



Heroes among us

Sgt. Lynne Steely

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq—Seven Soldiers from the Richmond, Ky.-based National Guard unit, the 617th Military Police Company, were awarded medals in a ceremony at Camp Liberty June 16 for their courageous actions when they responded to an ambushed convoy during a patrol March 20. Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Nein, Sgt. Leigh A. Hester and Spc. Jason M. Mike, were awarded the Silver Star which is the third highest military award designated solely for heroism in combat.

Spc. Casey M. Cooper and Spc.



Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein, Sgt. Leigh Hester and Spc. Jason Mike were awarded the Silver Star June 16 for their heroic actions during an insurgent ambush on their convoy March 20.

Ashley J. Pullen were presented with the Bronze Star with Valor device, the fourth highest award for bravery, heroism or meritorious service. Cooper also received the Purple Heart for injuries received during the attack.

ARCOM is awarded for meritorious achievement or service. Presenting the medals was the Multi-National Corps-Iraq commanding general, Lt. Gen. John R. Vines.

“It was a series of events that brings us here to stand in the presence of heroes,” said Vines. Team “Raven 42” was assisting with searching a convoy route for Improvised Explosive Devices and providing security to supply convoys passing through on that March day when they were ambushed and began receiving heavy AK 47, machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire.

Outnumbered five to one, the teams quick reaction and leadership was able to thwart
(cont'd on page 6)



Spc. Casey Cooper, Sgt. Dustin Morris and Spc. Jesse Ordunez march off the parade field following the awards ceremony.

Sgt. Dustin T. Morris and Spc. Jesse D. Ordunez were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor device. The

Brigade Briefs

• July Birthdays

- 02- MSG Donald Greaux
- 04- SGT Patrick Henry
- 11- CPT Charles Green
- 15- SFC Lawrence White
- 18- SGT Cecil Gregory
- 18- SGT Nadia Gibson
- 23- SPC Michael Lokuta
- 24- SFC David Schoenenberger
- 27- PFC John White

• There will be a company organizational day held on July 3 to celebrate the birth of our nation, relax and have some fun!

• There will be a 10k Peach Tree run on July 3. sign in is at 0500, run starts at 0600 and it will be televised live from Camp Victory.

• Other Camp Victory MWR events:
 July 10-Diathlon; 6 1/2 mile bicycle/run race.
 July 10-Strongman competition; Humvee push, dumbbell carry, push-ups and tire flip competition.
 July 16-Talent show @ 2000 hrs.
 For information on these and other MWR events contact SFC Graybill.

Eye in the Sky



Here is a view of the ancient city of Babylon from a helicopter during a recent trip to the the 940th MP Company at Camp Echo.

Heat stroke is no joke

Anyone can become a victim of heat stroke within minutes which can be fatal. With temperatures on the rise, take a few preventative measures to prevent yourself from becoming a heat casualty.



- Drink plenty of water. For temperatures of 90 degrees and higher, you should be drinking at least 1 1/2 quarts of water per hour.
- Do not over-exert yourself. 70 minutes at a time of moderate work before taking a break to cool down is sufficient.
- If you see someone displaying symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, get them to a cool or shaded area immediately, loosen all binding clothing, and seek medical aid.

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,
Family and
Friends of
the 18th MP
Brigade!
Greetings
from hot and
getting hotter
Iraq! We
have now



entered our eighth month of service on our current rotation— Operationally, our team has hit its “race stride” and our effectiveness as a fighting force is peaking. Our disciplines, tough standards, great Soldiers, and NCO junior leaders are all showing their tremendous skill in our engagements with enemy forces. We have had many awards for valor that document the heroic performance of our Soldiers. However, the greatest proof of the valor of our Soldiers is found in the daily successful accomplishment of the mission and in the improvement of the Iraqi forces that we are training to lead this fight for a free Iraq. Just last night, a joint MP/Iraqi Highway Patrol squad in Taji encountered a local national who identified an insurgent to the Iraqi Highway Patrol. The IHP patrol approached the man, stopped him for questioning and he admitted to his involvement with the insurgent forces and has provided other helpful information. This is showing how our Iraqi Highway Patrol is not only beginning to function effectively, it is also becoming a trusted agent of security among the Iraqi people! I’m so proud of our forces and their success in continuing to develop the IHP! In the month ahead we will open a new national IHP Headquarters here in Baghdad that will Command and Control all of the IHP

