

Duke



Dispatch

Vol. 9

Afghan women celebrate
International Women's Day

'Excalibur' destroys
explosive-filled house

March 2011

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Photos from operations of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division taken between Feb. 10- March 15. Top Left: Photo by Spc. Tobey White Top Right: Photo by Spc. Tobey White, Middle Left: U.S. 2nd Lt. Noel Jordan, Middle Right: Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil Bottom Left: Spc. Tobey White, Bottom Right: Photo by 1st Lt. Nicholas Rasmussen



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Cover photo- U.S. Army Lt. Col. Pam Moody, 319th ADT, and a resident of Indianapolis, Ind., hands out pencils to Afghan women at the International Women's Day held in Khowst City, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Tuesday, March 9. The women took surveys about living conditions in their towns and villages during the event. Around 270 women attended the event held to celebrate women and to discuss changes needed to increase women's rights. (Photo by Spc. Tobey White)

Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Toner
TF Duke

Springtime in Afghanistan is almost here, and with the changing of the seasons comes an expected change in the pace of our activities. What I'm talking about is the upcoming fighting season, the time of year that historically sees a significant increase in enemy activity across our area of operations. We are fortunate to have arrived here in the winter months when insurgent activity across the area is traditionally low, giving us valuable time to set the campaign strategy for the rest of the year. Not only have we had a chance to learn our AO, but we also had a chance to see just why Task Force Duke serves on the front lines here.

The Afghan people are much like us. What is important in their lives are the same core things, by and large, which are important to the American people. Living without fear in a safe, secure environment, the ability to provide for ones families, and hope for the future are among

the ideals we share. The pursuit of these ideals helps us maintain our focus, so that our mission not only succeeds here, but succeeds also in preventing the enemies of American liberty from robbing us of these pursuits back home.

In late February I was starkly reminded that, despite the strides made in the decade-long struggle here, there still exists a ruthless enemy who continues to resist the goals of the Afghan people and their government, and fights those of us who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them in support of their honorable cause. On Feb. 27, TF Duke saw its first hero added to the

**"This was a job we knew he enjoyed. He was proud to do it and he was good at it."
—Anne Gould**

list of those making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom.

Sgt. Kristopher Gould, an infantryman assigned to TF Ramrod, died of wounds sus-

tained from an improvised explosive device that struck the vehicle he was riding in near Andar in Ghazni Province. Sgt. Gould was a seasoned combat veteran, having previously deployed to Iraq as an Army reservist in 2005, and then Afghanistan as a member



of 2-2 IN during the brigade's deployment in 2008-2009. What is encouraging to me in light of this tragedy are the words of Sgt. Gould's own mother upon hearing the news of her son's passing. Speaking to her hometown paper, Anne Gould said of her son, "This was a job we knew he enjoyed. He was proud to do it and he was good at it." I am humbled at the pride of this mother, despite the overwhelming grief she undoubtedly feels at her loss. Anne Gould's words speak volumes about the man Sgt. Gould was, reflecting the quality, competence, and discipline instilled in all the Soldiers who make up our ranks.

With spring weather almost upon us, one of the few certainties of this war, which I've already touched upon, is that fighting season is just around the corner. Our TF Duke Soldiers and commanders have moved now from familiarization to mastery of their respective AOs. The many successful missions already accomplished have only strengthened the confidence we have in our teammates, ourselves, and in our Afghan partners. The wealth of combat experience from those veterans in our ranks, combined with the vigor our newer Soldiers bring to the fight gives me confidence in the TF Duke mission.

None of our successes in safeguarding the Afghan and American people would have been possible without the wonderful support system back home we TF Duke Soldiers are lucky to enjoy. It's a combat multiplier hard to quantify, certainly, but such support is immeasurable in my book. We will never forsake any opportunity to tell the folks back home how much we appreciate their love and support, and how they will always remain in our prayers and memories, especially the Family of Sgt. Kristopher Gould.

Duty First!

Voice of the CSM

By CSM Drew Pumarejo
TF Duke

There may be no more dreaded words for a Soldier to hear than "monthly inventories," but they exist for very important reasons. It's crucial to know what equipment is on hand to deal with present and future missions, and that's why routine accountability is vital. With the approaching fighting season in Afghanistan drawing ever closer, I think it's good to again emphasize the importance of always knowing what tools, knowledge and equipment are at our disposal to meet our assigned tasks.

