



A legacy of leadership

Sgt. Lynne Steely

BAGHDAD, Iraq— For one man, following in his father’s footsteps meant some very big shoes to fill. Especially when his father is a decorated veteran of three wars and has commanded the most highly decorated military police unit in the Army.

Maj. Gen. William H. Brandenburg, the commander of the Multi-National Force Detainee Operations in Iraq, oversees approximately 3,400 military police since he took over the position in November, 2004.

One of the units falling under his command is the 18th Military Police Brigade. The brigade is the caretaker of the two main detention facilities in Iraq including Abu Ghraib, and Camp Bucca, located near the Kuwait border.

More than 30 years ago, Brandenburg’s father, William H. Brandenburg Sr., was brigade commander of the 18th, and, fighting a different war.

A Col. then, Brandenburg

Sr. took command of the 18th MP Brigade August 30, 1968 while in Vietnam following the TET Offensive. The brigade headquarters was located in Long Binh, located 15 miles northeast of Saigon, and was the largest military complex of its time. Other than its normal military police functions, the brigade became involved directly in combat operations during the Vietnam War and changed the face of military police work.

Letters from home and stories over the years are the only memories Brandenburg has of his father’s command of the 18th and his time in Vietnam. “I was a senior in high school when he deployed to Vietnam,” said

“... he really had a desire to improve the quality of life for the Soldiers.”

Brandenburg. A riot from the notorious Long Binh jail could be heard in the background during his change-of-command ceremony according to his father said Brandenburg.

Brandenburg’s father



Col. William Brandenburg, 18th MP Brigade commander, listens as Gen. Creighton Abrams speaks during a Presidential Unit Citation ceremony for the 716th MP Battalion. The 716th was awarded the citation for its actions during the 1968 TET Offensive in Saigon, Vietnam. (Photo courtesy of Jim Rogers, Director, U.S. Army Military Police Corps Museum.)

offered to get him an appointment at West Point but said “I didn’t want it.” Instead, he chose the Citadel, the military academy in Charleston,

leader with the 91st Infantry Division during World War II and earned the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with valor device and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

In December of 1949, Brandenburg became part of the 3rd Infantry Division deploying with them to Korea in his first assignment as a military police officer. With six years of military service as an Infantry Officer already under his belt, Brandenburg began his true calling in the Army and was granted a branch transfer to the **(cont’d on page 4)**

S.C., the same school his father had attended. ‘My father was delighted,’ he added.

Brandenburg Sr. was no stranger to combat, though. Just a young officer, he served as a rifle platoon

Brigade Briefs

• August Birthdays

- 05- MAJ Andy Johnson
- 09- CPT Matthew Shepherd
- 23- SSG Donald Mays
- 25- 2LT Steven Speece
- 26- SPC Michael Prokop
- 29- MSG Mark Brown

- Chaplain Evans holds a weekly Bible study group every Wednesday in his office at 1930. Hope you can attend!

- SFC Graybill leads a woman’s Bible study group every Thursday at 1800 in the Chaplain’s office. Please come by and join us!

- The command team from our replacements, the 43d MP Brigade, will be paying a visit to our headquarters in mid-August.

- There will be a record APFT test for all headquarters personnel in September.

- **Help! We need your submissions for the Brigade Newsletter. Artists, writers, poets, photographers; please help us make this newsletter a success!**

Congratulations to Capt. Matt Shepherd and his new bride. Capt. Shepherd wed Laura Hoyle of Augusta, Ga. June 17 while on R&R leave. The two were married at the Church of The Most Holy Trinity in Augusta with a reception following at St. Patricks Hall. We wish the newlyweds many years of happiness!



Congratulations to the security team. They have officially logged 30,000 miles since the deployment began last December.

VIGILANT TIMES

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Maj. Rob Simmons.....S-1 OIC
Sgt. Lynne Steely.....Photojournalist

COMMANDERS CORNER

By Col. James B. Brown

Dear Comrades, families and friends of the 18th MP Brigade!

