we occupy, all are subjected to hard use. This means lots of maintenance. Every day, your soldiers spend long hours diligently keeping their assigned equipment in tip-top shape. Many parts are ordered, received and installed. Our dependable and professional mechanics continue doing an outstanding job maintaining our extensive fleet of vehicles and generators. In April, they performed almost 50 scheduled services (these are extensive preventative maintenance actions) and recovered at least 6 vehicles that required evacuation from remote areas. Additionally, they devoted time and effort to renovating a newly-acquired maintenance bay that formerly was used as an Iraqi Air Force warehouse.

Maintenance of our most important asset, our soldiers, is perhaps the most important thing we do. We are blessed with a dependable and capable Chaplain (Chpln. Nicholson) and Chaplain's Assistant (Sgt. Farmer), along with many LDS group leaders. Collectively, these soldiers strive to meet the religious needs of your soldiers and are working long, arduous hours keeping them spiritually fit. On a typical week, the Chaplain team provides pastoral care and counseling to over 30 soldiers. Another 200 plus attend diverse and well led worship services across our large area

of operations. The Chaplain constantly travels to even our most remote Forward Operating Bases and can regularly be seen conducting pre-combat patrol prayers with your soldiers. Our aid stations, clinics and medical facilities are state of the art and well equipped. Our talented medical staff is the absolute best, hands down. Your soldiers receive high quality, prompt, and professional medical support for even the most routine illnesses and aches. Our Physician Assistant, Capt. Travis Weiszhaar, and his staff of dedicated medical professionals work long hours administering care to soldiers and Iraqi citizens through a number of outreach programs. They recently planned, coordinated and completed several comprehensive and successful Medical Assistance Visits (MAVs) to geographically remote villages in the steep mountains of northeast Iraq. For many of the children they immunized and treated, this marked the first time in their lives they received treatment from professional medical personnel. I included a couple of photos from some patients seen during a MAV in Scorpion Venom.

As part of our unique organization, we have a platoon of specially trained observers, medics and marksmen which is comprised of Combat Observation Lasing Teams. This platoon has been arduously working for one of our sister battalions for several months now and has been credited with identifying more than 14 roadside bombs, two bomb-

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TF 1-148 Field Artillery

N. Dakota Congressman visits Fox Battery, 188th ADA

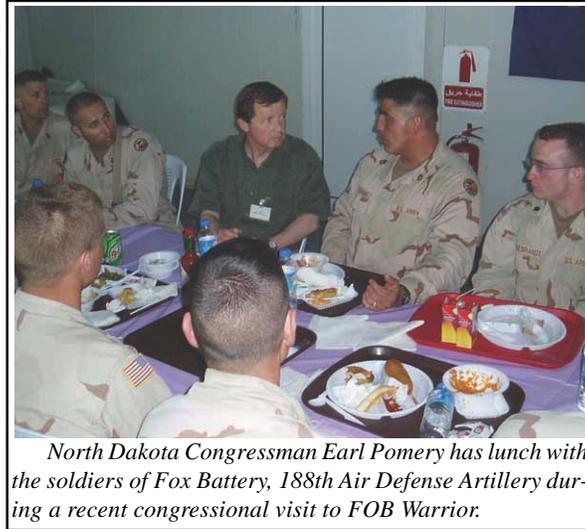
by Capt. Shannon Horton,
HHC 116 BCT, S-3 Section

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq - United States Congressman Earl Pomeroy, ND, flew into Forward Operating Base Warrior in Iraq as part of a Congressional delegation, recently. The purpose of the Congressman's trip was to visit with Fox Battery, 188th ADA, an Army National Guard unit from Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Fox Battery has been deployed since late June of 2004 and has been serving in Iraq since early December, 2004. It is unknown exactly when their deployment will end. While visiting Forward Operating Base Warrior, Pomeroy and the Congressional delegation was briefed by the 116th BCT staff on security and reconstruction strategies in Iraq.

The congressional delegation also met with local civic leaders, trying to further coordinate Non-Governmental Organization and Coalition Force support for infrastructure projects.

Following the briefs, he met the members of Fox Battery at the Dining Facility for lunch. He discussed issues such as bonuses and educational benefits that will improve Soldier's quality of life once they return home, as well as



North Dakota Congressman Earl Pomeroy has lunch with the soldiers of Fox Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery during a recent congressional visit to FOB Warrior.

how it is the priority of Congress to make sure Soldiers were protected while at war in Iraq and other areas of the world. He asked if they'd received the newest up-armored hummers for protection. When he was

conveyed to him that they were training the Iraqi Army in every area of being a soldier, from weapons and first aid to tactics and procedures. He was amazed that North Dakota Soldiers trained as Air Defense, were now training the

assured of this, he looked to be relieved. He told the troops that up-armored vehicles are getting into the soldier's hands as fast as they can sent. He also asked about their mission here in Iraq. The entire battery

Iraqi Army, a mission usually reserved for Special Operations. After lunch, he took time to shake every Soldier's hand and to have pictures taken with nearly every one. As his visit was coming to a close, the Fox Battery Commander, Maj. Jeff Jones, escorted the Congressman to his plane for his departure from Iraq. But when Jones mentioned to him that Fox Battery had a garden in Iraq, he decided he just had to see the garden the troops had planted, insisting on driving by on the way to the airfield. The garden consisted of corn, sunflowers and an assortment of other favorites. One soldier told him, "You can take the soldier out of North Dakota, but you can't take North Dakota out of the soldier."

Gym provides sanctuary for Fox Battery, 188th ADA soldiers

by Sgt. Wesley Solway,
F Battery, 188th ADA

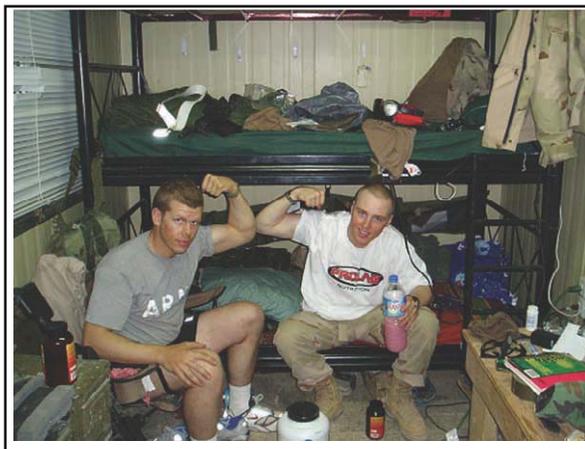
FOB WARRIOR, Iraq - During one of our numerous briefings in Kuwait, we were advised by a seasoned veteran to find something productive to occupy our down time during our stay in Iraq. I'm not quite sure that the downtime portrayal was accurate but the advice was definitely sound.

While some people choose watching movies, or playing video games, the soldiers of 4th squad, 2nd platoon Fox Battery prefer hitting the gym in their spare hours.

