



The Mountain View

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April 30, 2009

An issue dedicated to Soldiers' stories

Rough Riders demonstrate new-found combat skills



Photo by Spc. Terence Ewings

Spc. Gary Bush, a Soldier assigned to the 27th BSB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., holds another Soldier in a rear-naked choke during the battalion's Modern Army Combatives Tournament held in Memorial Hall on COB Adder recently. Bush, a native of Duke, Mo., uses his personal time to refine his combat skills in hopes of receiving his level-one certification in Modern Army Combatives.

SPC. TERENCE EWINGS
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – After two months of training, 19 U.S. Soldiers tested their newly acquired grappling skills by competing in a Modern Army Combatives Tournament in Memorial Hall here recently.

Size and power were not the deciding factors for the contestants, assigned to the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th

Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, 'Rough Rider' Battalion, as the competitors channeled their stress and fatigue into positive energy during exhibition bouts that served as a finale to the course.

"We wanted to have a competition at the end of the class to boost the morale and welfare of the Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Wesley Wilcox, the Rough Rider Soldier responsible for organizing the tournament. "It's important for Soldiers to

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take time away from the mission and have a little fun.”

Only competitors who properly executed the grappling techniques made their way to the tournament finals.

For the Soldiers who competed, there was a feeling of accomplishment to the tournament.

“This is a good way to relieve stress and react to real-life combat situations,” said Spc. Larry Walker, a Rough Rider

Soldier from Stockton, Calif.

Walker, a six-foot-tall, 260-pound combat veteran, was a favorite to win the competition. After the first round, this goliath-like contender fell short of his goal and was defeated by a smaller but more experienced fighter.

The winner was Pfc. Lamarcus Bailey, a Mansfield, La. Native. He fought in four different matches against his fellow Rough Rider Soldiers.

“It makes me feel good. Out of all the troops that competed I was the best,” said Bailey.



Photos by Spc. Terence Ewings

(Top left) Spc. Gary Bush breaks a grappling move applied by Spc. Tarvery Bowe during the 27th BSB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div.’s Modern Army Combatives Tournament held in Memorial Hall on COB Adler recently. Bush, a native of Duke, Mo., and Bowe, from Lithonia, Ga., use their personal time to refine their combat skills in hopes of receiving their level-one certification in Modern Army Combatives. (Top right) Capt. Charles Montgomery, Alpha Co. commander, 27th BSB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., presents a medal of achievement to Pfc. Lamarcus Bailey, winner of battalion’s Modern Army Combatives Tournament. (Bottom right) Pfc. Lamarcus Bailey, winner of the 27th BSB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div.’s Modern Army Combatives Tournament, applies a head-lock to another contender. Bailey, a native of Mansfield, La., uses his personal time to participate in similar battalion sporting events.

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 Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
 Task Force 449



The show must go on



Photos by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery

(Above) Senior Airman Kristopher Peterson, 819th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE), of Gilsum, N.H., uses a chalk line as a guide to ensure a straight cut on a board for the new USO stage here recently. The stage will host celebrities, comics and musicians who come to visit deployed troops in an effort to entertain and build morale. (Inset) Senior Airman Kristopher Peterson, 819th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE), of Gilsum, N.H., cuts a section of wall paneling for the backstage area of the new USO stage here recently. The Airmen of RED HORSE have also assisted in building the new Multi-National Division – South headquarters by putting up the walls, setting up the plumbing and running electrical wiring. (Bottom right) Senior Airman Jeremiah Koch, 335th Civil Engineer Squadron, of Hudson, Iowa, cuts small boards that will be used to hold the side paneling in place on the new USO stage here recently. Work on the stage spanned a month and a half. The RED HORSE Engineers also assisted in building the new finance and mailroom facilities, located across the street from the stage.

Sisters on the battlefield: Deployment strengthens bond

Pfc. JASMINE N. WALTHALL
TF 449



CAMP STRIKER – A helpful part of any deployment is a stable support group. Some Soldiers turn to friends within their unit for this support. Others are lucky enough to have a family member in country with them.

Staff Sgt. Melodie A. Hunt and Pfc. Mallorie A. Hunt, Lumberton N.C. natives, are sisters who are currently deployed to Baghdad. Although in different units, they still find time together.

Melodie is a member of the 449th Theater Aviation Brigade, a N.C. Army National Guard unit out of Morrisville, N.C. She is currently deployed as the Air Movement Request Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge. Her duties include manifesting flights for Soldiers in theater and brigade retention.

