

FAMILY

Family Newsletter for the 49th Military Police Brigade, California Army National Guard

49th MP Brigade hosts Commander's Conference

By Sgt. Kenneth Bince

49th MP Brigade Public Affairs Sergeant

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq. – The 49th Military Police Brigade hosted a three-day commander's conference for more than 100 Soldiers from four subordinate battalions Jan. 21-23 here.

MP battalion commanders, command sergeants major, company commanders and first sergeants from the multiple regions in Iraq attended the unique unifying event.

Day one of the event took place at the 1st Armored Division Chapel, where 49th MP command staff covered the schedule for the day and the list of speakers.

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, the 49th MP Brigade commander, opened the conference with introductions and background of the status of the MP brigade in Iraq. "Our focus here is to train the Iraqi Police and to build an even capacity across the theater," he said.

He continued with the importance of safety, telling the group of Soldiers to maintain a high level of safety and to ensure Soldiers always wear safety equipment while completing missions. Currier stated, "19 of the last 21 deaths in theater were non-battle deaths."

"Your units have had great



Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th Military Police Brigade commander, introduces Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles, 49th command sergeant major, to the attendees of the 49th's commander's conference at the 1st Armor Division Chapel Jan. 21. The three-day event fostered better relationships between brigade, battalion and company elements within the brigade.

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success in completing the missions, but there is nothing more important than conducting all operations safely," said Currier.

The subject turned to RDoF (responsible drawdown of forces) and the importance of commanders remaining mission capable during

the reduction phase of troops and equipment.

US forces in theater will drawdown from 12 BCTs (brigade combat teams) or over 115,000 troops to six AABs (advisory, assistance brigades) or 50,000 troops by Aug. 1.

Currier continued, "The transition will be bottom to top driven and that feedback from companies to battalions will be critical during the RDoF."

The next speaker at the

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From the 49th MP Brigade Commander

Dear Sentinel Families,

As our Brigade reaches the half way point of our deployment, it is important for me to convey my appreciation to key members of our Family Support network. I'd like to thank Toni Colip, Sandra Bombita, my wife, Teri, Debby Mendelsohn, Suzanne Moles and all the other volunteers who made the recent Family Symposium a success at Travis AFB on 30 January 2010. I enjoyed Skyping with our Brigade Family volunteers and was gratified to hear the event was a great success.

I'd also like to thank Suzanne for her work and energy on our new Brigade family networking site. This facebook type site will serve as a perfect vehicle to share our PAO section's great articles and videos that can give our families and close friends insight into our daily life here.

While the focus of this newsletter is on our HHC Soldiers and their families, it is important to put their work in context. We have several battalions and almost 30 MP Companies all over Iraq, consisting of almost 5,000 Soldiers. It's easy to become self-absorbed with our own issues and daily challenges but we can't forget that the work of our HHC Soldiers contributes to the success and well being of every Soldier in the entire Brigade. I am proud of the work they are doing and the contributions they make every day.

Although our operational pace is substantially less than it was when we deployed here in 2005, our work is just as important and in many ways more challenging.

The world is anticipating



Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier

Iraq's national elections on 7 March 2010. In many respects this critical event represents seven years of hardship and sacrifice contributed by Soldiers and their Families since 2003. In helping the Iraqi Police prepare for the elections, our Brigade Soldiers have to navigate within a Security Agreement that is somewhat restrictive and nuanced. Our Soldiers have to take on the role of diplomat, warrior, negotiator and trainer. They also need to know that every Iraqi problem requires an Iraqi solution. This may be easy to understand intellectually but

it is incredibly difficult to implement on the ground.

Adding to these complexities is the fact that Iraq's security remains on tenuous..There has been an uptick in bombings around the country, directed against the government of Iraq, particularly in Baghdad. Our Soldiers are helping the Iraqi Police manage these crime scenes by securing the area and collecting key evidence that will assist Iraqi judges in convicting the criminals who commit these heinous acts. Assisting them in these endeavors

will hopefully increase Iraqi citizen confidence in their security forces.

While our Soldiers tackle this complex mission, I want you to know that my put a high premium safety. Every chance I get I walk the line to check on Soldier's equipment readiness, safety gear and overall preparedness to perform the mission. I have sent my Command Sergeant Major and my staff on the road to personally interact with the lowest level units to insure we are employing every risk mitigation tool necessary to return our Soldiers home. We all know that the jobs our Soldiers do can be very dangerous. I am committed to doing everything I can to mitigate some of the risk by ensuring our Soldiers and trained well and using the proper equipment.

I hope you are talking to your loved ones regularly. There is no shortage of avenues to communicate with home: telephone, internet and mail are all available to all of our Soldiers. Regular contact with home and knowing family members at home are coming along fine allow Soldiers to concentrate on their mission. This is vitally important to their well-being.

I thank you for all of your efforts to communicate with our Soldiers. If you have any concern about their well-being I want you to know that you can send me an e-mail at:

**Donald.Currier@
us.army.mil**

Their job satisfaction, their positive outlook and most of all their safety are incredibly important to the Brigade's success. Let me know if I can help

,Donald J. Currier

From the 49th MP Brigade Headquarters Commander

“ Our Soldiers do their job every day with pride and are dealing with the ever changing operational picture to the best of their abilities.”

