The WRANGLER

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Platoon provides bullets to units at Camp Taji

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
207th MPAD

Beans and bullets have always been the bare essentials any Army needs to operate.

Soldiers have a built-in instinct to find the dining facility on any post, namely: follow the crowds at mealtime and they will lead you to food. But where do Soldiers get their bullets?

On Camp Taji, units get their bullets from the Ammunition Transfer Holding Point (ATHP). The 2nd Medium Lift Platoon of the 529th Ordnance Company, currently attached to the 428th Quartermaster Company, runs the ATHP.

The platoon of 33 Soldiers arrived at Taji Nov. 24. "Essentially, when we took over the operation, not one phase of it met any Army standard…we had to build the operation from the ground up," said 1st Lt. Matthew Joy, platoon leader.

They improved force-protection measures and established accountability, Joy explained. They also improved the area by distributing gravel, so the place no longer turns into one big mud puddle when it rains.

"We started with identifying exactly what was on the ground, segregating it into its appropriate type for safety reasons and for accountability," Joy said.

There was a lot of unserviceable ammunition at the ATHP when the platoon took command, but they have gotten rid of it since.

"We used to have a lot of stuff that we needed to blow up," said Spc. Tamas Toth, ammunition specialist. "Tank rounds, AT4s and other things. We used to go every Friday with EOD to blow stuff up."

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Spc. Tamas Toth, an ammunition specialist with the 2nd Medium Lift Platoon of the 529th Ordnance Company, currently attached to the 428th Quartermaster Company tightens a cargo strap to secure boxes of ammunition to a pallet. ***Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux***

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A Few Legal Pointers

Wisely choose your power of attorney!

Preparing a Power of Attorney (POA) is one of the many services offered by your servicing legal assistance office. The purpose of a POA is to give your agent authorization to complete tasks on your behalf. There are two types of POAs: General and Special.

Sgt. David Brady
18th CSB LEGAL NCO

A General Power of Attorney (GPOA) is the most common type of POA. The term "general" is a loose term in that it grants complete power over one's estate. Great care and thought should be given before granting someone a GPOA. In most cases, parents, spouses, or very close friends are given a GPOA. The GPOA will list a variety of powers granted therein, although, it is not limited to what is listed and described. In other words, that person can conduct any business that you could, such as taking out loans in your name, and selling your assets.

A Special Power of Attorney (SPOA) differs from the GPOA in that it is more specific. Instead of granting complete power over one's estate, only specific powers are enumerated. This type of POA is usually given to a friend or relative who needs only to accomplish a specific task, for example, registering a vehicle or opening a bank account.

Both types of POAs can be very useful tools, but both have its advantages and disadvantages.

A common problem with a GPOA is that it is frequently rejected. This is because the powers granted therein are so broad that most businesses or organizations don't want to accept them. Many businesses understand that GPOAs can be misused and want to protect the grantor's interest, as well as protect their own interest from any fraudulent use. This is where the SPOA may be the better choice; its powers are specific and to the point. The benefit of a GPOA over a SPOA is that it can take care of rare circumstances you may not have thought to include in your SPOA.

On the other hand, many financial institutions will only accept a SPOA, specific to the point of a single business transaction. You should check with that organization or your servicing legal office to determine which businesses and organizations will accept both types of POAs. Even in a military community, many places such as finance, housing, and the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System will not accept GPOAs, even if they are military POAs. It is always that particular institution's choice as to whether they accept the POA.

To complete a POA, you will need to know the full name of the person who is to receive the POA, the city and state of where he/she lives, and an idea of when you would like it to expire. If the POA involves an automobile or motorcycle, you will need the year, make, model, and vehicle identification number (VIN). If the POA is for the sale or purchase of a residential home, you will need the legal description of the property.

The legal description is different than the physical address and can be provided by either your real estate agent or from County Records. For most purposes, like a deployment, a POA will only be needed for one-year. You should only grant someone power for a limited time not to exceed 3 years. A GPOA is not appropriate for someone just to have just in case unless you are out of the country.

A military POA can be a great asset to the service member and his/her family. A POA is just another way to make life a little easier for everyone.