Since 9/11 and the start of the War on Terrorism, the Army has re-learned the importance that everyone is a Rifleman. It's true. We never know when we might use our weapons, and because of that, our crew-served and personal weapons have to be ready anytime, anywhere. This means ensuring they're properly cleaned, lubricated and maintained according to the relevant technical manuals. You might think to yourself that "I work on the FOB, and will never have to go anywhere or use my weapon." Maybe you're right. But do you want to be the unlucky soul whose weapon fails him at the moment of truth? I hope not, so take some time each day to ensure your weapon can do its job should the need arise.

Next to equipment readiness, I can't

stress enough the need to take care of your communications and other special equipment. It all starts with NCOs ensuring that pre-combat inspections are done regularly and to standard. Yes, I realize that items can get destroyed on missions. There is no excuse, however, for not properly securing and tying down special equipment IAW brigade SOPs, and not informing leadership of any deficiency prior to the next mission. Every element that rolls out the gate should have its mission essential equipment, and it's your responsibility to make sure it works. Heaven help you on a mission if your radio doesn't work because you failed to conduct PCC/PCIs, because the enemy surely isn't going to feel sorry for you. Do your checks and inspections regularly!

What we take into the fight from a knowledge standpoint is also extremely important, and many times on par with the equipment we carry. Understanding the rules of engagement we operate under is crucial to mission success, and besides the all-encompassing ROE specified for everyone in theater, there are special ones you need to know for particular missions. Don't dismiss these or assume what you've heard before is a one size fits all approach. That may not be the case, as mission goals and requirements change. Be sure to change



with them when the task calls for it. On a related note, know what's expected of you should escalation of force procedures be put to the test. You'll always have the right to protect yourself when the situation warrants it, but make sure such force is appropriate to the situation at hand.

While everything I just said is important, personal maintenance is the number one directive. If you're not capable of going out on a mission or answering the bell when the time comes, all those other things really don't matter. Your weapon can't shoot, your radio can't transmit and your vehicle can't drive down the road without a rested, energetic and physically fit Soldier in control. Be sure to take advantage of your down time and follow a regular fitness program. I'm not talking about four trips to the DFAC every day where you then proceed to eat until you're full. No, I'm talking about a comprehensive fitness plan that incorporates sensible and healthy food portions, drinking plenty of water, and getting adequate rest while following personal hygiene standards. You'll feel better, look better and undoubtedly be able to perform better, which is what our Duke Brigade mission depends on.

Finally, wear the designated uniform during combat operations. Our personal protective equipment is designed to protect Soldiers, which it has proven many times. Always maintain a sense of humor in tough times, and know that someone out there is worse-off than you. Our success is built on teamwork so be especially watchful for signs of combat stress among your buddies. And as we remember the Warrior Ethos, think and act like winners. Many have sacrificed everything for our present way of life. Pay it forward to the next greatest generation.

"No Mission Too Difficult...No Sacrifice Too Great...Duty First!"



Photo by Maj. Travis Deltmer

Col. Chris Toner, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division looks at a photo album with Khwost Provincial Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi during a meeting March 1 in Khwost City.



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicholas Rasmussen

Cpl. Brandon Hoover, a native of Des Moines, Iowa, and a team leader in 1st platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Lethal, scans the area as he provides security for his squad during a patrol to find and intercept insurgents reportedly meeting near Sar Mast Kheyl village in eastern Zormat District, Paktya Province, Feb. 18.

Chaplain's Word

Deployment and Religious Support Operations

By Chaplain (Major) Mike Nishimura, TF Duke, Brigade Chaplain

So, what exactly do Chaplains do during deployment? Let me count the ways...

Of course, the first activity people normally associate chaplains with is conducting worship services. Here at FOB Salerno we offer five chaplain-led worship services on the weekend. It all starts on Saturday evening and concludes on Sunday night. Also, there are religious education classes offered throughout the week. There are nine classes covering diverse topics

and studies from RCIA for those who are preparing to become a Catholic, to Financial Peace University for those interested in overcoming their financial difficulties and

Dealing with life circumstances is a challenge, and some Soldiers need that extra care and direction in their times of need. Chaplains are there to console, process and give guidance.

-Chaplain Mike Nishimura

developing a better lifestyle of financial security. Besides these scheduled activities at our chapel, there are many other opportunities for spiritual fitness throughout the week.



Chaplains are available for confidential pastoral counseling. Dealing with life circumstances is a challenge, and some Soldiers need that extra care and direction in their times of need, especially during deployment, when even a small issue can quickly become magnified. Chaplains are there to help console, process and give guidance to those who ask for it.