Capt. Edward Bombita

Sentinel Friends and Families:

The New Year brings with it hope and the opportunity for new beginnings. As one decade gives way to the next, Iraq is undergoing many changes that are affecting our mission here in theater. Still, the Sentinels continue to perform admirably under the mantra of ‘making a difference while we are here.’

Our Soldiers do their job every day with pride and are dealing with the ever changing operational picture to the best of their abilities. This causes a great deal of stress to all of us and will

affect us all in different ways. Your continued support and the monthly activities we have organized provide much needed stress relief. This month we bring back biweekly ‘Game Nights’ with a Spades tournament and the debut of the interactive game “Scene It.” In addition to these events, our company will be holding Physical Fitness Tests to gauge the physical readiness of the unit. These have prompted the increase of physical exercise among our troops, which has served as an additional means for all Soldiers to relieve stress.

The start of the year also marks a turning point in our mission. We are starting our preparation for our return home. The nation’s involvement in this war is waning, so the focus on how units exit has become a critical part of day to day operations. We are starting to plan how our redeployment should be

handled, especially any preparation that needs to be made now and in the coming months. Although we can see that this will be an extremely challenging endeavor, it is one we will gladly take on.

I would like to close by thanking all of you for the support we have received, especially from the family Readiness Group Volunteers.

The holiday season was very tough and your assistance with our events, as well as the many care packages we received, were the key to getting through these last few weeks. All of us realize that you have all done your part to keep our spirits up while having to deal with many situations back



Capt. Edward Bombita

home and your own emotional hardships without us. For that we think the world of you and want you to know we could not do all we do without the strength your sacrifice gives us.

May the New Year be a healthy and prosperous one for all of you. ■

From the 49th MP Brigade Headquarters First Sergeant

Dear Families:

We are well into the New Year and our mission here continues to go well. I want to again thank all the family members who have been working so very hard with supporting the Family Readiness Group and our Soldiers here in Iraq. You all played a big role in getting us through the Holiday Season. We received so many packages during December that it was unbelievable!

It has become

really cold recently and I have my fleece throw blanket on my bed! Toni and Sandy, that was a wonderful idea to send them!

The R&R Leave Program has been running smoothly. I hope that if you have not already seen your Soldier, your time with them will be wonderful when they arrive home or at your vacation site.

We have started having discussions about our return to California. During the

next few months as decisions are made about our return, they will be communicated through the Family Readiness Group. The Yellow Ribbon Program has changed since our departure, and we need to coordinate with them to verify how events can be programmed to fill our needs.

Again, Thank you to



1st Sgt. Ben Jandreau

the FRG for your support of our Soldiers and I look forward to talking to you soon! ■

49th MP Brigade hosts EO/SHARP Symposium

By Sgt. Kenneth Bince
49th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- Fulfilling the continuing need for professional military development and awareness, Lt. Col. Barbara McPhail, 49th Military Police Brigade communications officer in charge and Lt. Col. Paul Rogers, 49th Equal Opportunity Advisor, hosted a three-day combined EO and SHARP (Equal Opportunity and Army Sexual Harassment Assault and Response Program) symposium here Dec. 17-19.

The symposium held at the brigade's chapel served two purposes: one, to provide an opportunity for Soldiers at the battalion level, to become certified Unit Victim Advocates (UVAs) and two, to give pre-EO training to selected Soldiers prior to attending the 10-day Equal Opportunity Leader's (EOL) course at a later date.

"We had a total of 47 Soldiers that attended the symposium from the four battalions in the brigade," said McPhail, also the 49th Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC). "For over half of the attendees, this was their initial certification, whereas the rest were recertifications."

"The first day was a combination of EO and UVA training, which also included an extraordinary block of instruction, cultural awareness classes," said Staff Sgt. Arlyce Baty, 49th



A Pakistani contractor explains the differences between his culture and American culture during the first day of the EO/ SHARP (Equal Opportunity/Sexual Harassment Assault and Response Program) symposium at the 49th MP Brigade chapel Dec. 17, Camp Liberty, Iraq.

retention noncommissioned officer and equal opportunity leader. "The cultural block was great. It gave the Soldiers an in depth understanding of the differences between cultures

that we might encounter during this deployment."

Soldiers separated into the two areas for the second day. In the chapel, the majority of the attendees



Then MNC-I now USF-I Equal Opportunity Sgt. Major Alvin Newman points out the fact that sexual assaults in Iraq and in the Army in general have been on the steady decline due to increased training and education during the third and final day of the 49th MP Brigade's EO/ SHARP (Equal Opportunity/Sexual Harassment Assault and Response Program) symposium, Camp Liberty, Iraq. Also pictured here is Lt. Col. Barbara McPhail 49th communications officer in charge and DSARC (Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator).

received UVA training. “This gave (Soldiers) the opportunity to participate in scenario based discussions, developing products which they were able to take back and use within their respective battalion and individual company level programs,” said McPhail.

During the same period in a different building, the EOLs covered important topics including inappropriate relationship, fraternization and sexual harassment. “My main goal here was to set these Soldiers up for success by providing the necessary resources required to accomplish their missions as EOLs,” said Rogers. “I made sure that they had everything they needed on a (compact disk) to take a back with them to their units.”

