



The Freedom Post

Published for Task Force Freedom Soldiers Serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom III

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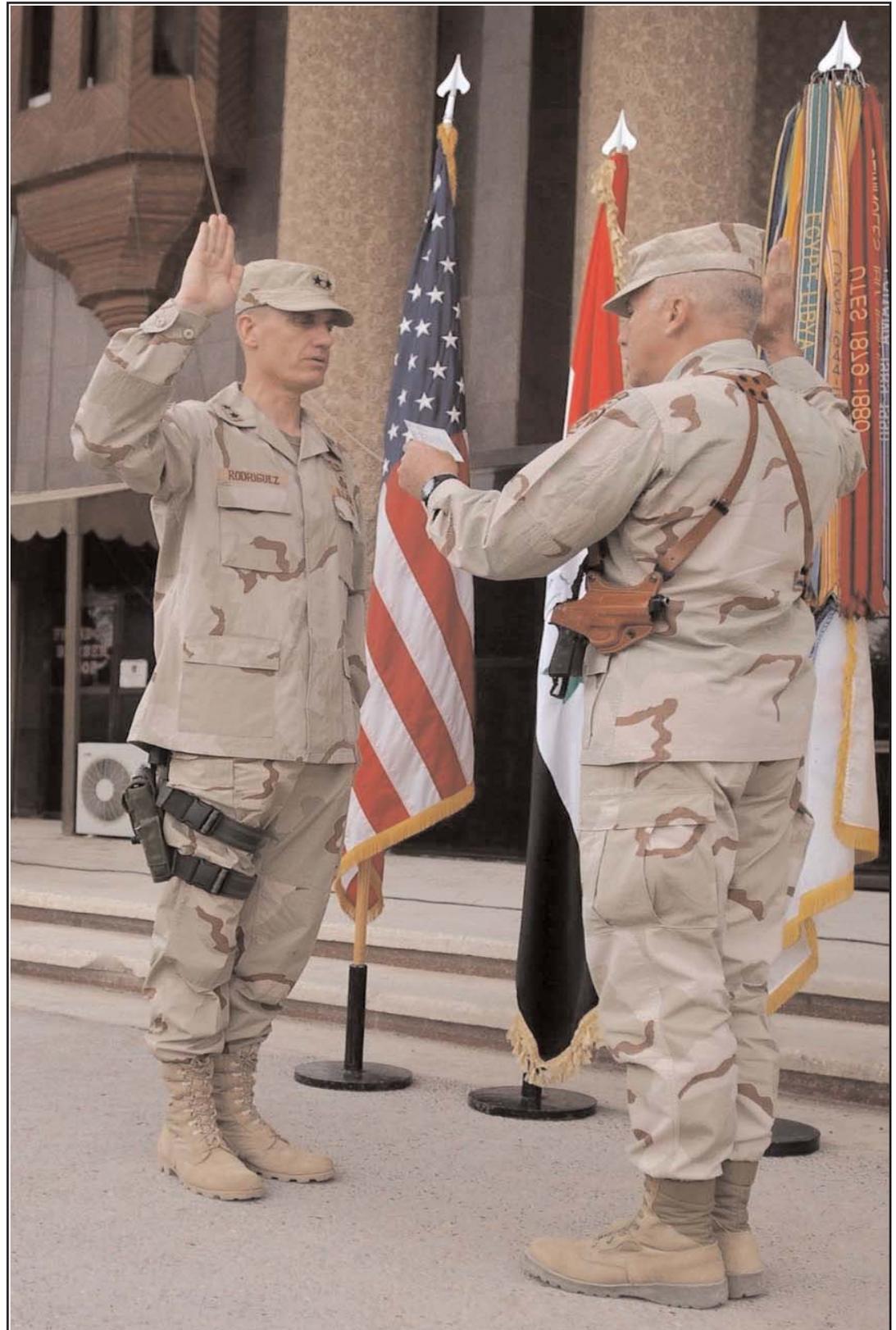
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7 Day Weather Forecast for Mosul