The Army gym offers a number of activities we participate in such as dodgeball, basketball and weight lifting.

These activities are excel-

lent for getting into shape physically, but they also provide an excellent change of scenery. Most of us have the attitude that while we are here we could just as well spend



our time doing something productive. Going to the gym also helps to burn up our spare time since when we stay actively employed time seems to go by faster.

proven fact that a good exercise routine will make people happier, and for most of us the CHU (container housing unit) doesn't exactly provide the best arena for working out.

Being on missions as we all know can be stressful, so why would we want to spend the precious time that we have to relax at the gym you say? It is a

Although the rooms are good size they tend to get cramped when you get everyone in them with all of our equipment, and needless to say we have all had a lesson in dealing with roommates. This is where the gyms' therapeutic effects come into play.

For most of us the gym serves a dual purpose, excellent physical conditioning while at the same time providing a superb outlet for our frustrations. This is why every day there are members of 4th squad strengthening our minds and bodies with physical training at the Army gym.

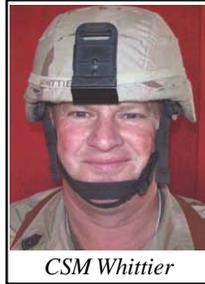
145th Support Battalion

Staying in shape

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

The 145th Support Battalion is conducting a diagnostic PT test this month, and many ask if we are out of our minds. The answer in most cases to that question is yes, but to the question of physical fitness, are we? Let's look at a couple of issues that may support the need for physical fitness. First of all there is the DFAC. One sure can graze their way to a larger uniform. While I was eating three meals a day there, someone from Wyoming wanted to put a brand on me to add to his herd back home. While that story is not quite true, the fact remains that good chow and

inactivity leads to a larger waist. I now tend to stay away from the three full meals a day, as just the smell of food adds pounds to the waist. I also look at the fact that when we return home, we must look at taking a record APFT. Some are saying, what are you talking about? We just came back from a deployment to Iraq. As many of you know, this year's EPS did not list many areas where points are given, one of those being physical fitness. When the State of Idaho Senior Enlisted



CSM Whittier

Advisor talked this issue, he also mentioned that this next year all categories will be back on the books for points. This means that unless a bulk of the deployed soldiers take a PT test by April 06, all points

will be lost in the PT area, and set us back. Right now most of the soldiers here have record PT tests as old as two years old, and to count points on EPS, or go to a military school, the test must have been given in the last 12 months. Do the math, or soldiers may be hurting if we do not point this out to them. If I figure right, most families will also have big dinners for their soldiers upon the return, as well as soldiers taking families on vacations which means eating out and

the romantic evenings that we plan on having to rediscover the magic of a loved one. It almost sounds like the cards are stacked against us in many cases. Bottom line here is to do something physical that allows us to maintain some sort of conditioning, eat moderate portions, and stay healthy. The time to work out is hard to find, motivation even tougher, and someone to drag you along a blessing. All that I can add is, you decide what is required of you, and what you decide may control your future. Good luck and God speed.

Scorpion Update...

Continued from page 6

laden vehicles, and the capture of numerous enemy fighters. They work day and night along with the Iraqi Army and Police to bring peace and stability to a nation thirsting for a safe and prosperous way of life.

April was historic for the Scorpion Battalion and the 116th Brigade Combat Team as we participated in a formal ceremony officially awarding

your outstanding soldiers the 116th BCT Snake River Brigade combat patch. These exceptional soldiers now proudly wear this patch on their right sleeve as a representation of their combat service. All have earned this honor through countless hours of hard work, worry, and selfless service.

In mid April, we were honored with a visit by Major General LaFrenz, Commanding General for the State of Idaho and his Command

Sergeant Major, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Rusty Lewis. These two distinguished leaders met many of the Scorpion soldiers and conveyed their sincere appreciation and thanks for their efforts and sacrifice throughout a tough, challenging deployment. Our soldiers remain committed to driving forward and completing this historic deployment. Every soldier, family member, employer and friend can be proud of the many accomplishments of

these fine, professional men and women. We now have soldiers in our ranks from fourteen different States, representing the finest America has to offer. These extraordinary soldiers go to work each day with purpose, enthusiasm, and distinguishable pride. Every task is completed ahead of time, above the established standard, and with a caring attitude.

I again extend my thanks to everyone on the home

front for their undivided support. Our Family Assistance Centers, Family Readiness Groups and Rear Detachment Personnel have played a major role in our successful deployment. Your continued efforts enable us to maintain our focus on the mission at hand. Please keep up this tremendous support and the next few months will fly by as fast as the past several have! Whenever, Wherever!

IED awareness...

Continued from page 4

that can take the fight to the enemy; third, produce pinpointed products from one organization which can be approved and delivered in a timely fashion.

"IEDs can be any time, anywhere, any shape; the trends change," Stockdale said. "The aim is to get the message to the field. It's dangerous out there."

To push information to the troops anywhere and any time trends change, the working group assembled a small team of designers to brainstorm effective ways to get the word out. The first idea also seemed the most obvious one to start the campaign -- military publications.

Task force members agreed they needed some common thread to tie all the messages together -- like a logo.

"The [designers] suggested we needed to have [a logo] that everybody recognizes," said Lt. Col. Theodore Martin, field team leader, Joint IED Defeat Task Force-Iraq. "5-and-25" became that logo. "The most important thing coalition forces can accomplish is situational awareness when they're outside the wire; it is the most basic [tactic] that you have to master."

"This seemed appropriate because 5-

and-25 means awareness," said Master Sgt. William Johnson, one of three designers. "5-and-25 means checking the area around you for a threat. Every time you stop outside a secure area, you always should check. Not checking could get you killed."

More specifically, 5-and-25 requires that troops look for anything out of the ordinary within a five-meter radius of their vehicles, according to counter-IED policies. If

halted long enough, forces should then exit their vehicles and conduct a 25-meter sweep around their position. Halting for as little as four minutes can prove costly.

"Evidence shows that [many] Soldiers, who are at a short halt [for as little as] four to five minutes, are getting hit by IEDs near their vehicles," Martin said.

Besides the recognizable 5-and-25 logo

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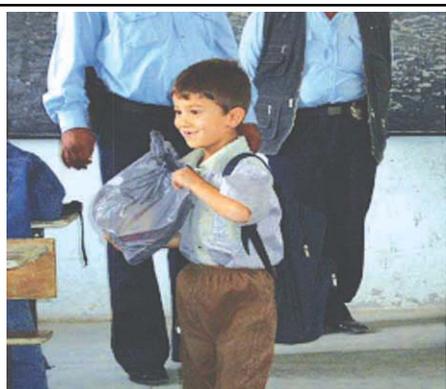
TF 2-116th Armor

TF 2-116 Armor supports Iraqi Police

Task Force 2-116 Armor supported the IPS recently, aiding in the delivery of school supplies, followed by a lecture from Col. Jasim, the Aruba Police Chief, to classes full of students. The Aruba Police delivered school packets donated by Coalition Forces to an Arab boys and girls Primary School, with over 500

students. Prior to handing out supplies, Col. Jasim spoke to each class about the importance of obeying the law, cooperating with government groups like the police, and informing police of activity that supports terrorist groups. Many of the students have been hesitant towards the police and Coalition Forces, but their tensions were eased

as Col. Jasim spoke. The teachers and the Headmaster supported the police as they handed out school packets. Aruba has had negative interaction with the police and Coalition Forces in the past, but those feelings and concerns are departing as police build relations through positive interaction with the community.



