



143d Transportation Command (FORWARD)

Twists & Turns

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Farewell Det. 16, Welcome Det. 18



Staff Sgt. Ruihu Wu, Staff Sgt. David Reese, Sgt. Eric Cintron and Staff Sgt. Tanisha Concepcion serve as the color guard during the 143D Transportation Command's change-of-command ceremony June 10 at Camp Arifjan. During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Charles Barr passed the command colors and relinquished responsibilities to incoming commander, Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood.

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National Guardsmen Awarded Soldiers Medals

Sgt. Crystal Rothermel

Three Soldiers treaded into Iraq on a routine convoy, unaware that a fatal accident would quickly turn their lives around, put their training and instincts to the test, and earn them one of the Army's highest awards - the Soldiers Medal.

Maryland Guardsman Staff Sgt. George Brosenne, 243rd Engineer Company, and Wisconsin Guardsmen

See MEDALS, pg. 3



Maj. Gen. James Kelley presents Staff Sgt. George Brosenne, 243rd Engineer Company with a Soldiers Medal June 13.

Commanding General Message:

My name is Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood and I am an American Soldier. I live the Army values and the Warrior Ethos.

We have been called forward at this time to serve the Nation during this Global War on Terror. Our service is based on values. Our service upholds principles that are grounded in the Constitution. Our service is inspired by these guiding values and principles, and they are derived from the obligations of our oaths of office. These values are the basic building blocks of a character and, I believe that character is a habit; the daily choice of right and wrong.



In the end, our success does not depend on the brilliance of our plans but upon the consistency of our actions- actions founded on character.

To the new Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and members of the Coast Guard, I extend to you a heartfelt welcome. I thank you for your service and for the sacrifice your families make on behalf of America. I look forward to meeting each of you and hearing about your goals and observing how you will make a positive difference in our formations and the lives of our team members. Our mission is critically important. The smallest misstep has lasting implications. As the final 143D Transportation Command rotation, the legacy of the command rests upon your shoulders.

Do not take that responsibility lightly. I expect you to continue to deliver excellence and you can expect no less from me.

I offer the following four "Rules of the Road to guide you in the coming months:

1. **Don't bunt....be bold in your actions and thinking**
2. **No 2nd place trophies....lead the way with your best effort**
3. **Pay attention to the yellow cars..... listen, observe and learn**
4. **Solve for "Yes"....think as a team and act in a collaborative manner**

Thomas Jefferson once said that, "the tree of liberty must on occasion be watered with the blood of patriots." May the Almighty watch over us so we may not pay that ultimate price, but if called to do so, let us face that duty with honor and courage. Remember that excellence is not a matter of wishing, but a matter of will. Let us use the light of excellence to sharpen our focus, build our competence as leaders and ignite their passion of those we lead.

And so I say, my name is Thurgood, I am an American Soldier, follow me.

143D Soldiers Place Third in Triathlon



Soldiers from the 143D; 1st Lt. Sharif Faruque, Sgt. Eric Cintron, and Lt. Col. Edith Greene pose with Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood and their trophies. The team, Team 37, finished the triathlon events at Camp Arifjan June 17 in 53:08- earning them third place out of more than 45 teams. Cintron also was the top biker in the event coming in at 23:52.



Commanding General.....Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood

Editors.....1st Lt. Ryan Pace and Sgt. Crystal Rothermel

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Submit questions, comments, or newsletter submissions at: ryan.j.pace@arifjan.arcent.army.mil

TRANSCOM Commanders Pass Colors, Relinquish Command

Sgt. Crystal Rothermel



Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, commander of the 377th Theater Support Command, passes the 143D colors into the hands of Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood June 10 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen gathered here recently to say goodbye to their leader and welcome his replacement.

Brig. Gen. Charles Barr relinquished command of the 143rd Transportation Command to Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood June 10; marking the end of Barr's one year tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Barr ceremoniously passed the command "colors" to Thurgood, symbolizing the passing of responsibilities.