Forecast Conditions	High/Low °F	Precip. Chance
Mon May 30  Mostly Sunny	94°/68°	10%
Tue May 31  Mostly Sunny	92°/68°	10%
Wed Jun 1  Mostly Sunny	93°/68°	0%
Thu Jun 2  Mostly Sunny	93°/68°	0%
Fri Jun 3  Mostly Sunny	97°/69°	0%
Sat Jun 4  Sunny	97°/71°	10%
Sun Jun 5  Sunny	99°/72°	0%

Chaplain's Corner

"He will shield you with his wings. He will shelter you with His feathers. His faithful promises are your armor and protection." -Psalm 91:4



PLEASE JOIN US AT THE CHAPEL FOR FOB COURAGE RELIGIOUS SERVICES:

Collective Protestant 1100 Friday
Catholic Mass 1100 Saturday
Latter-Day Saints 0830 Sunday
Protestant 1100 Sunday
2000 Sunday
1930 Wednesday
Gospel 1300 Sunday

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Deputy Commanding General

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Another Star on the Rise: Rodriguez promoted to Major General

Story by Staff Sgt. Michele A. Uitermarkt, Photos by Sgt. Richard Way

FOB COURAGE, Iraq - Brig. Gen. David M. Rodriguez was promoted May 12, to Major General in front of Spearhead Palace. Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Commanding General of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, "pinned on" the additional star during the ceremony witnessed by members of Task Force Freedom and Iraqi dignitaries.

Vines honored Rodriguez, a ranger, in a heartfelt speech about his confidence in the new two-star general, saying, "When we had a chance to pick someone to lead the Multi-National Force-Northwest, we chose Major General Rodriguez. His service here is not a coincidence. If you took a poll of the senior leadership of the

United States Military, Major General Rodriguez would be recognized as the single best war fighter. There are none his equal. There is a simple test for leaders: do leaders know what they're doing and do they care about those that they lead? If my sons were serving here today, Major General Rodriguez is the one that I would pick to lead them. He is a warrior of uncommon skill and courage."

Vines also took the opportunity to talk to the Iraqi military leadership and Task Force Freedom members about the mission ahead of them. "We are here for a common purpose; to liberate the country of Iraq and give its citizens freedom of choice," said

Vines, "For the last 30 years, [Iraqi citizens] have been victimized by a brutal and oppressive regime, by countless wars, and loss of life. The men and women of Multi-National Force-Northwest and the Soldiers and police of Iraq have fought a tough and brilliant fight ... this fight is not optional, and we will win it."

Rodriguez, who has been serving here as Commanding General for Task Force Freedom since April 1, thanked the Soldiers he has worked with throughout his over 30-year career. "I need to recognize the countless Soldiers I've served with, past and present," said Rodriguez. "From my first commander, Captain Smith, to the present, Lieutenant General Vines, and NCOs, from Staff Sergeant Kolsen to Command Sergeant Major Pring. Too many, of course, to mention today, but represented by the fine leaders around here. Those same Soldiers who have trusted me in my career and taught me untold lessons of leadership have been a blessing, I still learn from them every day. I must say thank you to all of them and all of you."

He also took the time to thank his wife, Virginia, and their four children; Amy, Melissa, David, and Andrew for their unwavering support. "A family's love is

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Lt. Gen. Vines congratulates Maj. Gen. Rodriguez after pinning the second star on his collar in front of Spearhead Palace.

Check out www.tffpao.org for more Task Force Freedom news.

Toby Keith Brings up Morale by Bringing Down the House

Story and Photos by Spc. Ashly Mitchell

FOB COURAGE, Iraq - Soldiers hollered and cheered as he entered onto the stage preparing to wow them with his show. Toby Keith brought some 'Shock'n y'all' with him to perform here on May 15, in front of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) palace. Hundreds of Soldiers were in attendance for the show.

Before Keith took to the stage, he met with Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez and Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Pring of Task Force Freedom (TFF) to discuss how the Soldiers have been working in Mosul. Maj. Gen. Rodriguez told Keith about missions that have been very successful, and how the Iraqi Forces are constantly learning to better serve their country.

"I can't believe how hard you all work. The Soldiers here are doing an excellent job, it's great to be here for them," said Keith. After meeting with Maj. Gen. Rodriguez, Keith was transported by Stryker to the MWR palace for a live performance. Prior to stepping into the Stryker, Keith posed for a group photo with the Lancer Brigade Combat Team.