Col. Jasim speaks to students about supporting the new Iraqi government. The school's headmaster and teacher stand by.

One of some 500 students at an Arab school receives school supplies from the Aruba Police Department.

TF 2-116 and DP open new school in Al Rashid

TF 2-116 Armor and Domies Police Chief Col. Anwar attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for a newly remodeled school building, in Al Rashid. The building itself will house three different Elementary Schools. The names of the schools are Lana

Elementary with 50 students, Ayar Elementary with 100 students and Al Maria Elementary with 100 students. All three are boys and girls schools. Col. Anwar works hard to support all the various schools in the Domies area.



The new schools are Lana Elementary with 50 students, Ayar Elementary with 100 students and Al Maria Elementary with 100 students.

TF 2-116 Armor assesses orphanage needs

Soldiers from HHC, TF 2-116 Armor recently paid a visit to an orphanage in the Tesin neighborhood, for a needs assessment.

There are 25 girls that have been displaced from the former "Girls

Orphanage School" that are now forced to stay in a distant relative's house because there is no longer a building for them. There are 17 kids that live at the orphanage full time at

present and they do not have enough food to eat. The food for these kids is paid for by the Iraqi

government, but they can only shop once per month.

The number of children fluctuates drastically enough that the food runs scarce, or they gain more children than they

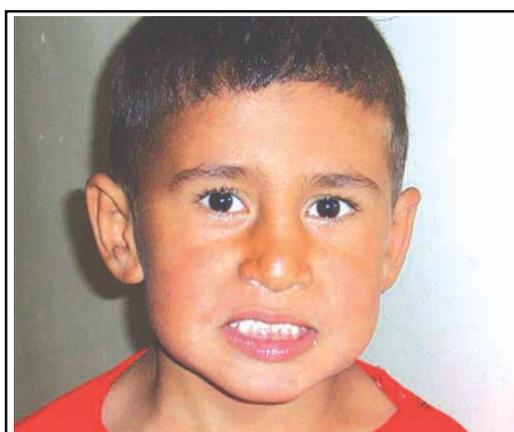
received food allocations for. Some are adopted, or their parents come back for them. They are in need of food, rooms added on for the girls to live there, clothing for the children and some newer playground equipment.



The children's playground equipment is outdated and virtually unusable



The kitchen could use more utensils, cooking pans, silverware, plates, cups, etc.,



Yusuf, a child placed at the Tasin Orphanage, played ball with Chaplain (1st Lt.) Ross of HHC, TF 2-116 Armor.

TF 2-116th Armor

TF 2-116 delivers democracy materials to Al Markazia school



Capt. Mark Boardman, E Troop, 163rd Cavalry commander, examines books delivered to Al Markazia School in Kirkuk May 9. The books will be used to establish a democracy studies curriculum.

by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116 BCT Public Affairs Officer

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq – Soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 2-116 Armor delivered democratic teaching materials to the Al Markazia School in Kirkuk's Qoria neighborhood May 9 after they were requested by a school professor.

During a recent visit to the school by TF 2-116 Armor's E Troop, 163rd Cavalry, an English professor voiced a concern about not having any material to teach the students about democracy. After contacting U.S. State Department officials, the unit

acquired democratic-themed teaching material for school use.

"The school principal was unexpectedly surprised, and assured us that the books would be used to educate the current student body on democracy," said Capt. Mark Boardman, E Troop, 163rd Cavalry commander who helped deliver the materials.

In all, the soldiers delivered over 400 books to the school.

Supporting government institutions, including the educational system, is one way the soldiers of the 116th BCT are helping Iraqis move toward a more democratic society.



A book that will be used to establish a democracy studies curriculum at Al Markazia School in Kirkuk.

Armed Forces Day

by Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Chin

Rattlers, here is a tribute to us and our Armed Forces. I would like to thank you for the great job you are doing with the Iraqi people. Continue to stand tall and fulfill your missions jointly with the Iraqi Army and Police.

May 21 was a day of observance for the Armed Forces, a day designated in 1950 by President Truman as a day to mark "...the first combined demonstration by America's defense team of its progress...towards the goal of readiness for any eventuality." This is the day on which Americans have the opportunity to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces. In 1950, Armed Forces Day was



Sgt. Maj. Chin

celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. All across the country, the American people joined together to honor the Armed Forces. Presently our own hometowns are making special tributes on our behalf in celebration of Armed Forces Day. The students at Emmett High School, lead by McCall Irish, have constructed a display to honor the 116 BCT as we serve our country. The

City of Emmett is holding a special picnic with entertainment, and the Idaho National Guard Youth Group partnered with 4-H, will be holding a rally and march starting in Julia Davis park and ending at the Statehouse steps followed by a candle-light vigil honoring us, our families and children. The City of Nampa will be paying tribute also; they have scheduled a parade on our behalf. These are just a few of the special celebrations our families and loved ones will be proudly participating in. Unfortunately, many of us will not have the opportunity to participate in these

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Mortar Platoon, TF 2-116 Armor awarded CIB

FOB WARRIOR, Iraq-An awards ceremony was held to recognize 22 infantrymen from the Mortar Platoon of Headquarters Company, TF 2-116 Armor on May 3, who earned the Combat Infantrymen's Badge for combat actions taken during the period of December 21, 2004 to January 30, 2005.

These infantrymen were involved in direct fire combat, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in preparation for and throughout the Iraqi elections near the cities of Muqdadiyah and Baqubah.

The Mortar Platoon has been augmented with 22 additional personnel who also received coins from the Brigade Commander. The two combat medics assigned to the platoon will receive the Combat Medical Badge for the actions they took at that time.



Capt. Dahlquist reads the Combat Infantryman Badge Order as Brig. Gen. Gayhart prepares to award the first CIB to the Mortar Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Coggins.



Mortar Plt., Headquarters Company, TF 2-116 Armor.

TF 2-116th Armor

TF 2-116 Armor conducts knock-and-greet



While on a knock and greet mission in Amu Shabi recently, elements of TF 2-116 Armor, in a combined action with the Arapha Police, conducted a patrol and talked to several residents of Amu Shabi. Residents were asked about the safety of the area, police coverage and projects that need to be done in the area. The most common requests for projects included sewage, water and electricity. Many residents also requested additional police coverage.