On the third and final day, the large group of Soldiers made their way to the 1st Cavalry Division dining facility. Separated from main area in a private room, the symposium wound down during a breakfast meal, which included speakers from Multi National Corps-Iraq (now United States Forces- Iraq)

Brig. Gen. Peter Bayer, MNC-I Chief of Staff, stressed the importance of the symposium and the awareness it creates. Bayer continued, “We have zero tolerance for sexual assault in the Army, and we need to continue the fight against sexual harassment.”

The last and final speaker before the certificates were presented was the MNC-I Equal Opportunity Sgt. Maj. Alvin Newman saying, “NCOs are forefront of these issues.” He concluded, “Education and awareness are the keys to solving these problems Army wide.” ■



Brig. Gen. Peter Bayer, then MNC-I now USF-I Chief of Staff, stresses the importance of conducting US Army SHARP (Sexual Harassment Assault Prevention and Response Program) training during the last day of the 49th MP Brigade's EO/SHARP symposium at the 1st Armored Cavalry Division dining facility Dec. 19, 2009, Camp Liberty, Iraq. The three-day symposium consisted of cultural awareness training, Unit Victim Advocate certification and Equal Opportunity Leaders course training.



49th MP Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor Lt. Col. Paul Rogers speaks with EOL (Equal Opportunity Leaders) from the 4 battalions during the second day of the EO/SHARP symposium held at the unit's compound located on Camp Liberty, Iraq.

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conference was Maj. Gen. Peter Aylward, deputy commanding general for Iraqi security forces, who spoke about the end state of Iraq saying, "The goal of post-election Iraq will consist of a newly formed democratic nation." He continued and thanked the MPs attending saying, "I thank you for who you are and what you do."

Maj. Gen. David Quantock, former Task Force 134 commanding general, Detainee Operations deputy commanding general and future Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, greeted the MPs. Quantock continued to go into detail about the task organization of the AABs and how the remaining US forces in Iraq will operate after Aug. 1.

During the remainder of the first day, the 49th command staff gave presentations on logistical and police training operations.

The last informative block of guidance was from a 49th MP Brigade LEP (law enforcement professional), who explained how to successfully utilize the available LEPs in the different regions of Iraq. LEPs are special staff advisors to the brigade commander, who assist with law enforcement capabilities and techniques and how to effectively utilize the skills in theater.

Following the completion of a full day of events the 49th MP Soldiers moved to the unit's headquarters compound and shared the evening meal together



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inside of the Sentinel's chapel.

The following two days consisted of four events held simultaneously in three different locations on the VBC (Victory Base Complex). At building 130, located on Camp Victory, battalion commanders and command sergeants major teamed up with their company commanders and first sergeants to engage in primary staff briefings while the second "battalion group" at the same location participated in the 49th commander's back brief to the brigade commander.

"Whereas the commander's back brief was an opportunity for battalion and company leaders to give the brigade commander a status of the individual unit's missions," said Maj. Robert Paoletti, 49th chief of operations..

"Not all MP companies in the brigade have the same mission in Iraq so this was their time to tell what they have accomplished".

While those two important activities took place, the third battalion group was receiving a special staff brief at the 336th MP battalion conference room and the fourth battalion group spent the period conducting battalion commander's time at the 49th conference room located at the brigade's headquarters.

The special staff briefing was an opportunity for battalion groups to receive information pertaining to specific special staff section such as JAG (judge advocate general), Equal Opportunity Advisor, SHARP (sexual harassment/assault and response program), 49th public

affairs and the 49th chaplain. "This was a good time for the company and battalion leaders to receive and provide feedback regarding the individual special staff sections," said Paoletti.

"The battalion's commander time was a three hour block where battalion commanders and company commanders had the rare moment to get together and talk," said Paoletti. "Most of the units are geographically dispersed throughout Iraq, so this was an invaluable moment for all units involved."

The end of the second day was similar to the first. In the evening, all participants in the conference shared dinner at the Sentinel's Chapel where they socialized and enjoyed each other's company.

The third and final day was similar to the second but the battalion groups rotated to the different locations and received their remaining briefs.

Once the final briefs were complete, all participants again rendezvoused back at the 49th compound to conduct an AAR (after action report) on the conference lead by the 49th MP commander, where all Soldiers involved expressed feedback and shared lessons learned.

"The conference gave me better situational awareness of the brigade's perspective, and it was good to see some old friends and to make new ones," Capt. Dan Naad, 571st MP Company commander, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Capt. Mike Mixon, 545th MP Company commander, Fort Richardson, Alaska, said, "Attending this conference will



Maj. Gen. David Quantock, former Task Force 134 commanding general, Detainee Operations deputy commanding general and future Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, greets officers and noncommissioned officers from the 49th Military Police Brigade during the first day of Commander's Conference at the 1st Armored Division Chapel Jan. 21, Camp Liberty, Iraq.

help me prioritize transition planning and help with creating a good end of mission plan."

"The best part of the conference was sharing the same challenges and ideas," said Capt. Melanie Fuata, 543rd MP Company commander, Fort Drum, N.Y. "We receive good moral support from the 49th even though we are OPCON (operationally controlled) by other commands."

Capt. George Grosskopf, 317th headquarters and headquarters detachment commander, said "The conference's eyes on approach to the RDoF was considerably helpful to getting the process going, and now I can better plan for the time line of important logistical issues. This was a great opportunity to meet the command staff and also to connect the faces to the names."

