



www.taskforcemountain.com

Soldier Edition

February 19, 2009

An issue dedicated to soldiers' stories

Making the most of 90 days



Photo by Pfc. Jasmine N. Walthall

Col. Lionel M. Nelson, TF 449 Brigade surgeon, assists Soldiers during the Mass Casualty training exercise in Baghdad. The exercise is intended to help Soldiers learn how to react in case of a medical tragedy.

PFC. JASMINE WALTHALL
TF 449



CAMP STRIKER – Col. Lionel M. Nelson is a man of many hats. A former Air Force Reservist, and a retired Army Reservist, he came out of a five-year retirement and shut down his private practice in San Jose, Calif., to participate

in the “90 Days Boots on the Ground” program which gives former military doctors the opportunity to deploy to Iraq for 90 days.

Nelson’s part in the program allowed him to deploy to Iraq with Task Force 449 as their Brigade Surgeon.

As the Brigade Surgeon for TF 449, Nelson is responsible for supervising the medical components of the task force, as well as advising the commander on the medical and clini-

90 DAYS

From page 1

cal related issues in country. Nelson is also responsible for the health of aviators and flies with them to monitor the stress level of pilots.

"I truly enjoy the people in TF 449 and their spirit to get the mission done," said Nelson. "I enjoy working with people who have such pride in serving their country and am glad to say that I help to take care of America's heroes."

Nelson has served in the armed services since 1970, with a break in service from 1972-1984. During his time in the Army Reserves, Nelson spent the majority of his deployments in Southeast Asia with special operations and civil affairs units and assisted with humanitarian missions.

It was on one of these humanitarian missions in 1994 in Haiti that Nelson started a medical technician school to assist with the ongoing problems of medical equipment breaking down without anyone being able to make repairs.

"I wanted to be able to make a long term difference," said Nelson, a Los Altos Hills, Calif. resident. "A lot of the countries receive donations of medical equipment and can only use it once because when it breaks down, no one knows how to fix it."

Nelson also helped to repair infrastructures and assisted with sanitation and medical issues in Southeast Asia.

"One of my biggest goals was to make sure that we not only helped while we were there, but we also wanted to make sure they continued to benefit from our efforts after our departure," Nelson said.

Nelson attended Yale Medical School and completed his surgical training at Stanford University Medical School, where he currently serves on the clinical

faculty. Having served 22 years in the military, Nelson has seen quite a few changes in the military, as well as some things that have stayed the same.

"The biggest change is technology," said Nelson. "We have gone from being a carbon-copy Army to a technological military."

"However, the people are still the same," Nelson continued. "Most importantly, the pride and dedication are still the same, and Soldiers are still the best people I have worked with, bar none."

In addition to Nelson's private practice, Nelson also has several patents on surgical devices that he invented and started a company to develop one of them.

This company was sold about five

months before his deployment and freed him up from any obligations that originally prevented him from deploying.

"I have wanted to rejoin the army and do my part ever since 9/11, but could not because of my commitments to the investors in my company," Nelson explained. "The sale allowed me to finally fulfill that desire to again serve my country."

For doctors with a military background such as Nelson's, he urges them to consider taking advantage of the 90 days program such as he did.

"It is very possible to close up shop for 90 days," says Nelson. "It's an unforgettable experience, and cannot be duplicated."



Courtesy photo

Col. Lionel M. Nelson, wearing his flight gear, poses in front of a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter. Nelson, a Los Altos Hills, Calif. resident, is TF 449 Aviation Brigade's flight surgeon.

THE Mountain View

The Mountain View is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Mountain View are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 10th Mountain Division. All editorial content of The Mountain View is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Mountain Public Affairs Office.

TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Commanding General - MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL L. OATES

Command Sergeant Major - COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JAMES W. REDMORE

Editorial Staff

TF Mountain PAO — Lt. Col. Paul Swiergosz
 OIC, Command Information — Maj. Page Baldwin
 NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford
 Managing Editor — Sgt. Derek Smith
 Editor/Design — Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
 Photo Editor/Design — Pfc. Tyler Maulding
 Staff Writers — Sgt. Frank Vaughn, Spc. Josh LeCappelain, Spc. Darryl Montgomery, Spc. Tiffany Evans

Contributing Units

172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team
 2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division
 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division
 41st Fires Brigade
 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
 793rd Military Police Battalion
 Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
 Task Force 449

Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

Soldier finds freedom in U.S., fights for freedom in Iraq

SGT. RODNEY FOLIENTE
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



CSC SCANIA – A maintenance technician for 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, currently deployed to Convoy Support Center Scania, found his freedom in the U.S. and now fights so that Iraqis may enjoy what he has come to cherish.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jose Orellana, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, was born the son of a successful politician in El Salvador. He said life was good. He went to good schools, dressed well, ate well and strived to excel in his studies for the sake of his father's pride. His young and sheltered naivety of the world was soon to be taken from him at a painful price.

"Life changed for me very quickly in 1983. I was 13. One day my father came in and told us to pack our stuff because his political party had lost the elections," said Orellana. "Next thing, we're running away from the house and my father got abducted for about 15 days."

Orellana explained that during that time the political climate was dangerously volatile, and to lose the elections meant members of the fallen political party often had to flee for their lives.

After anxiously waiting, the Orellana family received an anonymous call early one morning telling them where his father was. They found him dead after having been brutally tortured. Young Orellana's world, which had begun to topple, was now shattered.

"My priorities in life changed. I was into revenge: getting back at the bad guys who did that to my dad and split up my family when everybody fled," Orellana reflected. "The main thing after graduating high school at 16 years old was to join the (Salvadorian) military so I could pay them back. It was purely rage and hate motivated."

"It's funny because you have plans in life to be this or that. My father never wanted me to be a soldier. He wanted me to be an intellectual," said Orellana.

A few years after joining, he was wounded.

"I got shot in one of the operations. I was paralyzed for a time," recalled Orellana. "The doctors believed it ac-

tually hit my spinal cord. I got hit in the pelvis and the bullet bounced up about an inch off my spinal cord. Thank God he saved me from that one. It was an experience."

After he recovered, he said he turned his eyes back to reentering the Army; back to vengeance.

It was 1989 and his mother had a business in Florida. She convinced Orellana to come to the states, at least for a time, to think about his options rather than going back to into the Salvadorian Army.

"She was right. I came to the states and started going to school and started learning about history. The more I read, the more admiration I had for the United States," he said. "I started thinking that if I am willing to put my life on the line for a country that can't get straight because (it) keeps on changing power, how much can I do for a country that endorses the freedom that any good human being in the world is craving."

"I got intoxicated with freedom. I made the States my country. All the freedoms that we have are just amazing."

Orellana joined the U.S. Army in 1992 as a fuel and electric repair specialist and after working his way up to the rank of Sergeant First Class, became a maintenance warrant officer in 2004. He said he has no regrets about his decision and enjoys his job. He said the differences in the two armies amazed him.

"This Army doesn't (focus) on how weak you were before. It is focused on what you can do now and later." He said the American Army is strong because it lets its Soldiers be strong and improve for their own sakes as well as the Army's. "It's a wonderful Army. It respects human rights (and) opinions."

From the start of his time in America, he began changing rapidly, letting his old hatred and drive for revenge begin to fade.

In America, he also found his faith in God, and started his own family with his wife, Julie. They have two daughters, 7-year-old Theresa and 3-year-old Isobel. They now call Killeen, Texas, home but currently live in Fountain, Colo.

Orellana deployed in 2003 with the push into Iraq and operated in Fallujah. In 2005 he was sent to Najaf and Kalsu. This is his third deployment to Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jose Orellana, maintenance technician for 3-16th FA, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., surveys vehicles in the motor pool at CSC Scania.

Orellana spends time almost every day speaking with the Iraqis from around the area. He drinks chai tea and eats with them often, sharing talk about topics that span from their families to the development of Iraq.

"When you see the progress, it helps you feel good. These people have suffered so much and for them to get more freedom, it's worth it."

"Being a Soldier now is not a job, it's a commitment. If you don't see it as a commitment, you're not going to be good at it. It's up to you what kind of impact you want to make."

He expressed confidence in his hope that after Coalition forces leave Iraq, the Iraqis will live in peace and their freedoms will blossom.

"When you hear them tell you it's better now for the Iraqis, for the kids and there is more freedom, it makes it better," he said. "You kind of get choked up a little bit because you start thinking: I'm part of it. I'm helping to bring freedom..."