2-116 Armor gives IA movement training



Soldiers of TF 2-116 Armor conducted dismantled movement

training recently, with 2nd Co., 208th Iraqi Army. The IA soldiers

moved along terrain and negotiated danger areas, practiced bounding

2-116 Armor instructs IA

Soldiers from 4th Company, 208th Iraqi Army (IA) Bn., completed training given by instructors from TF 2-116 Armor recently, regarding deliberate TCPs and personnel searches. The IA soldiers are rapidly catching on to the training. All those who completed practical exercises were tested on MTP tasks and did well.



techniques, recon- solidation and assaulting the objective. The 2nd Company soldiers performed exceptionally

well and were motivated to learn and train. They continue to develop into an effective, cohesive unit.

Armed Forces Day...

Continued from page 10

activities this year, but will be honored for the services we are providing in future Armed Forces Days. For we are serving in harm's way as guardians of freedom to ensure that many more celebrations will come.

It was General Omar Bradley who once said, "The heritage of freedom must be guarded as carefully in peace as it was in war. Faith, not suspicion, must be the key to our relationships. Sacrifice, not selfishness, must be the eternal price of liberty."

This is as true today as it was then.

For almost 230 years now, American citizens have answered the call to be an American Soldier. An unbroken line of devotion and courage can be traced from the Minutemen who stood on Lexington Green to the Army Reserve truck drivers and Army National Guard military police escorts running a convoy along a road through the Iraqi desert.

New names like Maria Flores-Sanz and Paul Smith—

"To be prepared for War is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

-- Newly elected President George Washington , 1790

the first Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor for his incredible courage in saving the lives of more than 100 fellow Soldiers during the Battle for Baghdad, are being added to the great roll of American warriors like Mary Corbin and Alvin York. These warriors have embraced the warrior's ethos: The mission is first, and we will never quit. We will never accept defeat. We will never leave a fellow American behind.

It is a global war fought on many

battlefields against determined foes. Our enemies resort to ruthless terror tactics against those who prefer peace and freedom. Defeating them will require determination, skill and courage. Qualities possessed by those who wear the uniforms of America's military forces.

The Armed Forces have fulfilled the words of President Truman from 55 years ago. They are ready for this fight. Their procedures have proved it. Their continuing actions every day reinforce that readiness and their ability to defend this Nation.

SINEMORA

TF 2-116th Armor

TF 2-116 Armor gives Iraqi Police marksmanship lessons



These Iraqi Policemen are learning to fire the 9 mm pistol with the help of Soldiers from TF 2-116 Armor.

Most of the police have had minimal to no experience or training with their 9mm pistol. Police instructors from TF 2-116 Armor, gave instruction on weapon safety, weapon assembly and disassembly, performing a functions check, primary marksmanship, and emergency reloading.

Twenty-seven Iraqi police fired forty rounds each at distances of three, five and ten meters. Thirty more Iraqi police will receive this training. These 57 police will be able to instruct their fellow police colleagues and future recruits on all aspects of pistol marksmanship.



Iraqi Police Officers gather around for instruction from TF 2-116 Armor Soldiers.



These Iraqi Police Officers were trained by Soldiers from TF 2-116 Armor on movement techniques and battle drills.

Kirkuk Police Chief receives impact award



Lt. Col. Michael Woods, Commander of Task Force 2-116 Armor, recently awarded Col. Sarhad a Certificate of Achievement from TF 2-116 Armor for his outstanding police work and his dedication to the security of Kirkuk. Col. Sarhad said that he would recommit himself to redoubling his efforts to ensure the City of Kirkuk is safe and free from all terrorists.

TF 2-116 Armor gives IMT training to police

TF 2-116 Armor, conducted a three hour training session on movement techniques and battle drills with the Iraqi police in order to improve their tactical proficiency. The training session was broken down into the crawl, walk and run phases.

The instructors had a easel board and went over movement techniques and actions on contact. They went over movement

techniques such as traveling, overwatch and bounding overwatch, using different situations to demonstrate when to use them. They emphasized 360 degree security at all times and talked about it's importance. They talked about the importance of cover and concealment and how to maneuver on the enemy, by using the elements of

support by fire and maneuver.

They reviewed recent drive-by-shootings and how to react to them so that the amount of casualties are kept to a minimum. The Police officers were very attentive throughout the training and actively participated. Altogether, it was an overall success as the officers were very motivated and quick to learn.



The Iraqi Police were also taught about the importance of 360 degree security at all times, on an easel board.

TF 1-163rd Infantry

TF 1-163 Infantry establishes Traffic Control Points near Hawija

by Sgt. Blake Kent, 22d MPAD

FOB McHENRY, Iraq – National Guard Soldiers operating in the area around Hawija, apprehended five suspects at a traffic control point (TCP) recently.

The soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Brigade, TF 1-163 Infantry (Mechanized), Montana National Guard, had just established a TCP on a road entering the town, when they stopped a suspicious vehicle

whose driver was carrying \$6,500.

“That is the most American money I’ve ever seen anyone carrying around here,” said Staff Sgt. Peter Akey. “It just raises a lot of questions that these guys aren’t answering.”

The driver claimed to be a contractor who was going to change his American dollars for Iraqi dinar, but the Soldiers also received conflicting stories from the man when questioned about a cell phone he was carrying.

The driver and four other passengers from the vehicle were detained and taken to Forward Operating Base McHenry for questioning.

The TCPs are established to randomly inspect the people and vehicles going in and out of the Hawija area. The Soldiers ask the occupants for their Identification cards, which they are supposed to carry on them at all times and then search the vehicle for anti-Iraqi materials such as propaganda pamphlets, weapons, and items used for setting up improvised explosive devices and mortar attacks.

During the TCP operations, the Soldiers also take the time to hand out toys to children in the vehicles, hoping to show

the children that the Soldiers

are there to help them and not hurt them, Akey said.

The Soldiers also conduct TCPs with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police, which helps to train the Iraqi security forces how to operate and adds to the effectiveness of the TCPs.

“The Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police know the people better than we do,” said Sgt. Russell Herbert of Missoula, Mont. “They have a different

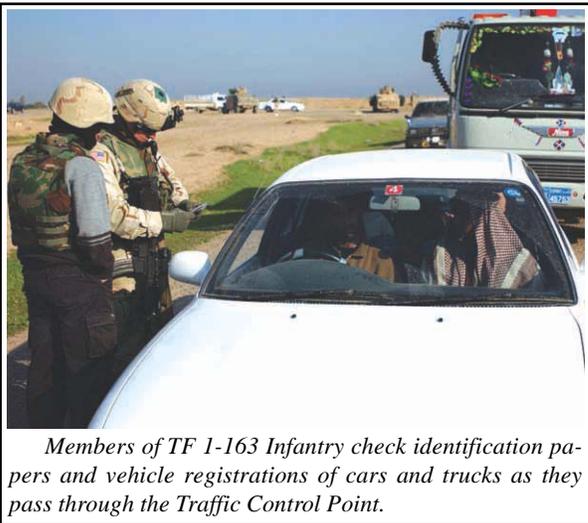
perspective and pick up on some things that we don’t, like seeing papers with something written in Arabic. They know if it is something incriminating or not”



A Soldier of TF 1-163 Infantry, counts a large sum of U.S. dollars found on an Iraqi man at a Traffic Control Point (TCP).