August is finally here! Our journey in Iraq has brought us to the hottest month of the summer and cooler days are just around the corner! July was an amazing month for us in the 18th MP Brigade in Iraq. One of the most significant developments is in the Iraqi Highway Patrol. We have somehow achieved that "tipping point" with the Highway Patrol where it is truly functioning as a fighting organization to secure Iraq's highways and to protect commerce and personnel as they move and work to build the future for Iraq. Early in July as CSM Shelley and I were traveling with our security team from Camp Bucca on the Persian Gulf all the way up to Baghdad we encountered the Highway Patrol repeatedly doing their core mission. Near Tallil (which is the land of Ur where Abraham of the Bible came from) we saw patrols in check points and patrolling the highway. As we passed north of Scania (where we have a major fuel stop and our 916th MP Company is headquartered) we saw more patrols out. We saw one patrol that had set up security around a broken down motorist and a highway patrolman helping to change a tire on the vehicle while another checked to make sure the vehicle did not have IED making materials inside it! This was so encouraging to see. We have also had joint IHP and MP patrols out to secure the highways as well. Several of these had direct contact with the enemy and we in fact eliminated and apprehended several wanted terrorists (great job 65th and 617th MP Companies...AIRBORNE!). We also completed the new National Headquarters of the IHP and it is being occupied this very week. Well done to MAJ "Andy of Arabia" Johnson, CPT Lyle "Don't ever eat Iraqi food again" Taylor, LT Steve Lemelin, SSG James McNaughton, CPT Bob Baker and the whole S5 Security Detail from the 916th MP Company for all you did to make this happen. The IHP Academy now has an Iraqi General in charge and it has really taken on its own steam and is running well. I



am so impressed with this major undertaking in the development of the Security Forces for Iraq. I had the opportunity to personally see the Iraqi Minister of the Interior and he has supported all of our recommendations to completely empower the Iraqi Highway Patrol. This is a work that is now almost complete. This past month, we lost several Iraqi Highway Patrolmen and we were able to save several others thanks to our great medical care and the assistance of our fellow units here in Iraq.

Unfortunately, we also lost one of our own heroes, SPC Ryan Montgomery of B/1-623 FA was killed by an enemy IED on 3 July 2005. Ryan's twin brother Bryan also serves with us in B/1-623 and he has been transferred to KY to complete his duties. Our prayers continue to go out to Bryan and the rest of Ryan's family. We love and miss our comrade dearly and we will continue to work to achieve the victory that he gave his life for. The London Bombings are a reminder that if we do not succeed here, the enemy will not leave us alone...he will continue to target our families and homeland. We have to achieve this victory here. This past month, we also experienced a new level of evil as the enemy stopped two vehicles full of 16 people going to a funeral and took them out of their vehicles and gunned them all down. Leaving them dying on the road side, the enemy moved another vehicle in and waited for our MPs to respond. When the 65th MP Company came to the aide of the 11 still alive, they were then ambushed with the explosion of that third vehicle. The 65th MP Co suffered 11 wounded. Miraculously, all 11 are going to recover from their wounds. I believe that God protected them...it was nothing short of a miracle.

Yesterday, we had a very touching moment in the brigade as the 306th MP Battalion dedicated our newest Camp at Abu Ghraib. Camp Remembrance has been dedicated in the memory of our fallen law enforcement officers who gave their lives on 9-11. The ceremony was a very touching reminder of the reason that we are here and the Camp Remembrance now stands as a tool to help us achieve the victory and lasting peace that will serve all free people in our world. Thanks to LTC Hussey, CSM Donahue and all the hard working members of the 306th MP Battalion. Camp Remembrance is manned by members of the 916th MP Company who have moved up from Scania. Thanks to you heroes as well

who are showing your incredible flexibility in transitioning so well and serving with such great attitudes.

I'd like to share a special thanks and well done to the 105th MP Battalion at Camp Bucca. The 105th did a terrific job in opening our newest compounds and the 940th MP Company has also transitioned into operations at Camp Bucca as well. Thanks to the great Soldiers of the 940th and the professional Airmen of the new 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron who are serving with us in the detention facility at Camp Bucca as well. The Soldiers of the 105th MP Bn and 586th ESFS just did an outstanding job hosting the International Committee of the Red Cross at Camp Bucca and got very high marks for the quality of their care, security and safety of detainees. The new 586th ESFS under the leadership of LTC David Briar is having a tremendous impact in our operations at Camp Bucca.

Thank you again to our families who continue to serve so sacrificially during our absence at war. We are getting very excited about our coming reunion in the Fall! We could not fight without your support and love and we are so thankful for you. You are worth fighting for!!

One more awesome event that I must mention to you. On 25 July, over 140 Soldiers became U.S. Citizens in Saddam's Al Faw Palace!!!! I was so taken by the irony of the moment. Here in the alcove of one of the world's most notorious dictators we were witnessing over 140 foreign born Soldiers becoming citizens of the United States. I'll bet when Saddam built this palace he never ever expected that American Soldiers would be singing Christmas carols in it during Christmas time nor would it be used as the site to swear in new citizens of the United States of America! Four of these heroes are from our very own 306th MP Battalion. Let Freedom Ring!