"A picture is worth 1,000 words and I have over 1,000 pictures from this deployment," Barr said during the ceremony. "The story these pictures portray is one of the few thousand of the great Americans, servicemen and women, who volunteered, stepped forward and are fighting this Global War on Terror and defending our interests

See CEREMONY, pg. 5

MEDALS

Staff Sgt. Tyler Gerrits and Sgt. Jeffrey Diederichs, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, were recognized recently for their heroic efforts to save the lives of three comrades.

It started during a routine October convoy as the infantryman provided security for the engineers that were transporting equipment and supplies into Iraq. A traffic accident turned deadly when Sgt. Brian Conner, Cpl. Bernard Ceo and Cpl. Samuel Boswell's vehicle burst into flames. The Soldiers were members of the 243rd Engineer Company.

Gerrits, an Army medic, and Diederichs, a 127th truck commander, and Brosenne, a 243rd truck commander, responded to the incident immediately. While Diederichs provided security the other two ran to the burning vehicle. With no regard to the flying shrapnel or their personal safety they began searching for the trapped Soldiers.

"I knew that the one guy was still alive and I had to get him out," said Gerrits, who is also a civilian paramedic for the Allouez, Wis., Fire Department. "Instincts took over," said

Brosenne. "If that was me, and I was the one needing help, I would hope that someone would do the same thing."

Diederichs joined the pair and pulled the driver from the vehicle to administer first aid. Conner, Ceo and Boswell did not survive, but the actions of these Soldiers earned them the prestigious award.

"You stand as a symbol," said Maj. Gen. James Kelley when he presented Brosenne's medal Friday at Camp Arifjan. Kelley is the deputy commander of Third Army. "As we salute you, we salute the best in American tradition."

"In my heart I know that everyone in this battalion would have done the same," Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella told the Soldiers at Navistar when presenting Gerrits and Diederichs medals Saturday. Casella is the commander of the 377th Theater Support Command. "I know this by the way you conduct yourselves and epitomize the



Sgt. Jeffrey Diederichs



Staff Sgt. Tyler Gerrits

Army values every day,"

The Soldiers Medal is awarded to servicemembers who perform heroic actions and risk their lives to save others. While the Soldiers take credit for only doing their jobs, their commands feel otherwise.

"These Soldiers here represent the quality of all Soldiers in this battalion," said Lt. Col. Todd Taves, 2-127th commander during the Navistar ceremony. "These are Soldiers who were asked to put their skills to the test and followed through. We are proud of both of them."

"Today is a tribute to a great man, Soldier and great American hero," said Kelley during Brosenne's ceremony. "We shall not forget them, you, or what you've done."

Soldiers Visit Iraqi Students, Deliver Supplies



Students at an Iraqi school in Al-Kout, Iraq observe as Soldiers from the 143D Transportation Command deliver supplies and stuffed animals recently to the school.

Sgt. Crystal Rothermel

Al-Kout, IRAQ- Children sat at their desks inside the primitive adobe-style school, bashfully casting smiles, but not breaking their stare as servicemembers distributed stuffed animals, sporting goods and school supplies throughout the classrooms in Al-Kout, Iraq recently.

The humanitarian operation was a joint mission between Civil Affairs Soldiers and the 143D Transportation Command from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and the El Salvadoran army, which is responsible for the Al-Kout area of operation.

"You could feel a tangible and true feeling that they (the children) were happy we had visited them," explained Cmdr. Richard Below, operations officer for the Kuwait Humanitarian Operations Center.

The children were animated about the visit but behind some of their smiles were more silent requests. With the help of its sponsors, the HOC in Kuwait hopes to bring two children, in particular, to the United States for medical care.

"The little girl just stole my heart," said Col. Carlos Trejo, HOC representative.

With empty boxes of goods in their hands, servicemembers exited the school- but not without a following. The students posed for photos, shook hands and waved farewell as the troops left the classrooms and returned to camp.

"If we can burn an image in the young children's minds that the coalition forces came to help rather than hurt, we have begun to make changes for the better," said Trejo.

The changes will not happen over night, but until then, coalition forces will continue delivering supplies, medical care, and attention for years to come.