Here in FOB Salerno, we operate a "FreeX." We receive quite a few care packages sent to the Chaplain section from our sponsors. We share what we receive with the rest of the FOB. It is very popular among the Soldiers. Whether it is a bottle of foot powder or a greeting card, you don't have to spend any money if you do not insist on name-brand items.

During the month of March, we are offering opportunities to those who want to make a DVD recording of themselves reading a book through the United Through Reading Military Program. Soldiers are encouraged to read a book in front of a camera and send it home. This effort will strengthen the ties between parent and child while we are on deployment, thus improving the overall family resiliency level.

I just want to take a moment here to express my gratitude to everyone who is supporting us through different endeavors. Those who adopted Chaplains and platoons, thank you very much. Your support means so much to us. Those who pray for us, thank you very much. Your thoughts and prayers sustain us during this challenging time. We can endure what we go through every day largely because of your generosity and kindness for which I am truly grateful. Blessings and Peace.



Photo provided by the FRG

Children of deployed Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division do pushups during the mock deployment day held at Fort Knox, Ky, Feb. 12. The children had the opportunity to see a working dog, a meal-ready-to-eat and a night vision goggles demonstration.

5-6 missions per day
40 loads
8 Soldiers per team
2 teams
100-110,000 lbs cargo per day
howitzers
shipping containers

Feeding the fight:

Transport operators supply Soldiers

By TF Thor, PAO

After fastening the final strap to a fuel bladder attached to a CH-47 Chinook at Forward Operating Base Salerno's airstrip, U.S. Army Pfc. Jaden Meaux looks to his non-commissioned officer in charge and grins.

He and the rest of his team have spent the last two hours securing equipment for transport to a remote location in mountainous eastern Afghanistan where supplies are limited.

Meaux and his team will not see the cargo reach their destination, nor will they receive much acclaim or gratitude, but Meaux is "just fine with that," he said.

Meaux is a Lake Charles, La., native and motor transport operator of Company A, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke. He and the rest of his rigger team are responsible for ensuring safe transportation of goods and equipment around TF Duke's area of operations, by packing and strapping them onto aircraft.

"Moving supplies by aircraft is the fastest and safest way possible," said Meaux.

This team of six Soldiers has successfully completed more than 40 loads since taking over from the 626th BSB, 3rd BCT, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), TF Rakkasan, in January.

They have loaded equipment such as large shipping containers, generators, M119 Howitzers and lumber.

Running a loading operation for a helicopter can be a huge responsibility said Staff Sgt. Carnell Leach, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the helicopter

landing zone of BSB.

"Once I get my rigging done," agreed Meaux, "I have to go through and inspect everything myself, before the final inspection."

I know everybody has a job to do, but getting these supplies out to those who need them really makes me feel like I am contributing to the battle.

-Pfc. Jaden Meaux

Close attention to detail is required to avoid any danger to the equipment, the Soldiers loading it, or the people who will ultimately unload it when it

reaches its destination.

"Thankfully my Soldiers are disciplined

in their work and I've never had to worry about a load falling from an aircraft," said Staff Sgt. Rodricus Ward, platoon sergeant of 1st Platoon, Co. A, 201st BSB, adding that the checks and balances his riggers use mitigate the potential for load disasters.

At the end of a day of loading and strapping gear onto helicopters, the Soldiers of the 201st BSB's rigging team know they are making a difference on the battlefield.

"Performing this job gives me a real sense of accomplishment and self-worth," said Meaux. "I know everybody has a job to do, but getting these supplies out to those who need them really makes me feel like I am contributing to the battle."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rodricus Ward

Two motor transport specialists of Company A, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, secure fuel containers to the bottom of a CH-47 Chinook on Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, Feb. 18. Motor transport specialists are responsible for the swift and secure transportation of supplies and equipment around the battlefield.

International Women's Day

Afghan women join world in celebration

U.S. Army Maj. Melissa Bembenek, the brigade aviation officer for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and a native of Lakeland, Fla., listens as an Afghan woman questions her about a survey at the International Women's Day held in Khowst City, Khowst Province, Afghanistan on March 8. The survey asked questions about living conditions in the women's villages and towns. It was the first time coalition forces had been invited to attend the women's day event in Khowst City.

Story and photos by Spc. Tobey White,
TF Duke, PAO



Soldiers wearing brightly colored scarves under their helmets stared wide-eyed at Afghan women entering the civil military operations center in downtown Khowst City.