"Most people don't have the guts to come out here and entertain us," said Maj. Gen. Rodriguez after he announced for Keith to come on stage. Laughs were heard throughout the audience as Keith took out a disposable camera and clicked a few pictures of the troops, helping to preserve the moment.

Keith added in a few lyrics to some of his older



Toby Keith expressed appreciation to each Soldier who received the Purple Heart and two Soldiers who were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

songs and Soldiers were laughing and singing along with the songs they knew. Keith invited Chief Warrant Officer John E. Umpsted, 11th ACR, a self-proclaimed "karaoke buff," up on stage with him to sing "Who's your Daddy." Umpsted did his best to follow along without the words, the audience cheered for him anyway. "I enjoyed it. It was the chance of a lifetime," said

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The Stallion Report

See Soldiers from your area on the news!

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a requirement to live the life of a Soldier and I have truly been blessed in that regard, thanks, ‘Ginny’,” he said.

The ‘76 West Point Graduate emphasized the importance of trust for leadership and among Soldiers “We join the military learning to trust our leaders and non-commissioned officers. When it comes right down to it, the people you really learn to trust are the Soldiers on your left and right, in front of and behind you, above and below. That sacred trust is what is needed for all teams to be effective. Nowhere in any profession is it more important than right here, right now.”

Rodriguez’s first action as a Maj. Gen. was to take a moment of

“It’s a humbling experience for me to be a part of this team and fight alongside so many incredible people. You are all my heroes.”

silence for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and dedicated civilians who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to win freedom for the Iraqi people. “Take a look around today, at yourselves, and look deep into your and your buddies’ souls. I know you understand feelings of sacrifice and trust,” he

said.

He concluded by saying, “It’s a humbling experience for me to be a part of this team and fight alongside so many incredible people. You are all my heroes. Fareeq Wahed, Muhimma Waheda.”

The General’s translator responded by saying, “One team, one mission.”

A reception followed the ceremony where Iraqi Generals and TFF members had an opportunity to congratulate Rodriguez.

“Major General Rodriguez has had many promotions and I predict this will not be his last,” said Vines.

During the reception, Rodriguez said to his guests, “This is a very special day. Do you know why? Because it’s my son’s 15th birthday.”

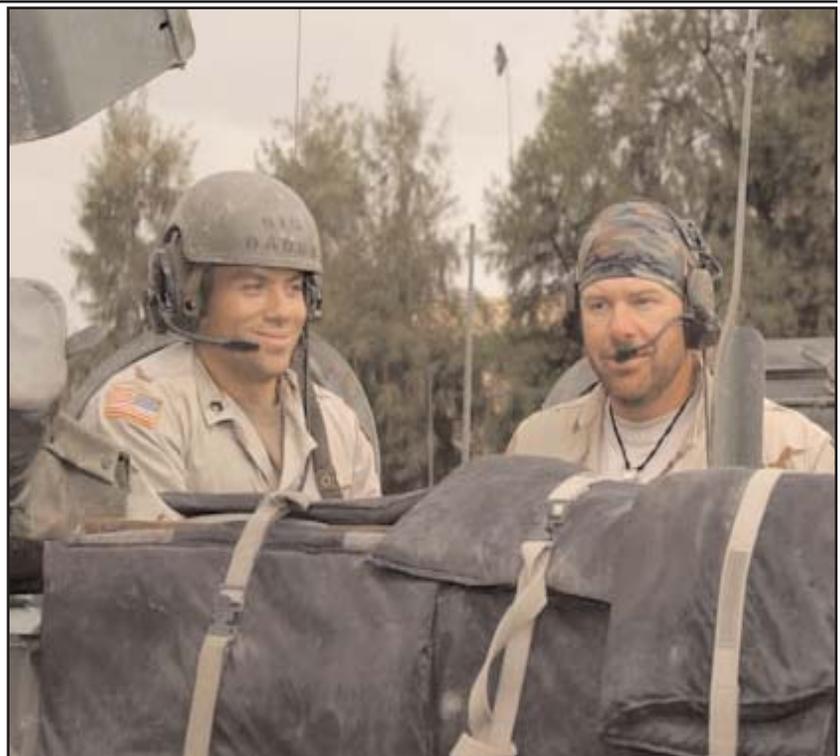
continued from page 4

Umpsted.