Young students at Al-Kout, Iraq smile after receiving stuffed animals and school supplies from the 143D Transportation Command and the El Salvadoran Army.



Brig. Gen. Charles Barr, the outgoing commander of the 143D Transportation Command, sits next to one of the students- Barr delivered the goods, which were sent primarily from his church group and family.



The students rush towards Brig. Gen. Charles Barr as he distributes school supplies and toys throughout the classrooms and school plaza.

The IG's Corner:

Maj. John Gobrick

Historically, as the date to redeployment draws closer the number of Soldiers, Sailors and Airman coming to the Inspector General for assistance increases. Because of this historical trend I thought I would take this opportunity to conduct another teach and train article on just what the IG does and does not do.

IGs are confidential and impartial fact finders for the commander. IGs work directly for the commanding general and serve as his eyes, ears, voice and conscience. The IG provides feedback on the state of his command, identify systemic problems and provide

recommendations. Additionally, IGs are accountable to The Inspector General, Lieutenant General Stanley Green.

IGs are not policy-makers nor do they have the authority to direct action, only commander's have that authority. Additionally, when the IG is used to determine the facts concerning an issue or violation, such as an inquiry or investigation, the IG findings can not be used for adverse action taken against a Soldier.

Another area to clarify is that there is no "magic" IG button that resolves issues. It takes time to look into issues, research and then address them. Oftentimes the issue or problem resides in a "gray area" or has special circumstances which require additional coordination with different agencies and/or sections. Bottom line; be patient, the IG will get an answer to you. Also, going to IG

doesn't necessarily mean they can help you. Generally, for issues that have an appeals process (NCOERs, OERs, Article 15's, etc) you must exhaust the appeals first before we can assist. However, there are exceptions, for reprisal, etc.

Finally, IG's are here to help you and anyone can come to the IG. To request IG assistance without fear of reprisal is a right that is protected by law. However, always try to utilize your chain of command first, as they can usually solve your problem if provided the chance.

Please feel free to contact myself or Master Sgt. Christopher Lecaroz anytime at the below numbers, or email us at

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DROIT ET AVANT!!

CEREMONY,

and freedoms that we enjoy in the U.S."

Barr compiled a person photo collection of the servicemembers he worked with throughout his tour. The shots represent the multiple services in the command and the various locations they worked from but they all represent the joint mission the conducted: transporting equipment and supplies to the war fighters in Iraq.

During Barr's command the servicemembers assigned to the 143D conducted more than 22,000 convoys through Kuwait and Iraq, covering approximately 38 million miles and delivered more than 600,000 pieces of equipment.

Barr, member of the U.S. Army Reserve, will soon return to his tractors and farm fields in Nebraska, but the transportation mission will continue. The wheels of freedom depend upon many moving parts and helping hands, Barr said.

"You literally left some big shoes to be filled by your predecessor, a challenge, but achievable," said Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, the commanding general of the 377th Theater Support Command, and headquarters of the 143d while deployed.

"I leave you with the best transportation command in the U.S. Army," said Barr. "Best wishes to you, Brig. Gen. Thurgood, and the servicemembers of the 143D. Keep it moving, because move-

ment brings victory, semper roe, siegesrader, go Navy, see ya later."

Thurgood, a Utah native, joins the 143rd after serving his last assignment as the assistant division commander of the 95th Training Division (Institutional) in Oklahoma City. He brings years of experience in combat arms, combat support, and transportation to the thousands of men and women here in Kuwait and in Iraq.

"My name is Thurgood and I am an American Soldier. I say that proudly but humbly as well," he told the 143rd members. "My name is Thurgood. I am an American Soldier- follow me."



Brig. Gen. Charles Barr and Capt. Robert Greene June 10.

Deployed Father, Visiting Son, Spend Father's Day in Kuwait

Sgt. Crystal Rothermel



Lt. Col. Ortega and Cadet Ortega take a moment to shake hands and pause for a quick Father's Day Photo on June 18 at Camp Arifjan.