"The chance to network with other commanders was terrific,

to see how other commanders address similar issues and it's great to see what other companies are accomplishing," said Capt. Noel Chun, 855th MP Company commander, Arizona National Guard. "It was a challenge to get here but it was well worth the trip."

Upon completion of the commander's conference, the Soldiers from different areas of operation preceded to initiate movement back to their home units. Some came by ground but most took multiple flights to attend. The Soldiers experienced the face to face contact, built friendships, renewed old ones, and established new relationships that would not have been possible any other way.

The next conference the 49th is planning will focus on Police Transition Teams. ■

49th MPs take Second in Thanksgiving Softball Tournament

By Lt. Col. Paul Rogers

49th MP Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor and Sentinel Softball Manager - Coach

The 49th MP Sentinels softball team played in the Thanksgiving Day Softball tournament at the Camp Liberty MWR field. Due to other conditions and mission requirements, we finally played Sunday Jan. 19, 2010. Due to weather conditions and mission requirements, we had to play three games, and the winner of the tournament would be determined by wins, losses, runs scored and runs allowed.

Our first game was against a civil affairs unit with a team name of "3 Ballers". The unit has been in Iraq for just a little bit longer than we have, and they were really happy to play, as were we. The game started off slow, and the only highlight in the first two innings was that the defense looked good behind the pitching of 1SG Jandreau, in his second official start. He is now 1-1 and looked solid. He had 5 strike outs, which is now a team record. We gave up 2 runs in the 1st inning and 1 run in the 5th inning. We won the game 15-3. The outstanding hitters for the game were CW3 Ferrara and SPC Baynes, both going 3 for 4. Ferrara scored four times to include a triple and Baynes had 3 RBI's with his three hits. SPC Brunson hit a triple with two RBI's in his pinch-hitting debut. It was a hard hit fly ball to left center. It was a thing of beauty.

In our second game, we played the "Mercy Rule" team and we were not as productive in our offense. This means we just did not hit the ball. We went 1-2-3 outs in the first inning with 1SG Jandreau striking out for the third out. In the second inning we went 1-2-3 as well. In the 2nd inning we gave up 2 more runs. We were down 6-0 in the top of the 3rd inning. We finally got runners on second and third base with SFC Northup batting and we were all yelling at him to get a hit. He came through with a solid hit and we scored two runs. We are now down 6-2. In the bottom of the 3rd inning we gave up three more runs with one walk. In the 4th inning, we gave up one run and another walk. Our pitcher LTC McPhail was having problems finding the strike zone. However, throughout the game the balls that were hit in her direction around the mound, she made the plays, got the outs - looking like an All-Star fielding pitcher. We lost the game with a score of 11-7. LTC McPhail walked 6 and struck out 1. Our hitting in this game did not help her and her record is now 2-1.

The third game we hit much better and had a new pitcher SPC Siguenza in his debut. The highlight of the 1st inning was CPT Jester's inside park homerun. He ran like a deer and surprised everyone. The thing is he looked "Good" doing it. He is now the official HR leader of this softball team. Good job CPT Jester! The game went back and forth with some key hitting and fielding by everyone.

MAJ Russell went 3x4 with a triple, 1SG Jandreau went 2x3, and SFC Northup had a Sacrifice fly with an RBI which eventually was the winning final run of the game. We had some more team records. SPC Siguenza pitched all 7 innings with no walks and two strike outs. The No Walks in 7 innings is a team record and we had a player who struck out two times too. We are not going to give her name as it is record I am sure she wants to forget.

We took Second place for this tournament with a 2-1 record. We got our 2nd Place trophy and a team photo with players wearing the sponsor shirts of Coast Peaks Roasters of San Luis Obispo. Thank-you for the shirts.

The MWR plans on having softball



Lt. Col. Paul Rogers

tournament or just an opportunity to play the second and fourth weekends of the month. We will have more records and stories to tell about the 49th MP Sentinels softball team. We are now 5-5 as a team record and our play is improving. This is the "Man with the Cast" signing off and until the next game, have fun and if that first pitch is in your hitting zone-SWING.

LTC Paul Rogers, Manager/Coach
PS, the cast is off now.



The 49th Military Police Brigade softball squad

2nd Place, Thanksgiving Day Softball Tournament

Camp Liberty, Iraq January 2010

STANDING: SFC David Northup, LTC Paul Rogers (Manager), CPT Steven Jester, MAJ Earl Russell, SGT Joel Torres and SPC Melvin Brunson. KNEELING: SSG Cedric Daga, SPC David Baynes (Team MVP), TSG Ben Jandreau, CW3 John Ferrera and LTC Barbara McPhail. MISSING: LTC Peter Cross, SPC Rommel Vazquez and SPC Eddie Siguenza

California Guardsman gets morale boost from college football game

Story and photos by **Spc. Eddie Siguenza**
49th Military Police Brigade public affairs specialist

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – When most in the 49th Military Police Brigade weren't awake, Spc. Donald Moore was walking and talking among new friends, reiterating three words:

"Sweet home, Alabama," said the 49th's duty driver. "Yup, sweet home, Alabama."

The California Guardsman and former Mobile, Ala. native just had one of those sweet morale boosters. On Jan. 7, Moore watched as the Alabama Crimson Tide rolled past the Texas Longhorns 37-21 to win the BCS Championship title game, better known as college football's national crown. In Iraq, the game aired so early, dining facilities weren't open for breakfast. That still didn't stop Moore from watching his team win its first championship since 1992, a year after Moore left his former state to call California his new home.