Finally, remember that this is the hottest month that we all have left in our current service in Iraq. Stay well hydrated!! I recently had to take knee for about an hour due to not drinking enough water...don't let this happen to you...it is no fun at all. Please keep each other safe and remain battle focused as we continue to fight and win the Global War on Terror in Iraq. God Bless you all,

EVER VIGILANT!

Col. Jim Brown, VIGILANT 6

Military Police Corps. Captain Brandenburg assumed command of the 3rd MP Company, 3rd ID. His unit was awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Citation for displaying great gallantry under extremely hazardous conditions during the Korean War.

Surrounded by the military his entire life, Brandenburg said his father's career had a definite impact on his decision to join the military. "My father had a wonderful intellect," said Brandenburg, "but one of the lessons I took from him was the friendships he had over the

years. That particular part of life in the military genuinely appealed to me. When you share experiences, whether it was in Europe during World War II, the Korean War or Vietnam, the bond that they had was something that appealed to me. It taught me that those friendships, which are different from acquaintances, are a powerful part of life in the military and they should be cultivated."

In 1965, and now a Lt. Col.,

Brandenburg Sr. commanded the 793rd MP Battalion in Germany, but, said Brandenburg, his father's status didn't effect his attitude towards what was really important.



Maj. Gen. William H. Brandenburg Jr., with some of his staff at Camp Victory, Iraq.

"When he was battalion commander, he really had a desire to improve the quality of life for the Soldiers. Some of it was eliminating unnecessary restrictions, or improving the barracks they lived in," said Brandenburg about his father, "It was a continual theme with everything he did; I think that's a very positive quality to be focused on your organization, care about it, and be a part of it."

Not only was Brandenburg

Sr. devoted to his friends and his Soldiers, but was also a dedicated family man. While working as the Assistant Secretary of the General Staff Office for the Chief of Staff in Washing-

ton, D.C., Brandenburg recalled some special times with his father. "He worked hard, Saturdays, Sundays, seven days a week, but on a couple of Sundays a month he would take me into the office because it was a half day. I would go entertain myself in the outer office of the Vice Chief and Chief of Staff of the Army. I guess I was in the sixth or seventh grade at the time. We would go swimming or do some exercise. Those Sundays meant a lot to me. In his retirement we got to play a

lot of golf together. I always looked forward to being able to do that while I was home on leave or if he came out to see us. That was an enjoyable moment. I was finally able to beat him."

"I was always proud of his accomplishments in the military," said Brandenburg. "I was also envious; when he retired, he actually retired, which is a lesson I may take as well."

Brig. Gen. William H. Brandenburg retired from the Army in 1973 after 30 years of service to his nation. A family man, commander,

leader, trainer and mentor, he left a legacy of wisdom, knowledge and experience that has made a lasting impact on the United States Army, the Military Police Corps and the 18th Military Police Brigade.



Battalion News



Photo courtesy of the 108th MP Company

Several awards were presented to Soldiers of the 108th Military Police Company by Maj. Gen. William Brandenburg in a ceremony July 6. The awards were given for valorous actions by squads Warlord 41 and 42 during combat operations in Baghdad April 2. The squads engaged enemy forces fortified on an adjacent roof top near Abu Ghraib prison. Under both mortar and small arms fire the teams entered the kill zone, engaging insurgents six times.

Awards presented include two Purple Hearts, three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, eight Army Commendation Medals, five of those with Valor.



Photo by Sgt. Lynne Steely



Photo courtesy of the 105th MP Battalion

The Purple Heart was presented to the 105th Battalion commander, LTC Timothy Houser, and 1st Lt. Shawn Talmadge in a ceremony June 29 at Camp Bucca, Iraq. Houser was wounded when a riot ensued at the prison compound April 1, and he was struck on the left side of his face by a large rock. Talmadge was also wounded by a blow to the face by a rock, knocking out a tooth, on his way to combat a small fire on the compound April 3. Detainees advanced the fence and began throwing rocks.

The 306th MP Battalion has dedicated a wall in honor of the courageous New York police officers and firefighters who perished in the Sept. 11 World Trade Center tragedy. 343 firefighters died on that day and every day the battalion posts a new tribute to one of them on the wall and serves that day in honor of them. A letter is also sent to the Uniformed Fire Officers Association which is redistributed to the families of the fallen hero.

Battalion commander, Lt. Col. John Hussey, said he was inspired to create the wall not only as a memorial tribute but also as a reminder to the Soldiers about why they're here.

Approximately nine of the battalion's Soldiers are New York police officers.

(Look for the story on *Camp Remembrance* in next month's *Vigilant Times*).