Soldiers of TF 1-163 Infantry conducting a vehicle search at a Traffic Control Point in the vicinity of Hawija, Iraq. The checkpoints make it difficult for anti-Iraqi forces (AIF), to move money, weapons or explosives in or out of the city.



Members of TF 1-163 Infantry check identification papers and vehicle registrations of cars and trucks as they pass through the Traffic Control Point.



A Soldier of TF 1-163 Infantry checks the trunk of a car for evidence of AIF or other criminal activities, at a Traffic Control Point somewhere near Hawija, Iraq. TCPs contribute to the overall security of the Iraqi people.

Medics of TF 1-163 Infantry visit Iraqi clinics, provide expertise

by Sgt. Blake Kent, 22d MPAD

SUDARA, Iraq – For the medics of the TF 1-163 Infantry (Mechanized), Montana Army National Guard, medical assistance visits provide a great learning opportunity.

Most of the medic’s training is directed toward dealing with trauma-type injuries that are seen in combat situations and not clinical medicine like what is seen in a typical doctor’s office.

“Medics in the position we are in, are doing more health clinics than trauma work here,” said Pfc. Ryan York of Bozeman, Mont., Headquarters, Headquarters Company, TF 1-163rd Infantry (Mech.).

“We don’t have as much training as the doctors, but we are learning all we can from them to be able to help.”

The medical assistance visit missions take Army medical personnel into the

small village clinics around Task Force Liberty to give care to Iraqi civilians.

Aiding with the medical assistance visits allows doctors an opportunity to

Continued on page 15

1-163 medics get the job done

by Capt. Heidi Munro, 145 SB
Physician Assistant

"The Combat Medic", according to the US Army, "is a soldier trained to save lives in war, conflicts, and humanitarian interventions, with sophisticated skills above and beyond first aid. Today's combat medic is an expert in emergency care, force health protection, limited primary care, and warrior skills." Medics in AO West are utilizing these skills on a daily basis. They are the epitome of this classic definition. Members of the Medical Platoon, HHC, TF 1-163 Infantry assigned to FOB McHenry are conserving the fighting strength, training the Iraqi Army and winning the hearts and minds of the local civilians.

The medical platoon is under the direction of the 1/163rd Infantry Bn. Surgeon, Maj Jon DuBose, an internal medicine/pediatric physician from North Carolina. DuBose had a requirement to deploy for 90 days. He volunteered for a full year "because it didn't seem right that docs only serve 90 days while everyone else is here for a year. Plus, I'm a strong believer in continuity of care."

In conserving the fighting strength, the medics exist first and foremost for the soldiers. According to Maj. DuBose, "it is crucial that the war fighters, the infantry, the men out doing the raids and kicking in doors, know that we are here for them." To strengthen that relationship, he divided his providers into teams, each assigned to a different company. When a particular company goes out on a mission, or a raid, the provider goes with them. This is in addition to any line medic that may already be with the unit. With the incidence of

combat activity in the area, medical support has been crucial to treatment of casualties. Having medics and providers in the field expedites medical treatment and evacuation time to the next level of care.

At the Battalion Aid Station, his medics have treated a multitude of battle injuries, including over 20 Purple Heart recipients. The aid station operates 24 hours per day treating routine sick call, as well as chronic care and minor procedures. The medics are all at least EMT certified, with further training in pre-hospital trauma life support. Several hold civilian positions as paramedics and nurses. When not seeing patients, the medics are responsible for training and recertifying Combat Lifesavers, as well as participating in sustainment training for their 91W MOS.

One of the greatest missions of the 116th BCT is to train the Iraqi Army. Maj. DuBose has implemented an 80 hour Combat Medic Training course for the IA. The program is designed to train soldiers with no previous medical experience to function as advanced combat life savers. The first class taught by Dr. DuBose and his medics graduated last week. It was a train the trainer program, so future courses will be taught by IA graduates. The original class was taught in English, and translated via an interpreter. The study materials were provided in both English and Arabic. It was a huge success. According to one of the TF 1-163 Infantry medics, "the newly graduated soldiers have been taking out their medic cards, and showing them off at any opportunity." Maj. Frank Batcha, 116 BCT Surgeon, claims "this training is the best

of its kind in theater, and is likely to be the template for others to follow."

Similar programs are being instructed to the 209th Iraqi Army and Oil Security Battalion soldiers as well.

While this platoon sees the majority of trauma and combat injuries, and is constantly involved in some type of training, they also provide a great deal of humanitarian assistance. In the past 4 months, they have performed over 16 medical assistance visits (MAVs) in the local villages. The MAV is usually done at the request of a company commander to help in an area of need, or reward a particular village. Medical personnel travel with security elements to the village and see anywhere from 100 to 200 patients, men, women and children throughout the course of the day. "Typically we see acute problems, ear infections, gastrointestinal infections, rashes, etc," explains Dr. DuBose. "But there is also a great deal of hypertension, diabetes and other chronic problems." The MAVs are supported through donations from physicians and hospitals back home, who send medications and supplies and toys for the children.

The medical platoon is a combined effort of soldiers from various units. Maj. DuBose's home unit is the 218th BCT, South Carolina ARNG. He has been in theater since Aug 2004, serving first with the 1-120th Infantry Bn. He joined the 116th BCT in Dec 2004 and will be through the remainder of his tour.

Lt. John Swanson is the only medical provider organic to the TF 1-163 Infantry. A physician assistant from Billings Montana, he has been with the unit for over 3 years. "Being part of the 163rd has been an honor even before we

deployed but now seeing them in real life combat and especially seeing how great a job the medics are doing makes me even more proud." 1st Lt. Swanson is also very impressed with the attachment medics from C-Med., 145th Support Bn. "They are a great bunch, all of them are like family now and their presence is greatly needed and appreciated. I don't know what we would do without them." Being at FOB McHenry is not for the weak at heart. Every day all of the medics at McHenry know that at a moments notice they could be required to provide medical assistance during a raid or called out to the scene of an IED or be prepping the BAS for multiple casualties. The entire medical platoon has proven itself both on the battlefield with casualties in a hostile environment and in a village winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. Swanson put it best when he said "In my opinion it would be hard to find a better group of medics than what we have right here."

"I am convinced that the infantry, engineers, and medics working in this area are among the most professional in the Army. Working this closely with the Iraqi public has been both a blessing and a curse. We have suffered losses which will never be forgotten," said Lt. Patrick

McCabe (pictured below, treating an Iraqi woman), a physician assistant attached from the support battalion.