"I started being an Alabama fan when I was in high school. A few friends got scholarships to go to school there," said the 53-year-old Soldier. "So it was good to see them finally win the title. But the biggest thing I'm most proud of is they got revenge on Florida. That's the biggest thing, I wanted them to beat Florida more than winning championship." The Crimson Tide swamped Florida 32-13 in early December, launch-



Spc. Donald Moore (center, in uniform) of the 49th Military Police Brigade stands with new friends from the 217th Military Police Company after Alabama defeated Texas 37-21 in the BCS Championship game Jan. 7. Moore is originally from Mobile, Ala., and is the lone Soldier from the 49th from that state. The 217th Soldiers are from Prattville, Ala. (US Army photo/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA)

ing Alabama into the BCS championship contest. That also gave Alabama the Southeastern Conference title and avenged a 31-20 loss to the Gators in late-2008.

Moore is the 49th's only Soldier with Alabama ties. He watched the Alabama-Texas shootout with new-found friends at the 217th Military Police Company, a subordinate unit from Prattville, Ala.

Moore, from Oakland, Calif., moved to the Golden State in 1991.

He works for the city as a tree trimmer. He's been a Guardsman for three years, having re-enlisted after 15 years away.

"I just wanted to serve my country again and get back into the military to help with my retirement," Moore explained.

This mission, Moore is the 49th's transportation expert. He drives personnel to and from places throughout the Forward Operating Base (FOB). He must know all routes, and all adjacent FOBs, that are huge with many roads and trails without street signs.

"Sometimes missions are so early in the morning," said Moore. "So waking up early to watch the football game isn't hard."

Summarizing Alabama's win, Moore added, "Alabama won the first half. But Texas gave us a scare in the third quarter. They got into sync and gave us a good game. Fortunately, our defense came up big the last two minutes of the game. I'm glad to get the win."

Sweet home, Alabama. ■



Spc. Donald Moore is a Mobile, Ala. native who now calls Oakland, Calif., his home. But he was singing "Sweet Home, Alabama" on Jan. 7 after the Alabama Crimson Tide beat the Texas Longhorns 37-21 in the BCS Championship title game. (US Army photo/SPC EDDIE SIGUENZA)

49th MP Brigade G1, Personnel Excellence

Photos and story by Sgt. Kenneth Bince
49th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Office

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – As the average Soldier walks into the 49th Military Police Brigade G1 (personnel) section, the first thing he might notice is the green and gold sign attached to the back of a computer that reads, “Welcome to the G1. How may I help you?”

Just as the sign reads, the G1 is here to help any Soldier in the brigade with important administrative support.

To the 13 Soldiers working everyday to support over 5000 Soldiers in the 49th, completing and maintaining crucial administrative tasks are very important. “The G1 section is here to help,” said Master Sgt. Steven Melton, 49th G1 noncommissioned officer in charge. “Soldiers’ issues such as getting promoted, receiving awards, obtaining a new ID card and receiving mail from a loved one are only a few of the responsibilities that we have.”

“The G1 treats every request as though they were completing the personnel action for themselves,” said Melton. “Specific Soldiers in the G1 shop have different responsibilities as well as different expertises.”

“The vast majority of our customers contact the G1 shop over the phone or via email, but we also handle Soldiers on a walk in basis,” said Melton. “The shop is open for business seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., but on occasion we stay here past those hours to finish high priority jobs.”



Master Sgt. Steven Melton, 49th MP Brigade G1 noncommissioned officer in charge, checks the status of deployed Soldiers. Accountability is a top priority for the G1, which accounts for over 5000 Soldiers on a daily basis.

As a Soldier continues a career in the Army, all are expected to move up in rank thus receiving more benefits and increasing responsibility. “Whether a Soldier is stationed at a home base or deployed to Iraq, they still have the opportunity to receive promotions,” said Sgt. Cynthia Bell, 49th human resource sergeant.

“On the 22nd day of every month, for Regular Army Soldiers promotions are processed every month for enlisted Soldiers. The G1 receives a list with the names of Soldiers that are eligible for promotion from the Army’s Human Resources Command,” said Bell.

“Once the Soldiers are identified for promotion, the responsibility falls on the individual unit to submit an ERB (enlisted records brief) to the G1 for verification.”

If the Soldier’s requirements are met, the orders are cut, and the EDAS (Enlisted Distribution and Assignment System) is updated. As soon EDAS is updated the Soldier will begin to get paid at the higher grade.

The G1 doesn’t have much to do with promotions for reserve components. That’s the responsibility of the home state of the Soldier to process those types of personnel

actions.

“During this Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment, (the G1) expects to process over 12000 awards and certificates from the battalion level,” said Maj. Wayne Hudson, 49th G1 officer in charge. “Awards spotlight the accomplishment of the individual Soldier.”

Two Soldiers assigned to the G1



Maj. Wayne Hutson, 49th MP Brigade G1 (OIC) officer in charge, works on (OERs) officer evaluation reports during his busy day. Evaluation reports for noncommissioned officers are also a responsibility of the personnel section.

handle awards from the COA (certificate of achievement) to prestigious awards for valor. “80 percent of the awards that will be competed here will be end of tour awards,” said Sgt. Deanna Gray, 49th human resources sergeant. “Awards such as ARCOMs (Army Accommodation Medal) and BSMs (Bronze Star Medal) are the typical awards that are given for meritorious service during a combat deployment.”