The Wrangler

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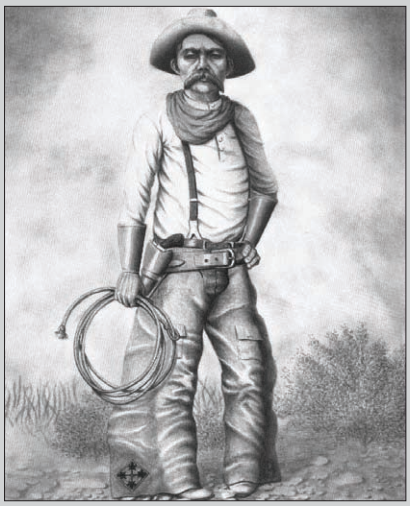
4th Sustainment Brigade Commander
Col. Gustave Perna

4th Sustainment Brigade Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Trent Ellis

Public Affairs Officer
Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman

Editor
Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux



AMMO FROM Page1

Toth said he chose his job because he wanted to deal with ammunition and support the front lines who actually take care of the insurgents.

The ATHP stores everything from 9mm ammo to 155 mm tank rounds. They ship ammo to their customers mostly by ground, but air-deliver items if it is an emergency re-supply, said Master Sgt. Bruce Sloan, the accountable officer of the ATHP.

The ATHP is a small version of an ammunition supply point (ASP). The difference is the size and the fact that they don't have a surveillance section, which inspects and repacks the ammunition like the ASP at Logistical Support Area Anaconda has. Their main goal is the same, however: to provide ammunition to all units who need it.

"We are supporting mainly 4th Infantry Division and 4th Sustainment Brigade and all of the units that fall under them," Sloan said. "Anybody that is in the Taji area gets Class V support from us."

Soldiers at the ATHP work hard to fill orders.

"We do have a lot of people, but we need a lot of muscle," Toth said. As he explained, most ammunition boxes weigh 50 pounds or more, and require two people to lift.

"I guess if you look at the big picture of it, if it wasn't for us, the infantry or artillery guys could not have ammo," Toth said.

The platoon is like a family at this remote location of post.

"Teamwork is great," Sloan said. "They have to work together out here. They are pretty motivated. They are always laughing and joking, keeping everybody going."

Joy said that some, like himself arrived to the platoon shortly before their deployment.

"We are really a mix of people that sort of came together last minute," Joy said. "The Soldiers know their jobs. The NCOs know their jobs. They all have really made my job a lot easier and they are responsible for the success of the operation."

For wounds received in action...

Staff Sgt. Gregory Chandler poses for a picture with Col. Gustave Perna, 4th Sustainment Brigade commander, minutes after he received a Purple Heart. Chandler is an S1 advisor on the Military Training Team assigned to the Iraqi army's 1st Motorized Transportation Regiment at Camp Taji. Chandler was on a mission with the 1st MTR in early March, when an Improvised Explosive Device exploded, followed by small arms fire. Chandler was the M240B gunner and he immediately returned fire. ***Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux***

Liaisons expedite parts delivery

Master Sgt. Benito Torres Jr., the NCOIC of the 4th Sustainment Brigade Liaison team assigned to the 3rd Corps Support Command Headquarters, points out a shipping tag on a palletized shipment going to Taji. Torres and his team make sure that parts are shipped in a timely manner to their 4th Infantry Division customers on 10 different forward operating bases. The shipments go from Anaconda to Baghdad by air, before they finally arrive to their destination at the individual FOBs. ***Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux***

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
207TH MPAD

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq - The 4th Sustainment Brigade Liaison Team assigned to 3rd Corps Support Command Headquarters at Logistical Support Area Anaconda does many different things from briefing the commanding general to dumpster diving for packaging materials, to accomplish their mission.

Although traditionally a liaison team would act as a link between two military units, ensuring mutual understanding and cooperation, the 4SB liaisons spend the majority of their time hunting down parts in different warehouses on LSA Anaconda.

"Our main goal is to be a liaison for the 4th Infantry Division when it comes to Class VII (major end items, mostly vehicles) battle damage and Class IX (repair parts) from TAP (Team Armor Partner)," said Master Sgt. Benito Torres Jr., Liaison Team NCOIC. "Delivering Class IX ground and air repair parts are only additional tasks we took upon ourselves," he added.

The liaison team currently supports the 1st, 2nd and 4th Brigade Combat Teams of the 4th Infantry Division. They ship parts out to 10 different forward operating bases, Torres explained. The team ships the largest amount of parts from the TAP warehouse.

The TAP warehouse provides high-dollar electronic parts for certain versions of the Bradley Fighting Vehicles and for the M1 A2 SEP Abrams tank, said Amy DeAnda, TAP site lead, who works with the liaison team on a daily bases. "Since January of this year, 4ID units received parts worth a total of $25.8 million," she said.