There are 47 medics in the platoon, including those organic to TF 1-163 IN, C Co., 145th SB., Colt medics from TF 1-148 FA, G Troop, 82nd Cav., and the 116th Eng. Bn.

They have learned to work together well and despite the op tempo and the amount of trauma, they are pleased with their current assignment. Staff Sgt. Toronto, NCO In Charge, is attached from the support battalion. He says, "I feel honored to be working with the infantry. It is hard work, and we see a lot of really bad stuff, but I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. However, I do miss my friends back in Charlie Company." There are 5 females attached to the unit. In regards to gender issues, Spc. Laura Finan claims, "I haven't had any issues from the male medics or the infantry guys. We can do everything except kick down doors with them."

"There's no way I would trade my experience with the infantry for anything", says Spc. Finan. "No, I agree, claims Spc. Lindsey Lambrecht, "we all work together as a team. Out here even the battalion commander knows me by name. He takes the time to talk to the E4s and asks how we are doing. He takes good care of us."



TF 1-163rd Infantry

C Co., TF 1-163 Infantry on foot patrol in Hawija

by Sgt. Blake Kent, 22d MPAD

FOB McHENRY, Iraq – For the Soldiers of TF 163 Infantry (Mechanized), Montana Army National Guard, patrolling the streets of Hawija is their “nine to five” for the next nine months.

The Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry (Mechanized), have been activated since March 2004 and deployed since July and have been in Iraq since January 2005.

The Soldiers have been preparing for their jobs here before they left Montana, but no training has been better than the practical experience they have received in Iraq, as well as the training that came from the soldiers that they relieved in January, said Sgt.

1st Class John Wood, platoon sergeant, 2nd Plt., Co. C, 1st Bn., 163rd Infantry (Mech.).

To prepare for their mission once in Hawija, the Soldiers spent a lot of time planning for patrols of the town. Each platoon knows the city pretty intimately, Wood said. When the platoon first got to Hawija, they drove around for a long while until they knew their way around.

“My biggest fear when we came here was not knowing my way around the city,” he said.

Many of the Soldiers have worked together in the National Guard for a long time, which has helped them in their mission. “I’ve worked with these guys for a long

time. Some I’ve worked with for eight years” he said. “We are quite a team.”

The platoon does a lot to try and show it’s support for the people of Hawija, for example handing out blankets and toys to the children at a local orphanage that they came upon during one of their patrols.

Conducting foot patrols is a large part of the team’s mission, which serves the purpose of clearing the streets of Anti-Iraqi Forces and building relations with the people of Hawija.

“We are kind of like alien beings in all this gear, so walking around helps us meet the people and shopkeepers,” he said. “You have to have your mean face and your happy face. You are trying to get the bad guys, but you also want to show the people that we are here to help them as well.”

The job is never just about walking the streets though. The last time the soldiers patrolled the downtown area, one of their soldiers was shot in the leg.

“This is the first time we’ve done this patrol route since we had one of our guys shot, so our nerves have been a bit rattled,” he



Members of the 116th Brigade Combat Team’s TF 1-163 Infantry, on patrol in downtown Hawija. These patrols are common for the Montana Guardsmen in Iraq.

said. “We went back today mainly to show them that we aren’t scared and aren’t going away until our mission is complete.”

The teamwork the platoon showed under the stress of the attack helped prove to them their readiness.

“When he was shot, everything worked like clock-work,” he said. “The



A Soldier of TF 1-163 Infantry, peers through a gate keeping his eyes open for any sign of insurgent activity.

area was secured and the assault was happening within about 30 seconds. Even he wanted to go back out that night.”



This member of TF 1-163 Infantry, is on patrol in downtown Hawija. He stands at the ready for trouble, should it come, as an Iraqi woman notices his stance and weapon.

Visits Clinics...

Continued from page 13

teach the medics new things about the medical profession.

“I try to focus on the physical exam and noticing what is normal and abnormal,” said Lt. Patrick B. McCabe of the 145th Support Battalion, Idaho

Army National Guard. “Those are important things for the medics to know when doing these clinics.”

McCabe shows the medic teams things to look for while evaluating the patients coming through the clinic, such as how the ears should look and the sounds of

different respiratory ailments.

“Many of these guys have a lot of time in the Army, both active duty and National Guard. They have a lot of experience,” McCabe said. “We have one medic who is a biomedical engineer.”

He is able to repair a lot of the medical equipment in

the village clinics, giving an unusual ability to the medical team, McCabe said.

The medics rotate through four jobs a week, giving them a variety of job experiences. They work the Forward Operating Base McHenry clinic, work with the medical teams in the

medical assistance village visits, run the ambulance service for Soldiers injured in the field, and also run the FOB civilian gate entrance.

“For these soldiers, everyday is something new. There is no end to the learning,” McCabe said. “You can always learn more.”

TF 1-163rd Infantry

TF 1-163 medics conduct Medical Assistance Visits

by Sgt. Blake Kent, 22d MPAD

SUDARA, Iraq – For soldiers devoting time to medical assistance visits in Iraq, there is a larger goal than the temporary aid and medications they distribute. Like the developing Iraqi military and developing government, the Iraqi medical care system must be developed to aid the people long after the Coalition Forces have gone.

The Soldiers of the 1-163rd Infantry Bn. (Mechanized), Montana Army National Guard, are aiding village medical clinic development through evaluations of the clinic's medical needs.

"The visits are a bit of a 'catch 22' because we want the Iraqi system to work," said Lt. Patrick B. McCabe of Nampa, Idaho, a physician assistant for the 145th Support Battalion, Idaho Army National Guard,

attached to the 1st Bn., 163rd Inf. (Mech.). "Our main goal is to evaluate what the Iraqi doctors and Iraqi clinics need."

"No country will work if the healthcare system doesn't work," McCabe said. "A lot of the clinics don't have the tools they need. If we could help them start treating diseases earlier, we could really save the healthcare system a lot of money and improve the quality of life here."

By visiting the clinics and seeing the patients that are being treated, the Soldiers not only can assess what medicines and medical equipment the clinics need, but can also gain a picture of the major medical problems that the villages are facing.

"You worry about a lot of outbreaks of things like cholera," he said. "In the U.S. that would be just an inconvenience, but here it would be a death sentence."

"It's hard because a lot of the problems we could fix in the states with no problem will kill some of the patients we see in these clinics because they have progressed so far," said Maj. John DuBose, a doctor for the 218th Brigade Combat Team, South Carolina National Guard, attached to 1st Bn., 163rd Inf. (Mech.). "It is like medieval Europe right now."

Another large problem is gastro-intestinal ailments due to the people getting their water straight from the river, McCabe said.

"What we need to be seeing is wells and water purification measures being taken. A lot of that has to do with the power situation. That would solve a lot of the ailments," he said of the problems with water purification and electricity in Iraq.