Around Camp Victory





Fun in the Sun



Okay, so it's not Miami Beach, there are no Mai Tai's, no radical waves to ride, and when we say sun it means temperatures in the triple digits. That doesn't mean we don't know how to have fun! Soldiers at the brigade headquarters enjoyed some time off from their hectic daily schedules July 3 to participate in a second Organizational Day since the brigade's deployment began last December.

"Organizational Day is so important because it gives the Soldiers a chance to unwind a little and have some fun," said Company Commander, Capt. Wayne Ludwig. "It gets everyone out in competitive spirit and builds teamwork and morale."

Activities for the day included a volleyball tournament, spades competition, basketball match and pugil sticks. A buffet style meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, beans and potato salad was served.

Spc. LaMika Fisher said it was a great morale booster. "I enjoyed volleyball the best because of the amount of participation. We played as a team. We lost but it was a lot of fun." Fisher said that being able to compete with the battalions would make the day even better.

Fisher wasn't the only one to pick volleyball as the top activity of the day. Spc. Joshua Collins preferred it to the others as well. "We had so much participation in that game," said Collins. "It is good for morale here which can get a little low after being here for so long."

"All of our Soldiers work very hard and it is important to let them unwind a little and take their mind off of where we are at," said Ludwig. "As a commander, I want to get my Soldiers recharged whenever I have the possibility. We hope to have one more before we leave, to celebrate all of our great accomplishments."



The action heats up when the motorpool guys play the HHC/supply team.



Sgt. Donniss Swayzer (center) and Spc. Joshua Collins find a safe, fun way to relieve deployment stress with a pugil stick match.



Looks like Capt. Matt Shepherds team has the upper hand in this two-on-two basketball game.

IRAQ FACTS

Sovereignty – Iraq became a sovereign nation on June 28, 2004. The United Nations Security Council has given its full support to the Iraqi Government. The election held on January 30 was an important step towards a democratic government. The next milestone will be the writing of the constitution by August 15, as the road to long-term stability goes through democratic political processes.

Education - Nearly 25 percent of the Iraqi population either attends a school of, or is directly employed by, the Ministry of Education. With a budget of \$984 million, the ministry oversees more than 20,000 schools, administrative offices and educational facilities nationwide. The MoED provides the oversight and training needed to support 300,000 teachers in their work with more than six million K-12 students. As of June 2005, 3,105 schools have been renovated and another 950 schools are currently under rehabilitation.

National Olympic Committee - The National Olympic Committee of Iraq was reestablished through a long process of free, secret ballot, democratic elections through 450 sports clubs, every provincial Sports Federation, and every National Sports Federation. The election of the NOCI's Executive Board was supervised and validated by the International Olympic Committee and Iraq was readmitted to membership of the IOC on February 27, 2004. Iraq qualified and participated in the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

Iraqi Government - On March 8, 2004, the "Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period" was signed. This law governs Iraq until a constitution is drafted and ratified in 2005.

The Iraqi people took responsibility for their government with the transfer of sovereignty and the establishment of the Interim Iraqi Government on June 28, 2004.

The National Assembly was elected and seated in August 2004.

The first democratic election was held in Iraq on January 30, 2005.

The Transitional National Assembly met for the first time on March 16, 2005.

Iraq's Transitional Government leaders were sworn in May 4, 2005.

There has been 16 governorate councils, 78 district councils, 192 city or subdistrict councils, and 392 neighborhood councils established, allowing more than 19 million people to engage in local policy discourse.

There has been more than 660 community associations in 16 governorates established as part of a campaign targeting grassroots democracy.



Mr. Robert Myrick-
Unit Safety Manager

Personal Injury-

Personal injuries have been on the rise within the past two months. The Brigade has passed the mid-tour mark and we

have had a tendency to be a little less careful in our daily activities.

Currently, Army statistics show that physical training is the second leading cause at 49 accidents, followed by sports at 44 and human movement rounds out at 42. The total number for soldiering is 30 and combat is only 20. The numbers represent data from Jan-July which has been reported to the Combat Readiness Center.

Now you are saying to yourself where do we stand in the mix of the statistics? Our leading cause of personal injury is sports followed by soldiering. The most common injuries are fractures, sprains/strains, knee, lower leg, ankle, and shoulder. The case of these factors can be attributed to poor conditioning, inadequate ability and skill, lack of protective equipment and violation of rules. Personal injury such as slips/trips and falls, finger amputation etc., account for 31 percent of our total accidents.

These accidents can be prevented by maintaining situational awareness, wearing of proper personal protective equipment and following policy.