At the end of the show, there was a special awards ceremony for TFF Soldiers. Five Soldiers received the Purple Heart and two Soldiers were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor. Keith followed Maj. Gen. Rodriguez, thanking each Soldier for their service in Iraq.

After Keith exited the stage, he was taken by bus to the helicopter pad. He posed for photos and signed autographs until he was seated on a Blackhawk. A few fans stayed to watch as the helicopter took off, catching a glimpse of him waving from the window.

Keith performed three shows in the Task Force Freedom area. Flying from FOB Sykes, to Courage, and then finishing at Marez. Keith traveled to Baghdad the next morning to finish his tour.



Toby Keith stands in the hatch of a Stryker with Staff Sgt. Douglas R. Becker, section sergeant for the Lancer Brigade Combat Team.

3-21 Sifts Through City to Find Mortar Cells for “Operation Gimlet Fury”

A Series of Mortar Attacks on Forward Operating Bases in Mosul has Opened the Fury of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Story and Photos by Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas

FOB COURAGE, Iraq - As the mortar threat continues, so is the effort to stop these terrorists before they can strike again. With information provided from local citizens, A Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment and their 101st Iraqi Army counterparts have been engaged in “Operation Gimlet Fury”. This was a series of raids and Area Development patrols in order to capture or destroy the terrorist cells responsible for the attacks.

“We have been going after the mortar cells that have been attacking the FOB’s,” said Pvt. 1st Class Cary Cannette, driver. “We caught some of the suspects the other night, and caught more last night.”

During the last week, 3-21 detained one insurgent cell responsible for mortaring the Iraqi Police Headquarters and part of another cell responsible for the attacks on some of the FOBs in the Mosul area.

“We had a source with information on the terrorists who have been mortaring the FOB,” said Spc. Michael Jozwiak, driver. “We went out to hit eight targets total; we had luck and got some of them. Our source had good information and he knew where to go.”

These coalition missions are a success because the units can strike at multiple targets at the same time. This helps catch more of the Anti-Iraqi Forces (AIF) and their weapons before they can hide

somewhere else.

“A couple nights earlier, we did a raid on five objectives simultaneously,” said Sgt. Charles Lusk, sniper dismount. “One of the places we raided was a casino and we captured a mortar cell that was mortaring the FOBs. With the intelligence from that, we got names of the [insurgents] we caught last night.”

It’s the Area Development missions that help build relations with the people to expose the AIF working in the area. It also gives the Soldiers a chance to double check the area for any information they might have missed the night before.

“We caught three out of seven terrorists we were going after,” said Lusk. “Today, we are revisiting all the places where we didn’t find anything. We are talking to the locals to find out if they left before we got there, or if they heard us coming.”

One of the targets was a weapons cache; none of the locals knew much about it. Soldiers from A Co. went out again to try to get more information and search for the cache.

“We go out the next day to continue to look for anything suspicious and find the mortars,” said Sgt. Clinton Mettler, vehicle commander. “During the day, we go and check to see how things are going, look for AIF in the area, and get leads to follow up on. If the information is good we do a raid.”

During all of the missions, Soldiers of the Iraqi Army are participating and honing their skills, preparing them to defend their country, and handle the terrorist threat long after the U.S. Forces return home.



1st Lt. Matthew Blind walks through a flooded lot believed to contain a weapons cache.

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“Every mission we do, we have at least a platoon of Iraqi Army Soldiers attached to us,” said Lusk. “As we work with them, train them, and give them more equipment and responsibility, they step up to the task of defending their country.”

The children of Mosul have also played an important role in securing a better future for themselves. They have become the eyes and ears for many operations within the city.

“The key to our mission here is meeting and talking to the people,” said Lusk. “The kids especially are informative. The parents usually stay inside and only talk with other adults while the children are always playing outside and seeing what is going on in the area.”