forces in Iraq. The 503d MP Battalion (Airborne) and our own S5 Major “Andy of Arabia” Johnson and his able team of CPT Taylor Lyle and 2LT Steve Lemelin, as well as his great security squad under SSG Crawford of B/206th EN have all made it happen. It is incredible to see the ingenuity, initiative and will of this team. Down in Basra, the 586th ESFS (USAF) and 105th MP Battalion have developed a cooperative security relationship with our Highway Patrol station there to improve the security of the roads in and around Camp Bucca. Everywhere our Iraq Partners are beginning to take the fight for a free Iraq on and we see successes. Being a disciplined unit in combat, we have enjoyed many successes in fighting to help the Iraqis secure their future freedom as well as fighting to make our world safer by defeating international terrorists right here. However, like all prize fighters in a ring, we have suffered some loss. Our most recent loss was SPC Mike Hayes of the 617th MP Company. SPC Hayes was Killed in Action while working to protect Iraqis and coalition members from approaching an IED that was discovered along a main highway. Jesus said that, “No man has greater love than this, that he lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).” Mike laid down his life for his comrades and in the struggle to allow the Iraqis to have the same freedoms that we have grown up with and that many of us used to take for granted. We mourn his loss and pray for his family and friends to include his brother James and sister Melissa who also serve with us in Iraq. While writing this now, our Air Force comrades are busy conducting their transfer of authority operations with their replacements! Congratulations

to LTC Joe Romano and Senior Master Sergeant Terry Ard for their leadership of a great team of heroes. CSM Shelley and I will be presenting many well deserved awards to these heroes as they leave Camp Bucca to return home. Our Air Force Squadron, the 586th ESFS, has transformed the security of Camp Bucca to new highs and have also been the backbone of our workforce in the Detention Facility there.

Big Kudos go to the 306th MP Battalion as well for their continued successes in leading our detention facility at Abu Ghraib.

Of course some of the greatest news in the brigade, and in Iraq, has been the heroic achievement of the 617th MP Company’s Raven 42 Squad under the leadership of SSG Timothy Nein. This is the first time that I am aware of where three Silver Stars were awarded to the members of one MP Squad for valor and heroism in combat. There were also seven other Soldiers decorated for valor in the squad as well! Raven 42 is now at the MP School for a brief stint to share lessons learned from the battlefield, with our newest leaders as they prepare to join us in the war to defeat terror.

Finally I want to thank our families for all you are doing to make it possible for us to serve here. The sacrifices of service away from our families fall most often on the shoulders of our loved ones who bear these burdens day in and day out...your love and support of us while you continue to deal with the challenges at home are truly the fuel that drives our fighting ethos and keeps us safe. You are the reason we fight on. We all love you and miss you and we look forward to our reunions to come!

EVER VIGILANT!

Col. Jim Brown, VIGILANT 6

PROMOTIONS

REUPS



Spc. Michael Tanis



Sgt. Rebecca Williams



Staff Sgt. Delonda Allen



Spc. Bradley Swope



Sgt. Lynne Steely, Pfc. Courtney Townes and Spc. Bradley Swope

The Warrior Ethos

*I will always place the mission first
I will never accept defeat
I will never quit
I will never leave a fallen comrade*



Battalion News



Photo by Capt. J.H. Holmes, Jr., A Battery, 1st Bn, 623rd FA

Sgt. Michael Ball, a medic with Alpha Battery, 1st Bn, 623rd FA treats local Iraqi school children for minor cuts and rashes.

A Battery, based in Tompkinsville, Ky., has “adopted” two local schools within their area of operation since their arrival to Central Iraq this past February.

The focus of their visits is to provide basic medical care to the local children, treating them for upper respiratory problems, cuts, scrapes, and other minor ailments. The locals receive bandages and over the counter medicines to take home. Many of the rural communities in Iraq are unable to get proper medical treatment. (Information courtesy of Capt. David Page, KARNG)



Photo by Sgt. Lynne Steely



Photo courtesy of the 105th MP Battalion

Commander of the 105th Military Police Battalion, Lt. Col. Houser, helps unload donated supplies from the back of an Iraqi Police vehicle. Houser coordinated with a Fraternal Order of Police organization from West Jefferson, N.C. to collect items to be donated to the Iraqi Police officers working with the battalion at Camp Bucca, Iraq. Some of the items included flashlights, patches, some uniform items, zip ties, socks, and various other items.