Contact Mr. Myrick for questions at:

DSN: 318-822-3177 or

robert.myrick@iraq.centcom.mil

Soldiers reaffirm their commitment at Citizenship Ceremony

Sgt. Lynne Steely

BAGHDAD, Iraq— “I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America,” said Spc. Kimberly L. Flowers with a smile as she affirmed her commitment to the U.S. alongside over 140 fellow Soldiers and Marines in a Naturalization Ceremony July 25 at Al-Faw palace, the Multi-National Corps-Iraq headquarters, on Camp Victory, Iraq.

Flowers and three of her comrades from the 306th Military Police Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, have earned that privilege in a bigger way than many others who aspire to become U.S. citizens. The four are U.S. Soldiers stationed in Abu Ghraib, Iraq.



Spc. Elizabeth Allen recites the Oath of Citizenship with 140 other Soldiers at the Multi-National Corps-Iraq headquarters July 25.

“Over half of these Soldiers standing here today joined the military after September 11, 2001,” said Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commander of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, “they new the risks. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you.”

Vines presented the certificates of naturalization with Karen Landsness, Agent in Charge for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service in the Department of Homeland Security.

It has taken nearly two year to

complete all the paperwork but Flowers said it will make life in the military a lot easier. “I want to become a Warrant Officer,” she added, but it requires citizenship. Soldiers are unable to gain a security clearance without it which can limit their options in the military.

U.S. Soldiers are also unable to reenlist after eight years if they have not become a citizen. However, this law does not apply to Soldiers who are deployed during an authorized period of conflict.

Under recent legislation, changes have been made to the process of Naturalization by military personnel. As of October 1, 2004 there is no longer a fee to file for naturalization, *(cont'd on page 4)*



Spc. Viseka Dawson poses for a photo with MNC-I commander, Lt. Gen. John R. Vines and Karen Landsness from the Dept. of Homeland Security.

and the process is now available to overseas members of the Armed Forces.



Spc. Kimberly Flowers leads the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Bush signed into law that commanders must make it a priority to expedite the process and accommodate their Soldiers trying to obtain U.S. citizenship.

1st Lt. Darrell Bauhn, a legal officer, has been working with Corps Support Command, (COSCOM), to help get Soldiers through the process. Bauhn said it can be a lengthy process but it doesn't have to be.

"First they must fill out a huge application. Then they have to provide proof of military service and give all biographical background data to ensure there are no security issues. A set of fingerprints are sent to the FBI. Everything must be filled out correctly," added Bauhn, "one mistake can kick back the paperwork making the process painstakingly long."

Four workshops have been held so far to help the Soldiers understand the process and answer any questions they

might have. Bauhn said he is looking forward to more workshops in the future.

A native of Belize, Flowers arrived in Bronx, N.Y. when she was eight years old. "My Mom moved to the U.S. alone to find a home and become financially stable before we joined her," said Flowers, "there were more opportunities in the U.S." The middle child of five, the children lived a cramped lifestyle with her Aunt and cousins while waiting to join their mother. "She wanted a better life for us," Flowers added.

Joining the military right after high school, Flowers "wanted to do something different".

She's not sure yet if she will make a life-long career out of the military but says she'll take it as far as she can, and go from there.

Spc. Elizabeth Allen works in reception at the prison, searching the detainee's family members when they arrive for visitation.

Allen was born in Jamaica and moved to the U.S. when she was 16. Wanting to take advantage of all the benefits the military had to offer, she joined the military at 21. She makes

time in between work and other duties to take college courses online towards a degree in Criminal Justice.

"I really miss going to the beach," Allen said of her native country, but she also said she's not thinking of moving back anytime soon.

"Maybe someday, but right now there are too many opportunities for me." Many Soldiers have missed out on this opportunity because they cannot be contacted, said Bauhn who helps try and locate them. He said that many are either unable to check their military email account, or just don't. Bauhn is already preparing Soldiers for the next ceremony.

This was the second of two Naturalization Ceremonies held in Iraq for deployed Soldiers the first in November, 2004. Another ceremony is scheduled for September.

Spc. Yuen Fai Fu and Spc. Viseka Dawson from the 306th MP Battalion also received Certificates of Naturalization at the ceremony.

MNC-I Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey presented each Soldier a national flag which has been flown over the MNC-I headquarters.

For more information on obtaining U.S. citizenship visit: www.uscis.gov (Have a story to tell Public Affairs? Give us a call today!

DSN: 318-822-3297

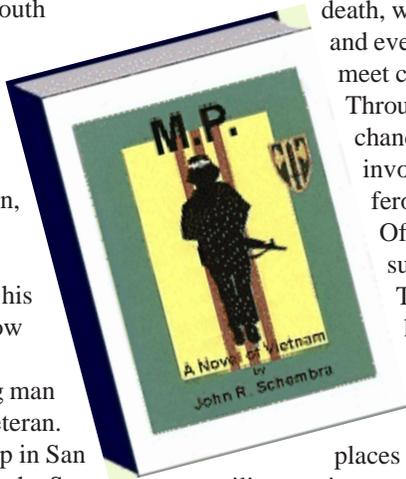
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Read about it...