When a unit needs a certain high-dollar part, they order it through a computerized system, Torres said. An item manager at Fort Hood receives the order and ships it to TAP at LSA Anaconda. Someone from the liaison team comes in, groups the parts by destination and packs and palletizes the items. The pallets or sometimes individual boxes are then moved to the Joint Distribution Center at Anaconda, and then shipped by air to the Arrival Departure Airfield Control Group at

SEE **LIAISONS** • Page 7

Soldiers repair medical equipment

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comoeaux
207th MPAD

While there are dozens of unit supply clerks, mechanics or cooks on Camp Taji, some military occupation specialties are hard to find.

Spc. John Cranford from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade is one of three medical equipment repairers on the base.

He and the other two Soldiers provide maintenance support to all sick-call clinics, the optometry clinic, and dental clinic and even to a clinic on the Iraqi side of Camp Taji.

Cranford has been in the Army for two years. This is his first unit and first deployment.

"I think that our job is the best job in the Army," said Cranford. "We are proud to be doing the job we are doing here."

Arriving in October, he first worked at the Wrangler Clinic, but didn't always get to do his job. Before long, he was approached by another medical equipment repairer from the base.

"When I came to Taji, I knew there were other medical maintenance people on the post, and I was trying to see if we could work together, instead of working separately," said Staff Sgt. Wilmer Tapia, also a medical equipment repairer with 226th Medical Logistics Battalion. They soon started working together, sharing their experience and tools, because as it turns out, among the three of them they have enough equipment to fix just about anything on post.

The small team checks with the clinics periodically, making sure all the equipment is up and operational. They also started visiting the clinic on the Iraqi side, to see whether they needed any assistance.

"I feel like I am doing something good," Tapia said. "The first time when we went to the old Iraqi clinic, I felt sorry for them. There was a lack of supplies and equipment."

When the team found out that the Iraqis were opening a new clinic, they jumped to help to get the clinic's equipment up and operational. "[It was] nothing we have to do, we just want to help them out . . . The sooner we get them set up, the sooner we can get out of here hopefully," Cranford said.

They worked on several pieces of new equipment at the Iraqi clinic, some straight out of the box.

"A lot of the stuff we have to figure out on our own," Cranford said. He and his fellow medical equipment repairers sometimes have to pick up manuals, and figure out how to assemble new equipment.

"As soon as we got the X-ray machine going, they started seeing patients that day," Cranford said proudly.

The small team made friends with the clinic staff. Most of the doctors speak some English and are able to translate between the medical equipment repairers and the Iraqi medical staff who operates the equipment.

"They do a good job," said Iraqi army Sgt. Abaide, a nurse at the Iraqi clinic. "When we get a mechanical problem, they come and help us out quickly."

The Iraqi clinic sees between 80 and 100 patients a day – both Iraqi soldiers and Iraqi civilians working on the post. Abaide is very grateful for the help the medical equipment repair team provides to the Iraqi clinic.

As both Cranford and Tapia noted, the fun part of their job is to work on a new piece of equipment every day.

Spc. John Cranford, a medical equipment repairer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade solders a piece for a dental X-ray machine at an Iraqi clinic. ***Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux***

"I think the most difficult part is to get parts," Tapia said. If they work on older equipment, they have to contact the manufacturer for parts, and oftentimes the manufacturer no longer makes that particular type of medical equipment and may not have a part for it at all.

Although Cranford has only worked in his MOS for a short time, he seems and sounds very confident at what he is doing. He said that his 11-month Advance Individual Training was really difficult, but prepared him well for the job.

"He is a hardworking medical maintenance guy," said Tapia. "He is very reliable and knowledgeable."

Personal Finance Planning

Know BAH; fraud claims lead to UCMJ

Here are some real facts about Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), from the finance expert, not the kind you will hear from the 'Barracks Lawyers'

PART I of a two-part series

Basic Allowance for Housing is the entitlement that causes the most overpayments and underpayments. The reason why, most soldiers don't know the rules and polices that govern BAH.

Everyone is entitled to one form of BAH, whether it is with dependents, without dependents, partial BAH, or BAH Diff.