Many of the villagers have problems with

asthma and other respiratory problems. Some of the respiratory problems are heredity and air quality in at least this part of the country is very poor, he said. The medical assistance team also works with the doctors to see what things they need in order to improve the quality of care they can give.

The medical personnel are relatively well trained, but the hardest part for them is staying current, he said. They miss out on the seminars and medical journals that are available to doctors in other countries.

"They are used to using injections for everything," he said. "It is like old American medicine practices."

It is difficult for the village medical clinics to receive the medications they need. The clinics are supposed to receive supplies every 30 days, but the supplies only last

about 15 days according to the clinic doctors.

All of the medical supplies that the medical assistance visit team brings to the clinics is donated from people and organizations in the U.S.. The team is not allowed to use the military medical supplies at the clinics, so they are dependent on donations.

The medical assistance available to the villages extends outside of the clinics. Patients needing medical assistance that the clinics can't provide have other options through Iraq's Ministry of Health.

"The unit that was here before us did very few medical assistance visits. Does it help? I guess we'll have to wait and see," he said. "We've only been here a short while, but we have already been seeing the medical institutions improve."

C Co., TF 1-163 Infantry conduct raid and soft-search

by Sgt. Blake Kent, 22d MPAD

FOB MCHENRY, Iraq – Montana Army National Guard Soldiers operating in the area around Hawija, conducted a raid for anti-Iraqi personnel with the help of Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers, March 20.

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry (Mechanized), raided a home near Hawija for a suspect.

The suspect could not be found near his residence so the Soldiers conducted a "soft search" of the area around the village in hopes of finding the culprit.

A "soft search" is where the Soldiers go door-to-door checking the identification cards of the people in the village as well as a quick search of all the buildings for the suspect.

"We try to find out more information about the suspect

from the villagers and possibly find him in another house," said Sgt. Russell Herbert, an infantryman from 1st Plt., C Co., TF 1-163 Infantry (Mech.).

The Iraqi army soldiers aided in the soft search operations.

"This was the first time I've worked with them in a raid," Herbert said. "We have been working with them and training with them, so they are ready for these type operations."

The IA presence aids the Soldiers in aspects of the mission that are typically difficult due to the communication barrier, Herbert said.

"It helps that the IA soldiers are along on these operations because they know the Iraqi people better than we do and pick up on some things that we don't," Herbert said.

The IA soldiers train with the Soldiers of the 163rd in

preparation for combat missions as well as traffic control point operations, which the IA soldiers now conduct on their own.

"We train them in battle drills on the base and are helping to develop their leadership and discipline," Herbert said.

Raid operations consist of several elements. The Soldiers coordinate with air support

Continued on page 17

TF 1-163rd Infantry

Just an average day for an average TF 1-163 Infantry Soldier in Iraq

by Sgt. Blake Kent, 22d MPAD

FOB McHenry, Iraq – Sgt. Russell Herbert, 1st Platoon, Company C, TF 1-163rd Infantry (Mechanized), Montana Army National Guard, is an average Soldier deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Back home, Herbert is a construction worker and builds houses, and like a classic Soldier love story, he married shortly before he deployed.

This isn't his first deployment, he also served in Bosnia, but the work that as an infantryman Herbert and the Soldiers of TF 1-163

Infantry do in the northern part of the Sunni Triangle is much different from what he has done before.

Here, the Soldiers are conducting patrols, raids and traffic control point operations. They also must contend with the occasional mortar round being launched into their forward operating base by anti-Iraqi forces, which sends them ducking into bunkers.

"This is a big eye-opener for what is going on in the world," he said. "It's so different from just watching the news back home. This catches a lot of bad media,"

Herbert said of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "They don't show all the good things that are happening here."

Nothing seems to deter the Soldiers from their missions, though.

"Seeing these people under the strain of control and poverty, when the resources for success are here, makes me feel that it's worthwhile for us to be here," he said.

"Helping them set up their own government is a big part of why we are here. They're finally able to start doing that. Our part is in stopping the Anti-Iraqi

Forces from hurting their progress," he said of his unit's role. Herbert's unit conducts daily operations, sometimes keeping them outside the forward operating base day and night.

Another part of their role is training and working with Iraqi Army soldiers.

"We have been working with them and training with them, so they are ready for these type operations," he said of a raid operation he conducted with the IA soldiers. We train them in battle drills on the base

and help develop their leadership and discipline."

The Iraqi Army soldiers have been helpful in his unit's joint operations as well. "It helps that the IA soldiers are along on these operations because they know the Iraqi people better than we do and pick up on some things that we don't," he said.

"The more we do to prepare them, the sooner we get to go home," he said. My goal is to make it through safely and get my Soldiers through safely. That is mission success."

E Troop, 163rd Cavalry candidates for CSM coins recognized

Three soldiers were nominated for TF 2-116 Armor Command Sergeant Major's coins from E Troop, 163rd Cavalry.

Sgt. Berry has brought his law enforcement experience to a new level. From patrolling his new beat in his stylish Hummer to attempting to beat down Ba'Qubian doors with a single kick, Sgt. Berry distinguishes himself as a leader not to be trifled with. Even the enemy knows that when he says, "Put your hands behind your back and kneel" that Sgt. Berry is

getting serious. He not only enforces the standard, but also constantly raises the standard as a leader.

Sgt. Lander continually goes above and beyond what is asked of him on a daily basis.

He accomplishes tasks without being told and is always the first to volunteer for any missions/jobs that may arise

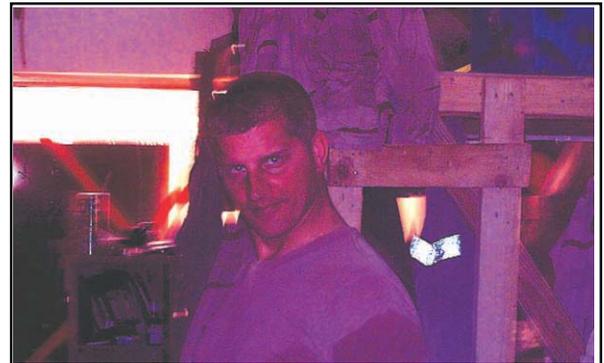
Lander has helped the platoon maintain combat readiness by filling in when other squads have been short personnel for their daily duties.

With the numerous uncertainties due to deployment, he is one of the few that can be relied upon at a moment's notice without question.

Troop E, TF 163rd Cavalry Sgt. Johnston is an excellent example for junior enlisted soldiers. He constantly evaluates situations and quickly brings to light more efficient means to courses of action. Often, in some way, his suggestions are implemented. The soldiers who find themselves in Sgt. Johnston's charge follow his

orders quickly and precisely because of his leadership qualities. His continual positive attitude and

competence are the key elements of a great soldier and a strong potential junior leader.