M.P., A Novel of Vietnam is a work of fiction based in part on the experiences of the author, John Schembra, while he was serving with the 557th Military Police Company, 18th MP Brigade, in South Vietnam in 1970. The novel is an account of an average young man who is inducted into the army, trained as a Military Policeman, and is assigned to a military police unit in Vietnam. It chronicles his year in country, and how he changes from a somewhat naive young man to a battle hardened veteran. Vincent Torelli grew up in San Leandro, California, in the San Francisco Bay Area, in a middle class family. He was drafted into the army in 1967 and ended up becoming a Military Policeman assigned to the 557th MP Company at Long Binh Post, South Vietnam. During the next year, Vince sees and experiences things he never imagined until Vietnam. He finds, by the nature of the war, that he must not only do his traditional MP duties, but that often he is thrust into situations where his very



survival relies on his courage and ability to react instantly to a deadly threat. He learns there is nothing “traditional” about the war, in a land long desensitized to war and death, where life is cheap and every Vietnamese you meet could be an enemy. Through unlucky chance, he becomes involved in the ferocious ‘68 Tet Offensive, barely surviving the night. The book is historically, geographically, and militarily accurate. All the places are real, and all the military units named in the book are actual units that operated in the area at the time. There are humorous episodes to lighten the dark edges of the narrative, and the book gives the reader an accurate look at what it was like to be a Military Policeman in Vietnam. It is Vince’s story, of how he survived the years tour of duty, how he coped with the hell he faced, of friendships formed, and of the sorrow of lives lost.

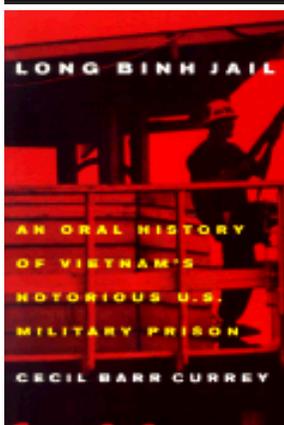
(From the official press release)

Long Binh Jail- An oral history of Vietnam's notorious U.S. Military Prison

By Cecil Barr Currey

Book Description

Long Binh Jail was what the troops during the Vietnam War called the U.S. Army Installation Stockade in Long Binh, South Vietnam. This overcrowded military prison was one of the most feared locations in all of Vietnam, the place where Army rule-breakers and dangerous criminals from throughout Vietnam were sent. Military historian Cecil B. Currey tells the story of Long Binh Jail through interviews of dozens of former guards, prisoners, and administrators.



About the author



John Schembra was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, and retired from the Pleasant Hill Police Department as a Sergeant after 30 years of service. He earned a B.A. in Administration of Justice, and an M.A. in Public Administration.

He spends his retirement time writing as well as teaching other police officers emergency vehicle operations/pursuit driving through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department and Academy. He is also a Driving Simulator Instructor, and has been recognized as a Subject Matter Expert in Emergency Vehicle Operations by the State of California.

Schembra has had several trade articles published in law enforcement magazines such as Law and Order, Police Officer's Quarterly, and The Back-up. A short story, “Sweet Sixteen”, was published in *True Blue: Police Stories by Those Who Have Lived Them*, a collection of stories written by police officers.

Prior to joining the police force, he was a Military Policeman with the 557th MP Company, assigned to Long Binh Post, South Vietnam, where he had several “adventures” that provided the basis for his first book “M.P., A Novel of Vietnam”.

(Photo and information from Mr. Schembra's website: www.jschembra.com)



Military History

V-J Day

The war against Japan continued after Germany surrendered. American strategists said that an invasion of Japan could result in one million American casualties. President Truman authorized the use of two atomic bombs to shock Japanese leaders. The first bomb landed on Hiroshima and the second on Nagasaki. The bombs destroyed both cities and killed over 200,000 people. The Japanese surrendered shortly after on August 15, 1945.

Twenty-five Japanese leaders faced the International War Crimes Tribunal in Tokyo.

Judges sentenced seven to death for crimes against



humanity. The rest served life sentences in prison.

The Allies occupied Japan for seven years after

the war. American leaders laid the groundwork for economic recovery and a democratic system. They established laws encouraging free trade and unionism, created a parliament, and instituted free elections.