The women, clad in light blue burkas covering their bodies from head to toe, provided a stark contrast to the female Soldiers in uniforms attending the shura.

It wasn't any ordinary shura. More than 270 women gathered to celebrate International Women's Day, sponsored by the Director of Women's Affairs in Khowst City, March 8. It was a day to celebrate being a woman and to discuss changes needed to increase women's rights.

Women from various U.S. Army units, including the 3-19th Agricultural Development Team, the 870th Military Police Company, and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division were invited to attend the event.

"It was the first time coalition forces had been invited to attend the International Women's Day in Khowst Province," said U.S. Army Maj. Rosemary Reed, 95th Civil Affairs, Provincial Reconstruction Team Khowst, and a resident of Tacoma, Wash. "It is a sign that they have an increased trust and interest in working with us and may continue to do this in the future."

It was a day not only celebrated by Afghan women but by women in countries all over the world. International Women's Day was first celebrated in 1911.

Concurrent events celebrating women's accomplishments were held in countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Australia, India and Afghanistan, to name a few.

In a country where women's rights have often taken a backseat, it was especially important for key leaders from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Khowst Province to meet and address women's issues and concerns openly and publicly, said Reed.

Events for the International Women's Day in Khowst City included speeches from Khowst Provincial Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi and key female leaders in the community. It also included poetry readings from several high school students and a song by several local girls celebrating the contributions their mothers make to society.

"Our government is trying to do better for women and we are trying to bring equality to women," said Naeemi.

He praised the strength of Afghan women in the face of war and the loss of loved ones. Naeemi also promised to try to improve their legal rights. One of the issues he addressed is the practice of families giving young girls before they turn 18 to older men for marriage.

"We will work to solve these issues until our grandkids do not have to pick up a weapon for fighting, but can go to school for education," Naeemi said.

He told the women about a five-year plan to build schools and parks, and to increase women's education. In addition, Naeemi reminded the women that a child's education starts at home. It is a



Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi of Khowst Province gives a speech at the International Women's Day event held in Khowst City, Afghanistan, March 8.

mother's job to understand how to raise a child and is important to instill in the child manners and respect for women from the beginning, he said.

"This is a woman's problem. Women raise men," said Hakmina, a female provincial council member. "You have to teach a man how to live and you need to teach him how to respect his mother."

The presence of the governor at the International Women's Day event showed he was supportive of addressing those concerns and issues involving women, Reed said.

"It shows there is a commitment from GIROA, whether that be through a project or certain laws," Reed said.

Coalition forces gave kites to children.

They also handed out book bags filled with blankets, radios, and the Afghan constitution to women who attended the event.

"It was nice to be part of something that is helping build the infrastructure of Afghanistan, especially since it's helping women come up in society," said U.S. Army Sgt. Julissa Matute Velasquez, a 870th MP team leader and a resident of San Jose, Calif.

For U.S. Army Spc. Erica Ontai, a human resource specialist also with the 870th MP Co. and a resident of Tracey, Calif., being part of the event on her first mission made her feel honored.

A raffle was held to give away a solar dehydrator, and coalition forces along with GIROA officials gave certificates of appreciation to women who had gone above and beyond for women's rights.

As the event ended, the Afghan women, once again covered with blue burkas, filed out to return to their everyday lives. This day, however, they had joined with their sisters across the world in celebrating the joys of womanhood, and left with a purpose; ensuring that Afghanistan continues to make strides toward equality for women. ▀

Local girls sing a song celebrating their mother's contributions to society during the International Women's Day held in Khowst City, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Mar. 8.



Prepare to fire... 'fire'

'Excalibur' destroys explosive-filled house

By Spc. Tobey White,
TF Duke, PAO

An order comes over the radio and Soldiers fall silent in anticipation. As they scramble into position, the radio telephone operator shouts out coordinates. Six Soldiers work as a unit to get the gun lined up to fire and loaded with an XM982 round, better known as 'Excalibur.' It takes two Soldiers to carry the round to the weapon and both of them to ram it into place.

They wait for the command "Prepare to fire... Fire." The percussion from the blasts can be felt in on-lookers chests and heard even over the hearing protection crammed into their ears.

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade fired four Excalibur rounds from Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, March 8.

The mission was to destroy an explosive-laden house that coalition forces had identified the night before, said 1st Lt. Gilbert Parker, a field artillery officer of A/3-321st and a resident of Fayetteville, N.C.