Father and son spent the day shopping, enjoying coffee from the local coffee shop and catching up on lost time. Father's Day is normally spent this way. What makes this Father's Day unique is that it was spent in a combat zone. Army Lt. Col. Reyes Ortega is currently deployed here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 143D Transportation Command. His son, Rey, is a cadet at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and recently traveled to Kuwait to job shadow airmen deployed here with the 386th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron.

"Just being able to see him here is a gift," said Lt. Col. Ortega. "Normally, we have a special breakfast," he said about their normal traditions, which is also spent back at home in Virginia with his youngest son, Reynaldo and his wife. "While they are cooking, the kids are presenting their gifts."

And like Father's Day throughout the theater, this year was anything but traditional. However, the Ortega's say they are thankful they get to spend time together, sharing a unique experience. They also share similar physiques and facial features. But like most fathers and sons they have their differences as well.

Lt. Col. Ortega, for example, prefers the Army uniform and has more than twenty years of military service under his belt. Cadet Ortega is a third year management student at the Air Force Academy and aspires to continue and complete flight school.

The cadet insists that his father recommended the Air Force, but only so that he could crack jokes and pick on his son from time to time.

Military uniforms and joking aside, the time together makes deployment life more pleasant and the holiday, unique, said Lt. Col. Ortega. "This will give us a story to tell in the future," said the younger Ortega. "Plus, it gives me a better understanding of why he does things as a father, and what he does as an officer in the Army." He also hopes the memories of this special Father's Day will keep the pair close forever, or at least up until the day he graduates from the Academy.

"(I want to) let my dad know that I love him and appreciate everything he's done for me," he said, "And for everything he might do for me in the future, like maybe buy me a car after I graduate?"

Lt. Col. Ortega might not be car shopping any time soon, but there is one thing for sure. Father's Day this year may not include a big breakfast or lots of gifts, but it was a unique experience. which will be remembered forever.

NOTES FOR REDEPLOYING SOLDIERS:

Reserve Component Soldiers: Reserve Component (RC) Soldiers who have served in support of contingency operations for more than three months during a training/fiscal year shall be exempted from involuntarily performing at for the remainder of the training year/fiscal year, or a minimum of six months (whichever is greater) and shall be exempted from involuntarily performing IDT for 60-days after release from active duty.

Federal Employees: The President has signed a memorandum granting Federal employees who are returning mobilized reservists and members of the National and Air National Guards, 5 days of uncharged leave.

SAFETY

"HUMPY" Sez: Keep Your KOOL: Beat the Heat!

Understanding Heat Injuries

-Heat injuries can cripple or kill by "cooking" internal organs

-You cannot train your organs to tolerate getting cooked. The damage is *permanent*; it cannot be undone

-"Cooked" organs cannot be overcome by Willpower or Motivation

-The only solution is prevention of heat injuries!



Soldiers at Kuwait ECPs get New Barrier- Extra Protection

Sgt. Crystal Rothermel



Brig. Gen. Charles Barr and Lt. Col. Michael Truelove, of the 143D TRANSCOM join Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, commanding general of the 377th TSC and Capt. Robert Greene, commander of Naval Coastal Warfare, during at the ribbon cutting ceremony June 14 at the port of Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait.

Servicemembers who man Entry Control Points depend upon a variety of concrete barriers, sand-bags and weapons for protection. But those stationed here now have added protection from a new type of barrier.

The first "Truelove Shield" was dedicated and put in place during a ceremony June 14 at the Ash Shuaybah Port ECP.

"Sandbags have been used for centuries-we're in the year 2006," explained John Garufi, the President of IEC Kuwait General Trading & Contracting.

For years, barriers and sandbags have provided security for servicemembers in theater but the new Truelove Shield takes force protection to a new level, he said.

The designer, Lt. Col. Michael Truelove, has spent most of his one year tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom working with IEC to construct this massive object of protection. Truelove is the officer in charge of force protection for the 143D and after months of designing and testing with hundreds of pounds of explosive he is proud to see the shield erected.

"This is an enhanced force protection provider for Soldiers and Sailors operating at key entry points to military facilities," said Truelove.