"... And that is priceless."

S
U
D
O
K
U

2	5		4					1
			2					8
					8			
		3	5	2				9
4				8				
		2		7	1	8		
6	9						1	
1		5		9				4
		7					2	6

Word Search

B	G	O	L	D	E	N	R	A	I	N	A	S	O	B	C	M	L	E
I	I	D	T	T	E	E	T	S	C	Y	T	G	L	U	R	O	P	H
W	S	R	O	G	U	R	R	A	P	U	E	E	A	T	T	I	H	S
W	H	B	C	O	E	N	T	T	L	R	Z	N	L	T	N	O	E	A
P	L	A	I	H	W	A	L	I	R	A	U	O	D	E	M	N	M	Y
O	E	L	R	N	L	X	P	E	H	E	N	C	H	R	P	A	L	R
P	L	D	P	P	H	T	O	H	Z	D	B	C	E	N	A	C	O	R
L	N	C	A	T	R	I	C	B	O	A	E	B	T	U	T	E	C	E
A	C	Y	A	E	N	T	C	N	R	E	H	E	U	T	R	P	K	H
R	E	P	E	R	I	E	P	K	B	E	S	D	N	R	W	I	H	C
O	D	R	P	W	B	L	D	O	O	W	N	O	T	T	O	C	F	R
S	A	E	E	A	A	O	S	N	E	R	H	O	S	H	A	D	E	E
P	R	S	T	N	L	H	R	R	I	K	Y	W	E	E	C	D	Y	T
L	K	S	E	N	O	M	O	V	A	L	W	W	H	T	B	A	U	H
U	E	E	L	P	A	M	Y	O	I	S	H	O	C	U	P	N	E	A
M	E	N	I	R	A	T	C	E	N	T	L	L	D	P	L	L	N	P
P	E	A	R	C	O	G	K	N	I	G	A	L	L	A	S	P	E	N
E	V	E	Y	W	I	L	L	O	W	R	S	E	W	L	A	R	C	H
I	T	S	S	E	Q	U	O	I	A	I	E	Y	E	K	C	U	B	N

- Apple
- Apricot
- Ash
- Aspen
- Arborvitae
- Bald Cypress
- Beech
- Birch
- Boxwood
- Buckeye
- Butternut
- Catalpa
- Cedar
- Cherry
- Chestnut
- Cottonwood
- Elm
- Fir
- Ginkgo
- Goldenrain
- Hazelnut
- Hemlock
- Hickory

Trees

- Larch
- Linden
- London Plane
- Maple
- Nectarine
- Oak
- Palm
- Peach
- Pear
- Pecan
- Plum
- Pine
- Poplar
- Redbud
- Rubber Tree
- Sequoia
- Spruce
- Sycamore
- Tuliptree
- Walnut
- Witchhazel
- Willow
- Yellowwood

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Lions Den

Feb. 19

Karaoke @ 8 p.m.

Fishbowl Gym

March 27

Relay for Life HOPE Ceremony @ 8 p.m.

March 28

Cancer awareness 5K/10K walk run. Free t-shirt and continental breakfast. Race begins @ 7 a.m.

Freedom Chapel

Violin teacher needed. Contact Col. Andrew Baan (Andrew.baan@iraq.centcom.mil) for more information.

Mondays

A History of Christianity @ 7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guitar lessons @ 4 p.m.

Liberty

Feb. 19

Salsa Band MWR C-10 @ 9 p.m.

Feb. 22

Sweet 16 5 K Run. Race begins at "Z" Lake @ 7 a.m. FREE T-shirts to the top 115 finishers. POC: Spc. Daniel Balderas 485-0411 or daniel.balderas@iraq.cent-com.mil

Feb. 23

Black History Month Observance at Aw Faw Palace @ 7 p.m. POC: Maj. Monique Compere-Anderson 835-2057.

Babylon Theatre

Feb. 19

Changeling @ 4 p.m.

Fireproof @ 7 p.m.

Madagascar @ 9:30p.m.

Feb. 20

Town hall meeting @ 1 p.m.

For the answer to today's puzzles, go to:



www.taskforce.mountain.com

The Norris Roundhouse

"If at first you don't succeed, you're not Chuck Norris."