The house was suspected of being filled with material to make improvised explosive devices and also of being booby trapped, making it too dangerous for Soldiers to attempt to enter or disarm by hand, said Staff Sgt. Adam DeMartin, of Fayetteville, N.C.

Before the round could be fired, coordination between several units including the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, and A/3-321st was required, Parker said.

The high-tech Excalibur round was ideal for the mission because it is one of the most precise Global Positioning System-guided artillery rounds the Army has.

The Excalibur always knows where it is, said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Martins, of the 3-321st and a resident of Fort Bragg, N.C.

To prepare for a mission of this type, the Soldiers run crew drills to reduce the possibility of human error, said Parker.

"We do dry runs daily on possible missions. Crew drills are the most important part," Parker said. "We need to be able to run like an engine."



Photo by Pfc. Donald Watkins
A Soldier from 1st Platoon, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade puts on his gear in preparation to fire the XM92 'Excalibur' round, Monday, March 8, on Forward Operating Base Salerno.

Their drills involve receiving data from their fire direction center. That data is then relayed to the crew firing the weapon. Once they have received the data, they line the weapon up on the coordinates they receive and go through the physical motions of loading the round without putting it in the tube, said Martins.

"We do a lot of preparations for missions like these," said Martins. "When we actually get to shoot these rounds, morale goes through the roof," Martins said.

The Soldiers did their checks and balances and got the rounds downrange in a safe way, said Command Sgt. Maj. William Cave, of the 1st Battalion 6th Field Artillery Regiment, and a resident of Allendale, S.C.

"You never know when the call to fire Excalibur will come again, but now you have the confidence that comes from having fired it," said Cave.

The Soldiers on the ground depend on the crew teams proficiency and excellence at their jobs, said Maj. Scott Sinclair, executive officer of 1-6 and a native of Dalton, Mass.

"These guys saved lives today," said Sinclair. "Now Soldiers can go and clear that house. Part of what Excalibur is here for is its pinpoint precision." ▀



Photo by Spc. Tobey White
Spc. Michael Payne, an assistant gunner with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade and native of Herndon, Va., fires the XM92 'Excalibur' round, Monday, March 8, on Forward Operating Base Salerno.

Photo left, top, middle courtesy of the Reddington family, Photo bottom by Staff Sgt. John Zumer



Warrior's Spotlight

TF Duke Soldier honors father with continued service

By Staff Sgt. John Zumer, TF Duke, PAO

Remember the closing scene from "Field of Dreams," where the Kevin Costner-character was able to enjoy a game of catch with his father? It's a ritual enjoyed by countless fathers and sons over the years, fondly looked back upon not only as a game but also a bonding experience. For U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brian C. Reddington, it will likely remain a joyful and precious memory,

but one forever tinged with sadness.

Reddington, an air traffic controller assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke and a native of San Antonio, Texas, is currently

on his second deployment. Like many Soldiers, he continued the legacy of military service inherited from other family members. For Reddington, that inspiration came from his stepfather, John Stephens, whom Reddington considers his father, having helped to raise him and his younger siblings from the time Reddington was six years old.

Stephens, a U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class and combat medic, was killed in action on Mar. 15, 2007 in Tikrit, Iraq, when a shaped charge was thrown at his convoy travelling back to Forward Operating Base Speicher.



A veteran with 21 years of service, he was on his second deployment, and assigned to HHC, 1-16th Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 1st ID.

Reddington was stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala., when he heard the sad news.

"You can never prepare yourself for something like that. It happens to other people," he said.

The last time he saw his father was two months before Stephens deployed from Fort Riley, Kan. Despite the loss of a father who had been so influential in raising him, Reddington chooses to remember the many timeless memories and lessons passed along. Through them all, the one constant was always the old American Pastime.

"Baseball. That's what we did," said Reddington. "He was always my coach up until my junior year."

Reddington smiled as he remembered one of his baseball games, when as a 14-year old he was pitching for a team coached by his father. After being hit hard early by the opposition, his father/coach was on the verge of taking him out, something undoubtedly hard to stomach for both parties involved.

"Just give me one more inning," Reddington recalls saying, wanting one last chance to work his way out of trouble by himself.

His father ultimately left him in, Reddington pitched his way out of the jam, and the game ended happily. But like many aspects of life

touched by baseball, the greatest lessons had nothing to do with the final score or individual statistics.

According to Reddington, it was "the first time in our relationship that he really trusted me," noting that it was perhaps that moment when a father finally saw a son's confidence and abilities able to overcome the odds against him.