The shield is both productive and unique- not because of its ingredients, but because of its shape. The barrier was created through a variety of angles which deflect debris and blasts away from ECPs and servicemembers upon impact.

The shield also reduces personal contact between

PROMOTIONS



Sgt. Jamayle Sykes, air operations NCO, was promoted to the non-commissioned officer ranks on June 17.



Spc. Lindsay Canterbury, chaplains assistant, 143D, who was promoted on June 6.

Sgt. Kezia Pennington, general's driver, was promoted on May 23 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



See BARRIER, pg. 11

EDITORIAL



The 143D's Detachment 18 arrives here June 19 after weeks of training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

143D TRANSCOM, DET 18 Replaces DET 16, Fills Empty Seats

1st Lt. Ryan Pace

With their long awaited arrival to Kuwait, the time has come for Detachment 18 to step in and replace Detachment 16.

While many would look forward in a similar situation, the splintered detachment composed of soldiers from many different places, begins to look back.

The path to Arifjan is many traveled, however diverse and beaten it may be. For DET 18, it consisted of several weeks of training in New Mexico and Texas, crossing borders almost daily, and acclimating to environments not much cooler than Kuwait.

From the moment they arrived at Bliss in El Paso, Texas, it was a steady jog from ID Cards and issue of the new uniforms and field gear-to testing themselves and their gear in a field environment-to boarding the aircraft for foreign ground.

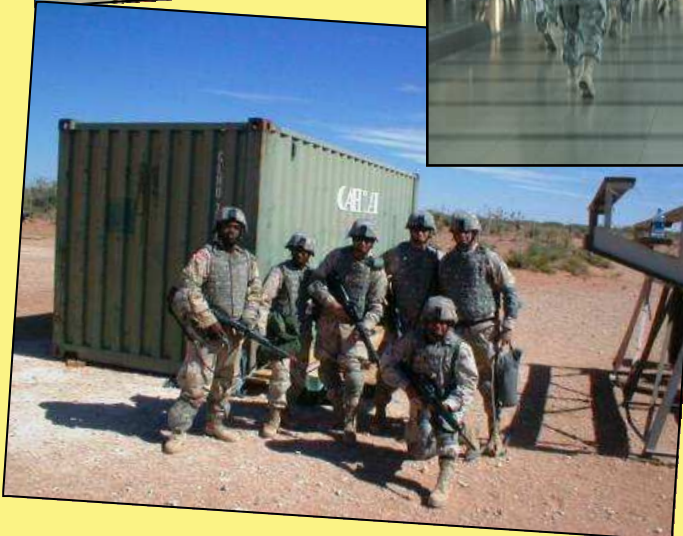
While the transition for many from troop program unit members to active duty soldiers came as a gradual. Their classes and demanding schedule initially prepared them for a year of triumphs and learning experiences, as well as transformations in the ranks.

Their class work during mobilization included such subjects as weaponry, convoy and combat warrior training exercises. All of which were very informative, relative to the mission that lay ahead, and essential to combat readiness.

In working beside members of the new detachment, many soldiers had lots to say; While others just spoke of the anxiety of waiting to start their mission. As consistently challenging the training progressed, so were the experiences, and many will look back with fond memories of life experiences and newfound friendships.

At this point, as DET 18 steps forward and embarks on a year-long journey, these soldiers show confidence in their work from the very start, with the spirit of the 143^D Transcom to accomplish their missions, and the Knowledge of DET16 to bring them home.

DET 18'S ROAD TO ARIFJAN...



Unit Ministry Teams Recognize Spiritual Guidance, Deployment Support

Sgt. Crystal Rothermel



Transportation Command leaders recognized their Unit Ministry Team members at a ceremony here recently for the spiritual support they provided all servicemembers during their tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The UMTs have done phenomenal things," said Chaplain (Maj.) Erik Swindlehurst, of the 143D TRANSCOM. "They traveled more than 23,000 miles on convoys and throughout Kuwait and Iraq. They've been out on the roads- always lending a shoulder to cry on."