Sgt. Lander of 3rd Plt., TF 1-163 Cavalry nominated as a candidate for a Command Sergeant Major's coin.



Sgt. Berry of 2nd Plt., E Troop, 163rd Cavalry nominated as a candidate for the Command Sergeant Major's coin.



Sgt. Johnston of E Troop, 163 Cavalry nominated as a candidate for a Command Sergeant Major's coin.

Soft-search...

Continued from page 16

and depend on accurate intelligence and reconnaissance of the area for the raid, as well as coordinated movements of their teams and constant communication.

Though the soldiers missed their target on this raid, they seemed confident that their persistence would succeed in the end.

TF 3-116 Armor

TF 3-116 Armor provides route security for MOAG movement

by Sgt. Blake Kent, 22d MPAD

FOB Warrior, Iraq – The “Mother of All Generators” (MOAG) will soon add to the power grid of Iraq, bringing more stability to electrical service.

Soldiers and airmen aided in moving the 282,000 kilogram generator more than 1,000 kilometers from the Jordanian border to a power station outside Kirkuk, Iraq.

When the generator is installed it will increase the electrical output of the power station by 10 percent.

Bringing the MOAG into Iraq is the culmination of two years of planning and preparations.

Soldiers from Company B, 162nd Engineers and TF 3-116th Armor, provided security and route clearance

for the stretch of road between Quiarra, Iraq, and the power station, which took three days to travel.

“We are going more than 100 miles at only about six miles-an-hour,” said Sgt. Srichampoo of the California Army National Guard, attached to Co. B, 162nd Engineers, Idaho National Guard.

The route had mostly straight roads, but moving the generator over bridges and other parts of the terrain proved to be a little more difficult, requiring months of preplanning for the team to overcome.

The generator movement coordinators, the Abnormal Load Engineers, a British company based out of Abu Dhabi, United Arab

Emirates, made several trips to Iraq to survey a sufficient route.

The final route, which was decided on in November 2004, was surveyed five times to ensure that it would be up to handling the weight.

“It has been a nightmare moving this – we’ve had to bypass both the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers,” said James Roberts, convoy commander of the ALE team. “Every time we surveyed the route, it would change due to the insurgent activities.”

The team had to not only worry about possible ambushes and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) directly attacking the generator and the convoy, but also had to worry about

possible damage to the route that had occurred due to IED attacks.

“IEDs have changed the route’s integrity, constantly bringing us new challenges,” Roberts said.

Depending on the road conditions, the generator is only able to move between five and 18 kilometers an hour. All checkpoints and road obstructions had to be removed from the route as well, to ensure that the generator could pass safely.

“Our job as engineers is to open up the road for the generator,” said Sgt. Mario A. Cuellar of Lynwood, Calif., California Army National Guard, attached to Company B, 162nd Engineers. “We brought a bulldozer and a forklift to clear the road. Our

other role is as security for the generator.”

The convoy had to be constantly prepared for an ambush or IED attack, especially with the slow speed the group had to travel, Cuellar said.

“I don’t think it is as dangerous as it was before, especially with the amount of security we have on this convoy,” he said. “We have other units ahead of us looking for IEDs too, so as long as they do a good job, we should be okay.”

The generator had already been attacked on the first stretch of the convoy from Jordan to Quiarra.

The generator reached its final destination without complications.

IED awareness...

Continued from page 8

getting printed in military publications, the campaign will also produce messages to other outlets that could potentially reach as far away as the Department of Defense and Afghanistan.

“This time it’s [newspaper ads], next time it will be commercials on TV and radio,” Martin said. “After that, we’re looking at expanding it. The sky is the limit.”

Included in the laundry list of ideas are bumper stickers, flash screens on Web sites, stress balls and even Frisbees, according to Martin.

Whatever the means, Stockdale said the message must stay focused with one purpose: to save lives.

“There’s no predicting exactly where, when or how you’re going to meet an IED when you’re driving around,” Stockdale said. “Practicing those basic methods and regularly using them significantly enhances your chances of survival.”

Mini-MASCAL...

Continued from page 1

week,” Hill said. “This was the first combined battle drill with the firemen and the ICC.”

The May 4 “battle drill” consisted of three “patients” with make-up, fake injuries and fake blood who were found at a hanger across from the clinic on the other side of the airfield where a “rocket attack” had occurred. The contract firemen were the first ones at the scene where they initiated first aid and called in a casualty report. An ambulance brought the “patients” to the ICC, where both firemen and Army medics treated them.

“One of the firemen added to the battle drill by becoming a patient feigning an asthma attack—this taxed the ICC even more,” said Hill. “One patient was transported to the

flight line, and the firemen practiced loading patients into a Blackhawk. The Blackhawk did not have its rotors moving at the time—called a cold load. Some of the firemen had never performed this task before.”

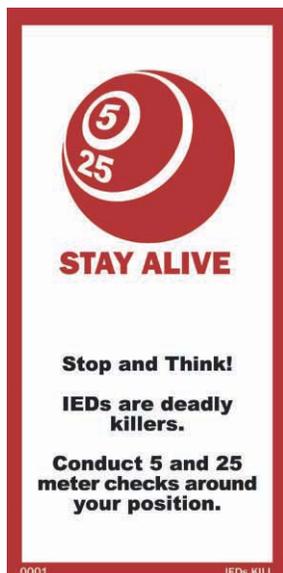
Hill, Staff Sgt Leo Gilbride and Capt. Brett Klippenstein, all C Company, 145th Support Battalion soldiers, helped plan and execute the event.

The 116th BCT took over responsibility for

combat operations in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah Provinces in February. Besides providing medical assistance, the unit is accomplishing a four-fold mission that includes developing Iraqi security forces, supporting Iraq’s elected leaders, helping jump-start economic development and assisting Iraqis to better communicate with the populace.



This patient has been placed on a backboard, and is being given an I.V. by a fireman, as a P.A. monitors progress.



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>
1 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab	2 Madden/ Dominoes 2000	3 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000	4 Darts Tournament 1900 Spades 2000	5 Cinco De Mayo BINGO 2000	6 Blackjack 2000
8 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab Shuffle oard 2000	9 Halo 2/ Dominoes 2000	10 Texas Hold'em/ 8-Ball 2000	11 Darts Tournament 1900 Spades 2000	12 Ping-pong 2000	13 Hip Hop Night 2000
15 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab	16 Madden/ Dominoes 2000	17 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000	18 Darts Tournament 1900 Spades 2000	19 Ping-Pong 2000	20 Bazaar 1200-2100
22 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab Blackjack 2000	23 Halo 2/ Dominoes 2000	24 Texas Hold'em/ 8-Ball 2000	25 Darts Tournament 1900 Spades 2000	26 Casino Night 2000	27 Country Night 2000
29 Movie Premier 1900 @ Krab	30 Madden/ Dominoes 2000	31 Texas Hold'em/ 9-Ball 2000			



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