His father and mother had married shortly before Reddington turned six. A younger brother and sister completed the family growing up, and while his father's military service was something he looked up to, it was never a foregone conclusion that he would join. Once decided, however, the choice was clear.

"When I decided to join, it made the Army the only option," he said.

With nine years of service now under his belt, Reddington is leaning toward making the Army a career. It will undoubtedly be talked about at length with his wife Tina, as his reenlistment decision after his father died was.

"It was an eye-opener to what could really happen. Ultimately it was continuing what he started. I reenlisted because I wanted to follow through," said Reddington.

With a mid-tour leave slated for June, Reddington is looking forward to seeing his wife and their three children; 6-year old Grace, 5-year old Caleb and infant Jacob, born on Mar. 9. The children will never get the chance to meet their grandfather, but it doesn't mean his legacy won't be passed on. After all, it stands to reason the same timeless advice he heard from his dad, that remains with him to this day, is something Reddington looks forward to sharing with his own children.

"The thing I carry with me from what he said is, 'No matter what you're doing, do it to the best of your ability.'"

Four years have passed now since his father's death in Iraq. There will be no more opportunities for Reddington to enjoy another game of catch with his dad, no future chances for a grandfather to see a grandchild allowed to stay in the game. A grandchild who, like his father before him, was given his defining opportunity to work his way out of difficulty, relying upon the skills, patience and knowledge that can only be passed along by a loving parent.

As to what he would like his own children to remember about their grandfather, Reddington paused a moment, finally paying the ultimate compliment.

"He was a great father." ♣

Professionals don't need profanity

The founder of our country, George Washington, referred to cursing as "that unmeaning and abominable custom", in his General Order against profanity in the Army, written in 1776.

By Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Kretz, Equal Opportunity Advisor

It seems that profanity in the Army has been around for centuries and to this day is used frequently among Soldiers. As adolescents, most are punished for using profanity. If it was unacceptable during adolescence then why as an adult, does it seem acceptable?

This is not a new problem and has been addressed throughout our country's history, through rules that parents make their children follow, to the laws that our country and our Army instill for us to follow. Abusive language can be punishable under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice; Article 134, Indecent Language. But the real point is, whether it is a punishable offense or not, we owe it to ourselves, to others, and to our families to provide an environment free of profane or abusive language. Also remember that, in some instances, abusive language can be construed as sexually harassing - and that in any case, it is very unprofessional.

I challenge each one of you to curb the use of abusive language wherever you hear it and to strive at a minimum to make our public



facilities free from abusive language. DSN:318-851-0506. SIPR: 308-851-1105. 24 HR Hotline: 318-851-0311

Re-up

By Master Sgt. David Burgoon, TF Duke, Retention

Soldiers often ask about the possibilities of securing various reenlistment options and assignments. All too often Soldiers and NCOs overlook one particular option that comes with bonus money and a lot of incentives. That often neglected option is the Current Station Stabilization reenlistment option.

The Department of the Army currently offers the privilege of reenlisting to stabilize at your current duty station with your current unit for up to 12 months to Soldiers in balanced or over-strength MOSs.

Whether you intend to make Fort Knox your final home, or just want to settle down for a breather after this deployment before hitting the road for your next duty station, these offered incentives are certainly worth your time to learn more about.

Reenlistments: Feb. 10- March 15

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sgt. Jack Baker | Staff Sgt. Aaron Mays |
| Sgt. Joseph Baker | Staff Sgt. Jeffrey McBride |
| Staff Sgt. Michael Baldwin | Sgt. Felipe Muzquiz |
| Staff Sgt. Aaron Barrett | Spc. Ernest Ochoa |
| Staff Sgt. Ricky Best | Sgt. Tony Ortega |
| Sgt. Jarvis Bumanglag | Sgt. Doron Paige |
| Spc. Robert Carey | Sgt. Kevn Sharp |
| Staff Sgt. Jimmie Gump | Sgt. Tameiko Snell |
| Sgt. Jacob Hand | Spc. Eric Smart |
| Sgt. Brandon Harris | Sgt. Jonathan Soto |
| Spc. Lanita Hodges | Staff Sgt. Donald Wagers |
| Spc. Antonio Huerta | Staff Sgt. Justin Whiteley |
| Spc. Christopher Johnson | Sgt. Marlen Whitney |
| Sgt. Mitchell Jones | Staff Sgt. Lyle Williams |
| Sgt. Eric Kartner | Sgt. Robert Williams |
| Staff Sgt. Adam Maliszewski | Staff Sgt. Obie Yeary |
| Spc. Kareem Martins | |

FRG events

By Ally Reese, FRG

February was sure a busy month for our Families with some truly great events such as comedian Molly Gross, and the Kids' Mock Deployment Event, to name a just a few.