The ceremony highlighted the Army's mission to provide military religious support to the servicemembers serving in the Global War on Terrorism, as well as the work the 143D chaplains and chaplain assistants accomplished.

The 143d command encompasses eight chaplains, seven assistants, and two special-duty Soldiers who collectively performed more than 8,000 counseling sessions, 1,200 grief counseling sessions and more than 30 baptisms throughout the command, Swindlehurst said. They also organized prayer breakfasts, regular and special services, and conferences.

"Wherever they go, the UMTs bring with them a presence of God, free exercise of religion, and Soldier and family care," Chaplain (Maj.) Chad Maxey told the crowd. Maxey, of the 37th Transportation Group, was the guest speaker.

More important the numbers, Swindlehurst said, is that every successful military mission helps shed light, education, support and pastoral care to servicemembers during the darkest moments of their deployment. The chaplains and assistants received certificates, unit coins, personal tributes and praise and praise for a job well done.

Feature SHOTS

Brig. Gen. Barr's Farewell Dinner



ABOVE: Sgt. Maj. Lambert Rosenbaum, of the 143D TRANSCOM, signs his name on one of the group photos.

RIGHT: Brig. Gen. Barr poses for the camera prior to cutting his cake.

BOTTOM: Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, commander of the 377th TSC, presents Brig. Gen. Charles Barr's Bronze Star for his work during the deployment.



Capt. Gordon Livingston, commander of NAVELSG, presents Brig. Gen. Charles Barr with a Naval banner-

Una Fiesta



A group of individuals pose for a photo during a pig roast recently. The individuals, primarily Puerto Rican servicemembers and civilians, gathered for a night of great food, music and dancing at Camp Arifjan. Not only did the servicemembers cook the food themselves but also invited people from across the camp to join them in the festivity and dance the night away.



As we wind down from one detachment's deployment and transition into another, the time has come to honor one of many individual's who has done an outstanding job, exemplifying the standard for 143^D TRANSCOM public affairs and her home-station unit, the 300th Transportation Group of Butler, Pa.

Sgt. Crystal Rothermel served as the author, editor, and photographer for "Twists and Turns" since August of 2005. As she prepares to pass the proverbial torch or pen in this case, it is appropriate to look back on her tenure with this publication and applaud her for an outstanding job.

Rothermel gave much of her time, dedication and skills to make this publication a success for members of the 143^D, their families, and dedicated readers Army-wide.

111th Air Defense Artillery Brigade



The 111th ADA from is a New Mexico National Guard unit stationed in Kuwait to provide escort, patrol and reconnaissance missions. From southern Kuwait to the Iraqi border, the teams work to safely accomplish their primary mission of escorting personnel into and throughout Kuwait. The Guardsmen fall under the 53rd Movement Control Battalion and the 143D TRANSCOM.

TRANSCOM 2006 Warrant Officer of the Year Award

1st Lt. Ryan Pace

The U.S. Transportation Command awarded one of its highest awards here recently- the TRANSCOM Chief Warrant Officer of the Year for 2006.

Chief Warrant Officer Timothy Carl Fahey, of the 37th Transportation Group, was notified April 25th that he was this year's recipient of the prestigious award- marking a milestone in his 20 years of military service and the end of his third deployment.

"It feels great," said Fahey. "Just to be nominated is a great thing."

The Chief Warrant Officer of the Year award recognizes Soldiers for their military achievements, education, training, community involvement, and most importantly, their impact upon the future of the transportation corps. The application packet also weighs heavily upon recommendations and command endorsements.

The award defines a Soldier's military career as a whole- but Fahey believes that it was his current assignment as a mobility officer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom that distinguished his packet over the others, he said.

The mobility officer training is relatively new to the Army and job placement can be difficult explained Fahey. Of the more than 200 applicants for a mobility officer position, only 13 slots were available upon graduation.

"This is a great job and we have plenty of people that apply for it," he said. "It's just (that) we don't have enough slots."