Mallorie is a truck driver for Alpha Co., 47th Forward Support Battalion out of Baumholder, Germany. Her unit moved to Camp Striker in early fall; a pleasant surprise for the sisters.

“We were still in the states when we found out that Mallorie would be at the same place as me,” said Melodie. “It was pleasing to know that I would have someone there for me and it made our parents more comfortable us being together for my sister’s first deployment.”

Melodie, who is on her second de-

ployment in her eight-year military career, works as a police officer for the Lumberton Police Department when at home. She answers calls, assists the fire department when needed and of course, “issues citations,” she said with a smirk.

The Hunt sisters, who are 12 years apart, also have this deployment to thank for strengthening their relation-

ship.

“It was good to be able to spend what time together that we could,” said Melodie. “We work out together, and sometimes eat meals, which is more than we had when she was in Germany.”

“The older we have become, the closer we have gotten,” said Mallorie. “Sharing this deployment has helped that.”



Photo by Pfc. Jasmine N. Walthall

Staff Sgt. Melodie A. Hunt (left) and her sister Pfc. Mallorie A. Hunt, both Lumberton, N.C. natives, share a sisterly moment during their lunch time. The Hunt sisters are currently deployed to Baghdad as a part of the 449th Theater Aviation Brigade out of Morrisville, N.C. and 47th Forward Support Battalion out of Baumholder, Germany.

What topics would you like to see the CG post on the blog for discussion?

To let the CG and others know, go to the Mountain Sound Off Blog at

www.taskforcemountain.com

Headline Round-up

World News:

SEOUL, South Korea - South Korean scientists say they have engineered four beagles that glow red using cloning techniques that could help develop cures for human diseases. The four dogs look like typical beagles by daylight, but glow red under ultraviolet light, and the dogs' nails and abdomens, which have thin skins, look red even to the naked eye. Seoul National University professor Lee Byeong-chun, head of the research team, called them the world's first transgenic dogs carrying fluorescent genes, an achievement that goes beyond just the glowing novelty. "What's significant in this work is not the dogs expressing red colors but that we planted genes into them," Lee told The Associated Press on April 28.

U.S. News:

NEW YORK - President Barack Obama has ordered an internal review to determine how the decision was made to send one of his official airplanes on a low-flying photo op past the New York City skyline. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said April 28 that deputy chief of staff Jim Messina will lead the review. Gibbs said the point is to determine "why that decision was made and to ensure that it never happens again." Gibbs said Obama was "furious" when he heard about the incident. Obama has called it a mistake. On April 27, one of the Boeing 747s used by Obama and an F-16 jet circled the Statue of Liberty at the start of the work day, startling workers in lower Manhattan who feared a nightmarish replay of the 2001 terrorist attacks. Gibbs said that the review would likely take about a week or so to complete.

Odd News:

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. - A 40-year-old man is behind bars after leading deputies on a 57-mile chase — in a garbage truck. At one point, a Morrison County sheriff's deputy tried to stop the truck by firing a shotgun into its engine. Police said the pursuit started when authorities received a report Tuesday about an intoxicated man trying to get into a home. The man left, driving the truck, before deputies arrived. Authorities said the driver swerved at squad cars and accelerated in reverse. Deputies tried stopping the truck with stop sticks, but it kept going with several flat tires. The driver eventually pulled over and was caught by a police dog.

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



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Finance
 Monday - Saturday
 Open: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.,
 1:30 - 4 p.m.
 Sunday
 Open: 1 - 4 p.m.

DFAC 1 Worship
 Sunday
 Roman Catholic Mass, UK
 led @ 9:30 a.m.
 General Protestant @ 11 a.m.
 Church of Jesus Christ of
 Latter Day Saint @ 2 p.m.
 General Protestant @
 6:30 p.m.

DFAC 3 Worship
 Sunday
 Gospel Worship @ 2 p.m.

DFAC 4 Worship
 Monday - Saturday
 Daily Mass @ 8 p.m.
 Sunday
 Protestant Contemporary
 Worship @ 10 a.m.
 Holy communion, Protestant
 (UK) @ 11:30 a.m.
 Roman Catholic Mass, UK
 led @ 8:30 p.m.

Barber Shop
 Open: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The Norris Roundhouse
 Chuck Norris and Mr.T walked into a bar.
 The bar was instantly destroyed,
 as that level of awesome cannot be contained in one building.