The local people have changed their perspective since 3-21’s arrival. Before, they were hesitant to come out of their homes in fear of the terrorists. Now, they are coming forth with information to help stop these terrorists from



1st Sgt. Joseph Dallas secures an abandoned building during the search for the weapons cache.

working out of their neighborhoods.

“When we first got here, nobody really wanted to talk to us. Now, every time we go out, we get more information from the local people,” said Cannette. “The streets are getting safer everyday.”

“Most of the nationals are glad to see us,” said Jozwiak. “For the most part, they are smiling, waving, and welcoming us into

their homes. The Iraqi people, as a whole, are nice and considerate. I think we have made a world of difference since we got here. We have taken down numerous high value targets.”

With each success of the Coalition Forces, the civilian populace has responded with increased reports of AIF operations and locations within their cities. These reports have lead to fewer terrorists on the streets and an improved relationship between Coalition Forces and the people of Mosul.

“Things are definitely improving,” said Mettler. “Since elections, more people are speaking up and becoming more conscientious of what is going on. The relations with the people are definitely improving. They are helping us out so they can have a better way of life.”

According to Lusk, the mortar attacks have decreased significantly since October. “We have captured over 150 AIF personnel and have reduced the mortar threat. We are just doing our jobs the best we can.”



Sgt. Charles Lusk talks with children who found ammunition to try and locate a cache.

'5 and 25' Campaign Increases IED Awareness

MNC-I Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) are the number one killers of America's sons and daughters serving in Iraq. The Joint IED Defeat Task Force 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 enough.

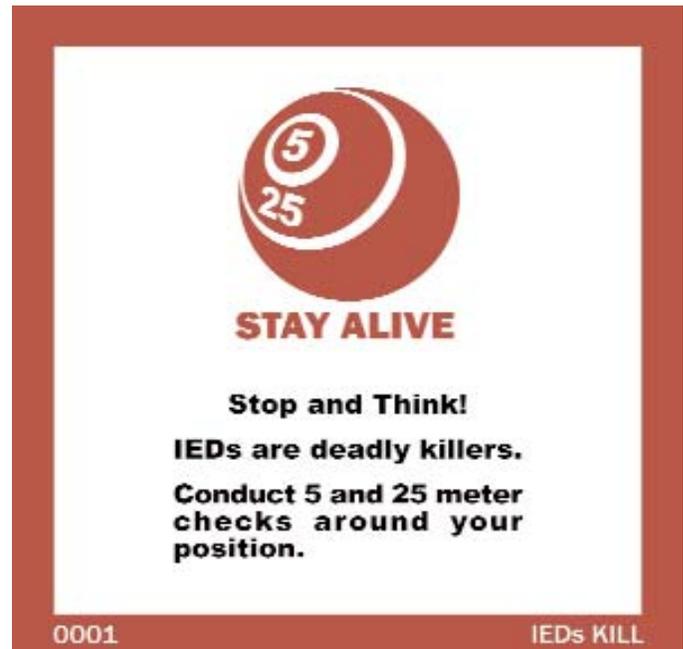
"IEDs are our number one killers here," said Eric Eglund, who works at the Iraq headquarters of the Joint IED Defeat Task Force. The task force is responsible for developing innovative ways to rid the country of IEDs.

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 US 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," said Stockdale. "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 that 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 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, any place, 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 when 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

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[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, it 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 logo getting printed in military publications, the campaign will also produce messages to other outlets.

“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.”



107.3 THE STALLION

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at www.tffpao.org

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1pm-3pm-	OLDIES <i>With The</i> OLDIES <i>Aunt Jill & Uncle Bob</i>	WILDCARD RADIO SHOW 	BEATLES & OLDIES <i>With Kappy & Bob</i>	Red Hot COUNTRY <i>With Tango & Ned</i>	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>*Songs of PRAISE</i> <i>With Lance</i>
6pm-7pm-	SPORTS N' SINGIN' GUITARS <i>With Hawkeye</i>	Flashback 80s MUSIC 	Classic ROCK	Rhythm & BLUES <i>With Dawn</i>	SENIOR PANZON'S LATINO NITE 	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>Classic Southern ROCK & COUNTRY</i> <i>With KAPPY</i>
7pm-8pm-	JOE'S GARAGE <i>With Joe Dillibes</i>	Flashback 80s MUSIC 	Classic ROCK	Rhythm & BLUES <i>With Dawn</i>	SENIOR PANZON'S LATINO NITE 	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>Classic Southern ROCK & COUNTRY</i> <i>With KAPPY</i>
8pm-9pm-	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>*Songs of PRAISE</i> <i>With Lance</i>	90's & NEW ROCK <i>With Anthony Franzen</i>	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>Classical & Celtic</i> <i>With Shelaine</i>