Understand BAH Types

There are several types of BAH to satisfy various housing situations. In general, the amount of BAH you receive depends on your location, pay grade, and whether you have dependents. Under most circumstances, you receive BAH for the location where you are assigned, not where you live. Additionally, you may be entitled to some BAH amounts if you are residing separately from your dependents. This occurs in situations involving unaccompanied overseas tours or having a dependent child that resides with a former spouse. The rules can become quite complex. Consult your Finance Office if you are in one of these situations. Each type of BAH is described below.

BAH With Dependents and BAH Without Dependents

A member with permanent duty within the 50 United States, who is not furnished government housing, is eligible for Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), based on the member's dependency status at the permanent duty ZIP Code. A member stationed overseas, including U.S. protectorates, who is not furnished government housing, is eligible for Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) based on the member's dependency status. If a member is serving an UNACCOMPANIED overseas tour, the member is eligible for BAH at the "with dependents" rate, based on the dependent's US residence ZIP Code, plus OHA at the "without dependents" rate, if the member is not furnished government housing overseas.

Master Sgt. Robin Krieger
Brigade Finance NCOIC

Partial BAH

A member without dependents who is living in government quarters is entitled to a Partial BAH.

BAH II

BAH-II is the housing allowance for members in particular circumstances, for example, reservists on active duty less than 30 days. It does not vary by geographic location. BAH-II was set based on the old Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ), which was based on the national average for housing. BAH-II is published annually and is determined by increasing the previous year's table by the percentage growth of housing costs.

BAH-Difference

BAH-DIFF is the housing allowance amount for a member who is assigned to single-type quarters and who is authorized a basic allowance for housing solely by reason of the member's payment of child support. A member is not entitled to BAH-DIFF if the monthly rate of that child support is less than the BAH-DIFF. BAH-DIFF is determined by the Secretary of Defense and was equal to the difference between BAH-II with dependents and BAH-II without dependents in 1997 for the member's grade. BAH-Diff is published annually and is determined by increasing the previous year's table by the percentage growth of the military pay raise.

Fraudulent Claims

Any member who submits a claim for BAH which contains false statements is subject to court-martial or criminal prosecution. In addition, fraudulent acceptance of benefits may cause a civilian recipient to be subject to criminal prosecution. The law provides for severe penalties of imprisonment and a fine. For military personnel, it can include dishonorable separation, total forfeitures, and confinement.

A Chaplain's Prayer

God's presence releases believers' worries

There are many spiritual battles that I face daily, but one of the biggest is the battle over worry. At present, we have plenty to worry about. Those at home worry about their Soldiers in Iraq. Here in Iraq, we worry about families at home.

What's on your worry list? Job, health, marriage, kids, school, promotion boards, money? It's strange that we cannot find enough time to do the things we need to do, and yet we always find the time to worry.

And worrying brings us down and thus less able to deal with those things that concern us. In other words, worry has the ability to multiply itself. So how do we break the chain? We want out of the worry pit but we don't know the way.

First, realize that worrying is irrelevant. Staying awake all night agonizing over something is not going to make it go away or help us fix the problem. We need to accept that there are things we cannot change.

Further, we need to accept responsibility for those things we can change. For instance, I cannot change the cost of gasoline. However, I can adjust my life and use less gas. I may not be able to create a perfect life, but I can make it better.

The second point flows from the first. If worrying is irrelevant then it is also irresponsible. When we worry we are spending time and energy on something that does not help. We know from experience that being irresponsible usually makes matters worse. And the worse things get, the more we have to worry about. If I catch myself worrying, then I decide to stop being irresponsible. Instead, I seek to find a way to improve the situation. At a minimum, I have decided to be constructive rather than destructive. Even if I cannot fix the problem, at least I have a better attitude as I weather the storm.

Maj. Dan Husak
STB Chaplain

Finally, understand that worrying is irreverent. When we worry we are saying, "God is not going to take care of me." When we think about it, God has taken care of us time and time again.

But don't think God is going to deliver you from every decision you've ever made. God lets us learn from our mistakes the same way we let our children learn from theirs. He wants us to grow in wisdom and understanding. He does not want us to repeat mistakes. So, He lets us learn (sometimes the hard way).

But in all things, He cares for us. He will not leave us and will never forsake us. You cannot believe that sentence and worry at the same time.

So what about when we cannot see that God is near? The answer may be too simple. We trust Him. I may not know what is going to happen next, but I do know that I am safe in my heavenly Father's arms. And that's enough.

LIAISON FROM Page 4

the Baghdad International Airport, before they finally make their way to their destination at the individual FOBs.