Sgt. 1st Class Randy C. Bottom of Bravo battery, 1st Bn, 623rd FA gets promoted by Maj. Gen. Donnie Storm, and Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip Gearlds, of the Kentucky Army National Guard June 16.

The command team was in Iraq visiting with deployed Soldiers, to thank them for a job well done and encourage them to reenlist.

Bottom began his National Guard career in 1985 and has worked as the B Battery unit supply clerk, training NCO and readiness NCO for the last 16 years.

Bottom has been accepted for a Master Sgt. position, and will begin working as a Force Integration Readiness Officer in a new unit after redeployment.

Bottom resides in Taylor County, Ky. with his wife Lee and his two children, Chris and Brittney.

(cont'd from page 1)

the calculated insurgent attack resulting in 27 enemy killed, six wounded and one captured.

The squad leader, Nein, and Hester, a team leader, were instrumental in overcoming the insurgents with their immediate response, taking appropriate action to counteract the attack.



to safety while returning fire on the enemy. Once the threat was eliminated he provided medical treatment to the wounded.

Following the attack, the team confiscated a substantial weapons and ammunitions cache, including 22 AK-47 assault rifles, 13 RPK machine guns, six rocket propelled grenades and 39 hand grenades.

“Sometimes extraordinary things are asked of ordinary people,” said Vines. “You are American



heroes. I salute you.”

Also receiving awards are three Soldiers who are in the U.S. recovering from injuries they received in the attack. Team leader

Sgt. Joseph Rivera, and Pfc. Bryan M. Mack were awarded the Purple Heart and an the Army Commendation Medal with Valor device, and gunner Spc. William R. Haynes II received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor Device.

Mike, a trained medic, was able to pull his wounded comrades

.....
Army to focus on assault victim needs

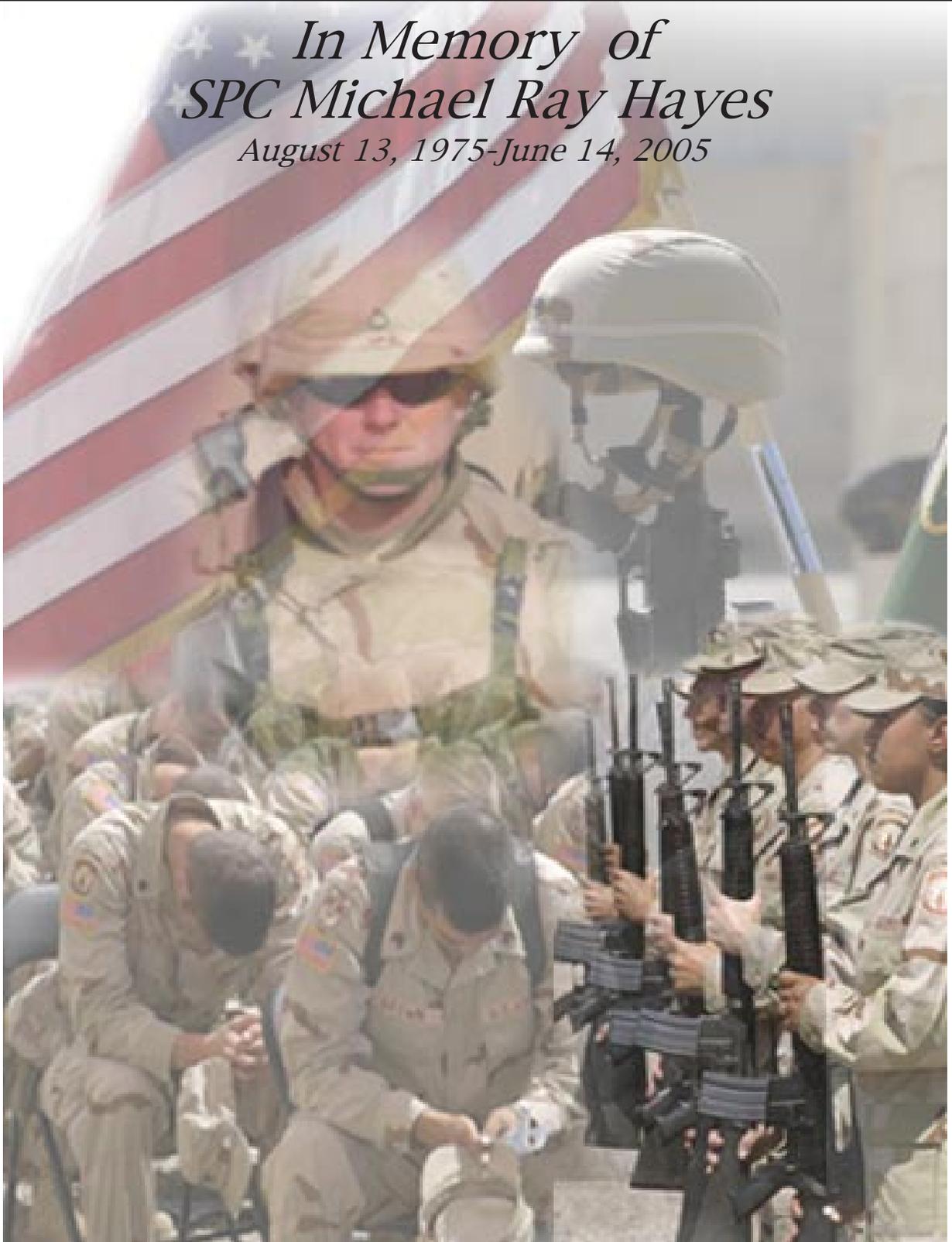
The Army’s sexual assault policy reinforces the Army’s zero tolerance policy for sexual assault, and its commitment to ensuring that victims of sexual assault are protected, and treated with dignity, fairness and respect. Sexual Assault should not be a new term to any of us. However; as of June 14 the way the Army is taking care of its victims has changed. The incidents of sexual assault greatly outweigh the number