(www.foxvalleyhistory.org)



This is the famous photograph taken by Alfred Eisenstaedt on V-J Day at Times Square in New York, 1945. "I saw a sailor running along the street grabbing any and every girl in sight," he explained. "Whether she was a grandmother, stout, thin, old, didn't make any difference. I was running ahead of him with my Leica looking back over my shoulder...Then suddenly, in a flash, I saw something white being grabbed. I turned around and clicked the moment the sailor kissed the nurse."

Use the five C's to secure an IED site.

Confirm : the device

Clear : the area

Call : EOD

Cordon : the perimeter

Control : site access



STAY ALIVE



MPs share lessons learned in Iraq

Warrior Focus II exercise in Baumholder prepares Soldiers for return to Iraq

Story and photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public Affairs Office

The streets of an Iraqi village appear deserted as Soldiers of the 527th Military Police Company roll in to conduct a cordon and search. Their mission — to apprehend a high value target.

Within moments chaos ensues as they come under fire. The sound of automatic weapons fire resonates off the building walls as the Soldiers return fire. As the engagement continues, both sides suffer casualties.

Eight or 10 kilometers down the road a Military Police convoy responding to a call to rescue injured Soldiers and retrieve sensitive items is also not having a good day. Enemy fire rains down on them from a thick tree line along the roadside and several of their senior leaders are injured or killed. Junior leaders must make decisions that will either allow them to accomplish their objective or plunge them deeper into disaster.

The enemy attacks quickly and without warning. In both cases it is over as suddenly as it began. Over the flurry of gunfire and commands the Soldiers hear a loud voice proclaiming "End Ex."

This scenario was part of Warrior Focus II, an exercise for units from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 709th MP Battalion, from Hanau and the 527th MP Company from Giessen.

The five-day exercise was conducted at Baumholder's Military Operations Urban Training village, more commonly known as MOUT village, and at numerous locations around the local German community.

"We wanted to provide as much realism as possible.

That's why we utilized locations within the German community to provide that interaction with civilians, said Staff Sgt. Michiel Watkins, platoon sergeant, 4th Platoon, 127th MP Company. Watkins, who has seen action in Iraq, ran the combat patrol lane of the exercise. In all, four lanes tested and honed the skills of the Soldiers from Hanau and Giessen.

After the firefight in the village, 2nd Lt. Andrew Boissonneau, platoon leader, 527th MP Company, reflected, "This scenario was more challenging than I expected. There were a lot of opposing force players and variables. We've done cordon and search missions before, but not with this amount of 'Op For' role players.

"There are also so many variables in a thing like this that you really have to rely on strong subordinates and great NCOs who take care and help you do your job," he said.

Mission readiness

"It's a mission readiness exercise focused toward operations in Iraq. We're preparing units that are going to deploy into harm's way," said Capt. Jeremy Kerfoot, 18th MP Brigade adjutant. Warrior Focus II is completely resourced by the 709th MP Battalion which is a part of the 18th MP Brigade.

"We have two units, the 127th Military Police Company and 630th Military Police Company, that recently returned from Iraq that are providing their expertise, having

just come out of battle, on how we should focus our training so we can send units with the most knowledgeable base and the best training they can get," said Kerfoot.

"They're providing firsthand knowledge and will be the actual opposing force, so they'll use tactics that they've seen to test the metal of the units deploying," said Kerfoot.

"They have the most recent on-the-ground knowledge of how the enemy acts down there and what type of tactics, techniques and procedures they need to know to operate down there. So we've used them to be the opposing force. And our S-2, our intelligence officer, has worked with them to put



together a scenario so when they go through the sticks lanes, they're facing an enemy that replicates what's going on in Iraq," said Maj. Roger Hedgepeth, 709th MP Battalion executive officer.

"We're trying to simulate the mission they're going to be doing down there, which is area security, and maneuver and mobility support — clearing routes, escorting convoys and providing route security," said Hedgepeth.

Some of the seasoned Soldiers training in Warrior Focus II have already deployed to Iraq and will serve as a knowledge base for the new Soldiers. "These Soldiers are just refining their skills, updating them from the first time they went," said Kerfoot.

"For the new Soldiers it's going to give them a chance to see and put into practice what they've been trained on over the last two or so years. They're going to hone their skills," he said.

Kerfoot added the exercise will also measure his leadership skills. "I can be an MP in the Army for 10 years and sit behind a desk or just do police patrols but never deploy. So this is going to hone my skills as a leader in a combat environment, taking my police skills and putting them into actual combat," he said.

After the ambush scenario at a roadside clearing outside the town of Heimbach, Watkins delivered an out brief summing up the exercise. "This is a learning environment. Be hard on yourselves. This is so you don't jack it up down there," said Watkins.