"It generally takes two to three weeks to get parts to customers," said Robby Butler, a supply technician for General Dynamics Land Systems working at the TAP.

However, if a unit urgently needs a part from TAP or any other warehouse the liaison team works with, and is able to locate the part on hand in the warehouses' bench stock, the liaison team does something called a 'walk-through,' Torres said. They have the warehouse pull the item, and to expedite delivery, team members manifest themselves with the part on the next flight or combat logistics patrol heading to where the part is needed, and hand-deliver it to the unit within 72 hours.

Their job requires a lot of patience, they have to know all the 'players,' understand the supply system and they have to be able to multi-task. The team does not have any proper packaging material –it has been on order for a while. They also lack forklifts or cargo trucks, yet they somehow always manage to "beg borrow and bargain," as Torres said, to get the parts to their customers.

"The other day we shipped 104 Bradley Up-armor Kits," said Torres. It took eight Palletized Loading Systems with trailers to get those items from the warehouse to the shipping yard. They overcame all obstacles to accommodate their customers.

"You need an outgoing personality to deal with the various people you meet," said Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Tyler, originally a light-wheel mechanic from the 4th SB. This is his first time as a liaison. He has picked up several new skills since he has started working in his current position. "I've learned the different aspects and avenues of shipping out parts and tracking them," he said.

Torres is the only one of the five-man team, who has some supply experience, being a unit supply specialist. In his last job he worked at the 4th Infantry Division's property book office. The rest of them learned most of what they know on the job. Torres made sure that every member of the team is comfortable with all aspects of what they do. People at TAP like working with the liaison team.

"Torres is one of the best LNOs we ever had," said Butler. "He pays a lot of attention to detail. He makes sure that the job gets done."

The liaison team stands ready seven days a week, 24 hours a day, awaiting new orders to come. They take a lot of pride in how well they take care of their customers.

"The highlights are helping people and ensuring that forward projected combat power is kept fully mission capable," said Tyler.

Sgt. Rolanda Louis stands at the position of attention as Sgt. Dannlys Faulkner recites a part of the NCO creed at the 18th Corps Support Command's NCO Induction Ceremony held on April 19 at the Logistical Base Seitz Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility. Both are automated logistical specialists with the 503rd Maintenance Company (Direct Support) from Fort Bragg, N.C.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux

18th CSB holds NCO induction ceremony

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
207th MPAD

LOGISTICAL BASE SEITZ, Iraq - The 18th Corps Support Battalion welcomed 35 noncommissioned officers from six subordinate units into the NCO corps with a nicely orchestrated ceremony on April 19 at the Logistical Base Seitz MWR building.

Sponsoring NCOs walked in and introduced the new NCOs to the distinguished guests, official party and the audience.

Once all inductees were seated at the position of attention, Command Sgt. Maj. Corbin Skerrit, the command sergeant major of the 18th CSB provided a short review on the history of the NCO corps.

As he explained, the United States Army has a lot of nice traditions in its 230-year history, however "until very recently, one of the most important events in the life of a Soldier, the attainment of his or her very first leadership position has occurred with little or no formal recognition."

From the historical overview the audience learned that Baron Friedrich von Steuben in his "Blue Book" written in 1778-1779 already realized how important NCOs are in the military and had detailed instructions for them. He wrote that "each sergeant and corporal will be answerable for the squad committed to his care . . . In dealing with recruits, they must exercise all their patience and while on the march, the noncommissioned officers must preserve order and regularity."

After the overview, the ceremony continued with three sergeants reciting the NCO creed. As they were doing so, they lit a red, a white and a blue candle. Red represented hardness and valor, white stood for purity and innocence, and blue being justice and vigilance. The audience and inductees watched in silence, as the little flames danced in the air.

"We were a little nervous, a little excited," said Sgt. Robert Walkup, one of the inductees. He is a crane operator in the 503rd Maintenance Company (Direct Support) and was promoted to sergeant in November of last year.

The guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Deidra Jones, acting brigade command sergeant major, 4th Sustainment Brigade, embraced the words of the NCO Creed in her speech, and shared her interpretation with the inductees and audience.

"The NCO Creed is not just some document written by some noncommissioned officer, it is the foundation for all noncommissioned officers," Jones said. "For me, it is more than a guide, it is a lifeline, and a source of strength when I face trying times and have to make difficult decisions."

Jones also reminded the new NCOs that they are responsible for their Soldiers well-being at all times.