of sexual assaults that are reported. The Department of Defense realizes this and has developed a way for the victim to get the emotional assistance needed without having to report the crime. The newly implemented program now offers a way for the victim of an assault to receive medical treatment and counseling without having to report the incident to the chain of command or the CID. There are two types of reports:
Restricted Report

(confidentiality limited to a ‘need to know’ basis).
– *Victim’s choice*
– *Provide Information*
• *Medical Treatment*
– *Optional Forensic Exam*
– *Evidence collection*
• *Chaplain*
Unrestricted Report
– *Victim’s choice*
– *Provide Information*
• *Medical Treatment*
• *Forensic Exam*
• *CID Investigation*
• *Victim Witness*
• *JAG*
• *Chaplain*
As the ‘center of gravity’ for the Sexual

Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPRP), the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) is essential to the local coordination and implementation of the installation’s individual and systematic responses to sexual assault. The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the 18th MP BDE is CPT Whitney O. Jensen. CPT Jensen is committed to ensuring all victims are treated with the utmost dignity and respect.

*In Memory of
SPC Michael Ray Hayes
August 13, 1975-June 14, 2005*



CULTURAL DIVERSITY--Does it matter?

Sgt. 1st Class Chris Warner, Equal Opportunity Advisor

Our culture surrounds us and gives us identity. Every Soldier can make that statement about his or her immediate or adoptive culture. However, when one's culture is a subculture within a larger or more dominant culture, like the Army, different and conflicting identities, values, beliefs and rewards may affect people differently. The most important traits that make us who we are lie beneath the surface.



Culture is the sharing of learned behaviors and perceptions of a group which is passed from one generation to another through a socialization process. What is important for commanders and subordinate leaders to acknowledge is that a Soldier's culture is not limited to the conditioning imposed by the unit or organizational rules. As it is passed from one group to another, some elements will change while others will not. Even the Army's culture, with its long history of customs and courtesies, is consistently being revised.

The U.S. Army is one of the largest and most diverse organizations known to mankind with an ethnic and racial makeup most reflective of American society. For many new recruits, the Army is probably the first opportunity to meet and communicate with people who are 'different'. These differences can be manifested through skin color, gender, religion, language, attitudes, or in simple mannerisms.

Our cultural diversity is dependant on the relationships that we form outside our comfort zone which embrace the differences that exist in society today. Once we are aware of our assumptions and attitudes, we can question them and make conscious choices about how we want to think and how we behave toward those who are different.