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF TASK FORCE FREEDOM'S FALLEN

Swindell, Nathaniel T.

SGT, C CO, 1-24 IN
15 Jan 2005

Hoe, Nainoa K.

1LT, C CO, 3-21 IN
22 Jan 2005

Castellano, Stephen A.

PFC, 2-14 IN
29 Jan 2005

Shoemaker, Mickey

SSG, MNF/626th
29 Jan 2005

Sherman, Stephen R.

SGT, C CO, 1-5 IN
3 Feb 2005

Wobler, Zachary R.

SSG, HHC/3-325 IN
6 Feb 2005

Plumondore, Adam J.

SGT, 1-24 IN
16 Feb 2005

Pusateri, Christopher M.

SPC, 2-325 AIR
16 Feb 2005

Hernandez, Frank B.

SGT, 1-14 CAV
17 Feb 2005

Gertson, Clinton R.

SPC, 1-24 IN
19 Feb 2005

Solorio, Juan M.

SSG, H, 3-21 IN
4 Mar 2005

Griffith, Donald D.

SSG, B TRP, 2-14 CAV
11 Mar 2005

Ridgley, Kenneth L.

SGT, A CO, 3-21 IN
30 Mar 2005

Tavae, Ioasa F. Jr.

SSG, A CO, 1-5 IN
2 Apr 2005

Bordelon, Michael J.

1SG, 1-24 IN
23 Apr 2005

Davis, Anthony J. Jr.

SGT, 1-24 IN
28 Apr 2005

Edens, William A.

1LT, A CO, 1-5 IN
28 Apr 2005

Morris, Eric W.

SGT, A CO, 1-5 IN
28 Apr 2005

Murray, Robert

PFC, 2/3 ACR
28 Apr 2005

Rockholt, Ricky

PFC, 2/3 ACR
28 Apr 2005

Simpson, Jacob M.

SGT, 2/3 ACR
16 May 2005

Creamean, Tyler L.

SPC, 73 ENG CO
22 May 2005

Seesan, Aaron N.

1LT, 73 ENG CO
22 May 2005

Morton, Benjamin C.

SGT, 1-24 IN
22 May 2005

Brazee, Joshua T.