"Always take the time to think out the task or situation at hand prior to making your decision," she said. "A good leader doesn't rush to failure . . .never forget, you hold the future and lives of Soldiers in your hands."

Participants appreciated the attention they received. "It feels good that they did something for the new NCOs," Walkup said. He was happy about the fact that some of the guests like Col. Gustave Perna, the 4th SB Commander, Jones flew in from another camp to participate in the ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony, all inductees received a copy of FM 7-22.7, The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide, a 'Bible' for many NCOs, to provide guidance through their career.

Mail improves 4th SB Soldiers' morale

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
207th MPAD

Mail is one of the main morale boosters for service members when they are deployed.

The mail room of the 4th Sustainment Brigade at Camp Taji distributes mail to more than 300 Soldiers, bringing a joy into their lives while deployed.

"I am super excited when I get mail, because it is from my mom and dad," said Pfc. Joshua Lopez, a signal support systems specialist from the brigade S6. His parents often send him his favorite Mexican candy, although at times he has to wait more than a week to receive it, since mail has a long way to travel before it arrives to theater.

> Even if they only get a postcard, most Soldiers are happy that somebody is thinking about them.
>
> ***Staff Sgt. Maurice Elmore***
> MAIL ROOM NCOIC

For example if a letter is mailed in the Unites States to an Army Post Office address in Iraq, from the local post office it goes to New York first. From there it is sent to Germany, then in case of the mail coming to Camp Taji it first goes to Logistical Support Area Anaconda, and finally to Taji, said Staff Sgt. Maurice Elmore the mail room NCOIC. He is also an administrative NCO at the Special Troops Battalion S1.

Since Soldiers work different shifts while deployed, running operations around the clock, the mail room is open from 8-9 a.m., then from 11 a.m. to noon and then again from 6:30-8 p.m.

"The hours go by my watch though," said Pfc. Roxana Anderson, an administrative specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th SB jokingly.

Besides picking up mail, Soldiers may also send out letters and postcards through the mail room, as long as they are less than 13 ounces, said Spc. Sarah Fahl, also an administrative clerk with HHC, STB, 4th SB.

Pfc. Roxana Anderson, an administrative specialist and mail handler returns missent mail to the mail warehouse at Camp Taji. Anderson is in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade. She picks up and distributes mail for her unit on a daily basis.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux

Fahl and Anderson both work in the S1, personnel section of STB, and take turns weekly picking up and distributing mail. The weeks they are not hauling mail, they process personnel paperwork like awards.

The Christmas holidays were the busiest time for them in the mail room. "We had a three-truck convoy coming from the mail room at one time," Anderson said.

Elmore agrees. He recalls a time when

SEE **MAIL** • Page 10

Easter Sunrise Service

Lt. Col. Barbara Sherer, 3rd Corps Support Command Deputy Chaplain delivers her message at the Camp Taji Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service on April 16. Participants gathered on the front lawn of the Wrangler Chapel to watch the sun rise over the unity of their worship. The service began in candlelight, with a twelve foot cross as a backdrop. ***Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman***

MAIL FROM Page 9

they had to borrow a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle to bring mail from the mail warehouse one day around the holidays, he said. They had more than 150 boxes a day during the main holiday season, whereas nowadays they pick up between 30 and 40 boxes a day.

The three-man team works long hours to accommodate everybody else's schedules and they take pride and joy in their work.

"I feel needed," said Anderson.

"Even if they only get a postcard, most Soldiers are happy that somebody is thinking about them," Elmore said.

The Soldiers who normally don't get mail are really excited when they get something, others know exactly what is in the mail for them and come in the mail room knowing the exact content of their incoming boxes, Fahl said.

Anderson also enjoys when she picks up boxes sent by schools or the girl scouts. "When it is colored stickers, you can tell it is coming from the kids," she said.

These Soldiers are also in charge of the mail for the brigade back at Fort Hood, but they deal with much smaller quantities, mostly for the Soldiers who live in the barracks. Anderson hopes to be involved in the mail room operations once they redeploy.

Elmore has a high opinion about the work his Soldiers do. He warns all that mail clerks are not mail fairies. They merely safeguard and deliver mail, they cannot control whether one receives anything or not.

"My Soldiers do an outstanding job. Don't give them a hard time when you come in and you don't have any mail," Elmore said.

Don't shoot ...

call EOD.

5 25

STAY ALIVE