As you settle into your new routine, we encourage you to take advantage of the many great resiliency and training events that are offered through your unit as well as by Army Community Services, FMWR and our local off-post community.

A few resiliency events for March include:

Mar. 19 - Army Wife & Author Michelle Cuthrell "I'm an Army Wife: What's Your Super Power?" 6 p.m. Elizabethtown Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Mar. 20- Operation Faithful Support - Session 3 "Avoiding Toxic Relationships - finding a battle buddy" Heritage International Church - Radcliff

As always, Please remember to update any changes in your contact information with your Family Readiness Group so we can keep you updated with the most timely and accurate information available as well as all the great events for you and your family.

Thanks for being a "Duke Strong" Family!

Visit the FRG website to register for the virtual FRG @ http://www.knox.army.mil/forscom/3ibct/frg_register.asp

Visit the FRG website for future events @ <http://www.knox.army.mil/forscom/3ibct/frg.asp>

Barrackslawyer

Many times when Soldiers get deployed, they go to their servicing JAG Office

By Staff Sgt. Marvin Kauger, Paralegal NCOIC

and want to know how they can get the six percent interest rate reduction due to their deployment. A vast majority of the time, the specific provision of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA, 50 U.S.C. § 427) which could potentially reduce the Soldier's interest rates just does not apply. The specific provision only applies to 1) activated National Guard and Reserve Soldiers or 2) newly enlisted or commissioned Soldiers who just entered the Army. It also only covers those situations where a Soldier's ability to pay has been materially affected. This means that, if someone was formerly working in a higher paying civilian job and then joined the service, that they could show the court, if necessary, how their financial ability to meet their obligations has been decreased. This federal law also mandates that these are only pre-service debts (for Active Duty) or that these debts came up before the mobilization (National Guard and Reserve). ANY debts taken on after mobilization, enlisting or commissioning are NOT able to be reduced because they were taken on after that Soldier became an active duty Soldier. However, even if you are eligible for the interest rate reduction, you have to submit your request for the lower interest rate in writing and provide a copy of your orders. For all loans except mortgage loans, the interest rate reduction is for the duration of your military service as long as you can continue to demonstrate material affect. The start date of your interest reduction is the first day you serve on active duty and any excess interest is forgiven during the course of the interest rate reduction.

However, there are some businesses which are kind enough to reduce your interest rates to six percent if you so request it accompanied by your military orders. Just ensure that you understand that they are not obligated to do this. If you have any questions, please contact the Brigade Legal Office at 851-0514 (NIPR) or 851-1268 (SIPR). This should not be taken as legal advice and does not substitute for actually consulting with an attorney.

Safety corner

By Ken Campbell, TF Duke, Safety Director

Every year, thousands of Americans are injured or killed due to an accidental slip, trip or fall. Many of these accidents can be avoided with a little consideration of the hazards we face.

Slips, trips and falls are one of the major types of personnel injury accidents for both Soldiers and the civilian workforce. According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Consumer Product Safety Commission, falls are the leading cause of nonfatal unintentional injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms. Poor housekeeping, inadequate maintenance, improper procedures and inattention all contribute to slips, trips and falls.

As of Mar 1, slips, trips, and falls account for 38 percent of the accidents across Task Force Duke.

The following are the leading cause of the majority of our slips, trips, and falls across the Task Force:

Inattention. Not paying attention to the walking or working surface can lead to a fall. Many fall victims fail to look for hazards directly in the path of travel, and most of these accidents can be avoided by paying attention.



Slippery and uneven work surfaces. Slippery and uneven surfaces can be seen across the Task Force battle space. To help prevent some of these accidents, I encourage leadership to include slips, trips, and falls in all Composite Risk Management Worksheets and ensure they are briefed to Soldiers prior to all missions.

Injuries and deaths from slip, trip and fall accidents are preventable. By taking the time to identify the accident hazards in your work area, you can help ensure your next step isn't your last.

Purpleheart

Did you know the original Purple Heart, designated as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by an order from Gen. George Washington, the commander in chief of the Continental Army, on August 7, 1782?

The Purple Heart was revived on the 200th Anniversary of Washington's birth, out of respect to his memory and military achievements, by War Department General Orders No. 3, dated February 22, 1932.

Awarded for: "Being wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces."