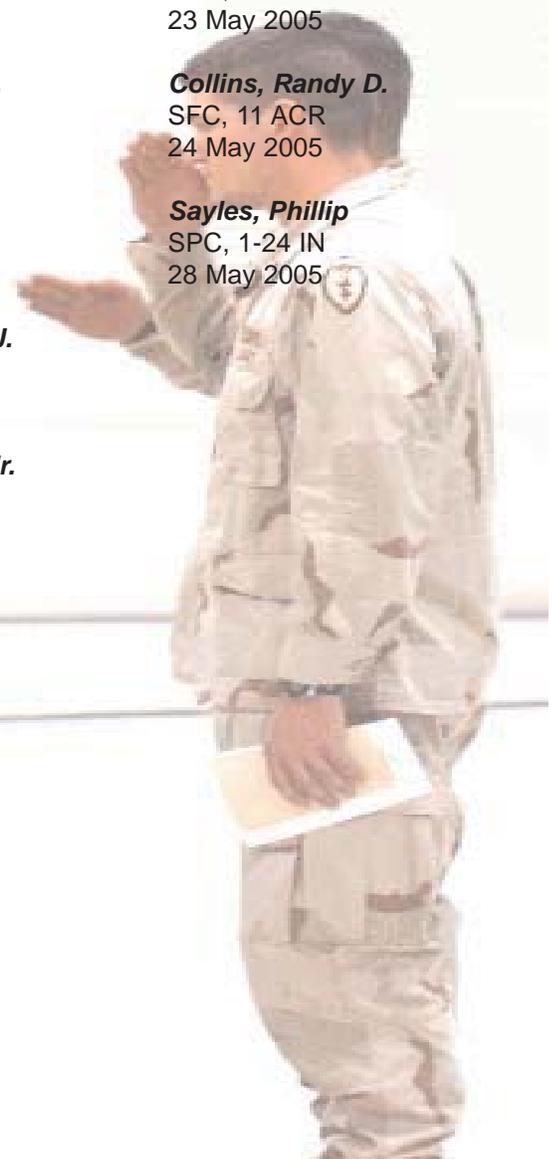
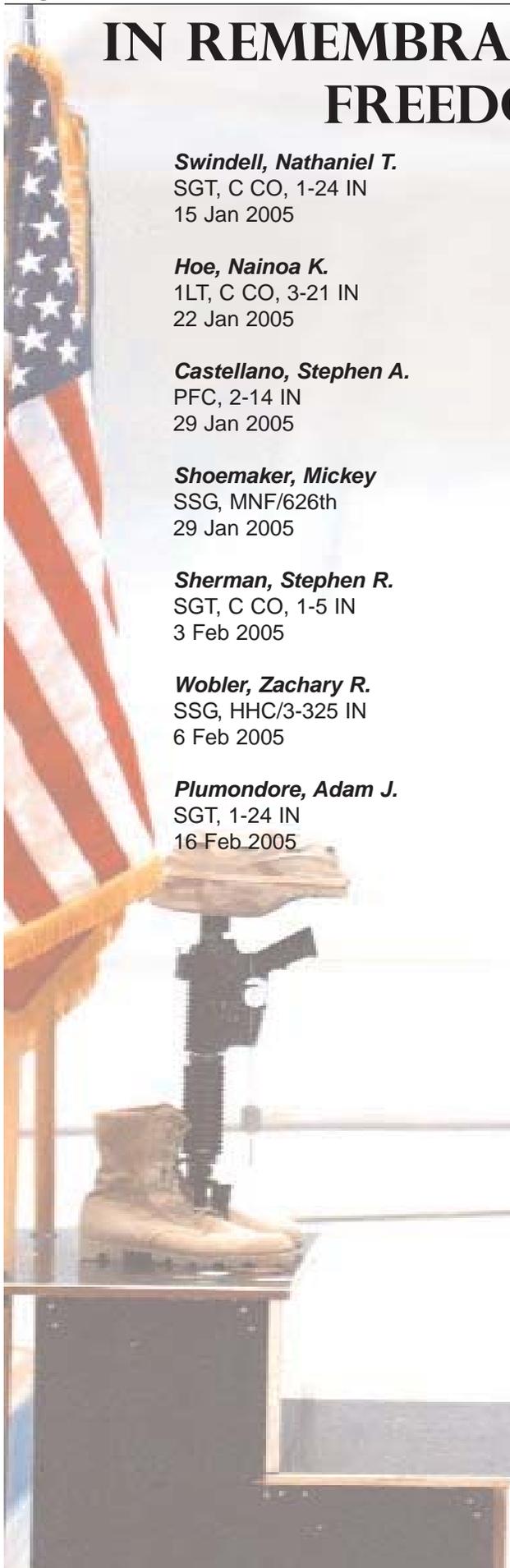
SPC, 1/3 ACR
23 May 2005

Collins, Randy D.

SFC, 11 ACR
24 May 2005

Sayles, Phillip

SPC, 1-24 IN
28 May 2005



Fallen Patriots

"Taps" drifting over carved marble stones.
Tiny flags standing in smart ranks like an honor
guard

We come this day to remember those who fell
The youthful and the seasoned alike

Volunteer or conscripted, doesn't matter which
Most did not a hero's medal gain
Yet all were patriots for what they did
They went; they served and they died

Some realized glory, others saw their duty clear
Yet, not all dreamed a patriot's dream
Or really understood their country's call
But all knew well of fear and death