“The remaining 20 percent are classified as impact awards. “Impact awards are the medals or badges that are presented for action in combat. “Combat Action Badges and awards presented for valor, those types of award are submitted to an awards review board,” said Gray.

Depending on the award, the request is approved at the brigade level or sent to a higher level. “At the brigade level, all impact awards up to a BSM can be processed and completed here,” she added.” Any higher award must be sent up to corps level for approval.”

Back at home, the United States Postal Service is what the average citizen relies on for sending and receiving mail. But while Soldiers are deployed the responsibility of processing mail falls on the shoulders of the G1.

“9:30 a.m. is when the whole mail process starts at the Joint Military Mail Terminal located on BIAP (Baghdad International Airport),” said Pfc. Fermin Maturin, 49th human resources specialist and mail clerk. “The 49th and subordinate units in the brigade meet at the JMMT to receive the boxes of mail every morning. Usually there are about 10 of us that sort

through the three or four large containers that arrive every morning.

Once all of the mail is separated by organization, the unit mail clerks pack the items up in their vehicles and head back their respective units. "As soon as we get back to the compound, the mail is unloaded and processed in the mail room. Every single piece of mail is logged into a spreadsheet, from smallest post card to a large box, and then an email is distributed to all Soldiers in the company," said Maturin.

"The whole mail undertaking is a vital support mission that is important to the morale and welfare of every Soldier in the military," said Staff Sgt. Cedric Daga, 49th mail noncommissioned officer in charge and human resources sergeant. "There's no better way to lifting the spirits of a deployed Soldier than receiving a letter or package from a loved one back home."

Another service that the G1 provides is the issuance of Department of Defense identification cards. "The average Soldier doesn't realize how important an ID card is until they lose one," said Spc. Ernesto Soria, 49th human resources specialist. "Especially while deployed, Soldiers use their ID cards many times a day. To gain access to most buildings on the VBC (Victory Base Complex), Soldiers and civilian contractors alike have to show proper identification."

On a rare occasion when an ID card is lost, there is a list of required items needed before the reissuance of a new card. "Two forms of identification are needed, of the two one has to be some sort of photo identification, such as a state driver license," said Soria.

Two additional documents also have to be submitted with the ID card request. "A lost ID card memorandum from the provost marshal's office, signed by an officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel (O-5) or above. A sworn statement (DA Form 2823) filled out narrating the circumstances in which the card was lost, and that document has to be signed by a captain (O-3) or above," explained Soria.

The memorandum, sworn statement and two forms of ID are the needed items to start the card issuing process. "A new photograph must be taken and a finger scanned to start the RAPIDS (Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System), explained Soria. "Since the system depends on data connectivity

throughout the whole process, it can take 45 minutes to an hour to issue one card."

"Also, during the card making procedure, it's a good time to update information on the card such as a promotion in rank," said Soria. "So, bring a copy of the promotion orders to have the data changed."

Of the more than 2 dozen administrative tasks that the G1 provides, the most critical is keeping accountability in the brigade. "Every day the shop has to account for every individual Soldier in the brigade," said Hutson.

He continued, "The current location and status of every Soldier is a huge responsibility. Service members are continuously going on R&R (rest and relaxation) and emergency leave, periodically sent to training in a different location in theater, and Soldier's that become injured or sick and need to be sent to Germany or back to the United States."

At a specified time every morning, all subordinate companies transmit a strength report to their battalion headquarters' detachments. The battalions then consolidate the individual companies' reports into one, and that's sent up to brigade G1, said Hutson.

"As soon as we receive the



Spc. Ernesto Soria, 49th MP Brigade human resources specialist, hands a new ID card to a customer. ID cards are one of the most important documents that Soldiers need to carry everywhere in theater.

PERSTAT (personnel status) report from the battalions we consolidate that information into one report and that report is distributed to the brigade command and corps (higher command)," he said.

Once the paper reports are complete and submitted, two other web-based databases JPERSTAT (joint personnel status) and the DTAS (deployed theater accountability system) are updated, he said. "Those two systems are specifically designed for boots-on-the-ground theater tracking and gives troop visibility to all levels of command."

"There is nothing more important to the G1 than to know exactly where and how all Soldiers are doing," concluded Hutson.

13 Soldiers supporting over 5000 troops, open for business seven days a week and taking pride in every task put before them. A monumental undertaking from an observer's point of view, but to the G1 it's just another day of moving ahead

in supporting a brigade of Soldiers. "When we take care of Soldiers and their needs, it just gives them one less thing to worry about," said Melton, "and hopefully, that helps keep their minds on the mission." ■

Pfc Fermin Maturin, 49th MP Brigade mail clerk (left) and Staff Sgt. Cedric Daga, 49th MP mail noncommissioned officer in charge (right), move a daily load of mail to the brigade mail room with the little help of a cart.