As the 37th TC GP's mobility officer, Fahey coordinates movement operations for more than 2000 servicemembers delivering equipment throughout Kuwait and Iraq. The group as a whole traveled more than 40 million miles during their one year tour of duty.



Chief Warrant Officer Timothy Fahey

Fahey, originally assigned to the 1st Transportation Movement Control Agency of Kaiserslautern, Germany, was a key player in the transportation mission but remains humble. He did not expect the award or ask for any extraordinary recognition- after all, his comrades in Kuwait initiated his applica-

See AWARD, pg. 12

BARRIERS,

servicemembers with individuals traveling into the facilities.

Incoming traffic is now directed into ECPs through a series of arrows painted on the roads. The ECP guards will station themselves behind Truelove Shield and ask visitors to exit their vehicles and present their identification to one of the windows of the shield. Working behind the protected shield, guards will either validate and move the individuals into the port or deny access and move them away from the ECP.

The process eliminates contact, therefore, increasing their security and morale.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this shield works," said Staff Sgt. Darrell DeGroff, of Battery A, 120th Field Artillery, Wisconsin National Guard; who regularly mans checkpoints. "I know that my guys can survive if something did go wrong."

Truelove and Garufi agree that if anyone deserves this added protection, it's the men and women



Members of force protection gather around the newly dedicated Truelove Shield barrier after the ribbon cutting ceremony June 14.

working at these ECPs.

"The men and women at these ECPs work day in and day out to protect everyone at these facilities," explained Truelove. "It's time that we do something in turn for them."

RECENTLY IN THE NEWS:

Army streamlines service uniforms from Green to Blue

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- Army service uniforms will be streamlined to one blue Army Service Uniform, the Army announced recently.

"World-class Soldiers deserve a simplified, quality uniform. The blue Army Service Uniform is a traditional uniform that is consistent with the Army's most honored traditions," said Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

"We have all of these variations of uniforms green, blue and white," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. "It makes sense for us to go to one traditional uniform that is really sharp and high quality and which Soldiers will be very proud to wear. And that's what we've done by adopting this blue Army Service Uniform that reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition."

Many Soldiers already own an Army blue uniform (now to be called the Army Service Uniform) and may continue to wear it. Improvements will be made to the fabric and fit. Reduction of the number of uniforms will reduce the burden on Soldiers for purchases and alteration cost.

Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007. Introduction in the Clothing Bag should begin first quarter 2009. The Mandatory Possession Date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011.

A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a

later date.

Army Blue as a uniform color traces its origins back to the National Blue and was first worn by Soldiers in the Continental Army of 1779.

Besides tradition, the Army Service Uniform reflects utility, simplicity and quality.



New Amendment to AR 670-9: Permits Hand and Neck Tattoos

Tattoos are now permitted on the hands and back of the neck if they are not "extremist, indecent, sexist or racist." Army Regulation 670-1, which was modified via a message released Jan. 25, also now specifies:

"Any tattoo or brand anywhere on the head or face is prohibited except for permanent make-up."

For women, allowable make-up would be permanent eye-liner, eyebrows and makeup applied to fill in lips, officials said.

The change was made because Army officials realized the number of potential recruits bearing skin art had grown enormously over the years.

AWARD

tion packet, he said.

He does, however, offer guidance and wisdom for aspiring warrant officers and future award recipients.

"There's a lot to know (about the military and your military career), but find out what works and doesn't work. Don't be afraid to ask questions," he said.

Fahey's path through the military is long and the deployments were plentiful. He will soon re-deploy back to Germany, reunite with his family, get promoted to Warrant Officer 3, and fly to the states for the presentation of the TRANSCOM award.

The Chief Warrant Officer of the Year award ceremony is scheduled during TC week beginning July 27th at Fort Eustis, Va.

Fahey said he has a lot to be thankful for this deployment. In addition to being selected for the TRANSCOM award, he successfully and safely accomplished his mission, was promoted and made some friendships which will last long after the deployment.

The time has come to return to his wife, who's love and support played a large role in his morale and success, he said.

"I'm really grateful for everything that has happened to me," said Fahey, "and I appreciate everyone's support-especially my wife."