Recipients: Jan. 30 - March 15

Staff Sgt. Alex Dillman
B Co., 2-2 IN

Sgt. Kristopher Gould
B Co., 2-2 IN

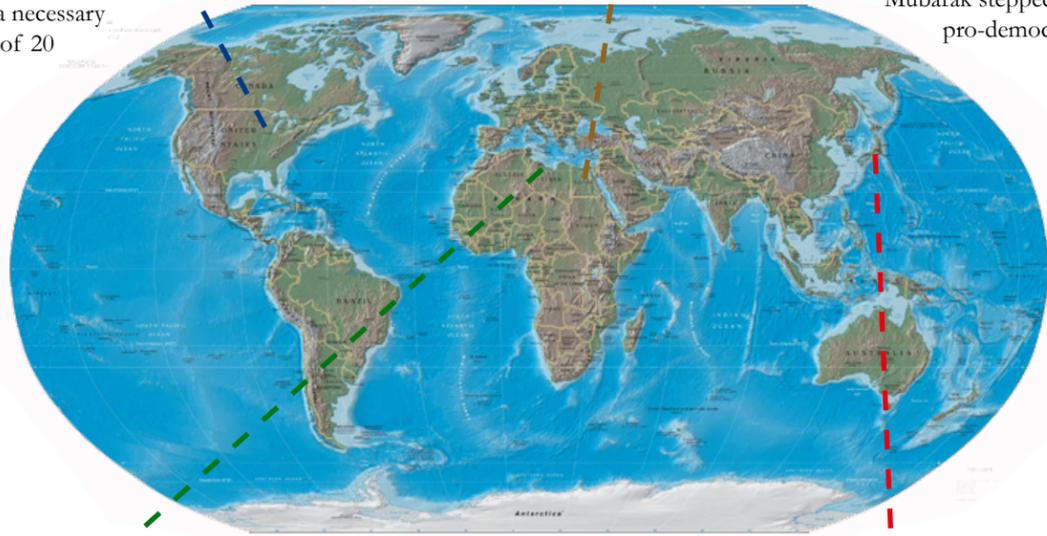
Pfc. Esteven Shelly
B Battery, 1-6 FA

World News **Highlights**

Wisconsin

Demonstrators protest bill

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker signed a bill curbing the bargaining rights of most state workers. Demonstrators blocked entrances to the state legislature and unions organized rallies of thousands of people to oppose the bill. The passage of the bill allows the state to avoid property tax increases and public sector layoffs. Democrats said the bill was an attack on worker's rights and 14 senators fled the state to prevent a necessary quorum of 20 votes.



Egypt

Protests in the Middle East

On Jan. 25 many in Egypt took to the streets in protest against the military-state government in Egypt. The protests grew into a widespread movement spurred by discontent over President Hosni Mubarak's 29-year reign. The demonstrations began after the toppling of Tunisia's president on Jan. 15. The example in Tunisia spurred many in Egypt and across the Middle East to take to the streets crying for change. Demonstrators gathered by the thousands in Tahrir Square and throughout the country, despite clashes with riot police that led to deaths and injuries. Mubarak stepped down after 18 days of pro-democracy protests.

Libya

Rebels take control of several cities

Protests broke out on a "Day of Rage" Feb. 16 to challenge Col. el-Qaddafi's 41-year reign. After a series of crackdowns by the government leading to several deaths, rebels took control of several cities including Benghazi, Zawiyah and Tripoli. Over the next month, rebels would defend against several attacks by forces loyal to Qaddafi. On March 11, the momentum of the conflict shifted in Qaddafi's favor after forces loyal to him attacked rebels in the oil town Ras Lanuf, sending them in retreat to Tripoli.

Japan

Tsunami hits after earthquake

After an 8.9 magnitude earthquake, struck Japan, March 11, a 30-foot tsunami hit the northeastern coast, causing devastation as far as 6 miles inland. The U.S. National Weather Service issued tsunami warnings for at least 50 countries. An evacuation was ordered for people who lived within six miles of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant after a leak occurred in the atomic plant during the earthquake. 8 warships from the U.S. 7th fleet headed toward Japan to provide assistance during the crises and humanitarian aid from the U.S. started toward the country on Friday, March 11.

IN MEMORIAM



SGT. KRISTOPHER J. GOULD
 FEB. 12, 1986 - FEB. 27, 2011
 COMPANY B, 2ND BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT
 TASK FORCE DUKE



Photo by Spc. Thomas Mori