How shall we remember them?
By bugle strain or tear stained cheek?
Or by their bones that feed the grassy roots?
No! By the free air and soil they bought for us
At the highest price of all

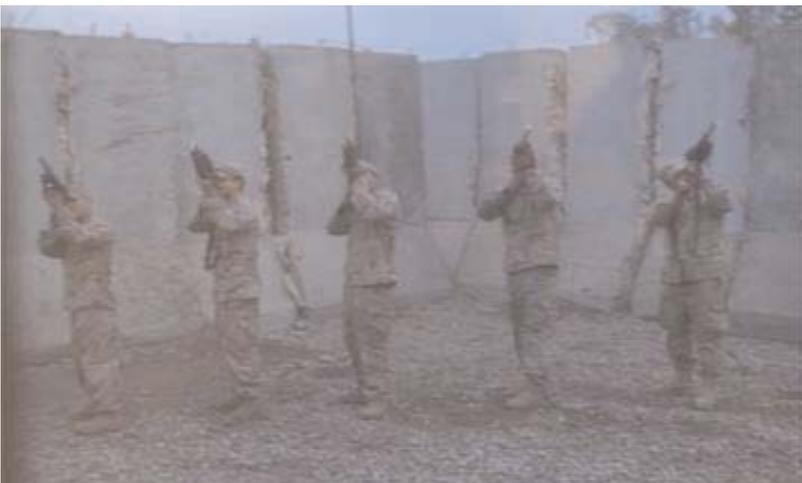
But these are not alone
They have brothers and sisters
that do not sleep beneath the stones
Who also went and served
And stand now and remember

Young man, do not scoff at this remembrance
Rather, accept their gift.
They have given you the freedom to scoff if you
want
But refrain and remember instead

And as you do, stand a little straighter
Turn your eyes to that banner fluttering yonder
On which they once gazed and still do
And sing the anthem loud,
For the courageous and strong have sung it
before you
And were not timid in it.

Now , as you go from this hallowed place
Do not forget them that lie here
Or those that lie in places far distant
While their lives were lost,
Their gift of freedom lingers still.

David Lawson © April, 1998



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What Restaurant Food Do You Miss The Most?



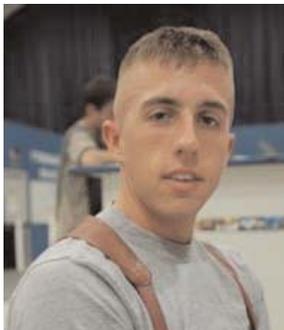
SGT Charles
Eggleston
818th Maint.Co.

"Fried Rice and
Chicken from The
Chinese Shop"



PFC Nathan Taylor
377th Trans Co.

"Imos pepperoni pizza"



SPC Rocky Dexter
1436th Engineer Co.

"Chen's Chinese
Restaurant Crab
Rangoons"



PFC Andrew Stone
Medic, 547th ASMC

"California Pizza
Kitchen's BBQ chick-
en pizza and the house
chopped original
salad"

Headlines From the Other Side of the World

Earthquake triggers deadly tsunami

CNN International News- The world's most powerful earthquake in more than 40 years struck deep under the Indian Ocean on December 26, triggering massive tsunamis that obliterated cities, seaside communities and holiday resorts, killing tens of thousands of people in a dozen countries.

As the region moves forward with reconstruction and recovery, efforts are also under way to maintain donations and relief, establish long-term strategies and develop early-warning systems so another disaster may be avoided.

Escaped Prisoner Caught Shoplifting

STUART, Fla. May 24, 2005 - A prisoner, who escaped from a work crew two weeks ago and was driven away by a woman who didn't know he was a fugitive, was caught after he tried to shoplift from a department store.

William Hawley, 42, had been on the run since May 10, when he escaped from a Martin Correctional Institution work crew and ditched his prison clothing. He told a woman that his wife or girlfriend was ready to deliver their baby, his car had broken down and he needed a cab.

A-Rod & Yanks sweep to Sox

A-Rod's majors-leading 17th homer, a two-run shot, lifted the Yankees to a 4-3 victory over the Tigers at the Stadium last night on the eve of another much-hyped series with the Red Sox. It was the Yanks' 15th win in their last 17 games.