We must be aware of how our behaviors are affecting the attitudes of others. We must, at all times, maintain respect for others. This is not only important in the workplace; but throughout our daily lives. Although, by regulation, we are not prohibited from speaking anything other than English; it is inherent that we remember how our actions affect the attitudes of others. How do people who share a language interact without making co-workers, who don't know the language, feel uncomfortable? If we are going to be productive, we have got to figure out a way; the best way; to work together. Sometimes that may be reminding each other that if we are doing something that excludes somebody, it makes it tough to work as a team. By understanding the impact we are having on people around us, we will become a more effective fighting power.

Over the history of our nation we have seen how the converging of these differences can create conflict. Sometimes these differences were tolerated and sometimes they were not. If not properly handled, conflict and other negative behaviors based on actual or perceived differences can be detrimental to teamwork and unit cohesion. The responsibility of Army leadership is to recognize and manage these differences so that they do not interfere with the Army's mission effectiveness and ability to fight and win on the battlefield.

A goal of the Army's Equal Opportunity Program is to provide an environment in which Soldiers and civilians can work with individuals and groups who are culturally and ethnically different from one another. This is a challenge to Army leaders and the principles of good leadership.

Since joining the US Army, I have often heard the saying "We are just one big melting pot". As good as that sounds, it's just not true. We should all appreciate and utilize our differences. I prefer to look at our differences as a "Chef Salad". Each culture represents an ingredient such as lettuce, tomatoes, carrots, cheese, ham, croutons; you get the picture. Without the values and beliefs from each individual we would not be able to function as a well balanced combat force. Diversity does matter! Valuing diversity starts with individuals; it starts with you.

SUPPORTING DIVERSITY

1. *Be mindful of your language; avoid stereotypical remarks and challenge those made by others.*
2. *Speak out against jokes and slurs that target people or groups. Silence sends a message that you're in agreement. It is not enough to refuse to laugh.*
3. *Be knowledgeable; provide as much accurate information as possible to reject harmful myths and stereotypes.*
4. *Make respect for diversity a core value in your unit and articulate it as such.*
5. *Create an environment conducive to the exploration of diversity.*
6. *Learn about co-workers' backgrounds and share your own. Ask questions that invite explanation and answer with the same.*
7. *Give Soldiers and civilian member's time to celebrate their own diverse backgrounds.*
8. *Respect differences; try to look at things from the other person's perspective.*
9. *Be objective.*
10. *Recognize individual strengths.*

IMAGINE: IF WE COULD SHRINK THE EARTH'S POPULATION TO A VILLAGE OF PRECISELY 100 PEOPLE, WITH ALL EXISTING HUMAN RATIOS REMAINING THE SAME, IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS:

- *There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere, and 8 Africans*
- *70 would be non-White; 30 White*
- *70 would be non-Christian; 30 Christian*
- *50% of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people. All six would be citizens of the United States*
- *70 would be unable to read*
- *50 would suffer from malnutrition*
- *80 would live in substandard housing*
- *Only 1 would have a college education*



WHEN ONE CONSIDERS OUR WORLD FROM AN INCREDIBLY COMPRESSED PERSPECTIVE, THE NEED FOR BOTH APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING BECOMES UNQUESTIONABLY APPARENT.

Around Camp Victory





IRAQ FACTS

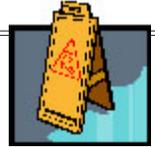
Reconstruction - As of June 2005, \$15.3 billion has been obligated to the rebuilding of Iraq through the Iraq Relief & Reconstruction Fund and supplemental appropriations. Since June 2004, over 2,500 construction projects have been started, and over 1,300 completed.

- A total of over 2,000 megawatts of power have been added to the grid, enough to service 5.4 million Iraqi homes.
- Sixty-five water treatment projects have been completed, as well as 21 sewer projects.
- Construction is underway on 142 new primary health care facilities across Iraq.
- Completed security projects include 61 Port of Entry or border facilities, 82 police stations, 17 academies and branch schools, 96 unit headquarters and 19 fire stations.

Healthcare - Healthcare spending is up more than 30 times its prewar levels; more than 3 million children have received life-saving vaccinations. On September 4, Iraq's Ministry of Health initiated the first polio immunization program in the country since the start of the war, in an effort to protect 4.7 million children from the infectious disease.

Defense - As of June 2005, the Iraqi Army has 75,820 troops. In less than a year, Iraqi Regular Army and Intervention Forces grew from one operational battalion in July 2004 to 107 in June 2005. Iraq's two Military Academies reopened in mid-October and a total of 91 graduated from the two pilot courses.