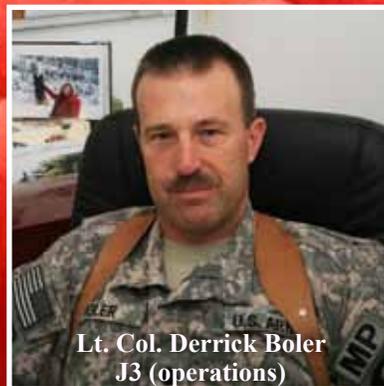


Happy Valentine's Day



Staff Sgt. Arlyce Baty
Retention NCO

Happy Valentine's Day Baby and Mommy.



Lt. Col. Derrick Boler
J3 (operations)

Sorry I am not there to say this in person, but I am in thought and spirit. Carole you are my best friend, and thank you for supporting me prior to and during this mobilization! Anthony, thank you for helping your mom with all of the tasks that I can not! Justin, thank you for sticking with Mom at all of the sporting events and being her helper! I love and miss you all very much and am very proud of you all !!!
Happy Valentine's Day, D.



1st Lt. Bejun Mavalwalla
J3 (operations)

Happy Birthday and Valentine's Day Ellen, I love you.



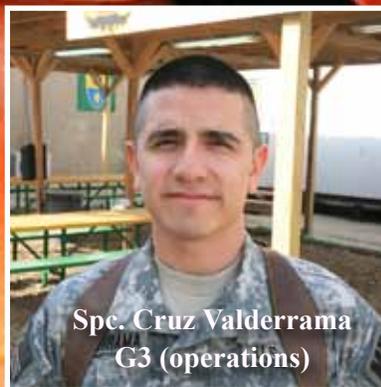
Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Smith
Police Transition Team

I love you and miss you Mimmie, Happy Valentine's day.



Spc. Darnell Sanders
G6 (communications)

Happy Valentine's Day to my wife Tonya, and my children Jessica, Jaclyn, Jenna, and to my granddaughter Kalea.



Spc. Cruz Valderrama
G3 (operations)

Carmela, Irabel and Adrian, I just wanted to tell you guys how much I miss you, love you and to say happy Valentine's Day!



Sgt. Deanna Gray
G1 (personnel)

Happy Valentine's Day to my husband Tim and my son Sammy. We have many more holidays to catch up on.



Staff Sgt. Matt McVey
Headquarters Supply

I miss and love you Heather, and I can't wait to see you on R& R. Happy Valentine's day.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan McDonald
G3 (operations)

Emma, Melissa and I hope that you enjoy your Valentine's Day with hearts and candy. Make sure that you fill out all of your valentines for your classmates.



Sgt. Daniel Jagers
G6 (communications)

Happy Valentine's Day Colleen. I think about you everyday, and I'll be home soon.



Maj. Jeanette Stuart
Police Transition Team

I'm very proud of my daughters Jacquie and Ashleigh. You are the sweethearts of my life. Happy "V-day".



Sgt. 1st Class David Northup
Police Transition Team

Happy Valentine's Day to my wife Lysa and my daughters, Cyrra, Shayna, Aleda, Trish and my moms. I love you all and I'll be home soon.

Promotions

Jan. 8



A promotion ceremony for then Capt. James L. Parsons to the rank of major that took place at the Al Faw Palace located on Camp Victory Jan 8. Parsons, the electronics warfare officer for the 49th Military Police Brigade is a resident of Sacramento, and he has over 24 years of service. The pinning of rank was completed by Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, 49th MP Commander under a 3-story high US flag that hung from the ceiling to the floor. More than 30 Soldiers from the 49th attended the mid-day event that took place inside of the infamous Water Palace of Baghdad.

Mar. 1



Beneath a massive chandelier attached to a cathedral-like ceiling, an afternoon promotion ceremony for a 49th Military Police Soldier was held at the Al Faw Palace here Mar. 1, 2010. Then 1st Lt. Bajun R. Mavalwalla, a 49th MP operations officer and a resident of Petaluma, Calif., was promoted to the rank of captain by Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier, the 49th MP Brigade commander, before an audience of his fellow Soldiers. Mavalwalla, a former enlisted Soldier, who has more than 22 years of service to the Army and the California National Guard, joined the 49th MP Brigade more than a year ago with the intent to deploy with the brigade.

Feb. 16



A promotion ceremony was held for then Sgt Mohamed Dawoud, a member of the 49th Military Police Brigade at the Al Faw Palace, located on Camp Victory, Feb. 16. Dawoud, the 49th MP Brigade command sergeant's major personal security detail/ driver, was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant by Brig. Gen Donald J. Currier, 49th MP Brigade commander, during the pre-lunch event.



To the men and women serving our country in Iraq,
I would like to sincerely thank you all for the incredible amount of hospitality and welcome you showed us while we visited your home in Iraq. As a small token of our appreciation, I have created a special section of my blog where you can view and download my images from our time in Iraq with you.
Please visit <http://justinshort.visualsociety.com> to access the site. On the bottom left hand of the page you'll see the "Pages" section, and a link to the "Fort Victory" page.
Click that link, and you'll find galleries for all our stops on the base, as well as instructions on how to view & print the images.

Please feel free to share this link to other soldiers that were present at these events, and to family members stateside that can print these out for you. The site will remain online for the next 30 days, and there are additional instructions on the site.
Thank you again so much for hosting us.
Sincerely,
Justin Short
Official Photographer
Office of Governor Schwarzenegger

Around the Camp



Master Sgt. William Spruill (left) and teammate Staff Sgt. Mark Kim (center), both from the G-6 (communications) section compete against the team of Spc. Jakeya French (right) G1 (personnel) and 1st Lt. Jason Carlisle, (upper left) PSD (personal security detachment) OIC (officer in charge).