PROMOTIONS



Cpl. Jared Dutka



1st Lt. Shikith Russell

REUPS



A farewell for Maj. Eric Brunken and retirement party for Master Sgt. Donald Greaux was held at the Sports Oasis dining facility July 30. Thank you for all you've done for us, and best of luck to both of you in all of your future endeavors. We will miss you!



Staff Sgt. Chelsea Spier



CONNECTIONS

By Brigade Chaplain, Lt. Col. Thomas Evans

Citizen Warriors

Yesterday held a “first” for me. I had seen them on TV, but never personally witnessed a ceremony where people raised their right hands and took the oath that released them from allegiance to any other leader or government, and swore their loyalty to the United States of America. Yesterday, 142 candidates became US citizens. They came from Trinidad and Thailand. People of Honduras and even from the small South Pacific Island of Truk became Americans. In all, they came from 46 different countries. They had been subjects of many other governments, but are now citizens of a constitutional government that has an unsurpassed history of human rights and freedoms.

Over fifty-percent of this group of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen joined after September 11, 2001. At the time, they were not US citizens, but they felt the call. They knew that their military service would take them into the thick of the Global War on Terrorism, but they understood that America is the “home of the Brave.”

The Bible records Paul’s thoughts on citizenship in the letter to the Philippians, chapter 3, verse 20. Paul says, “But our citizenship is in heaven.” Christians have affirmed loyalty to a new “government” also. The Kingdom of Heaven is our Homeland, and Christ Jesus is our King. The ceremony yesterday made people Americans, and a taped message from President Bush told them that they were now as fully American as any who were direct descendents of our nation’s founding fathers. When you become a Christian, your citizenship in Heaven is also as complete as Abraham’s or David’s or the Apostle Paul’s. The Rights and Privileges of a Christian are miraculous.



Iraqi children with gifts from Americans

The new American citizens are here in a battle for peace and liberty; they were in the fight before they were citizens. Christians have also been in the fight between good and evil from the day they were born. Billy Graham writes, “God does not promise us an easy life, free of troubles, trials, difficulties, and temptations. He never promises that life will be perfect. He does not call His children to a playground, but to a battleground. In the midst of it all, when we serve Christ, we truly discover that ‘the joy of the Lord is [our] strength.’”¹

Soldiers look forward to completing their mission and going home. Christians look forward to leaving their own battlefield and discovering their heavenly home. But, while we are here, soldiers and Christians alike take a stand against evil, and strive to make the world around us a better place. After all,

we are proud of our citizenship, and we want others to recognize how good we have it.

Maybe they will come over to our side too.

⁽¹ Billy Graham, *Hope For Each Day*, pg. 229)

TIDBITS

Financial Insider

Life Insurance Increase-

Beginning on September 1, 2005, the maximum level of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance coverage will be increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000.

Anyone in service on September 1 will receive the increase even if they previously declined or elected lesser coverage. For this option, they will have to go to their Personnel Office and re-elect it.

Servicemember's can only elect coverage in increments of \$50,000 instead of the previous \$10,000.

Coverage rates will remain the same at 6.5 cents per \$1,000 per month.

SGLI members serving in areas or operations designated as combat operations or zones of combat will have the premiums for \$150,000 of coverage paid for by the Department of Defense. This is only while serving in designated areas or operations.

DoD will be paying \$150,000 retroactively for deaths that occurred in combat conditions on or after October 7, 2001 but before September 1, 2005. For more information see your post finance office.

Websites

Four-legged friends

On this website you can help support, and care for foreign animals befriended by deployed soldiers.

Go to: www.militarymascots.org

War on Iraq

Ongoing coverage of the issues and events in post-war Iraq. www.npr.org/iraq

The sights and sounds form OIF and OEF.

Submit your photos! www.militarycity.com/valor/



Legal Tips

Cell Phone fraud-

Subscriber fraud is the most common type of cell phone fraud and occurs when someone signs up for service with false customer information and identification. Carriers are losing an estimated \$150 million per year due to subscriber fraud. It takes time to discover that someone has been using your identity and an even longer time to correct what they have done. The best defense is to always secure your personal information, especially when making purchases in a store or over the internet.

Cloning fraud is another way for someone to charge up your cellular phone bill. Each cell phone has a unique factory set electronic serial number and telephone number. To clone it, the phone is reprogrammed to transmit the numbers belonging to another cell phone. Valid number combinations can be obtained by illegally monitoring radio wave transmissions from legitimate subscribers. The subscriber is then billed for phone calls made from the cloned phone. The industry has developed very effective countermeasures to this problem, but if you think you are a victim, call your phone carrier for more information.



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U.S. Army Center for Military History

www.army.mil/cmh-pg/

The War Times Journal

www.wtj.com