Safety First



One of the newest members of our 18th MP Brigade family is Mr. Robert Myrick, assigned to us as the unit Safety Manager. Myrick is no stranger to the brigade either. He has prior military

service and served as the Maintenance Supervisor during a four-year tour with the brigade.

Myrick's duties as Safety Manager cover all aspects of safety from scoping out fire hazards, vehicle safety, personal injury, and even chemical safety to name just a few. Heightening awareness of safety measures within the unit is an important part of Myrick's job. He passes his concerns on to the Command Safety Team who will disseminate the information to the lowest levels of the unit, in order to prevent any unnecessary injuries, illnesses and even deaths.

"Everyone is a safety officer," said Myrick, "If you see something unsafe report it immediately."

His safety slogan is "Safety enhances combat readiness."

We look forward to Mr. Myrick's monthly column to alert us with important and up-to-date safety information.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Mr. Myrick at:

DSN: 318-822-3177

The next best thing...

Brigade commander, Col. Jim Brown, watches proudly as his daughter Monica sings the national anthem at her graduation ceremony from Mannheim high school June 12. Brown viewed the ceremony live via the web through a program called the 2005 High School Graduation Initiative collaborated by the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense Education Activity.



Brigade memorial

Our brigade memorial, dedicated to our fallen comrades of Operation Iraqi Freedom I is located at our headquarters in Mannheim, Germany and was unveiled October 27, 2004. Our rear detachment commander, Capt. Michael Capps checks the memorial each morning as he goes to work.

On the morning of June 7 Capt. Capps found this framed tribute to Sgt. Travis L. Burkhardt, placed

there the night before on the anniversary of his death. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.



Independence Day

This 4th of July we celebrate 229 years of independence for our nation. For many Americans, this means a long weekend of elaborate parades, barbecues, and a plethora of magnificent fireworks after sunset.

While celebration abounds, I hope all Americans will take a moment to remember the significance of why we celebrate Independence Day.

The 4th of July commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress in 1776 at Philadelphia, Pa. It signified the original 13 colonies breaking their formal ties with Britain and forming their own, independent nation, the United

States of America.

The Declaration of Independence was written with the ideals and fundamentals that our nation was founded on, and, almost three hundred years



later those basic principles still hold true.

As you celebrate July 4th please don't forget those Soldiers who gave their lives during the Revolutionary War for a free nation, and all of those who have died since in order to keep it that way.

Liberty Bell Facts

The Liberty Bell was first rung on July 8, 1776 after the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. It weighs 2080 lbs. and is 12 ft. in circumference at its widest point. The Bell bears the inscription: "Proclaim Liberty throughout All the Land unto All the Inhabitants Thereof. Leviticus xxv:x."

The Bell was ordered in 1751 and cast in London. It arrived in Philadelphia August 1752 and was cracked while being tested. It was melted down, and a second bell was cast in April 1753 but it was also defective. A third was cast in June of that year by the firm of Pass and Stowe in Philadelphia. On June 7, 1753, the third bell was hung in the tower of Independence Hall.

• Early celebrations

• The first celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, four days after the Declaration of Independence was adopted. On that day the declaration was read aloud, city bells rang, and bands played. Within a few years the Fourth of July was observed throughout most of the new nation, although until 1783 the city of Boston, Massachusetts, commemorated Independence Day on March 5, the date of the Boston Massacre. An elaborate Fourth of July celebration was held in Philadelphia in 1788, following the ratification of the Constitution of the United States. Several important U.S. projects were started on Independence Day. Work on the Erie Canal in New York state began on July 4, 1817. Construction of the first railroad in the United States, the Baltimore and Ohio, was started on July 4, 1828. July 4 was the date selected in 1848 for laying the cornerstone of the Washington Monument in the U.S. capital.





CONNECTIONS

By Brigade Chaplain, Lt. Col. Thomas Evans

When I was 11 years old, my father and older brother and I joined a mountain climbing expedition. The quest was to climb from the plains up to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (we were living in Africa at the time). Kilimanjaro is the world's highest free standing mountain with more elevation gain than Mount Everest because it does not rise up out of a mountain range. From the savannah floor at about 4,000 feet above sea level, this giant strato-volcano rises to the height of 19,335 feet.