The team of Spc. Wesley Adams (upper right) and Spc. David Baynes (left), both Soldiers from the PSD (personal security detachment), play against Sgt. 1st Class David Northup (lower right), PTT (Police Transition Team), and Sgt. Joel Torres (center), headquarters supply sergeant.



Spc. Farrel Mapp and Sgt. Larel Benghauser pose for a photo immediately after winning the spades competition held Jan. 14 inside of the 49th MP Brigade Sentinel's Chapel.

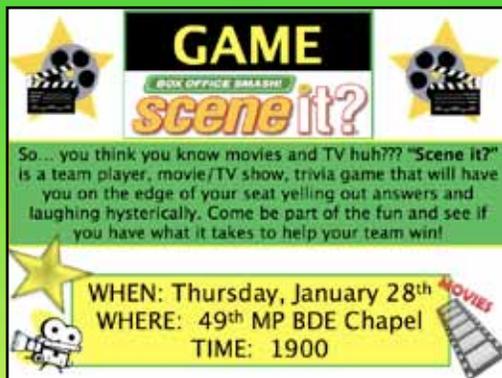
CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- Soldiers from the 49th Military Police Brigade participated in a morale-building event Jan. 14 by competing in a card game tournament here.

Ten two-man teams competed in the 'Spades' game play which included Soldier representatives from most sections in the headquarter's company.

An hour into the tournament, the field was whittled down to 2 teams fighting for the victory.

Near the end, the team of Sgt. 1st Class David Northup and Sgt. Joel Torres were pitted against the team of Sgt. Laurel Benghauser and Spc. Farrel Mapp.

Ultimately, the Benghauser- Mapp team prevailed as the winning team. ■



Soldiers from the headquarters company relax in the evening Jan. 28 by playing a DVD/ board game. Three teams from many sections and ranks competed in the morale-building activity.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq. -- The Sentinel's Chapel was once again the center of an evening morale building event for more than 20 Soldiers from the 49th Military Police Brigade Jan. 28 here.

A DVD game, "Scene it", was at the center of the high-spirited game play where Soldier teams answered questions about movie clips and trivia.

"I have this game at home," said Capt. Edward Bombita, 49th headquarters company commander, "and during an MWR (morale welfare and recreation) meeting, I brought up the game and everyone went crazy, so I knew that this was a good idea."

Activities such as playing sports, watching a movie, or playing a board game are good way to increase the esprit de corps of deployed troops, said Bombita.

"I love the fact that events like this provide

an opportunity for Soldiers to get together, socialize and enjoy one another's company," he said.

"The game play was frantic, people screaming out answers and jumping up and down, it was great," said Staff Sgt. Arlyce Baty, 49th retention noncommissioned officer. "My mom gave me this game a few Christmases ago, so I've played it with my family back home before."

Staff Sgt. Mark Kim, 49th communications sergeant said, "The diversity of the crowd was extraordinary. There were Soldiers from the rank of specialist to lieutenant colonel playing and interacting with each other, and that rarely occurs due to our work schedules."

After an hour of intense game play, there were two teams buying for the win, which ultimately went to the team of Sgt. 1st Class Melissa McDonald, Staff Sgt. Arlyce Baty, Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Ratley, Sgt. Alexandra Trivison, Spc. Rommel Vazquez, Spc. Cruz Valderrama and Spc. Eric Parkhurst.

Every month the 49th MWR committee schedules two game nights and two movie nights. "We alternate the two events to give Soldiers an opportunity after work to relax have some fun," said Bombita. ■

The 49th Military Police Brigade has an award-winning family readiness association group that is available for all who need support any time of the day, and any time of the deployment. The following services are also provided to families while Soldiers are federally activated:

Operation Ready Families Program

www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies

Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.com

National Guard Family Program

www.guardfamily.org

Army Family Program

www.myarmylifetoo.com

Military and Family Life Consulting Program

www.mhngs.com

The Military Family Forum

www.MilitaryFamily.com

Tricare Medical Services

www.tricare.osd.mil

California Transition Center for Combat Veterans

www.thepathwayhome.org

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

Till You Come Home Foundation

www.tillyoucomehomefoundation.com

The 49th Military Police Brigade's Facebook Page is up and running. Become a "fan" to follow the 49th and its subordinate units throughout their Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.



Stay in touch with us while we are away!

MAILING ADDRESS:

Rank, Soldier's Name
 49th MP Brigade
 Camp Liberty
 APO, AE 09344



49th Military Police Brigade Chain of Command

Brig. Gen. Donald Currier
 COMMANDER

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Liles
 COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Col. Grace Edinboro
 DEPUTY COMMANDER

Col. Rudy Arruda
 DEPUTY COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Peter Cross
 CHIEF OF STAFF

Capt. Edward Bombita
 HEADQUARTERS COMMANDER

1st Sgt. Ben Jandreau
 HEADQUARTERS FIRST SERGEANT

Sandra Bombita
 FAMILY READINESS GROUP LEADER

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

1st Lt. William Marquez
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Sgt. Kenneth Bince
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS SERGEANT

Spc. Edward Siguenza
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

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