No technical climbing is required, but, there is a strenuous four day challenge to hike/climb up the mountain. At the end of day-three, as we approached the upper elevations, the route brought us up near the base of

Mawenzi, Kilimanjaro's smaller second cone. Then you traverse a seven mile long saddle moving west towards Kibo, the highest peak.



I will never forget that seven mile saddle. My 11 year old legs and lungs were strong and eager on day-one as we entered the Rain Forests of the lower reaches. The three of us had already climbed the snow capped Point Lenana, on Mount Kenya at 16,335 feet. This was "only" going to be 3,000 feet higher. Day-two, we sailed up the trail and stayed in a corrugated metal hut at night. Day-three became a challenge. I called forth all my strength to keep up with the team.

As we approached that saddle, the views were breathtaking. The glacier covered peak ahead of us, and the expanse of Africa below us. But, then I also saw the sight of my father and 13 year old brother off in the distance. I had fallen behind. Pilots know that unless an aircraft is pressurized, they need to wear oxygen masks above 14,000 feet. I was well over 18, 500 feet wearing a backpack and with three days of climbing behind me. I was committed to crossing that saddle, but I couldn't get enough air. There was one African man with me, and he encouraged me to count 100 steps forward and rest, then another 100 steps and rest. The others made it to camp and watched me work my way across the saddle in that stop-start method, but I made it, and with it came a sense of victory and a hearty dinner.

We are in the "saddle" of our deployment now. We've conquered the entry months; the "going home date" is out there in front of us, and our backpacks feel kind of heavy, and we can't seem to get a good breath of air. Well, let this day serve as 100 steps. Don't worry about tomorrow, just work hard to get through today and rest tonight. At 100 steps per effort, that seven mile saddle took me about 150 repetitions, but I kept my eyes on the goal, and I made it.

Our spiritual walk can be measured just about the same. The prize is much better than just a mountain top. The eternal prize is out there in front of us. Jesus is there beside us, saying, "Just move forward today, don't give up, don't go back. 'Come to me, **all you who are weary and burdened**, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'"* If we keep our eyes on the goal, and make every day an opportunity to get closer to God, we will arrive one day at a feast far better than that mountain meal, and a mansion far better than that corrugated hut. Press on, heaven is worth it.

* **Matthew 11: 28 – 30 (NIV)**

TIDBITS

Financial Insider

Special leave accrual-

Military personnel are eligible for special leave accrual if prohibited from taking leave during the latter part of the fiscal year due to assignment or deployment to hostile fire or danger pay areas, or deployment to, or in support of an operational mission at the national level for 60 or more days. Eligible members can accumulate up to 30 additional days in excess of 60 but cannot carry over more than 120 days into the next fiscal year.

Automatic SLA-

This carry-over applies to assignment or deployment for 120 or more consecutive days and receipt of hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay for four or more consecutive months. Automatic carry-over consists of the leave balance upon entering the area of responsibility (AOR) plus leave accrued minus leave taken in the AOR. It does not include leave accrued after departing the AOR. For more information contact your post Finance office.



Websites

Friends of Iraq

Here is an awesome website where you can help the people of Iraq through your donations with special projects like the blogger challenge, the Iraqi Orphans Project, and many more charities. Go to: www.spiritofamerica.net

Veterans need our support

Find out how you can help veterans who are facing adversity. The New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans www.neshv.org



Legal Tips

Anthrax vaccine-

On October 27, 2004, district Judge Emmet G. Sullivan ordered the military to stop requiring anthrax vaccines for U.S. military personnel, citing that the Food and Drug Administration acted improperly by allowing the experimental vaccine for use against inhalation anthrax.

This ban was partially lifted by Sullivan on April 6 ruling that shots can be restarted on a voluntary basis under a new law called Project BioShield Act of 2004. This law allows the use of unapproved drugs in cases of declared emergencies.

The Pentagon had administered millions of anthrax vaccines to more than 1.1 million troops since 1998. Hundreds of military personnel have been expelled from service for refusing to take them. If you would like to receive the anthrax vaccine or continue with the series, contact your post troop medical clinic.



Military Police related sites

Home of the Army Military Police Corps
www.wood.army.mil/usamps/
 Military Police Memorial Tribute
www.honoredmps.org
 Retired Military Police Officers Association
<http://rmppo.homestead.com/home.html>
 Shop for Military Police items and gifts
www.militarypolicegiftshop.com
 Everything about your military police career
www.branchorientation.com/militarypolice/home.html